
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

NEWSLETTER OF GEORGETOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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September/October 2005

PASTOR'S UPDATE

Dear Friends in Christ:

Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained [John 20:21-23].

Although I've read these words of inspiration time and again throughout my life, it wasn't until my first chapel service at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary that I fully realized just how strong these words could be, and how important it was for me to abide in these words of our Lord. Behind the pulpit of Christ Chapel at LTSS, these words from John 20 are chiseled into the marble wall. They are there as a constant reminder that it is not our will that we become pastors, associates in ministry, or lay leaders of the church, it is the Will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father. It is not our will that we are sent, but it is our will to accept the call.

October 1, 2000 you welcomed me into the family of Georgetown Lutheran Church, but it was our Lord who sent me. By God's will you Called me to be your new pastor...following a long line of distinguished ministers who had served you for all these 235 years. The Gospel of Mark says, "Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."

You, members and friends of Georgetown Lutheran Church, you are the angels and the elect. You have gathered others, and you have received me from the four winds, from the city and the country, from the east, west, north and south...the very deep south!

On that first Sunday in October we prayed for each other, we shared in the Lord's Supper and we heard the Words of God...just as we have done almost

every Sunday since. It is inconceivable to me that we have been together for five years...and while I realize that this ministry is far from over, I cannot help but be a little proud of the accomplishments that we have shared...the accomplishments that we must give thanks to God.

For me, the greatest accomplishments have been those of the most personal nature: overcoming the loss of loved ones, rising above the pitfalls of poor judgments, learning to love one another as our Lord commands, and celebrating joys of personal growth, whether they be of the birth of a child, the joining of two people who are in love, receiving new members into our GLC family, and watching someone enter God's house with little faith, and slowly see them emerge from the shadows of pain into the light of God's grace, mercy and peace.

These are the blessings that keep me going, day after day. These blessings that come from the knowledge that our Lord is with us always...and will be for all time.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Phillip Gaines

CONGRATULATIONS!

Long time members Amy & Michael Krull welcomed their second daughter, Katie, on August 8. Her baptism is planned for October 9.

On August 21 Tyler Chase Hornig-Clerch was baptized at GLC. His parents, Tony & Karen, were united in marriage in 2001 by Pastor Gaines. Tyler's godparents are Geoffrey Clerch and Amanda Alder.

Angela & Ron Malachowski were blessed with the birth of their first born, a son, Leo Pearson, on August 25. While a baptism date has not been set, Pastor G met with the parents and Ron's parents recently to discuss possible dates.

September 3 Kevin and Kate Bertram were united in Holy Matrimony at GLC by Pastor G. Kate was born in Hartford, Connecticut but has lived in the D.C. area for many years. Her parents reside in Washington. She is a sales engineer. Kevin was born in Billings, Montana were his parents still reside. He is the owner of several business in the D.C. area. Kate & Kevin will make D.C. their home and we are hopeful that they will become active in GLC ministry.

New member Christina Gles Balance was united in marriage to Josh Balance on September 10 at GLC. The intimate wedding was presided by Pastor G. Christina and Josh have attended services regularly, but it is Christina who has decided to convert from Catholicism to Lutheranism and join the GLC congregational family.

Congratulations to all on these great occasions in their lives.

RUMMAGE SALE

Thanks to all of you who worked together to make our rummage sale successful. With your efforts, over \$2200 was raised, in addition to Thrivent's gift of \$1300, totaling over \$3500. Not bad for a day's work.

One of our neighbors on Volta St. who donated two TVs, etc. visited and had refreshments on that day stated that he would be glad to donate many other items to GLC in the future as he wanted to downsize. We also had many people who visited the church and commented on the Wall of Crosses.

Because of the rummage sale funds, improvements will be made in the kitchen. Thanks again to all of you. See you next year.

GLC ATTENDS BALLGAME

Much to Pastor G's delight, the Atlanta Braves beat the Washington Nationals on September 11, just

one day before his 49th birthday. Oh, other members of the GLC were there too, but didn't leave the stadium nearly as happily as did Pastor G. Nonetheless, it was a nice way to spend a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Thanks to David Lippe for organizing the event. It is his hope that more people will attend the GLC game next year.

BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

"Oh Happy Day!" so goes the song of celebration. September 21, the final day of summer, was also the final day of leaking roofs at GLC. The new roofs over the church offices, kitchen and lounge will keep those areas dry for many years to come. Thanks to the generous support in July of the Matching Funds Campaign, enough money was raised to pay for the entire roofing job with enough left over to make additional payments on the tile roof repair from last year.

The church kitchen received nearly-new appliances from Georgetown residents who are friends of Valentine Garcia & David Lippe. The items donated were a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer with built-in ice & water dispenser & automatic icemaker, dishwasher and garbage disposal. These items will be installed very soon. A washer & a dryer and built-in oven were also donated and sold in the rummage sale. In addition to the new appliances, it has been determined that the kitchen sink & cabinet counter and kitchen floor have seen better days and should be replaced. The council approved a motion to purchase a new sink cabinet and flooring for the kitchen. The renovations will be paid for with money raised in the rummage sale and by the matching funds contributed by Thrivent Financial.

