

The CHURCH MOUSE

Vashon Lutheran Church

Aug - Sept 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 **Tuesday & Saturday at 9:30am**. Please plan to help.

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL and CONGREGATION MEMBERS

The congregation elected three new officers to council positions. Michael Goth, Vice President; Mary McFarlin, Secretary; and Patricia Wagner, Property Manager; and Laura Goth, Member at Large. Thank you to outgoing members: Susan Lincoln, Jill DuBois, and Michael Wagner for their work. Also we welcome our newest congregation members, Rev. John and Marita Ericksen.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Continuing our annual tradition, the Vashon United Methodist Church, the Vashon Lutheran Church, the Vashon Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, will jointly sponsor a Community Vacation Bible School, led by the Youth Group of the Maple Valley Presbyterian Church. It will be held the first week in August, **Aug. 2-6**. The topic will be: Hero Headquarters – Where Kids Join Forces with God.



Pastors Darryn Hewson (Methodist), Bjoern Meinhardt (Lutheran) and Dan Houston (Presbyterian), together with Island and Maple Valley Youth Group will lead the classes. VLC will host the potluck dinner on Friday, **August 6th**. Volunteers are needed to make snacks. Contact Tina Parrish (463-5066) or Pastor Darryn Hewson (715-1394) to ask questions or offer help. More information is available on line at: <http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/Vashon> where you can register, volunteer, and get a sneak peek at the program.

SOCIAL SERVICES FORUM will be held Friday, August 6th, 4-6pm at the Vashon Community Care Assisted Living Dining Room. Mary McBride, regional director of HUD, will be the featured speaker. This is a community forum on Vashon's unserved housing needs and services.

GOD IN THE MOVIES (The Reel Deal)

Do you like to watch movies? Have you seen a "good" movie lately? I would like to start a new class on "God in the Movies" to discuss the impact of movies on our spiritual lives, this coming fall, starting on Wednesday, **September 15 at 6:30 PM**. I do not expect you to be an expert film critic. We all watch movies. We watch them with our own eyes and with our own perceptions. We all form our own opinions about movies. Why not discuss them and explore their connections to matters of faith? It will not be possible to watch an entire movie during our meeting session (this should be the "homework"). Rather, a short scene should serve as the discussion starter. As I plan for this event, I welcome your suggestions of movie titles for consideration. For our first meeting, please watch "Sweet Land", available in DVD.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our next meeting will be Thurs. **Sept 16th at 2pm** at Cheryl Prescott's home. Read the Gospel of John before the meeting. You may also wish to order the book John, the Maverick Gospel by Robert Kysar, a New Testament professor at Candler School of Theology (emeritus), Emory University, and an ordained ELCA minister. It is available from Amazon starting at 9.98 (used). This is an opportunity to study a gospel like no other & enjoy the company of other women. All are welcome.

RUMMAGE SALE

Our rummage sale this year will be in **September 25th**. **SAVE YOUR STUFF!** Again we will not take clothing. If you have small things and do not have a place to store them until September, you may bring them to the church and put them in the choir room. Please do not bring furniture, or large items as we do not have room to store them. We also *need volunteers to help set up on Friday Sept. 24th, and clean up Sept. 25th*. The proceeds will go to support missions.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Laura Goth has volunteered to help spearhead the re-organization of the library, something that will make the books more accessible and user friendly. She needs HELP!! Please consider volunteering a few hours a week to make it happen. Contact Laura at 463-1382.

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 meeting dates are **August 6th and September 3rd**. For more information contact Lynn Chapman, 206-277-5516.

PETITIONS CONCERNING TORTURE There are two ways you can express your conviction concerning the use of torture: a petition for Accountability for Torture and a card addressed to a Member of Congress to enact a law requiring International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to detainees. Both are on the table in the Fellowship Hall

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) - UPDATE

It has been six months since the devastating 7.0 earthquake in 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. They are focusing efforts on rural populations. They work with local partners to support rural communities through cash for work programs to build soil and water conservation structures, to distribute additional seeds, to prepare for the rainy season and to train on agricultural production. This will ensure that people have some income and farmers can grow sufficient food to feed everyone. LWR is also supporting the construction of latrines and low-cost water filter systems to accommodate the additional populations that have fled to the rural areas. In the U.S. LWR advocated the U.S. government to cancel Haiti's debt and to provide additional emergency funding. The Obama administration has canceled Haiti's debt and signed the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery Act into law.

