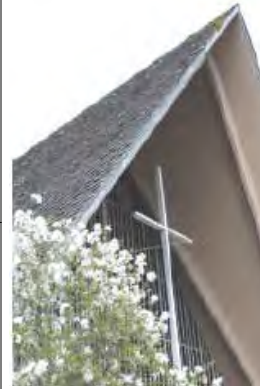


The Light



MLC Call Committee: We're Listening Installment Three

June 5th was the first warm, sunny Sunday we have had in many months. But despite the weather, about 50 MLC members stayed after the service to meet with the Call Committee. That shows how committed the congregation is to moving the Call process forward. Here are some of the questions that we were asked.

How do we share our ideas about the type of pastor MLC needs with the Call Committee?

1) Talk to any member of the Call Committee. We're easy to find; we're wearing special nametags. 2) Go to the MLC Call Bulletin Board in the hallway, fill-out a card and put it in the envelope. Or give written comments to any member of the Call Committee. 3) Look for the Call Survey that will be coming this summer in the mail and by email; fill-it out and return it as soon as possible. 4) Participate in a small group discussion; these will take place this summer and in September; look for announcements in the Sunday bulletin to find out where and when.

What is the Ministry Site Profile?

It is a 14-page form that the Call Committee fills out with your input describing who we are and what we want in a pastor. The Oregon Synod Bishop uses it to identify potential pastoral candidates. These candidates are presented to the Call Committee, which selects a few candidates and arranges for them to visit MLC.

Will we get to meet the pastoral candidates?

Yes! We have not decided on the best way to facilitate meaningful interactions with the congregation (you can share your ideas about that too) but the pastoral candidates will definitely meet with the congregation.

What is the Call Committee's timeline?

We hope to complete interacting with the congregation and submit the completed Ministry Site Profile to the Bishop by early October. We then have to wait for the Bishop's office to identify candidates for our consideration. Since this takes time and we cannot interview during Advent and Christmas, it is likely that pastoral candidates will not be visiting MLC before January.

Why does it take so long?

The ELCA has a process to help us find the right pastor and this takes time. Your Call Committee is working diligently. We need to trust the process and, more importantly, trust Christ to bring the right pastor to MLC.

The MLC Call Committee: Dennis Bourdette (Chair), Kathy Olson (Vice-Chair), Beth Lillie (Secretary), Pastor Janelle Aldrich-Dale (Advisor), Guy Altman, Glen Hess, Barbara Johnson, Mark Korsness, Elmer Lampe, Les Larson, Kari Liebert, Melanie North, Linda Smith, Jean Storm and Shelby VanLeuven

Milwaukie Lutheran

July-August
2011

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From Our Pastor



Some of you may know that Gary and I have birds as pets. What you may not know is that all of them talk. The one who is the best talker is Oliver – my Yellow Naped Amazon parrot. I have had him from a hatchling and intentionally taught him certain things. For instance, he has four songs in his repertoire – one of which is “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” Which leads me to another thing that you may or may not know about me – I am a baseball fan. In point of fact, I am a Seattle Mariners fan. And one of the things that Oliver loves to vocalize is the word “Eeed-garrrr” – just like the fans used to chant when Edgar Martinez (my all-time favorite Mariner) came to the plate. The funny thing is that Oliver doesn’t know that Edgar retired several years ago and so whenever he hears a baseball game on the TV he still yells for Edgar. There is something about the sound of a baseball game that he recognizes and he will begin all his favorite baseball stuff – mostly things that I taught him unintentionally and won’t go into here. ☺

One of the things that I love about baseball is that it dramatizes one of life’s most important and universal lessons – that of trying to measure up to a standard of perfection and always falling short. It seems to me that was what the Apostle Paul was trying to do when he says in Romans, “*All have fallen short of the glory of God.*” Well, baseball is a lot like that too.

Baseball is a game of measuring things against impossible standards – a game of numbers. Everything is added up and written down somewhere. For instance, as of this morning I know the Mariners are 2 games back of first place in the American League West and are hovering just below a .500 win/loss record. I know that Ichiro’s batting average is .274. I know this because I checked the Mariner website this morning. These numbers are easy for anyone to find because they are published in lists that compare every player in the league. So you can see who is best and who is worst at just about anything pertaining to the game – all broken down to the nearest decimal point.

The interesting thing is that nobody does very well. The very best hitters get about three hits in every ten tries – and that’s not a very high percentage for most jobs. But if you get three out of ten in baseball, they give you a million dollar salary. And if you do it several years in a row, they put you in the Hall of Fame. But nobody is very good when measured against that absolute batting standard of 1.000. And everyone falls short of it – even the best players.

