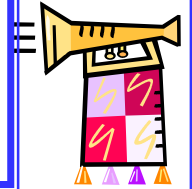


The Trumpeter



Good Samaritan Lutheran Church

August 2009 - September 2009



Pastor Tom O'Brien

The Reverend Tom O'Brien,
Pastor

Rose Woodruff
2008-09 Council President

Kitty Stewart, Admin. Asst.

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
10110 Greenbelt Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706
(301) 794-7300
mygoodsam@comcast.net

See the newly revised ever
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Done by Dawn Schwartz

Join our Yahoo Group!

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Show kids you know, the nifty new
section Dawn created for them.

From the Pastor: August–September 2009

The Time is NOW!!!

As we approach the Fall season, some of will remember the attacks on this country when terrorists attacked New York, The Pentagon and the plane that was destroyed in Pennsylvania. Some of us worry about loved ones who are in danger. Some of us are suffering from loss. It is at these times many of us stop to pray and ask for God's help.

Don't wait until you are desperate to come to God. Don't wait for another 9/11 event to bring you to your knees to pray for God to help you. It is said that there are no atheists in foxholes, when the bombs and gunfire rage around you. That may be true, but we don't need to be in a battle of guns and bullets to feel the desperation of fear, anxiety, distress and worry. It happens to us in our everyday lives, especially during these rough economic times. God listens to our prayers always. We should pray always not just when we are in need of something.

It has been a tough time for some of the members of our church family. Some of us have lost friends and relatives these past few months. Even though we know they are with the Lord, we still miss them and grieve. Some within our congregation have gone through sur-

geries, chemo-therapy and illness. Others have lost jobs and seen their pension funds dwindle to smaller and smaller amounts. We can always come to the Lord for solace, for mercy, for rest and for His loving arms to surround us with His love. Come to the Lord and He will lay you beside the still waters, as it says in Psalm 23.

At times, we may decide that it is not that important to attend worship. But what is it that becomes more important than hearing the word of God, to feel His grace, to receive communion together and to gather with your friends and family in a place where we all can feel at home, safe, and set apart from the world even for a short time. It is always important to come to worship. It is the place of refuge. It is a place to be taught and fed, spiritually and emotionally, and many times physically as well. At the table we are fed the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In worship, we find a place and time to receive the loving grace of God, and to be enriched in faith and hope.

As we approach the beginning of another school year, I remember the horror and pain the morning of September 11, 2001. Many people remember where they were when they

Pastor's article continued on page 2



From the Pastor: August–September 2009 continued

first heard or saw the devastation of the World Trade Towers burning and crumbling. Many people rushed to churches, synagogues, temples and chapels to pray, to be with others and ask God to protect them, to ease their worries and concerns, and to pray for the souls who died that day.

Don't wait until you are hit with a tragedy to come to the Lord. Come on Sunday and be fed, be replenished, be filled with God's love and mercy, so that you can endure the slings and arrows of tomorrow. Join us in celebration of Easter each Sunday morning. God comes to us each day and offers us daily spiritual nourishment and gives

us a place to come together and worship Him for his grace and mercy upon us.

Let us prepare ourselves for the distractions, tragedies, sorrows and joys that life throws at us through praying together, worshipping together and working together for the glory of God. God walks with us and guides us by His Spirit each and every day, but it is when we worship together that we learn and experience His presence among us.

Join us in celebration of what God offers us.

—Pastor Tom O'Brien

Evangelism

What does it mean to the person who hears you share your faith story?

Many people in our society have not heard the gospel.

Many people are looking for answers to the everyday question, WHY.

We have the answers. God is with us in all things.

Share your faith, your hope, your love to others who are looking and searching for answers.

Several members of this congregation have gone out from the walls of this church to invite others to this church. Sometimes it is for a game night, and at times it is for an event.

Our greatest outreach and evangelism, has been Vacation Bible School each Summer. We had a wonderful week of teaching, singing and fun.

What we need however, is a larger commitment from the entire congregation for this great teaching event.

Our next great event will be our Haunted Woods in October. We need members of this congregation to be willing to have conversations with the parents who bring their children here for this event. This is one of the greatest opportunities for us to share our faith, our commitment to the Lord and to this community.

We also need volunteers to help run the event, but the success is when we can bring someone to Christ because of it.

So set aside time for one of the evenings Friday or Saturday night, Oct. 30 or 31 to share your faith with those who come to visit us those evenings.

