

The CHURCH MOUSE

Vashon Lutheran Church

May 2010

FOOD BANK GARDEN UP AND GROWING

Our garden that helps provide fresh produce for the food bank is in need of volunteers to help tend and harvest food. There is a work party every **Thursday & Saturday at 9:30am**. Please plan to help when you can, with planting, harvesting, and clean-up.

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for people with Parkinson's, their families, and care-givers will meet the first Friday of each month from 1-2:30pm at Vashon Lutheran Church. This is an opportunity to share concerns, resources, support, and have discussions. Different topics will be featured each month. The next meeting is **May 7th**. For more information contact Lynn Chapman, 206-277-5516.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year the Synod Assembly will be held **May 14 & 15th**. The theme will be "Living the Good News of God's Welcome" based on Amy Oden's book God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World. Dr. Oden is the keynote speaker and Dean and Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. Our congregational representatives to the assembly will be Michael and Laura Goth. If you have any concerns or questions please let them know.

WORSHIP AT THE CARE CENTER

Our next opportunity to lead worship at VCCC will be **May 23rd** at 9:15am. If you are interested in assisting with scripture reading, leading in singing and providing fellowship support, please see Pastor Bjoern.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our next meeting will be Thursday, **June 3rd** for a potluck in Kathleen Odekirk's beautiful garden. Come enjoy women's fellowship with food to share and ideas for our next study. There will be a brief informational presentation on Rachel's Day, and their storybook project.

ECUMENICAL YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

This group (for youth grades 6 and above) meets from 9-10am Sunday mornings. If you are interested, their schedule of topics and locations can be found on the Vashon Methodist Church web-site, under 'calendar'.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN PEACE, LOVE, AND UNDERSTANDING YOUTH WEEKEND

On Saturday and Sunday, **May 8-9** PLU hosts a high school youth weekend featuring a concert by Agape. The program begins with registration at noon on Saturday at 1:00pm and includes an afternoon of educational workshops and service opportunities. Dinner is in the campus dining commons before the performance by Agape. Local Lutheran churches will provide overnight accommodations. Sunday morning enjoy a pancake breakfast and then join the PLU community for worship. The cost is \$20. And includes dinner, concert and breakfast. Contact 253-535-7423 for more information.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer will be held at noon on Thursday, **May 6th** at Vashon Theater. The mission of the National Day of Prayer is to communicate with everyone the need for personal repentance and prayer, Christian community, and mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHICKEN COOP TOUR NEEDED

This event to raise money for the Interfaith Council on Homelessness (IFCH) will be held on Mother's Day weekend, **May 8 & 9**. There will be two shifts of three hours for each day. Volunteers check tickets and offer IFCH handouts. For more information, contact Emma at 463-4060.

PASTOR BJOERN ON LEAVE

Pastor Bjoern will be on vacation **May 18-27th**. Pastor Larson will handle any emergencies during this time.

COMPASS CENTER DONATION NEEDS The Compass Center is asking for:

- new or gently used bath towels.
- all necessary hygiene items. It promotes
- Men's underwear (larger sized preferably)
- Art/school supplies. (for their Art Class at the Day Center and are in need of supplies: markers, colored pencils, construction paper, paints & paint brushes, embellishments, etc. pens/pencils and lined notebooks).

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

Lutheran World Relief is an international nonprofit organization and joint ministry of the ELCA and LCMS. Through its partners in 35 countries it promotes sustainable development by helping communities increase the quality of life, engage in fair trade, and provide aid in emergencies, especially by responding to disasters, such as the 2004 SW Asian Tsunami and in Haiti after their horrific earthquake this year. LWR is currently helping communities north of Port-au-Prince, where most of the displaced peoples are migrating, by focusing on providing food, water, temporary shelter and sanitation. Since the earthquake LWR has also sent thousands of health kits, layettes, and quilts to Haiti. Thanks to the generous donations and support of Lutherans **LWR has raised six million dollars for immediate and long-term recovery work in Haiti.**

Current projects include a partnering with Nothing But Nets in an effort to end malaria in Africa. You can assist by contributing. Ten dollars buys an insecticide treated bed net, delivered with instruction as to its use.

You can continue to help LWR continue to provide its valuable services by mailing a check or money order to:

Lutheran World Relief
P. O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Lutheran Community Services provides loving, forever homes for abused and neglected children through two programs: Permanency Planning Foster-Adoption and Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program.

A SERVICE of PRAYER and HEALING

We will have the opportunity to quietly gather for prayer and healing in the Lutheran church sanctuary from 6 – 6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month. *Our next service will be **May 2nd at 6pm.***

Regardless of who you are and what you carry, you are welcome in this place. Come to pray aloud or silently. Come forward to be prayed for through naming your concerns or retaining your silence. Or...simply come to sit for a while and unwind with your own thoughts.

No pressure, no intrusion...A simple service without music...without liturgy...in a candle-lit sanctuary where we gather to hear a few readings, pray and be prayed for, and sit and just be.

