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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lutheran Church of the
REFORMATION

HERE AND NOW

Volume LI September 2010 #9



September

- 2 Gloria Olson
- 3 Isaac Johnson-Glassel
- 5 Arlene Palmquist
- 8 Irma Fredin
- 9 Ann Marie Anderson
- 21 Steve Collin
- 22 David Hagford
- 22 Austin Morales
- 22 Anne Mundahl
- 23 Audrey Anderson
- 23 Evelyne Anderson
- 30 Earl Pierce

OUR PEOPLE

THANK YOU to:

Danielle Fehring, Carol Drake and Anne Mundahl for their time and efforts with Kids' Crops.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

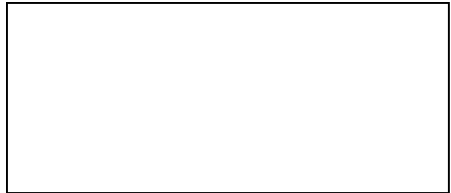
Steve and Rachelle Anderson on the birth of Alexandra Lynn on August 22nd. Big brother is Oscar and Grandparents are Marilyn & Ray Anderson.

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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; Dorothy Falde.

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The LCR prayer list has been updated for 2010. If you feel you would like to have the congregation praying for you or your family, phone the church office at 952.929.0439.



Fall Kick-off And Harvest Brunch Sunday, September 12th

LCR will begin our fall schedule by celebrating our partnership in ministry with Megan Boren of Circle of Empowerment in Nicaragua. Please join us for Worship when Meg Boren will be our preacher. After Worship we will have our Harvest Brunch. Following brunch, Meg Boren will make a presentation of about the continuing work of Circle of Empowerment.

Sunday Worship at LCR will continue at 10:00 am



Circle of Empowerment

On Sunday, September 12, LCR will once more welcome Megan Boren from Circle of Empowerment in Nicaragua to kick off our fall activities. LCR has long supported Circle of Empowerment, as witnessed by the Nancy Lund Clinic. Not only does Circle of Empowerment staff this clinic that focuses on basic care to all (most visits, including medication, cost less than \$1), but they also operate a K-12 school system for the kids of 8 villages, and provide a micro-investment strategy for local artisans as a pathway toward economic development. Finally, a small retreat center, Casa Margarita, provides lodging and peace for pilgrims seeking a Third World Experience. You may remember that LCR raised several thousand dollars to replace a bus essential to bringing kids from 8 villages together for learning.

Following our worship service, where Megan Boren will be our preacher, we will celebrate a Fall Harvest Brunch featuring food from the Birchwood Community Gardens and local producers. Megan Boren will discuss new developments with Circle of Empowerment and respond to questions and concerns.

As I reflected on LCR's relationship with Circle of Empowerment, it occurred to me that LCR, too, is a **'circle of empowerment'** in our community, where we do 'make a difference!' In late June, as a congregation we approved a 'vision statement' that has been forwarded to Lutherans Concerned as a step toward becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation, a community that is *intentional* in welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, who have too long been unwelcome in churches. Soon you will see visible signs of this welcome, a welcome that is for **all!**

We also continue as a **'circle of empowerment'** when it comes to caring for God's creation. This month we celebrate 3 events nurturing this important work:

--Wednesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m. --**Birchwood Community Garden Harvest Potluck**—celebration of a long, hot, wet growing season...

--Thursday, September 23, 6:00 p.m. --**Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light** (successor to Congregations Caring for Creation) featuring Don Shelby and Sally Bingham at North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis.

--Tuesday, September 28, 6:00 p.m. --**"Greening the Park"**—a gathering for congregational leaders, Birchwood neighbors, and St. Louis Park recycling leaders at LCR.

But it is not only these areas of service that show us to be a **'circle of empowerment.'** Each week as we are gathered by the Spirit around Word and Meal we receive the most amazing renewal of the power of new creation that can be imagined. Bonhoeffer had it right: Christ is the center, the **'center of empowerment.'**

Pastor Tom

Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through July 2010.

	2010	June	Year to	%
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Exp/Inc</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Expense	<u>160,493.80</u>	<u>13,336.08</u>	<u>81,203.77</u>	<u>51%</u>
Total Income	<u>120,466.00</u>	<u>8,888.36</u>	<u>70,108.92</u>	<u>58%</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(40,007.80)</u>	<u>(4,447.72)</u>	<u>(11,094.85)</u>	<u>28%</u>

LCR Worship Attendance

8/01	32	8/15	30
8/08	31	8/22	23

Average: 29

NEWS & EVENTS

MN Interfaith Power and Light – Thursday, September 23rd – At North Mississippi Park in Minneapolis. Starting at 1:00, there will be discussions to identify strategies and resources for effective greening of our congregation. Starting at 6:00, there will be discussions to inspire action and remind us all why stewardship of the earth is an important issue of our time. The speakers are Rev. Sally Bingham and Don Shelby.

SLP congregations and Birchwood Neighborhood – Tuesday, September 28th – 6:00 PM – St. Louis Park congregations and Birchwood Neighborhood folks will gather at Lutheran Church of the Reformation to learn more about a new SLP recycling and composting program.

In support of 350.Org, on Saturday, October 9th, LCR will participate in a **“world workday against global warming” event**. We will start at 9:00 am in the gardens and use this time to ‘put the gardens to bed’ and talk about next year.

Affirmation of Welcome—We celebrate the approval at Lutheran Church of the Reformation, St. Louis Park, MN, of our Affirmation of Welcome as a step toward our deepening of our welcome of GLBT persons. Following a month-long educational process with weekly forums, this Affirmation is done not only to open our doors more widely, but to join with the other congregations of Reconciling in Christ. We look forward to continuing to work together in new ways as we grow in Christ’s welcome to all.

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 September is—

Sept 7	Susan Zimmerman	Rays of Hope	For more information, please call the coalition
Sept 14	DVD: Journey of Loss/Discovery of Hope	<i>The Healing of Grief</i>	coordinator, Darcie Rodman at 763.546.4404 or
Sept 21	Host Church	we remember our loved ones	find us online at
			www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org .