I think that the Apostle Paul would appreciate the similarities between batting standards and the inability of anyone to come anywhere near living up to it. Baseball is a hard-judging master of anyone who sets out to be good at it. And life is a lot like that, too. But there is another side to baseball that sounds a lot like grace. In baseball, everyone gets a chance to bat. Everyone gets the same number of balls and strikes. Each team gets the same number of outs. And what makes baseball more fair than some other sports is that it has no clock. And maybe that makes baseball even more fair than life – because in baseball, you don’t run out of time. Unless it rains (which isn’t even an issue in Seattle – they have a roof!) everyone gets their innings – as many as it takes to decide who wins and who loses. As that great baseball theologian, Yogi Berra said, “*It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.*” There is always the chance that the unexpected will happen – there is always the chance for the walk-off grand slam. And there is grace in that.

Paul said: “*Since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus . . . because in his divine forbearance he has passed over former sins .*” (Romans 3:23-25) Paul knew a lot about grace because he knew that he was batting 0 for 4 when Jesus found him, turned his life upside down and sent him out to tell people about God’s love for them. He became one of the best known and best loved evangelists of the church because, when he couldn’t get even one hit, Jesus hit a walk-off grand-slam on his behalf. And the best part of that is – Jesus does the same thing for all of us.

Summer is here and there is lots of baseball left to be played – and even those of us who have followed the Mariners from the beginning know that there is still a chance for a winning season. May this summer be enjoyable, restful and full of grace for all of us!

Blessings,
Pastor Janelle

Health Ministry

The HMT wishes all of you a happy and relaxing summer. We are all available for any and all health problems you may have during the summer. If you need transportation for appointments we can help out. Call Connie Jackle at 503-654-5113 or Patty Shilling at 503-654-8525.

Lets all try and keep our brains functioning properly.

Cardio Vascular Factors

Keep Cardio Vascular factors under control such as your blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

Lifestyle

Aerobic exercise is very important. Any exercise is essential. Eat a diet low in saturated fats with lots of fruits and vegetables. Use alcohol in moderation and don't smoke.

Depression

Showing symptoms of depression is not normal. If necessary get treatment from your Doctor.

Social Support

Engage and be social with your family and friends.

Cognitive Activity

Continue your education by learning new things. Reading is a good way to use your brain.

Leisure Activities

Keep doing things that you enjoy. Play cards, do puzzles, play games and continue to have fun.

New Ways of Doing Old Things

Learn a new approach to doing the same old tasks. Try to break up your routine by trying things a little differently.

Mindful Living

Keep active, enjoy your friends and family. Keep your brain active by using it for all your activities.

Summer Worship at MLC

With summer upon us, and a single worship service every Sunday, the music of worship services will typically alternate between traditional and contemporary styles, from week to week. In general, traditional services will feature music from various ELCA liturgical settings, as well as hymns selected solely from the ELW hymnal. Contemporary services feature appropriate worship music from a wide variety of sources, carefully chosen to reflect that Sunday's scripture reading and sermon message.

Some important dates to note:

July 31—Outdoor Service

August 7—Day Camp Staff from Lutherwood Visit

Sept. 11—Rally Day—Outdoor Service

Specific dates for specially-themed services—World Music and Jazz, for instance—will be announced and posted in the bulletin.

More Music News—

The Bell Choir is still fundraising for the refurbishment of the bells. We are about halfway there and need a total of \$2500. Please look on the bulletin board outside of the choir room for updates of the total money

Women's and Men's Dinner Out

Monday, July 18, the Women's Dinner Out will be at the Applebee's Restaurant, 10172 SE 82nd Ave. Men's Dinner Out will be at The HomeTown Buffet in the WinCo Shopping Center on 82nd Ave. The time to gather is 5:30 p.m. All are invited to join together for good food, fun and fellowship.

Day Camp is Coming!!

When: Monday, August 8th - Thursday August 11th

Where: Milwaukie Lutheran Church

Who: All kids entering 1st - 8th grade in the Fall.

Start Time: 9:00am

End Time: 3:00pm

Registration Began: May 1st, 2011

Registration Online at www.milwaukielutheran.org or pick up at church. Contact Brian Brown @ 503-653-0250 or brianmlc@comcast.net for more information.

Young At Heart Picnic Planned

Save the following date for the annual Young at Heart Picnic—Wednesday, August 10 at Elmer Lampe's, 6701 SE Mabel, off Webster Rd. Arrive about 11:30 a.m.—food served at noon. This a potluck (good ol' Lutheran invention), so last names beginning with the following letters, please bring:

A-F dessert

G-L baked beans

M-R salad

S-Z fruit or veggie tray

Chicken, pop, and coffee will be provided. Come, enjoy good food and great fellowship at Elmer's cool, private park.