The Rev. Jeff Larson, Ph.D. is a Lutheran minister and clinical psychologist called by Vashon Lutheran Church to provide counseling services to the community. As a member of the body of believers he feels that spiritual health in its many shapes and forms is key to attaining psychological and physical health.

PASSION PLAY TOUR & MORE IN 2010

The Passion Play takes place every ten years and the next time in 2010. I will lead a group trip June 21- July 2, 2010. Goodspeed & Bach have put together a spectacular trip. The *trip is custom-made* and includes entrance fees to the play, many museums, a garden, and Heidleberg castle. Breakfasts and some meals are included.

We will visit the following cities: Heidelberg, Strassbourg, Colmar, Geneva, Zurich, Konstanz and Mainau, Neuschwantstein, beautiful Alpine village of Graswang (during the passion play), Berchtesgaden, and Salzburg.

We put a *cap amount* on the expenses for *land-travel* The more people who go on the trip, the less expensive it will be. Land Tour Cost (double occupancy) for 25 travelers is \$2699. per person. Each traveler will need to make their own flight arrangements.

From the desk of the pastor...

What's the Value of Life?

There are many areas in our lives, in which we pay a very high price, not just financially but also morally. Briefly, I want to discuss three areas that have triggered me to ask the question “What is the value of life?”

First, we all know that getting an education is quite expensive. The educational system, no doubt, produces some highly qualified and bright individuals. Yet, for somebody like me who values education it is rather puzzling that there is a broad anti-intellectual and a-literate (not to be confused with: illiterate) climate, in which educated people are often regarded with suspicion or labeled as members of the liberal elite.

Susan Jacoby, in her book *The Age of American Unreason*, observes that “[i]n this increasingly a-literate America, not only the enjoyment of reading but critical thinking itself is at risk,” and that “nonreading Americans know less and less about their nation's political and intellectual history.” This is a pity. But it does not only apply to the secular world. You can also find this attitude in the church. There are plenty of pastors who pride themselves that they have not received formal seminary training. The reasoning goes that it is more important in the ministry to have a heart for Christ, or *to know* Christ, than to only know *about* Christ (with your head; as if a learned person cannot have a heart for Christ). The Old Testament stresses the importance of teaching the words of the Law “to your children” (see Deuteronomy 11:19). Learning is equally important in the Church. We are encouraged to read and study God's Word. And the Catechism provides us with a short explanation of the basics of our Christian faith.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it ...” (1 Corinthians 12:26a). This brings me to my second point, the War on Terrorism. As it is with every war, many people are suffering in the War on Terrorism.

Of course, I do not condone acts of terrorism. Terrorism does not solve the problems in this world. It adds to the problems. But this does not give a government (or any other group for that matter) the right to apply “enhanced interrogation techniques,” which is a euphemism for torture. Apart from the fact that fighting terrorism with terrorism gains nothing, torture also denigrates human dignity. Torture is not only immoral; it is also forbidden by the standards of national and international law.

What I find most troubling in this whole torture controversy is the high number of Christians (between 50 and 60% according to a Pew Forum poll), who believe that torture is (sometimes) justified. Everyone, and not just Christians, ought to object to torture! If we lived in a perfect world, there would be no need for torture or for acts of terrorism.

Third, the United States has probably the most advanced medical technology in the world. Good medical treatment can be had ... if one can afford it. There is something wrong with this picture.

There is something wrong when people lose their health insurance coverage when they get ill or become unemployed, which are already financially vulnerable and emotionally stressful times. There is something wrong when people go bankrupt because they cannot pay their medical bills. There is something wrong when people avoid going to the doctor because they are afraid of the expenses. There is something wrong when insurance companies deny the legitimacy of a patient's claim.

I find it disheartening and disconcerting when the advancements in medical technology are used to foster matters of eugenics. As the father of a child with Down Syndrome, I am appalled that “currently 90%+ of children diagnosed prenatally with Down Syndrome are ‘excluded’ from ever shining their bright light in a lost world that has become obsessed with perfection and unrealistic traits” (*LifeSiteNews*). Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, makes the bleak prediction that in France within the next few years there will be no children born with DS because they will all have been aborted. As a society, can we dare to determine that certain people, for instance with genetic defects, should not have a right to exist? What does it say about us as a society that craves “designer babies”? What has become of acceptance and unconditional love? As the church, we are called to pronounce that even the weakest member of the body has a purpose and a right to live (see again Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:21-24).

Where does all of this leave us? We already live in a post-Easter world, in which we affirm the victorious transition from death to new life through Jesus' resurrection; at the same time, we are still subject to the pre-Easter conditions of this fallen world. In the eyes of God, our lives are already valued; but in this world, we are still exposed to the forces of sin and other forms of “moral bankruptcy.” In contrast, God wants us to experience a healing relationship with Christ who gave his life so that we may have newness of life, abundant life. There is ample opportunity and space to share in this life together so that “if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26b).

