



## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR DREAMS?**

My brother-in-law has many fruit trees which produce bucketsful of peaches and pears each summer and fall. And each summer and fall he shares his bounty with us. At first we are always overjoyed to receive all the lovely fruit, but then – what to do with it all? We give some away to neighbors and friends, but in the end there is still a lot left. It is a scenario that is familiar to every gardener and grower: the sudden overflow of produce. Last year I conserved and preserved much of the fruit. This year I was too slow on the uptake. And to my great dismay I walked in the kitchen one day and discovered that the fruit had begun to rot. The rot had started at the bottom of the box, with the top layer still looking luscious, and so I didn't catch on until it was too late. In my carelessness I had wasted these wonderful gifts!

Over the summer, while our gardens and fields produced their annual harvest, another crop has grown and ripened as well: the crop of the dreams we were given as congregation and as individuals. The last of the summer suppers has just taken place, and the last of the reports has just been turned in. Now it is time to “gather the hopes and dreams of all”. And then what? In many ways, the real work has only just begun! If we do not want to let all the great dreams go to waste, then we have to attend to these dreams, and we have to do it soon. The Natural Church Development Team (NCD Team) will take on this task on behalf of the congregation. As the team is reconvening this fall, new members are more than welcome. The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few, so if you have time and energy, consider joining the NCD Team for this next chapter.

And then there are the personal dreams which many have shared with me. What will become of those? In the end, the dreams, like the harvest of the fields, are God's generous gifts to us. And the best way to respond to them is with gratitude and faithfulness. And so we offer thanks and praise for all which God has given to us: dreams, visions, blessings, and the fruits of the field. And we offer ourselves to God's service as we seek to be good and faithful stewards of these amazing gifts.

*Pastor Bea*



## **SUMMER SUPPERS**

Summer suppers have been completed, a big thank you to all who hosted, coordinated, wrote notes etc. We are in the process of ingathering and will share the results with you shortly.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> MILE GIVING FOR OCTOBER IS CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Our congregation is invited to focus its attention upon Lutheran higher education by highlighting and praying for California Lutheran University during worship. October 1st has been designated as CLU Sunday.

California Lutheran University is looking for visionaries who can help us continue to dream big. We want students who will major in purposeful living and faithful vocations. We are recruiting youth from your congregations who are looking for more than a standard education, good paying salary job and the easy life. Martin Luther is recorded as saying "When schools flourish then things go well and the church is secure." California Lutheran University is blessed to be flourishing and is thankful to be a partner in ministry with the Sierra Pacific Synod and the congregations in this synod.

[www.callutheran.edu](http://www.callutheran.edu)



### CALLING ALL COOKS!

Those of you who have been cooking in our kitchen are aware that the drawers are full to overflowing but many of the utensils in them are duplicates and the one thing you want may not be around. And then there are the pots, pans and covers which often are often misfits if not antiques. We have a great need for some evaluation and organization of the cooking utensils. Those of you who do shelter cooking, work with the Memorial Shepherds, or cook for special events are invited to join us for a couple of hours at 9 a.m. Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> to do some kitchen reorganizing. This will make cooking in our kitchen so much easier. Hope to see you then.

*Shirley Woods*



### Stewardship Update

## SING TO THE LORD OF HARVEST – OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Difficult times can produce two responses. One is fear and worry about the future. The other is trust in God's providence. As Christians, we have every reason to trust God. God has never failed us yet. And so it is with a sense of joy and deep gratitude that we approach this year's stewardship emphasis. Even if we struggle, we sing songs of joy. We sing them to the God who is with us anew each day, and we joyfully offer our time, our talents, and our possession - all the things which God has first given to us.

Throughout the month of October we will take time each Sunday morning to give thanks to God – not as we ought but as we are able. There will be stewardship response cards that will allow each household to make a

faithful and faith-filled response. Ideally, each household would make a financial pledge. Where this is not possible, other commitments can be offered, such as commitments to pray for the church and its ministries and support the work of the congregation through volunteer efforts. May God bless you as you reflect on your blessings.



## **Stewardship Update**

### **CGS is a very generous congregation**

CGS is a very generous congregation. We give of our time, our efforts, our good ideas, our prayers, our smiles and our concerns. We care about each other, our community, our church and our world. It is a blessing and a comfort to belong to this community of worshipers and citizens.

Last month, we reported a need for extra financial support due to many extraordinary expenses and the response was encouraging. The general giving in August increased by nearly \$5,000.00. This will help to pay for the maintenance expenses that are inevitable with a large building that is as mature as ours.

Our monthly burn rate (the amount it takes to pay for utilities, telephones, insurance, payroll, janitorial, and yard maintenance) is between \$24,000 and \$25,000. Some of this amount is covered by our judicious use of the bequest funds, but the majority of it needs to be covered by general giving. Our general giving this year has been a reflection of the challenges facing all of us as the economy goes this way and that. As a result, our current operating loss for the year is about \$8400.