County Fair Help Needed

Volunteers Needed to Take Shifts at the Oregon Trail Cluster Clackamas County Fair Booth
Tuesday, August 16, Wednesday, August 17, and Thursday, August 18

10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday, August 19

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 20

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 21

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Contact Chris Morgan at 503.703.6228 or email: cmorgan@canby.com to volunteer.

Camp Lutherwood Day of Discovery

Camp Lutherwood Saturday July 9, 2011 10:00am - 2:00pm

Join us at Camp Lutherwood for a day of fun, discovery, and help shape the future of the camp.

The forum will be facilitated by graduate students from the University of Oregon Urban Design Lab. The pool will be open from 2-4pm. The day is free and open to all ages. Please RSVP at office@lutherwood.org so we are sure to have enough food for the lunch that will be provided.

Back Pack Buddies News

BackPack Buddies has had a very successful year due to the many helpers, shoppers, drivers and donations to the program of two weekly lunches to 72 children at Milwaukie Elementary School and El Puente School for the 2010-2011 school year. The red tub has been filled frequently and when we put out a call for special items which are needed, you have responded too! Your Community Outreach Ministry team sends Thanks to You! Over the summer, please watch for sales on cans of soup, macaroni and cheese (both individual and boxes), Ravioli, Campbell's Pork and Beans (11 oz. size, about 59 cents), 100% Juice boxes, and granola bars.

We will begin the lunch program again in September. Just to let you know, there are now over 800 students served—simply unbelievable! When we at MLC, started out doing lunches three years ago, there were only two schools doing BackPack Buddies and now it is in all the North Clackamas elementary schools. There is a Summer Food Program that will run from July to early August.

Oregon Faith Roundtable News

Maybe you didn't know that Oregon ranks third in the nation for hunger or Very Low Food Security. We recently were second but another state got worse; for the hungry in Oregon, nothing changed.

Did you know? 240,000 Oregonians receive a food box from Food Emergency Services each month. A goal would be to create alternatives to food emergency service so that they are just that—for emergencies and not a monthly necessity.

There are three priorities for the 2011 Legislative Agenda: Preserve food services that end hunger. Preserve basic services that end hunger: Strengthen services that help Oregonians meet their basic needs and prepare for the future. Through our charitable work in our congregations, we know people who are suffering and hear stories of those who are poor and hungry. Check out this website: www.ofrah.net and find out about this vision—"an Oregon where all families and individuals have the opportunity to be stable, hunger-free and healthy, with a foundation in place to succeed in school, work and life. One goal is to put money in the pockets of the poor and low-income so they can buy food for themselves."

Project Start Right Donations Needed

For many children in Clackamas County back-to-school is not a happy time. Their families cannot afford the supplies they need. Children are embarrassed that they are the only ones without supplies. They want to be "just like other kids." Some of the children are from families living in poverty and others are in foster care. Try to imagine being the only child in the classroom without basic supplies! We believe project START RIGHT gives them a chance to be accepted by their peers and ready to learn.

Please help by donating funds, new school supplies and/or your time. Last year's project distributed "basic back-to-school" packets to about 1400 children.

Items may be brought to the church and placed in the designated red tub. If you would like the Community Outreach Ministry team to shop for you, checks may be made out to Milwaukie Lutheran with "school supplies" noted in the memo line, or you may send monetary donations directly to Start Right, PO Box 952, Oregon City, OR 987045. Your entire cash donation will be used to purchase supplies. Early donations help us buy at the best prices.

Needed items are: 1 1/2" 3 ring binders; notebook paper, backpacks, watercolor sets, calculators, felt markers,; pencil boxes; scissors; pocket folders; spiral notebooks; colored pencils; erasers; rulers; math sets (protractors & compasses, etc.); white glue; glue sticks; ball point pens; and #2 pencils.

Collection needs to be completed no later than August 8.

King's Cupboard Update

Things are hopping around the pantry, as usual. We continue to see strong demand and new clients. We're grateful for the support of food, funds and volunteers from supporting congregations and other community members. In recent news:

- * Grocery Outlet in Milwaukie is regularly directing leftover product and plans an in-store food drive to help King's Cupboard. We value working with these great folks!
- * We recently received 19 flats of large vegetable starts from Serres Greenhouse in Oregon City to share with pantry clients. What a delightful donation, helping clients grow their own garden fresh produce and enhance their sense of self sufficiency.
- * Oak Hills Presbyterian Church neighbor fair and concerts on Sunday, July 24 will be a day of fun for the whole family, ending with two outstanding musical performances. King's Cupboard will have a booth to collect food and share information during the day. Stop by and say hello!
- * We look forward to summer weather helping our gardens grow and prosper. Please keep the pantry in mind for extra produce which is most welcome to pantry clients. Because we cannot store perishables, please bring produce to King of Kings on distribution days (2nd and 4th Thursdays) from 9 a.m. to noon. For other fresh food donations, please call Debbi Estes, 503-659-1403.