2009-2010 GSLC Council

Pastor Tom O'Brien	Cell (609) 510-6675	Jessica Mushala, Treasurer	Home (301) 306-1060
Rose Woodruff, President	Cell (301) 943-0561; Home (301) 464-1831	Jill Porco, Secretary	Home (301) 776-4572
?, Vice President	Home	June Fezie, At Large	Home (301) 552-1074
Melissa Steiner, Treasurer	Home (301) 552-8996	Judy Marvel, At Large	Cell (434) 409-2766

National Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2009 JESUS, JUSTICE, JAZZ

Before I begin this report on our trip, I must let you know of the great generosity of Crusader Lutheran Church in Rockville, Md. Because of their fundraisers and an endowment gift, they paid for our hotel rooms in New Orleans and our registration for the Youth Gathering. They also donated additional funds to help us with meals and traveling expenses. We had raised nearly \$1000.00 here at Good Sam, but that was not enough to take care of four people's expenses for travel, lodging, events and meals.

Our adventure began when Patrick Hooke, Elvis Dannah (from St. John, Riverdale), Dolores O'Brien and Pastor Thomas O'Brien left for New Orleans on Monday July 20, 2009 after a good breakfast at the Silver Diner. Patrick and Elvis had never eaten at a diner before. We traveled 580 miles to Chattanooga, Tennessee, stopping at Shoney's for lunch (another new experience for the boys). It took 11 hours to get there from Lanham, Maryland. We stayed overnight at the Knights Inn after having Pizza for dinner.

Arising early on Tuesday morning, we ate at the Waffle House, another new experience for the boys. We traveled to New Orleans stopping for lunch at Hardees, another new experience. We met a busload of people from Pennsylvania who were on their way to the youth gathering. They had been traveling since Monday morning 7 am, without sleeping. They looked very tired and some seemed jealous that we had a good nights rest in comfortable beds.

We arrived in New Orleans with some difficulty. We had missed our turn to go towards the French Quarter, where our hotel was and had to go across the Mississippi river. We crossed back across the river and made it to our hotel just before the group from Crusader Lutheran church arrived. The Hotel St. Pierre is located at 911 Burgundy St. and is a nice quaint, historic hotel. We all went out to a very fine dinner and Pastor Shaw's, husband paid for the meal. He wasn't with us, but had given Pastor Sandra Shaw extra money to treat us with.

On Wednesday morning we took off for the Convention Center. We walked there and successfully registered. We investigated the interaction center, had lunch, shopped a little and headed for the Superdome for the evening's events. We walked from the Convention center to the Superdome. They had a huge tailgate party for us, but the lines were very long to get food. So we went to our gates thinking they would have concession stands open in the Superdome. It is while waiting at the gate that Dolores passed out. Heat, exhaustion from all the walking and not eating caused her blood sugar to go too low. The EMT's where very diligent and we got her something to eat and cooled her down.

Each night we were able to be seated at floor level, due to Dolores' cast on her foot. The gatherings in the superdome were loaded with music, dance, speakers, fireworks, and lots and lots of noise. We saw Bishop Hansen in a tub, met the Mayor of New Orleans and learned many things about being of service. Worship on Sunday was very different, yet the liturgy was the same. Imagine Communion for 38,000 all at the same time. They were very organized and it went smoothly. Each night they had a running tally of the Change for Change coin donations for LWR. The final tally was \$129,591.93. Your coin donations were included in this offering. Thank you. Every day at exactly 4:24 pm, we stopped to pray. This idea was taken from Acts 4:24 and we knew the importance of prayer superseded whatever we were doing at the time.

Our service event was on Friday and we went to the New Orleans City Park to weed gardens, paint, mulch, trim bushes, clean debris and make everything look so beautiful.

The Park used to have 380 employees, but since Katrina and Rita, they only have 82 employees and are still recovering from the damage done by those hurricanes. A total of 210 projects were completed by the gathering over a 3 day period. 78 of those projects were focused on education. 17 schools were painted and one school that took 3 years to make it useable had truckloads of equipment delivered, unpacked and put all in there respective classrooms by volunteers from the youth gathering. The Mayor said that it would have taken the city 3 years to accomplish what we did in 3 days. Also each student in New Orleans from 1st grade to 8th grade will get a backpack filled with school supplies from the Lutheran World Federation.

Our educational event included learning about Jesus in film, learning about how we can tell our stories, and how to do liturgical dance. We also took time to see and IMAX film about the oceans. Since our focus for our group was environment, we wanted to learn as much as we could while on this adventure.

Continued on page 4

JESUS, JUSTICE, JAZZ continued

Every night there were community life activities held in various hotels, which included concerts, dances, interactive activities and other fun stuff. Our youth took advantage of several of these event nights. We had several opportunities to see Jonathan Rundman and he remembered us vividly and introduced us to his pastor and church family.

On Monday July 27th, our small group went out to breakfast in the French Quarter, a quant spot called the Coffee Pot. Then we all prepared to head off for home. We again travelled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where we stayed for the night and got an early start after another Waffle House breakfast. We all arrived home safely around 8 pm and looked forward to sleeping in our own beds. We can't wait for the next National youth Gathering.

Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School

I'd love to thank all of the volunteers that worked the Good Samaritan's 2009 Vacation Bible School (VBS). I'm afraid I might forget one individual.

I believe all the children loved their experience with "Fearless kids shining God's light!" and "Fear not!"

The theme was **Crocodile Dock** and each night we explored God's Word.

We studied God Sightings, and the following messages were taught on five successive days:

- 1) God is with us
- 2) God is powerful
- 3) God does what he says he'll do
- 4) God gives us life
- 5) God cares for us

Delicious food was enjoyed by all, provided by the Women of the Church and supervised by our very own Dot Howdzy.

Wonderful scenery to enhanced the theme; procuring everything was no small feat and many hands were needed both here in Maryland and in Florida. The scenery then shared with at least three other churches, one of which made a very generous donation.

"Swamp Stomp" music on DVD with our Minister of Music started each evening for the children's discoveries.

There were theme based "Crawfish Crafts and Missions" that included the Bible Memory Buddies:

- Flash — a firefly
- Belle — a spoon billed bird
- Jacques le Croc—a crocodile
- Blossom—an awesome opossum
- Tucker—a turtle

Kids and adults alike enjoyed their crafts projects. All the children created cuddly Comfort Critters shaped like turtles. Some were donated to children displaced by the hurricanes that hit our southern states.

"Bible Bayou" Bible stories and dramas taught the children about Moses, the Passover and the resurrection of Jesus. These were all directed at challenging them to remember the Words of the Day.

Older neighborhood youth helped run the "Gator Games", to lead our Bayou Crews in team building. "Crossing the Red Sea" was as wet as the Bayou!

VBS combines community outreach, evangelism, Christian Education, fellowship, and working together to do God's work. The congregation should be pleased to realize that 26 to 31 children heard the Word of God each evening.

All was lovingly presided over by our hardworking Laura Hunter

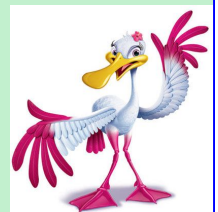
The basic concept materials came from Group Publishing. They provided very clear and specific instructions and no prior experience was necessary.

We would like to keep in mind that **twice as many adult helpers** could and would have been appreciated.

Hopefully next year more volunteers will step forward.

Yours in Christ,
Kathy Bevard

Final editing by Kitty Stewart



From the Bishop's Desk

Date: August 21, 2009 _____

2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - Friday Report

Friends,

By now you have heard of the actions of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting here in Minneapolis. We have voted to adopt statements* that will make it possible for same-gender faithful committed partnerships to be recognized in our congregations and that will allow men and women in such relationships to serve in ministries on the rosters of our church. With all the debate that preceded our decisions, with all the hesitation, and with allowance made for all work that will be required before any change in our church can actually be implemented, this was still a significant step. Many people have lived a long time hoping for these actions. I believe that what has been done was necessary, difficult but necessary, and pleasing to God.

But I know not everyone will agree. A significant minority of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly was in opposition to all or part of what we adopted. Our church took great pains to try to protect the consciences of those on the losing side of our voting. Whether people will feel this is enough is something we will have to wait and see. But I hope nobody's decisions will be hasty, and I hope that we will, in good Lutheran fashion, try to put the best construction on the words and actions that grow out of this moment in the life of our church. The public media will report everything to us in the most glowing or the most negative tones. This is a moment to pause, pray, and weigh our words with patience and care. If we can all try to ask "What does this mean?" and if we can be patient as we figure it out together, then Christ will be glorified among us no matter what.

Meantime, I believe that our synod has a unique opportunity in the life of our church. We have been for some time now the kind of Christian community where disagreement does not cripple mission. We are not of one mind on many issues. We are not in agreement on how to become of one mind. But we have been clear that we are sisters and brothers nonetheless, and we have done some great things together. There is so much work for us to do, so much mission crying out for our attention. We have no choice but to continue to witness to the power of our Lord Jesus and to work out our differences as we witness.

Here at the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis we are pretty much exhausted and tired of being away from home. We know that many of you are following our debates and keeping us in your prayers. We miss you and we look forward to telling you about our adventures out here in the Lutheran heartland.

May the God of peace give us all joy in believing, now and forever,
Bishop Graham

The Rev. Richard H. Graham

Bishop

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

Many of you have already seen this message from the ELCA presiding bishop, originally distributed to rostered leaders and Churchwide Assembly registrants on 8/22/09. In case you haven't seen it, it is reprinted here.