I know it is a challenge for all of us to determine where and how our funds are distributed. If we could each increase our general giving by \$30 per week, this would almost cover the deficit for the year.

CGS is a generous congregation. I know that we will all try our best to increase our contributions as much as we can.

*Jean Hope*



### **WITNESSING EVANGELISM**

To everyone who has encouraged a hesitant visitor to come on in through those intimidating front doors: THANK YOU!

To everyone who has helped a baffled visitor find the restrooms: THANK YOU!

To everyone who has reassured a visitor that it's ok to go into the sanctuary, even when the doors are closed and there's a crowd in the narthex: THANK YOU!

To everyone who has helped a visitor navigate from the sanctuary to the great hall for coffee: THANK YOU!

To everyone who has taken a moment to find out what's happening in a visitor's life, even when it meant missing last week's news from an old friend: THANK YOU!

To all the visitors who have forgiven us when we failed to extend those basic courtesies: THANK YOU!



## **LUTEFISK**

Some of your fellow CGSer's are brave enough and will be attending the annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner at Nordahl Hall. Please make plans to join us. There are multiple seatings, but the seating we are planning on attending is the one on December 3rd at 5:30. There will also be a bazaar and a dance included in the evening. Tickets for Nordahl members are \$18, non-members are \$22. Please see Shirley Woods or Linda Sparling for more information and ordering. The lodge will begin taking orders October 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to all get the same seating, so put "CGS Group" on your check



## **MARCUS BORG LECTURE**

The world-renowned biblical scholar and author, Marcus Borg, explores how important Christian words have lost their meaning and power over the centuries and how their rich, illuminating, and powerful meanings can be redeemed.

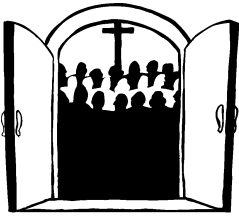
An overview lecture, *Redeeming Christian Language*, will be given Friday, October 22. Three lectures on Saturday, October 23 then expand and explore the topic in detail.

The lectures will be held at the Stone Church of Willow Glen. Contact the office or Linda Sparling for more information and how to register.



## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—OCT 2**

In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of all animals, we will be blessing the animals October 2nd. Please bring your pets, animals, or pictures of them for a blessing.



Congregational  
MEETING

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—Nov 7**

On Sunday, November seventh at 11:30 a.m. there will be a congregational meeting in the Great Hall. The major agenda items are presentation and discussion of a draft budget for 2011, and the election of council members.

In December the terms of office end for council members Shirley Woods, Marty Olson, Kris Kothe, and Randy Presuhn.

The Nominating Committee (Paul Jensen, Ellen Berg, Beate Teufel, Esther Rechenmacher, Betty Stromfeld, and Paul Thomas) elected by the congregation last January has identified four candidates willing to stand for election to those seats: Linda Sparling, Peter Moen, Chelsea Mathis, and Wanda Roszel. The term of office will be from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013. Next month's Good News will tell you more about each of these candidates.

Don't forget to offer a word of appreciation to the outgoing council members and the nominating committee, and a word of encouragement to those willing to serve our congregation in the coming years!



## **SHINE JESUS SHINE—OCT 17**

A special worship service that celebrates Jesus and our relationship with Him in service and humility. Come and join in worship Sunday October 17.



## **REFORMATION SUNDAY and NEW MEMBER RECEPTION—OCT 31**

Come and celebrate Reformation Day with a festival service in honor of the Reformation of the church. We are also excited to receive new members that day.

Since this day falls near Halloween, children are encouraged to come to church in their costumes!



## **ENCORE! ENCORE!**

Our Karaoke night was so popular we are having another one! Come to our Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Bring your fiends (I mean friends) and enjoy “finger” food, witches brew, evil eyes, fried knuckles, and other tasty treats. Sing alone! Sing with a friend! Sing with a group! Come in costume!

Wear your best Halloween Hat and we will have a contest to see whose hat is the best. Come join the fun and have a howling good time!



## **CORDOBA HOUSE AND MOSQUE AT GROUND ZERO IS A GESTURE OF NEIGHORLINESS AND HEALING**

For thousands of families, Ground Zero in southern Manhattan is holy ground. Thousands lost someone they love in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, and hundreds of thousands know someone who was directly or indirectly scarred by the collapse of the World Trade Center. The emotional investment in Ground Zero cannot be overestimated.

That is precisely why Ground Zero must be open to the religious expression of all people whose lives were scarred by the tragedy: Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, and more. And Muslims.

No one knows how many Muslims died on 9/11, but they number in the hundreds. One was Salman Hamdani, a 23-year-old New York City police cadet, emergency medical technician and medical student. When Salman disappeared on September 11, law enforcement officials who knew of his Islamic faith sought him out among his family to question him about the attacks. His family lived with the onus of suspicion for six months until Salman’s body was identified. He was found near the North Tower with his EMT bag beside him, situated where he could help people in need.

