

Glendale Greetings

November 2007

Worship Schedule:

- Sunday School
Opening 9:00 am
- Sunday School Classes
9:15 am
- Worship 10:30 am
- Fellowship 11:45 am

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**Glendale Evangelical
Lutheran Church
13455 2nd Avenue SW
Burien, WA 98146**

Phone: 206.244.9400

Fax: 206.244.0601

e-mail:

glendale14@juno.com

website:

glendalelutheranwa.org

Glendale Lutheran School
206.244.6085

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

In his book of poetry entitled Blessed is the Ordinary, Lutheran theologian (and former childhood neighbor of my family) Gerhard Frost writes a simple piece called "Let Us Give Thanks." It's not Robert Frost or Rudyard Kipling, but it is good, and whimsical and thought-provoking. And I want to share a bit of it with you in this month of the American Thanksgiving holiday.

First, though, consider this long-held and sacred American tradition of setting apart the fourth Thursday of the month of November as a national day of thanksgiving. It's a noble idea, right and good, and other countries do it, too. And many of us have blessed memories of Thanksgivings past, when we gathered with family and friends and truly did give thanks. But, as the years have progressed, this tradition has become mixed with other less noble habits. Of course, Thanksgiving is now laced with the various practices of watching football, taking an extra day or two off of work, and beginning the mayhem of the Christmas shopping countdown. Not so bad, mind you, but not all that noble, either. At Thanksgiving we eat, and the footballs fly, and we visit, and travel, and we eat, and family stories are told and made, and we eat some more. Good stuff!

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(Pastor's Message - continued from page 1)

But, there's more to thanksgiving than that, or at least there ought to be if we want the practice to sink deeper down into our souls. But, in my experience at least, both as person and pastor, too often the focus has been on what ought to be – that we should be thankful – with a little guilt tossed into the experience because we're not, not as much as we should be anyway. The Gospel story of Jesus healing the ten lepers, with only one returning to give thanks, often leads us only to this moralism – we should, after all, be more thankful than we are, so let's get busy! Too bad.

To his credit, Gerhard Frost, in the above-named poem, gives us some deeper insights as he writes: "Let us give thanks for this moment: for the sturdy fact of God's continuing love...which cost God so much." He goes on: "Let us give thanks: for memory and expectation, for the good that we have known and know today in Jesus Christ, for the Spirit's brooding presence in our nights and in our days." Further, he writes: "Let us give thanks for one another...for differences which complement and complete...for our oneness in Christ... And let us give thanks for Someone to thank."

Thanksgiving is not a compulsion, but an opportunity to practice a healthy relationship with God and others. We are not alone in this world, or in our life's experiences. God is present, as are our loved ones. God has made Himself known to us in Jesus. There is grace and mercy, in the midst of all that life throws at us. We do have Someone to thank!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving...every day!

In Christ,
Pastor Phil

A Musician's Musings

Jon and I were sitting in worship a few Sundays ago and we had an opportunity to witness something beautiful. Ordinary and precious. Common, yet very valued. Daily bread and still, life-giving salvation. In that moment we were blessed. We witnessed one person giving Holy Communion to others. Serving. Sharing. Breaking down barriers of prejudice and un-hospitality. I was called by my name and given a gift. I almost cried. Why would I cry at something that I am part of every week? Why would I cry when I have taken communion and shared this meal thousands of times over? How can I not cry? In that moment Jesus came and said, "Here I am. Take me. I am yours. And you are Mine." Thank you Jesus. Thank you for the gift of yourself in this simple meal. Thank you for the gift of yourself in scripture. Thank you for the gift of yourself in the hands and smile of another sinner. Thank you.

Peace.
Kerstin

Attention Lay Communion Ministers!

There will be a coordination meeting for all Lay Communion Ministers on Saturday, November 17, from 9:00 – 11:00 am in the Fellowship Room. This is important! Please do your very best to be there.

Seeds of Sharing

by Maureen Klink & Allan Ohlsen

TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE - "BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME"

Greetings! This month we focus on another mission we, at Glendale support; Trinity Lutheran College. We desperately need Christian leaders in the World today. This is yet another example of how Christ works through us to accomplish His work. Here is a little more about Trinity...

Most surprising fact: Small? Approximately 125 students! But, anticipates growing to 200+ students.

Newest news? They are relocating from Issaquah to Everett. They anticipate this to happen in August 2008.

Trinity is a private and independent 4-year Christian college. Founded in 1944, began as an arm of the Minneapolis based Lutheran Bible Institute. 80% of current alumni hold leadership roles in their spiritual communities.

Their academic programs are firmly rooted in biblical study, with rigorous intellectual inquiry and faith formation within a Christ-centered community of scholars.

Recent receipt of a \$1 million grant from Anchorage residents Charles and Erdie Brodahl, the largest outright contribution the college has ever received.

Want to know more? Website: www.tlc.edu; Telephone 425-961-5501

Give freely * Receive joyfully * Share the love

Glendale Lutheran School News

By Karin Manns, School Principal

We invite you to take a walk through Glendale Lutheran School, enjoying the sights and sounds of busy learning. From our youngest three-year olds to our sixth grade leaders, the students work hard all day to develop knowledge and skills, while they also practice serving as loving and kind Christians. Throughout the classrooms we see parent helpers, Grandpals, and Kennedy High School students, who all offer extra encouragement and support. Within the walls of our church, our school serves as a place of joy, education, and learning for life.

