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## HERE AND NOW

Volume LI March 1, 2010 #3



### March

- 5 Francoise Lokenye
- 9 Linnea Wilhelm
- 14 Nancy Lund
- 20 Kenne Jean Peterson
- 31 Alyssa Johnson-Glassel

### OUR PEOPLE

**We Pray: For health and well-being:** Jean Quist; Gloria Olson; Carol Drake's son-in-law, Jeff; Nancy Lund's brother, Ken; Eleanor Hunsberger's grandson, Jahhee and family; Dennis Hovde's father, Dorothy Falde, Ray Anderson.

### Winter Picnic - February 28

Exciting news for all!! You are invited to a winter picnic on Sunday, February 28 following the worship service. There will be hot dogs to roast outside on the fire pit and s' mores (roasted marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers) for dessert. We will also be playing some games inside and out and just having a good time together.

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**The New LCR Website is 'up and running.'** The address remains the same—[reformationslp.org](http://reformationslp.org)—but the content is new and up-to-date. The website will always contain our monthly newsletter and calendar, as well as timely announcements. It also contains links to other related groups.

Visit it often and enjoy it!

*Join Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, and Wooddale Lutheran around God's Story - My Story - My Neighbors' Story.*

Come at **6:00 p.m.** for a simple **Lenten supper** and **7:00 p.m. Wednesday midweek worship.**

+ **February 24** at Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church, 5801 Minnetonka Blvd.

**"Why Gather"** What is God up to in our gathering as Christian community?

+ **March 3** at Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 2544 Hwy 100 S.

**"Why Listen"** What is God up to when we listen to one another?"

+ **March 10** – at Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church, 5801 Minnetonka Blvd.

**"Why Pray"** What is God up to when we pray?

+ **March 17** at Wooddale Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave.

**"Why Serve"** What is God up to when we serve one another?

+ **March 24** at Wooddale Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave.

**"Why We Live in Hope"** What is God up to in Christian hope?"

**"Spiritual Discernment for Thriving in Change"** – For five Mondays (Feb. 22-Mar. 22) at 7 pm this class will seek discernment on the same topic that will guide our Lenten mid-week worship service the following Wednesday (see above). Each discernment conversation will take place on Monday nights at Wooddale Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave., SLP during Lent and will be hosted/led by Dr. Patricia Taylor Ellison, a member of Wooddale and a teacher of this process from Church Innovations in St. Paul. For more information see Wooddale's website: [www.wooddalelutheran.org](http://www.wooddalelutheran.org).

*Consider making Lenten worship and learning a part of your special devotion this season.*



**When I was issued a pastoral call by the Minneapolis Area Synod** to serve SPARK and Lutheran Church of the Reformation, it was as a “specialist” in ministry to and with the aging. I was always a little uncomfortable with that designation. No, it has nothing to do with being tired of serving the elderly. Rather, it was a sense that what excites me is the **interaction** between people of all ages that is characteristic of a healthy congregation.

Yes, Lutheran Church of the Reformation needs to welcome more people. But one of the experiences we can offer is the prospect of meeting people of all ages. We live in a culture where children do not always have a chance to meet and get to know elders. Lutheran Church of the Reformation offers that. Many elders never experience the wild energy of childhood. They can see all of that and more in our Commons.

The Outreach, Learning, and Care Committee of the congregation is beginning a series of monthly ‘intergenerational’ activities on February 28 after worship with a Winter Picnic. Each month, we plan to have another activity for everyone so we can celebrate the entire life cycle. I have always enjoyed the text of Marty Haugen’s ‘Gathering Hymn’:

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery,  
 We are the old who yearn for your face;  
 We have been sung throughout human history,  
 Called to be light for the whole human race.*

Since the human race is young, old, and everyone in between, LCR has much to offer.

*Pastor Tom*

Are you going to have surgery? Are you being hospitalized?  
 Are you moving? Are you changing telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses? We would like to know.

First, we want to provide the best pastoral care we can. And, we want to know where to find you in order to do that. Because of confidentiality requirements at hospitals, clergy simply do not know whether members or friends of the congregation are hospitalized unless we are informed by you or your family/friends.

