



Lutheran
Community of Grace

What's New?

www.LutheranCommunityGrace.org October 2010

Worship Sundays 9:30 am at VOA Gathering Room

October 3 – *Holy Communion*
Joel Smeby

October 10
Joel Smeby

October 17 – *Holy Communion*
Joel Smeby

October 24
Joel Smeby

October 31
Joel Smeby

(see updated worship information at
LutheranCommunityGrace.org/worshipInfo.php)

Sunday Forums 10:45 am

October 3
Bible study: Acts, chapter 24

October 10
Annual Congregational Meeting

October 17
Bible study: Acts, chapter 25, 26

October 24
Bible study: Acts, chapters 27, 28

October 31
Bible study: Acts, a final summary

Prayer Requests

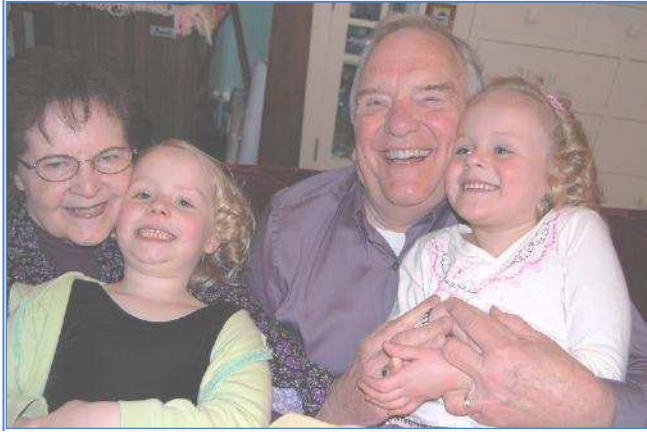
Please include in your prayers these folks:

Bob and the Gjengdahl clan and their friends
Nancy Kruse and Karl
the military (Karl, Eric—back in the USA!, and
Ralph)
Dan and Ila Ronning
Rev. Roland J Wells
Gene
Margrete
Dan and Sherry and Tommy
Greg and Frank
Ed
Signe
Nate
the LUKE Bible study group
the Arentz family, grieving the loss of Troy (who
served in Iraq)

Kenneth and Kathy and Comfort
the residents of VOA
Bob of VOA
Norris
healing for Betty Karner
Frank
Lucille
Joseph, Tin, Tien, Michael, and Kevin
Kaisa
Al
all teen-agers growing up in this turbulent world
Reshee and Jasvir
Frank Koss
Marilyn Dvorak
Jean Freeman
Lois (Mark's mother)
those suffering as a result of the 9/11 attacks

(Send your prayer requests to
info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org)

in Memoriam: dear Carla



Carla & Bob and the twins

A Mighty Fortress is our God

*A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;*

*the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.*

Can God use our despair? One of the greatest hymns came out of such a time in the life of the reformer Martin Luther. In the summer of 1529, Luther fell into a deep depression brought on by a cruel bout of the English sweats that left him weak from the tremors. So great was his ailment that he wrote his friend Philip Melancthon that he would die soon and begged his friend to pray for him. His lecture halls were empty because students in fear of the Black Plague had left the University at Wittenberg. In the midst of these struggles, Luther himself questioned the mercy and love of God.

However, in the middle of his discouragement, Luther took refuge in his own advice. *"When sadness comes to you and threatens to gain the upper hand, then say, 'Come I must play our Lord Christ a song . . . for Scripture teaches me that God loves to hear joyful songs and stringed instruments'."* Luther knew that music must be intolerable to the devil and wrote: *"I firmly believe, nor am I ashamed to assert, that next to theology, no art is equal to music, for it is the only thing, except theology, which is able to give a quiet and happy mind. My love for music, which has often refreshed me and set me free from great worries, abounds and bubbles over."*

To chase the devil away and quiet his own mind, Luther wrote the words and music for *"A Mighty Fortress is our God."* If any hymn abounds and bubbles over, it is this one. Wrapped in majesty and in the confidence that God alone protects and defends, this hymn has survived nearly 500 years. Firmly rooted in Psalm 46, Luther's penned words are found without fail in almost every church hymnal.

We learn that God can use the despairing times of His children to create some of the most powerful works. This hymn lives as a proof of how when we are weak, God is strong, and when in despair, we should believe and not doubt that God is working those times for his greatest glory. It simply is our privilege to participate in that labor. *[th contributing]*

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Fall, ever since I recall, has been my favorite season. Blue skies, crispy mornings and beautiful colors all contribute to this choice. Our decisions we know, are not always as easy as choosing a favorite season.

This summer for instance, our youngest daughter gave me a small book, one with a confusing title that required reading several pages prior to my grasping the title's intention. This little book, with its provocative title, introduces us to a clear choice we are all forced to make.

The book's title is *"My Utmost for His Highest"*. The author is Oswald Chambers.