Current most needed foods:

- * Spaghetti sauce (cans preferred)
- * Canned beans (black, garbanzo, kidney, pinto, baked beans)
- * Tuna or canned meat
- * Chili
- * Hamburger helper and other boxed side dishes
- * Toilet paper
- * Jam

We still need volunteers to help with pantry tasks. Please contact Charlotte Cunningham, 503-653-1723 or cunninghamcr@comcast.net Thank you ALL for your prayers and support!

Spiritual Direction Opportunity

Have you ever longed to intentionally set aside time on a regular basis to reflect on God's presence in your life? Have you desired a discerning, caring empathetic companion to walk with you on your spiritual journey? Spiritual Direction offers that companioning presence to help one see and recognize the movement of God's Spirit in our day-to-day lives.

This past year, as a student in the Contemplative Listening (Spiritual Direction) Program at Namasté, I have been learning to be more attentive to the movement of the Spirit in my own life. I have learned to listen quietly and intentionally to another's spiritual reflections and to ask questions or make observations that may move the directee to hear God's voice more clearly.

I will be doing a practicum as part of the second year of my class. I will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with four people for one hour every three or four weeks for a total of eight times from September 2011 through April 2012. Because this is a practicum, there is no cost for the sessions. If you are interested in being a directee for this practicum, please call Linda Smith at 503.653.6017

Annual Spiritual Life and Growth Retreat Scheduled

Mark your calendars now for attending the annual **Spiritual Life and Growth Retreat** at The Cedars, November 4-6. **The theme this year is "Abundance"**. Cost will be \$130 per person which includes five meals, towels, linens, etc., and snacks. Be watching your weekly bulletins for registration forms beginning mid-July. We need at least 14 people registered by August 31 to guarantee the space at The Cedars. For more info, contact the church office at 503.653.0250.

Thank You

Dear Milwaukie Lutheran Church Family,
 We would like to Thank you for all the prayers, cards and hugs in the loss of Christopher.
 We have the best church family.
 Thank you...
 Grant, Shelly, Jeff, Kendra
 Nick, Cheryl
 Troy, Janet, Holly, Dana
 Dan, Christine and Emma

Thank You to all who came to the Bell and Choir concert in May. It was a complete success! We would like to specifically thank you for supporting King's Cupboard and for the free will donation. Bell Choir is about half-way to our goal of \$2500 by September. Thanks again—the Spring concert will be coming back next year because of the support!

To You and You and You!

To all who have contributed food, money, etc., for the Backpack Buddies Program this year...

To all who have shopped and watched the food ads,
 To all who have packed the lunches and had fun doing it,
 To all who carried the food upstairs,
 To all who recycled the packaging,
 To all who delivered the lunches,
 To all who picked up the empty lunch containers,
 And lastly, to all who had fun doing these things and will do it again in starting in fall.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! And to everyone an extra big THANK YOU because you'll Volunteer Again!

A very special thank you to everyone who housed and fed the youth choir and chaperones on June 13. I really appreciate your support of the music ministry here at MLC.
 ~Owen

Prayers

Marta G, Grace A, April R, Earl J, Barbara C, Marilyn D, Myra C, Dick P, Vi H, Palmer L, children in crisis, Marilyn K, Audrey M, David S, Todd K, Ernie R, Faith C, Darlene, Doris B, Bethany H, Bob S, Andre B, Wally R., Doug F., Leona M., Richard McC., Carl and Jean A., Helen W., Joanne P., Helen Y., Charity C.

The Grieving: Greg, Gretchen, Geoff and Gabe Jenks, on the death of brother and uncle, Jeff.

General Prayers: The President of the United States and our elected officials, the people of Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Somalia, New Zealand, Australia, Japan. All people around the world in military service for their country. The flooding in the Mid-West.

F or those serving Christ around the world: Marian Hungerford-Cameroon; Pastor Steven Ray-China; Our new missionary couple: Pastor Brian and Kristen Konhol-Republic of South Africa

Light News Deadline

Submissions due by August 16 at noon. Please submit news items to editor@milwaukielutheran.org or place in the "mailbox" on Sheryl Ann's office door.

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Brian BrownDirector of Youth & Family Ministry
Sheryl Ann Waage.....Administrative Assistant
Maya Story.....Pianist/Organist
Owen James.....Choir Director/Contemporary
Music Director
Kari Liebert.....Volunteer Bell Choir Director
Carolyn Schoenemann Bookkeeper
Patty Shilling.....Volunteer Parish Nurse

Milwaukie Lutheran Pre-School

Phone: 503.659.9881
Barbara Johnson Preschool Administrator

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.