The Narthex will receive a little touch-up very soon. Friends of GLC, David & Jordon Brookes, and his parents, have given to Pastor G a beautiful new door for his Narthex office entrance.

The door, part of which was discarded by a former restaurant and rescued by Pastor G, is solid mahogany with an etched frosted & clear oval glass insert. The surrounding door is of stained poplar wood. Mr. Brookes, a skilled artisan, created the door in honor of Pastor G's officiating at the marriage of his son & daughter-in-law. The door

will be hung once the hardware is affixed. Many thanks to the Brookes for this beautiful gift.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY REPORT

Included in this newsletter is an insert entitled "A Brief Summary of Actions" taken at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL this past August. If you have any questions about its contents, Pastor G will be happy to discuss them with you.

GEORGETOWN MINISTRY CENTER NEWS:

GMC will benefit from the "Taste of Georgetown" festivities October. Raffle tickets are available for \$20 apiece. Grand Prize: Two-night stay in a suite at the Four Seasons Hotel, Segway Sunset Tour followed by dinner at Michel Richard's Citronelle, dinner at Mie N Yu, brunches at Mendocino Grille and Clyde's Restaurant (an \$1800 value.) **1st Prize:** Two 3500 Trek Mountain Bikes from **Revolution Cycles**, two **Redskins** tickets for Oct. 23, 2005, vs. San Francisco 49ers, **signed Redskins jersey**, Joe Gibbs autographed book from the Washington Redskins (Value: \$850)

2nd Prize: One night stay in the **Monticello Hotel**, dinner at 1789 and champagne brunch at **Tony and Joe's** (Value: \$650)

3rd Prize: \$250 shopping spree at **The Shops at Georgetown Park** and a Think Pink gift package from **Lush** (value: \$250). For tickets call GMC @ 202-338-8301. Only 1000 tickets will be sold!

18th Annual Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon: Saturday, November 19. National Mall, rain or shine. Fannie Mae will give GMC an extra \$2500 for each 250 walkers who register to walk for us. GMC gets all but \$5 of the \$25 registration fee (the \$5 is for the T-shirt.) Call GMC @ 202-338-8301 to register.

GMC WISH LIST

Sheets
Pillow Cases
Towels
Wash Clothes
Laundry Detergent

Men's casual pants, shirts, socks, underwear, coats, hats, gloves.
- In good condition and clean please

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Dinner volunteers for our shelter, which opens in November
- Overnight volunteers for the shelter
- Taste of Georgetown volunteers to help with day (get a t-shirt and 2 free tastes)
- Front Desk volunteers to help at our center shower and laundry program
- Do you have a special skill, which might help us help our clients?

For more info on these GMC events please contact Chris Traugott or Pastor Gaines.

MAKE A NOTE OF THESE EVENTS:

Oct. 8: Bergh/Luke wedding rehearsal - 5:30

Oct. 9: Katie Krull Baptism - 10:00
Assemble Grate Patrol food, 11:15
Bergh/Luke wedding - 7:00

Oct. 11: Council Meeting, 7:15

Oct. 14: Bagley/Armstrong wedding rehearsal

Oct. 15: Bagley/Armstrong wedding, 3:00

Oct. 30: Reformation Sunday - GLC service, 10:00
Synodical service @ National Cathedral, 4:00

NOTE:

** The Marine Corps Marathon is Sunday morning.

** DAYLIGHT SAVING-TIME ENDS! Set clocks back one hour Saturday night.

Nov. 6: All Saints' Sunday

Nov. 13: 5th Anniversary Celebration of Pastor's ministry at GLC

Nov. 20: Christ the King Sunday (end of Pentecost)

THIS WEEK:

10/2: St. Francis of Assisi will be commemorated with the "Blessing of Animals" next Sunday. The service of Holy Communion follows immediately. All pets must be secured and are welcome to stay for the entire service.

11:15 -- Refreshments served in Narthex.

PASTOR'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

All are invited to our celebration of Pastor Gaines' 5 years of service to GLC on Sunday, November 13. Pastor G will preside and preach at the 10am service. An extended coffee hour will follow. It is expected that some out-of-town friends will attend, so we hope to have as much GLC membership participation as possible. Please let David Lippe, Chris Larson or Wallace Whitworth know if you can help to produce this celebration. Contacts: David Lippe: 202-588-1183; DaveVal100@aol.com Chris Larson: 703-566-8186; clarson@fsbpt.org Wallace Whitworth: 202-441-7272; wwhitworth@hotmail.com