In addition LWR has partnered with Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to have summer camp participants work to assemble 32,000 health kits, enough to fill a container, to be sent to Haiti.

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 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 1706, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

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. *The services will be **August 1st and September 5th 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.

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

From the desk of the pastor...

World Cup Sacrifice vs. Sacrifice for the World

For some people football (let's call it what the rest of the world calls it) is like religion. The 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa is over. From my point of view, there were only a few exciting games. Most games were rather disappointing, unfortunately. In the end, Spain won the tournament; although they did not play the most attractive football, they are a worthy champion due to their effectiveness. The Netherlands came in second, for the third time in their nation's World Cup history.

There is, however, one scene in particular that I would like to mention. It is a scene from the game between Ghana and Uruguay. It matters because it violated my sense of fairness and fair-play.

It was the last minute of over-time when field player Luis Suárez from Uruguay stopped the ball, goalkeeper-like, with his hand on the goal line, thus preventing the ball from entering into the net. For this illegal safe, the referee gave Suárez the red card and sent him off the field. Ghana was awarded a penalty shot and had the opportunity to win the game still in regulation time. If only they had converted their penalty shot after Suárez's handball, the whole dispute that followed after the game, would have been moot. But the Ghanaian player missed. Eventually, Uruguay – and not Ghana – won the game after penalty shoot-out and advanced to the semi-finals.

People in Uruguay celebrated Suárez as a *hero*. People in Uruguay referred to Suárez's safe on the line as the “*hand of God*.” Suárez himself said later that he had to *sacrifice* himself for the team and for the country. In other parts of the world, especially on the African continent, he became a villain.

As far as I am concerned, it was not so much Suárez's handball that made me upset; even though his illegal handball-safe by itself pushes me to edge of my understanding of fair-play and sportsmanship. Rather, it was something else that made me *really* upset. It made me really upset when Suárez allowed his teammates to carry him on their shoulders after the game (see the photo). Of course, a team can celebrate its victory. But given the circumstances, this was a provocative gesture that added insult to injury. It is one thing to stop the ball on the line with the hand. It can happen, though it should not happen. But Uruguay was lacking a sense of decency in their moment of victory when they carried triumphantly the person who had denied an otherwise regular goal, which would have meant their elimination from the tournament.



(As an aside: maybe the football world association FIFA wishes to decide to change its *laws* [yes, football is played by laws, not by rules] when a field player makes an illegal stop on the goal line. Instead of giving a penalty shot, the goal should count. And the player in violation should still receive the red card. If the goal counts anyway, there is no enticement for a player to use the *hand of God* to make such an illegal stop.)

Let us put this incident from the Football World Cup in a different perspective, namely that of matters of faith.

How can one see the *hand of God* at play in such a blunt violation of fairness? Does this mean that the hand of God sides with the cheaters in this world? Rather, when I think of the hand of God, the wondrous signs come to my mind that God performed with his “mighty hand and outstretched arm” by which the LORD God brought the Israelites to liberation and freedom (see Deuteronomy 7:19). God gives hope to, and sides with those who face injustice and oppression.

When Suárez played the ball with the hand on the goal line, he broke the *law* and was penalized. The Pharisees repeatedly accused Jesus of having bent or even broken the law. But by doing what looks like a violation of the law, Jesus actually emphasized the aspect of grace as it becomes manifest in God's law. Filled with grace, Christ came truly to fulfill the law (see Matthew 5:17).

Suárez could call his handball a *sacrifice* only in the light of victory, which then earned him the (questionable) status of a hero. When I think of sacrifice, I think of a different kind of victory: the victory that Christ won on the cross when he stretched out his arms for the salvation of all. There is purpose in Jesus' sacrifice. Not just a self-serving benefit that resulted from a particular moment in a football game. The Thanksgiving at the Table puts it this way, “Dying on the cross, [Jesus] saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for you.” This makes all the difference for our very lives.