Professor Chambers, a Scotsman, was principal in founding a Bible College in Scotland. In 1911, while touring America, he met his wife-to-be. It was she who was responsible for twenty-nine of the thirty books which bear his name. It was said that she could take short hand at a rate of 250 words per minute. She accompanied him everywhere, even when he taught classes. Records exist for most of what he said publicly and most all of his lectures.

Oswald Chambers died in 1917 of a ruptured appendix. He was stationed in Egypt and served as Chaplain to troops from Australian and New Zealand that were later to participate in the battle of Gallipoli. It was said that he died because he refused treatment until after the wounded troops present had been all treated.

Allow me to quote a portion from Oswald Chamber's *"My Utmost for His Highest."* From the September 23 Devotion, based on Luke 18:31: "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem". His title for the devotion is "The Missionary's Goal."

"The disciple is not above his Master." The same things will happen to us on our way to our Jerusalem. There will be the works of God manifested through us, people will get blessed, and one or two will show gratitude and the rest will show ingratitude, but nothing must deflect us from going up to our Jerusalem."

Daily since I received my gift of Chamber's Devotional, I study his wisdom concerning my obligations. Of course the Bible is "The Word" on which we rely, but I believe that Chambers has influenced my understanding of the main decision we have to make as well as the obligations required by that decision.

An inconsequential decision about "my favorite season" introduced this topic. The most important decision we will ever make is the main thrust. The source may come from Oswald Chambers, or another "Daily Devotional" or some other source. The decision is ours to make.

Recall two or three Sunday's ago when from our pulpit we heard Pastor Joel say that "Yes or No" are the only two options we have. And, several weeks before that Pastor Joel's most able teacher The Reverend Doctor Roy Harrisville from the same pulpit gave us the same choices, but in other words: "Confess or Deny"! *[dbe contributing]*

Serving in the Military

Karl, Erik, and Ralph—you know the names, that is if you've been around Lutheran Community of Grace for very long. We always pray for these guys who are serving our country in the Armed Forces.

Karl Erickson, son of Tom and member of the Minnesota National Guard who served in Iraq, is sorting through his options. He is "anxious to start a business or something," says Tom, maybe in selling sports equipment.

Erik, who served as an executive office at Balad Air Force base in Iraq, returned to the States just earlier this week, landing safely in North Carolina on Monday at 7:00 pm. Dale and Janet, as you can imagine, are relieved and grateful. They are grateful, too, for all of the prayers of Lutheran Community of Grace.

Ralph Asher, husband of Jean Hansen's niece, was married just prior to being shipped overseas last summer. He is now back from Afghanistan and a captain. Presently he has a temporary

assignment to run the recruitment office in Indianapolis

We are grateful for the continuing service of these three men, and grateful too for the families that have supported them and continue to do so. Let's continue praying for their safety and good health and God's richest blessings to be placed upon them.

Thanks, Faith!



For the past two years Faith Swenson has been our regular pianist at Lutheran Community of Grace. She has recently resigned her position and has now taken on musical responsibilities at Trinity Lutheran in Long Lake, MN (just a few miles from her home).

We're still grieving our loss—her excellent musicianship, her skills in worship and music planning, and all those creative hymn accompaniments and preludes that she played. Faith is a treasure we will always remember.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Lutheran Community of Grace annual congregational meeting will be held October 10, 2010 at the VOA Gathering Room at 10:30 am. Members are invited to attend. Please talk with your council members if you have any questions about this meeting. Items on the agenda include the proposed annual budget and distribution of

an annual report to the congregation.

LCMC Annual Gathering at Calvary

The annual gathering is at Calvary Lutheran Church October 3-6, 2010 in Golden Valley. They could use some volunteers from the local area to help out—please contact Joel if you'd be willing. Keynote addresses, worship services, breakout sessions with focused topic areas, district get-togethers, food, and more are the ingredients. For more information click here:

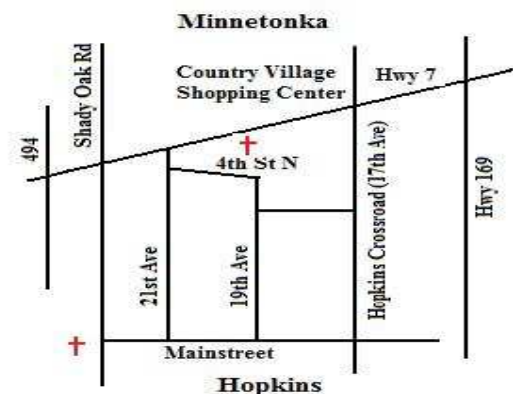
<http://www.lcmc.net/annualgathering.html>

Contributing

don b erickson, freya hanson, joel smeby

Your ideas and contributions to this newsletter are always welcome.

Locate Us



Volunteers of America (VOA) building
11400 4th Street North
Minnetonka, MN 55343
(Traveling west on Hwy 7, make a U-turn at Shady Oak Road and take the first right exit)

4 Shady Oak Road (SOR), Suite 6 (upper)
Hopkins, MN 55343-8852
(MAILING ADDRESS as of July 1, 2010)

Contact Us

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