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Lutheran Church of the
REFORMATION

HERE AND NOW

Volume LI July 1, 2010 #7



July

- 21 Jaimie Baenen
- 25 Ron Hofstedt
- 30 Aileen Collin

OUR PEOPLE

THANK YOU to: Charlie and Danielle Fehring for the building sign designating LCR's Sanctuary entrance in the north parking lot.

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Thanks Dorothy!

Dorothy Swanson will be retiring July 15 after many years as Associate in Ministry at Lutheran Church of the Reformation. Dorothy has 'survived' 5 pastors –including 3 interim pastors, the beginnings of the SPARK Collaboration, the negotiations with STEP to provide a home on LCR's 'campus,' and partnership with Upper Room. Now Dorothy and husband, Don, will have more time to enjoy their cabin and time together. Everyone who has worked with Dorothy has benefited from her easygoing disposition and her commitment to the Church. I will never forget a conversation with Dorothy's pastor that ended with a simple 'postscript'—"you are fortunate to have Dorothy at LCR." He was right. Thanks Dorothy!

To honor Dorothy's years of service at LCR, there will be a reception for her following worship on July 11. Please join us.

Special Congregational Meeting at LCR on Sunday, June 27

There will be an Open Conversation about a public Affirmation of Welcome statement and its possible adoption at LCR. (The planning group is working on the statement and will submit it to the LCR Congregation Council in advance). *A special congregational meeting will be held following worship Sunday, June 27 to consider approving becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

Please also join us in the Commons at 9 am for open conversation about the statement. Refreshments will be served.

The Planning Committee—

Marilyn Anderson, Stu Ekstrand, Nancy Lund, Don Luther (convener) and Emma Wilhelm.

Sunday Worship at LCR will continue at 10:00 am throughout the summer months.



If it were not for ‘Pele the Pelican,’ perhaps I would not be

taking the Deep Horizon oil spill quite so seriously. But the fact is the ELCA developed a curriculum centered around teaching care of creation to children in the early 1990’s. At the core of this curriculum was a well-crafted brown pelican puppet named ‘Pele.’ Because Anne and I were known as puppeteers, and because I was a member of the synod’s Care of Creation Committee, guess who was provided with the opportunity to introduce ‘Pele’ to the Synod Assembly. I can still remember standing on a stepladder in the Center for Faith and Life at Luther College, Decorah, IA, and engaging in ‘pelican’ dialog with Bishop Dave Brown, a great supporter of creation care, who always called Pele “the duck.”

Brown pelicans were chosen because at the time they were nearly extinct and on the ‘endangered species’ list. Until this spring, they had made a remarkable comeback in the Gulf of Mexico. But that comeback is over now. The photo on the front page of the New York Times said it all. “Pele” is a symbol of the greatest environmental disaster in American history—the Gulf Oil Spill.

The wise counsel us: *never waste a good disaster*. That is, out of crisis, comes opportunity. Here the opportunity is clear: since we are reaching the end of easily gotten fossil fuels, to continue to depend on ‘deep water’ oil and ‘tar sands’ oil is to invite other disasters. Even more important, the reality (there is no debate among scientists about this) of climate change makes it clear that to continue a ‘fossil fuel economy’ is suicidal. This means strong public policy changes such as a carbon tax, doubling the gas tax, and making a commitment to abandon coal-fired energy.

How likely is this in a political system where candidates are funded by big energy corporations and all the other associated business and government groups that benefit from the status quo? It doesn’t matter; it must be done. And, it will likely mean ‘contraction’ in our economy as we fit our lives to what is possible on this planet. As Bill McKibben has made clear in his latest book, Eaarth, we have so changed this planet, there are no options.

But there are hopeful signs as well. “Transition groups” aimed at getting ready for this ‘contraction’ –living more locally with food production, transportation (transforming the culture of ‘happy motoring’), and sheer neighborliness. Farmers’ Markets continue to spread across the country, decreasing the distance that each calorie of food travels. People are even teaching kids to garden! Why? The Psalmist put it in terms so simple that we cannot miss it: *The earth is the LORD’s!* That is ‘Pele the Pelican’s’ only hope!

Pastor Tom

Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through May 2010

	2010 Budget	May Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	160,493.80	12,572.68	61,214.49	38%
Total Income	120,466.00	10,241.89	52,594.76	44%
Surplus (Deficit)	(40,007.80)	(2,330.79)	(8,619.73)	22%

LCR Worship Attendance

5/30	28	6/13	27
6/6	48	6/20	27

Average: 33

NEWS & EVENTS

Next Intergenerational Event –August 1—Highlights “Kids’ Crops”

Our next intergenerational, all-congregational educational event, will be held Sunday, August 1, following worship and focus on ‘Kids’ Crops,’ LCR’s children’s gardening program. Gardening kids (and their families) will show what they have grown and demonstrate what they have learned in the garden. They will show the ‘Stone Compass’ they have put together, explain the traditional Native American “three sisters” approach to planting corn, beans, and squash together, and show their Indian planting sticks they have made. Please mark your calendar for this learning event!

Kids’ Crops Update – The Kids’ Crops gang is going strong! The group of ten kids have been working on their three gardens every Wednesday at 4 pm. Our corn is exceeding the pun “knee high by the 4th of July”, as our corn is taller than some of our farmers. We invite all to stop by or talk with Anne Mundahl about participating.

Upper Room Kids Summer Experiences at LCR:

July 13-15, FLOOD KIDS – for kids entering 1st through 3rd grade in fall 2010.
July 27-29 FLOOD KIDS – for kids entering 4th and 5th grade in fall of 2010.

LCR has been a Care of Creation leader for many years. Birchwood Community Gardens, the forest, and the prairie have shown our leadership. Now we have an opportunity to reflect on the ‘carbon footprint’ that we make in another way—by becoming a “Zero Waste” Congregation. That is, let’s explore ways together to eliminate what cannot be reused or recycled from our church life. Not only can we recycle paper products, we can move toward elimination of paper cups and plates, etc. What else can we do? Your ideas and help are important in this process. Thanks from your Stewardship of Creation, Property, and Hospitality Committee.

STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) has moved! STEP’s new location is: 6812 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park.

The phone number remains the same: 952-925-4899.

West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship. Meetings take place 4:30-6:30 pm, July 6, 2010—September 21, 2010 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 145 Jersey Ave. S., Golden Valley, MN. Visit their website at www.goodshepherdgv.org or phone 763-544-0416.

The schedule for July is—

July 6	Pastor Tom Mundahl	God’s Presence in Grief
July 13	Paul Johnson, MA	Transformative Nature of Grief
July 20	Paul Johnson, MA	Men & Grief
July 27	Dawn Miller, MME, MT-BC	Music in Grief Expression

For more information, please call the coalition coordinator, Darcie Rodman at 763.546.4404 or find us online at www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org.