Blessings to you in Jesus' name, who prays for us, gives us new life, and saves us,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

SUMMER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

August - September



Sunday	Ministry	Name	Name
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: Ray and Gerri White (cancer); Fred Losornio; Terri Hitch; Stephanie Lee & family. Also remember those in care facilities: Lelan Lau, Carl Nelson, & Oda Sorensen. Contact Gail Larson (567-4779) to initiate a prayer request.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP during meets at 9am on Tuesdays at the Larson's home. 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 August and September. Please see the list in the Fellowship Hall.



ARTICLES FOR THE MOUSE DUE SEPT 20TH

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. Michael Goth
 Sec. Mary McFarlin
 Treas. Elaine Lester
 Prop. Mgr. Patty Wagner
 Stewardship: June Langland
 Memb. at Lg: Laura Goth

LESSONS FOR AUGUST

10 Pentecost

Aug 1, 2010

First Reading Ecc 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12

Second Reading Col 3:1-11

Gospel Luke 12:13-21

11 Pentecost

Aug 8, 2010

First Reading Gen 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Second Reading Heb 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel Luke 12:32-40

12 Pentecost

Aug 15, 2010

First Reading Isa 61:7-11

Psalm 34:1-9

Second Reading Gal 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 1: 46-55

13 Pentecost

Aug 22, 2010

First Reading Isa 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Second Reading Heb 12:18-29

Gospel Luke 13:10-17

14 Pentecost

Aug 29, 2010

First Reading Prov 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Second Reading Heb 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14

LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER

15 Pentecost

Sept 5, 2010

First Reading Deut 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Second Reading Philemon 1-21

Gospel Luke 14:25-33

16 Pentecost

Sept 12, 2010

First Reading Exod 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-10

Second Reading 1 Tim 1:12-17

Gospel Luke 15:1-10

17 Pentecost

Sept 19, 2010

First Reading Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

Second Reading 1 Tim 2:1-7

Gospel Luke 16:1-13

18 Pentecost

Sept 26, 2010

First Reading Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

Second Reading 1 Tim 6:6-19

Gospel Luke 16:19-31

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE AUG/SEPT

8/10 Tues Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258
8/13 Fri Florence Nightengale, 1910; Clara
Maass, 1901; renewers of society
8/15 Sun Mary, Mother of our Lord
8/20 Fri Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153
8/24 Tues St. Bartholomew, Apostle
8/28 Sat Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430
8/31 Tues John Bunyan, teacher, 1688

9/2 Thur Nikolai Grundtvig, bishop, 1872
9/4 Sat Albert Schweitzer, missionary, 1965
9/13 Mon John Chrysostom, Bishop
Constantinople, 407
9/14 Tues Holy Cross Day
9/18 Sat Dag Hammarskjold, peacemaker,
1961
9/21 Tues St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
9/25 Sat Sergius of Radonezh, Abbot, 1392
9/29 Weds St. Michael and All Angels
9/30 Thurs Jerome, Translator, teacher, 420

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

Roy Topp Aug 1
Steve Kicinski Aug 3
David Hackett Aug 16
Mia Croonquist Aug 16
Brian Schieber Aug 19
Gerry White Aug 20
Martha Hills Aug 21
Sadie Beauregard Aug 23
Bonnie Snaza Aug 24
Charlie Jenkins Aug 25
Janet Jenkins Aug 28
Michael Goth Aug 30



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Joseph Sullivan Sep 01
Megan Hackett Sep 01
Karen Stamper Sep 03
Sara Hoagland Sep 05
Evans Lester Sep 09
Dwayne Langland Sep 11
Peggy Stringfellow Sep 12
Mike Wagner Sep 17
Dietrich Koch Sep 18
Marsha Morse Sep 21
Dorothy Topp Sep 25



HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

Gary & Margaret Koch Aug 12
Jim & Edna Dam Aug 25
Jeffrey & Gail Larson Aug 27
Carl & Hazel Nelson Aug 31

HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Roy & Dorothy Topp Sep 10
Terry & Rika Chappell Sep 12
Matt & Julie Gaspers Sep 17

BAPTISM SCHEDULE FOR 2010

During 2010, baptism will be on these dates:
November 1st, Sunday, All Saint's Sunday
December 25th, Saturday, Christmas Day