The point of this now famous story is simple. Not every Muslim at Ground Zero was a terrorist, and not every Muslim was a hero. The vast majority were like thousands of others on September 11: victims of one of the most heinous events of our times.

But for the family of Salman Hamdani and millions of innocent Muslims, the tragedy has been exacerbated by the fact that so many of the rest of us have formed our opinions about them out of prejudice and ignorance of the Muslim faith.

It is that narrow-minded intolerance that has led to the outcry against the building of Cordoba House and Mosque near Ground Zero. It is the same ignorance that has led many to the outrageous conclusion that all Muslims advocate hatred and violence against non-Muslims. It is the same ignorance that has led to hate crimes and systematic discrimination against Muslims, and to calls to burn the Qur’an.

On the eve of Ramadan on August 11, the National Council of Churches, its Interfaith Relations Commission and Christian participants in the National Muslim-Christian Initiative, issued a strong call for respect for our Muslim neighbors.

“Christ calls us to ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ (Matthew 22:39,” the statement said. “It is this commandment, more than the simple bonds of our common humanity, which is the basis for our relationship with Muslims around the world.”

The statement supported building Cordoba House “as a living monument to mark the tragedy of 9/11 through a community center dedicated to learning, compassion, and respect for all people.”

Now the National Council of Churches reaffirms that support and calls upon Christians and people of faith to join us in that affirmation.

The alternative to that support is to engage in a bigotry that will scar our generation in the same way as bigotry scarred our forebears.

Three-hundred years ago, European settlers came to these shores with a determination to conquer and settle at the expense of millions of indigenous peoples who were regarded as sub-human savages. Today, we can't look back on that history without painful contrition.

One-hundred and fifty years ago, white Americans subjugated black Africans in a cruel slavery that was justified with Bible proof-texts and a belief that blacks were inferior to whites. Today, we look back on that history with agonized disbelief.

Sixty years ago, in a time of war and great fear, tens of thousands of Japanese-Americans were deprived of their property and forced into detention camps because our grandparents feared everyone of Japanese ancestry. Today that decision is universally regarded as an unconscionable mistake and a blot on American history.

Today, millions of Muslims are subjected to thoughtless generalizations, open discrimination and outright hostility because of the actions of a tiny minority whose violent acts defy the teachings of Mohammed.

How will we explain our ignorance and our compliance to our grandchildren?

It's time to turn away from ignorance and embrace again the words of Christ: Love your neighbor as yourself.

In that spirit, we welcome the building of Cordoba House and Mosque near Ground Zero.

*Michael Kinnamon*  
General Secretary  
National Council of Churches



## **TIME FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM-A PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP HANSEN**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The time has come for immigration reform in the United States. Yes, the issues are complex and not easily resolved. It is understandable that people are wary of engaging this politically and emotionally charged issue. Yet it would be tragic if we withdrew as people of faith and our voices fell silent. We have an opportunity for evangelical witness to our faith in God who is present in the stranger and calls us to extend hospitality.

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7 NRSV). The biblical witness is clear. The distinctions that so often divide humankind are overcome in Christ. By grace through faith on account of Christ we are joined together in a radically inclusive community. "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

Because God mercifully extends gracious hospitality in restoring us to community, we have a clear calling. That call is heard in God's command to the people of Israel, "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ... Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house" (Deuteronomy 10:19; 26:11).

Most, but not all, Lutherans in the United States are the descendants of immigrants or are recent immigrants. Others are descendants of slaves brought to this country or people who lived here before the arrival of the first Europeans and Africans. Our personal histories and faith stories are of an immigrant people moving in search of freedom, opportunity and safety.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is being renewed by the faith and witness of new and recent immigrants. This year 23 of 41 new ELCA ministry starts will be in immigrant communities, and more than 100 African national ministries have begun in the past three years.

We cannot welcome people into the ELCA, however, without caring about their lives, their concerns and their experiences as newcomers in this country. For that reason the ELCA repeatedly has affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience, culminating in an affirmation by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly "that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are committed to work toward comprehensive [immigration] reform that balances respect for the law with the recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles." Stating that "the nation's immigration system is broken, and Congress and the administration must work together to find a just and humane solution while assuring orderly migration," LIRS identifies four foundational values for immigration reform:

- keeping families together
- maintaining basic human and worker rights
- helping our new neighbors come out of the shadows
- seeking a path to permanence for our new neighbors

As you serve in your communities, I commend to you resources for study and action the voices of immigrant families and believers, and the witness of the Scriptures.

The concluding words of the *Message on Immigration* (1998) remind us "that all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, 'For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come' (Hebrews 13:14). As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us."

In God's grace,

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson*

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America