GIFTS OF HOPE

School is back in session, the leaves will be falling soon.....have you started thinking about Christmas? Not the commercial Christmas hawked at the local "MallMart", but the Christmas we celebrate by giving thanks and gifts in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. For 13 years, Gifts of Hope has offered the opportunity for Lutherans in this Synod to purchase meaningful gifts which demonstrate God's love for all God's children, while raising more than \$1.6 million to support our local social ministry organizations and foreign companion synods. The 2005 Gifts of Hope catalogs will be available soon, why not start now to talk about alternative gift giving among your friends and family-including your young children? If you'd be honored for someone to purchase a Gift of Hope for you, instead of yet another tie or fruitcake, now is the time to drop that hint. Even if they live out of town, they can purchase Gifts of Hope because the gifts, complete with their attractive announcement cards, are available through the mail at www.GiftsofHopeMetroDC.org. If you need more information or would like to help with Gifts of Hope here at GLC, talk to David Lippe our Gifts of Hope Congregational Coordinator.

FROM OUR BISHOP'S DESK: PART I*, WORK OF THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Sisters and Brothers, All: Greetings!
I write this report from Orlando! There's no doubt about it: all ELCA Lutheran eyes, and others too, were on Orlando for these past days.

The Conference of Bishops gathered early, as did the Church Council. By the time the assembly was well underway, 1,015 of the registered 1,018 voting members had signed in.

Mindful of our Baptism into the Body of Christ, every major vote was preceded by prayer. Voting members were attentive and determined to be faithful. Many Plenary sessions worked overtime. One was extended . . . by an 87% majority . . . for several hours, or "as long as it takes to get the work done." Previously purchased theme park tickets were donated to local charities. Hearing rooms were packed to overflowing and the discussions/debates were lively. Many flowed beyond their allotted times as well. This was the hardest working assembly I can recall . . . and many are already suggesting it may have been our best. Sessions began and ended in prayer, and with frequent reminders that "we are baptized!" Each mid day was broken with a full service of Word and Sacrament. We were reminded of and we celebrated the realization that we are the body of Christ, the Church.

So much was before this assembly, matters equally important with the widely anticipated and discussed matters of our understanding of the questions of human sexuality that were before the Church. Unfortunately, there seemed little media interest in anything else!

The following items were among those adopted by this assembly:

An Interim Eucharistic Sharing Agreement with the United Methodist Church. The assembly approved our entering into the agreement. (877-66)

Note: John Wesley, until his death, was an Anglican priest. He was inspired for his renewal movement while listening to a reading of Luther's Preface to Romans while at a Moravian meeting house? The ELCA presently has full communion agreements with the Episcopal Church USA and The Moravian Church.)

A Proposal for Renewing Worship,

continuing the process of renewing worship . . . along with a new hymnal as a "core resource" . . . probably red . . . called Evangelical Lutheran Worship. It is called a "core resource" because it will be a part of a family of resources in support of the worship of this church.

Faithful, Yet Changing, a mission driven restructuring of the ELCA, was adopted. (808-169).

Two New Mission Strategies . . . for this church's ministry with ethnic groups within the Arab and Middle Eastern Communities and for those of African descent. This the total specific mission strategies of the ELCA to five.

A Renewed Commitment to Ending World Hunger, identifying this task of ending the "scandal of world hunger in this world as a core dimension of living out our Christian faith." We are challenged to increased advocacy, generosity, and education about the root causes, dimensions, and solutions.

Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine for Peace in the Middle East – The statement "Peace, Not Walls" was adopted after spirited and lengthy debate (668-269) The issue of the debate was not peace, but having a "balanced voice" in our counsel and exhortation.

Responses to the three Recommendations of the Church Council regarding the ELCA Studies on Sexuality. (More detail on this in Part II of my report.)

For the first time ever, the assembly received greetings from our Jewish interfaith sisters and brothers. Rabbi Eric Yoffee, President of the Union for Reformed Judaism brought warm greetings as well as speaking frankly about the issues of Middle East, aware that the assembly had a statement on its agenda. He spoke eloquently and received a standing ovation from the assembly. Among the In responses to nearly 200 memorials from synods, the assembly:

... called for a Social Statement on the implications of Bioethical Research by 2011.

... called for "just, consistent, and humane" practices for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants.

... called for an increased outreach to our Jewish neighbors for mutual support and understanding.

Many of the synodical memorials dealing with the Church Council recommendations on the Task Force report were answered by the assembly's actions on those recommendations.

There was much more, to be sure. And my own "take" on a few of these things might have differed a shade or two from what was finally adopted. Even so, I believe the voting members of this assembly listened, debated, prayed, and decided. These are the things one prays will happen when the Church is assembled, gathered.

This report was begun while still in Orlando. Such was the work of this assembly. Today is the fourth day after the assembly. A full report with significant details will be coming from the Secretary's Office of the ELCA. I hope by this report to give something of an insight into the huge work and steady attentiveness of this assembly . . . what I believe was the intention of nearly all to be open to the Spirit in many, many issues before this Church.

In Christ,
+ Bishop Schneider

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