May our faith in Christ Jesus help us to value and cherish our lives. And that of our neighbors, too!
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

WINTER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS April - June



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Name</u>
1 st	Asst. Minister	Patte Wagner	
	Usher	Richard Odekirk	Kathleen Odekirk
	Comm. Asst.	Jeff Larson	
	Lector	Perry Prescott	
2 nd	Asst. Minister	June Langland	
	Usher	Jim Dam	Gretchen Yates
	Comm. Asst.	Janet Williams	
	Lector	Stephanie Lee	
3 rd	Asst. Minister	M. Goth	
	Usher	Bonnie Snaza	Peggy Stringfellow
	Comm. Asst.	Hazel Nelson	
	Lector	Jeff Larson	
4 th	Asst. Minister	Gary Peterson	
	Usher	Jack Lincoln	Susan Lincoln
	Comm. Asst.	Karen Stamper	
	Lector	Jack Lincoln	
5 th	Asst. Minister	Jill Dubois-Fultz	
	Usher	Pattie Wagner	Mike Wagner
	Comm. Asst.	Jeff Larson	
	Lector	Stephanie Lee	

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Matt Gaspers (lost employment); Karen Rae; Ray and Gerri White (cancer); Nancy Weishaar (friend of Marsha Morse); Fred Losornio; Terri Hitch; Stephanie Lee & family. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP** during the month of May will meet at 9:00am on Tuesdays at the home of the Larson's (11628 103rd Ave SW). Please call Gail Larson (567-4779) for prayer requests.

REFRESHMENTS AND FLOWERS



We need people to sign-up for refreshments and flowers for Sundays in May. Please see the list in the Fellowship Hall.

STAFF AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

STAFF: Rev. Bjoern E. Meinhardt
Rev. Jeffrey Larson, PhD (Counseling)
Sec. Cheryl Prescott
Church Office: 463-2655

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Jack Lincoln
V.P. Susan Lincoln
Sec. Jill DuBois
Treas. Elaine Lester
Prop. Mgr. Michael Wagner
Stewardship: June Langland
Memb. at Lg: Michael Got

LESSONS FOR MAY



<u>5 Easter</u>	<u>May 2, 2010</u>
First Reading	Acts 11:1-18
Psalm	148
Second Reading	Rev 21:1-6
Gospel	John 13:31-35
<u>6 Easter</u>	<u>May 9, 2010</u>
First Reading	Acts 16:9-15
Psalm	67
Second Reading	Rev 21:10; 22:1-5
Gospel	John 14:23-29
<u>7 Easter</u>	<u>May 16, 2010</u>
First Reading	Acts 16:16-34
Psalm	97
Second Reading	Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
Gospel	John 17:20-26
<u>Day of Pentecost</u>	<u>May 23, 2010</u>
First Reading	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm	104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading	Rom 8:14-17
Gospel	John 14:8-17, 25-27
<u>Holy Trinity</u>	<u>May 30, 2010</u>
First Reading	Prov 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm	8
Second Reading	Rom 5:1-5
Gospel	John 16:12-15

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY



June Langland	May 1
Luella Lodahl	May 8
Norm Matthews	May 9
Flo Ann Wittman	May 10
Carl Nelson	May 18
Pippa Koch	May 20
Donna Botten	May 22

HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARY



Ron & Martha Hills	May 9
Ray & Gerry White	May 21
Gary & Linda Peterson	May 27

BAPTISM SCHEDULE FOR 2010



During 2010, baptism will be a special part of the worship on these dates:

May 23, Sunday, Day of Pentecost
 November 7, Sunday, All Saints' Sunday
 December 25th, Saturday, Christmas Day

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

5/1	Sat	St. Philip & St. James, apostles
5/2	Sun	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373
5/4	Tues	Monica, Augustine's mother, 387
5/18	Tues	Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, 1160
5/19	Weds	Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
5/21	Fri	John Eliot, missionary to American Indians, 1690
5/23	Sun	Ludwig Nommensen, missionary to Sumatra, 1918
5/24	Mon	N. Copernicus 1543 & L. Euler, 1783, teachers
5/27	Thurs	John Calvin, renewer of the church, 1564
5/29	Sat	Jiri Tranovsky, hymnwriter, 1637
5/31	Mon	The Visitation

VASHON THRIFTWAY 1% COMMUNITY DONATION PROGRAM

Remember to save your Vashon Thriftway receipts to be used for our missions program. Thriftway will donate 1% of the total to VLC. Remember the rules:

- Cash register receipts must be from Vashon Thriftway.
- Cash register receipts must be for purchases made by **members** of Vashon Lutheran
- Receipts cannot be more than one year old.
- Purchasers must sign each receipt, and indicate their phone number.
- Receipts may be placed in the indicated receptacle in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for helping
 Stewardship Chair



ARTICLES FOR THE MOUSE DUE MAY 20TH