If you are in this category (and we hope you are not), you can inform the church at (952) 929-0439 or Pastor Tom at (651) 895-5051. Thanks

**Notes from the Treasurer**

This is how we look financially through January 2010

	2010 Budget	January Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	160,493.80	11,964.69	11,963.69	8%
Total Income	120,466	21,947.21	10,947.21	9%
Surplus (Deficit)	(40,007.80)	(1,017.48)	1,017.48)	3%

**LCR Worship Attendance**

1/24	32	2/14	30
1/31	40	2/17	14
2/7	36	2/21	40
Average: 32			

**EMPTY BOWLS EVENT**

Support St. Louis Park’s local Food Shelf! Thursday, March 4, 2010

Lunch: 11 am—2 pm; Dinner: 4:30—7 pm

at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center, 3700 Monterey Dr. SLP

Join the SLP community for a meal of soup and bread from local restaurants, hear great music including local student choirs and musicians and pick out a ceramic bowl to take home with you as a reminder of the event! A free-will offering is suggested. Check out details at [www.STEPslp.org](http://www.STEPslp.org).

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**“Being Consumed: Goods or God?”** Dr. William T. Cavanaugh, Professor of Theology at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, will present “Being Consumed: Christianity and Consumer Culture” at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 28 and “Grounded: A Theological Response to the Economic Crisis” on Monday, March 1, 7 pm at Edina Community Lutheran Church, 4113 W. 54 St., Edina, MN.

Dr. Cavanaugh’s work deals with the intersection of worship and the world. These events are free and open to the public. For more information check this website: [www.eclc.org](http://www.eclc.org).

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**A Wednesday morning Bible Study** focused on the Gospel, meets weekly in the Westwood Room at Westwood Lutheran Church (9001 Cedar Lake Rd. St. Louis Park) from 10 -11 a.m. This study is for all interested in deepening faith through encountering the Bible. Pastor Tom is the study leader.

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**Luther Park Summer Programs, Schedule, & Registration brochure is now available.** For information & registration, go online at [www.lutherpark.com](http://www.lutherpark.com) or pick up a brochure on LCR’s information tables. Additional information is available by phone at 715-656-7244 or email [anna@lutherpark.com](mailto:anna@lutherpark.com).

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**Thinking about and Planning for SPRING!**

Care for Creation’s big change in 2009 was the start of the Youth Gardening Program. The program was a great success despite its small size; the children learned and had fun, plants grew and relationships were formed. The group’s small size was very beneficial to learning how to run the program and adapting as necessary. We are excited to take what we’ve learned into 2010.

We look forward to another year of gardening with the kids. With one year under our belts we can publicize with photos and stories of last summer’s fun, and hopefully draw in more kids and mentors. We would especially like to reach out to the Upper Room families.

Also in 2009, LCR was again a community representative of a “green” organization at Westwood Nature Center’s Earth Day event. We also watched the LCR Prairie grow more beautiful this year.

In 2010, we will do more work on the Prairie. We will hire a crew to either mow the tall plants or conduct a controlled burn this spring. This will encourage smaller plants within the prairie to grow by allowing more sunlight in, and give us a greener and more beautiful growing season this year. While the tall plants are cut short, we plan to add a bench, outdoor art installations and another (winding) path through the Prairie, to encourage people to stop and enjoy it. We will continue adding signs to identify plants. We plan to hold monthly tours during the summer months and have those tours available to outside groups. Danielle Fehring

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**Peace Coffee**—A reminder that we are serving and selling Peace Coffee. Our coffee comes from Nicaragua and is organically shade grown and fairly traded. No pesticides or fertilizers are used, and no rain forests are cut down to be replaced by coffee plants. This means that coffee beans take longer to mature and ripen, increasing flavor. Also, coffee is sustainably grown, leaving habitat for humans, birds and other wildlife. You can read more at our coffee display table in the Commons. Ground Nicaraguan and Decaf dark roast are available. The list is on the table. Whole bean coffee and other flavors may be ordered through me at 612-374-5847. Nancy Lund