On August 21, 2009, the "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies" was amended and adopted by a majority vote at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The report and social statement adopted on August 19, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," have been forwarded to the ELCA Office of the Secretary for inclusion into the final minutes of the assembly; these minutes will be released by October 1, 2009, and the two aforementioned documents will be available for download from www.elca.org. An overview of the amendments and the general nature of the report is available [from ELCA News Releases](#). NOTE: At the end of Friday afternoon's Plenary, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson addressed the assembly pastorally. His comments are available in [on-demand video from the ELCA Web site](#). Select "Pastoral Remarks by Bishop Hanson." Excerpts from the press conference following the vote, the next selection in the on-demand video, may also be of interest.

**2009 Churchwide Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Hanson
August 22, 2009**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. -- Colossians 3:14-15

I write to you from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis with official information about the actions of this assembly related to human sexuality. I am grateful for the manner in which this church has engaged in this conversation. The way this assembly has discussed these questions is a continuation of the way this church has deliberated: with deep and heartfelt respect for each other, engaging with Scripture, listening to the faith stories and experiences of one another, and through worship and prayer seeking the discernment of the Spirit.

In my response to the voting members on Friday, August 21, I made this request: we need one another. We need time. We need the voices of those who lament and those who rejoice over these actions, for together we have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in God's mission for the life of the world.

The assembly adopted 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. This theological and teaching document builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices where trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement says that this church is not in agreement and recognizes the different perspectives which are present among us.

Our assembly also adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for those in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. There were amendments to two of the proposals. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order, beginning with a strong statement about how we will live together in the face of our disagreements:

Resolution 3: "RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all." (Adopted 771-230 as amended)

Resolution 1: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships." (Adopted 619-402)

Resolution 2: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church." (Adopted 559-451)

Resolution 4: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. (Adopted 667-307 as amended)

Continued on Page 7

2009 Churchwide Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Hanson, continued

I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together.

We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

In Christ,
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
ELCA Presiding Bishop

The following links to 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly information were included when the message above was circulated to ELCA communicators. - KK -----

Multimedia Highlights

See assembly photos, videos, and audio highlights.

<http://elca.org/assembly/multimedia>

Social Statement

"Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" adopted.

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4232>

Full Communion

Full communion with the United Methodist Church.

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4242>

Ministry Policies

Four resolutions to ministry policies adopted.

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4253>

Assembly Worship

Find sermon text and audio from worship services.

<http://www.elca.org/assembly/worship>

Stories of Hope and Promise

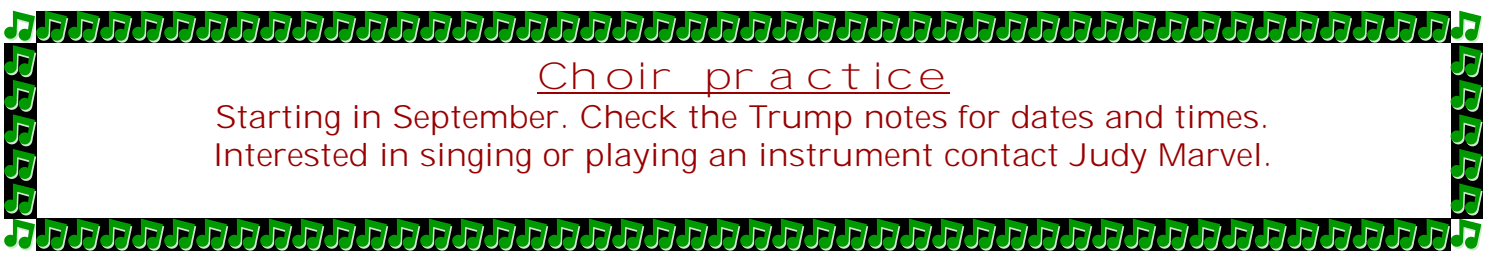
2009-2010 ELCA mission support video.

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action/Hope-and-Promise.aspx>

Bishop Hanson's Comments

Pastoral remarks to the assembly on Friday evening.

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action/Hope-and-Promise.aspx>



Choir practice
Starting in September. Check the Trump notes for dates and times.
Interested in singing or playing an instrument contact Judy Marvel.

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
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Lanham, MD 20706



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Church Fax: (301) 794-4140 E-mail: mygoodsam@comcast.net
www.goodsamaritanlutheran.org

Growing Together in God's Grace!

Mailing Label

Coming Good Sam Events:
KEY FUTURE EVENT DATES:
Oct 10th : Bukoba Choir from Tanzania sponsored by Good Samaritan Lutheran Church arranged by the Mushala family
See our website for a lovely flier to share.

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Ongoing Events
Sunday AM Worship: 11: 00 AM worship service
Adult Forum: *The Unstoppable Force* : 9:30 AM
WOC Bible Study: As scheduled by Kathy Bevard
(301) 577-4366

We're on the Web!
www.GoodSamaritanLutheran.ORG