You may have noticed an exciting change on the church grounds. After fundraising and much work by the parents, our students will soon play on new equipment during recess. While the students have fun, they also engage in important large muscle movement and enjoy the benefits of a fresh air break.

With your support, our school provided vital Christian education. In addition to your prayers, we welcome your involvement as role models. If you've considered joining us for Thursday morning Chapel, you may want to mark November 8 on your calendar. On that day at 9:30 am, Pastor Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, will provide the worship message to the children. Whether or not you can attend on that day, your participation during any Thursday Chapel service provides an excellent example for the students.

Thank You

Sincere thanks to all of you dear people for your thoughtful prayers and expressions of good will during my hip replacement surgery, and now recovery. What a blessing to be part of a caring community.

Joanne Parks

Women's Retreat

Friday, February 29 – Sunday, March 2, 2008
Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA

Mark your calendars for the above dates for our Women's Retreat. The guest speaker will be Rev. Nancy Winder, and the cost will be approximately \$150 per person (the final price will depend on how many women are interested in attending). This particular event is for women who are 18 years of age or older; if there is more interest, we can reserve another time for a mother-daughter retreat. There are only 30 beds available, and so we will need to know who is interested within the next month; we will be placing more information in Life Together during the coming weeks. So please think about this wonderful opportunity, even as a gift for someone else. Thank you!

St. Olaf Christmas Festival

The 96th annual St. Olaf Christmas Festival will be simulcast live in high-definition and cinema surround sound from Skoglund Center Auditorium on the campus of St. Olaf College on Sunday, December 2nd at a movie theatre near you. Go to www.stolaf.edu/christmasfest for tickets and all event details.

The Lights of Christmas

What do you get when you cross the nostalgia of storytellers, the pun-heavy fun of Vaudeville, and the thrill of radio mysteries? A jubilant Christmas production filled with music and story. From a tender retelling of O Henry's *Gift of the Magi* to a cyberspace courtship in latte-land, the "stages" of Christmas are guaranteed to delight and charm both young and old.

Advanced reservations required for Dinner/Dessert Theatre and Getaways at *The Lights*. Call for group rates.

Thursdays – Sundays; 5:00 – 10:00 pm

November 29 – December 2

December 6–9; 13–6; 20-23; 27-30

WarmBeach.com; (360) 652-7575 or (800) 228-6724

Roof Repair for GELC

The replacement/re-roofing project for the Christian Education Building, classrooms and the adjoining hall near the offices are nearly complete. New gutters and a final coat sealer are to be placed over the newly installed torch-down roofing will be in the works in the coming months. It looks great; The Anderson's Roofing team did a fine job. So far we have raised \$1,000 toward the payment of this project. But now the task ahead is how to pay for the remaining balance of nearly \$31,000. That's where you come in.

We were able to secure a loan for this project, but would prefer to pay it back soon. To help us do that, please consider buying either a square foot or two at \$3.28 per square foot, or even a square yard at the cost of \$29.52. If everyone contributed something, it would go a long way toward paying the loan off quickly. Please contribute as you feel is appropriate and thanks in advance for any support you are able to give.

To donate toward the roofing project, simply drop a check in the offering plate, as you normally would, along with a memo indicating "roofing repairs." Or you may also place cash in an envelope marked in the same manner. If you have further questions, please see me at the display in the Narthex after worship service.

Sincerely,
Donald Wenstad
BEAM

Pastoral Visitations

If you have need of a pastoral visitation, please contact Pastor Lee at the church office. If there is no phone answer, please leave a message for Pastor Lee. He checks his voicemail and e-mail regularly.

Church office: (206) 244.9400, ext. 11

e-mail: prphil@glendalelutheranwa.org

GELC Facilities Usage

If anyone would like to reserve space throughout our Glendale facilities for a function, please be certain to check with the church office for availability before making plans.

Also, if you use one of our rooms at the church and rearrange the furniture, please be sure to move it back to its original placement, as when you arrived. Your courtesy is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Newsletter Deadline

Just a reminder: The 15th of each month is the deadline for the upcoming month's Glendale Greeter Newsletter. Thank you for keeping that in mind!

LIFE IS LIKE AN OPEN END PRAYER

by Margaret Willott

Some times, it seems, life is an unending prayer,
So much to be done
And so little time
To put it together within reason and rhyme.
Urgencies, emergencies,
And every-day stuff
So crammed that making any order is tough.
And yet, that is just what
God wants me to do:
Make order from chaos before day is through.
So I pray as I go
Through the un-ending maze
Of un-planned events that eat up my days.
Like the spilled glass of grape juice
On the newly cleaned rug.
Discipline for the culprit, then a kiss and a hug.
The cell-phone, the land phone,
The door-bell rings
Just when I'm in the midst of a myriad of things
A baby's cry
A neighbor's sorrow
Important interruptions that can't wait for tomorrow.
The work I intended to do
Will stay mostly undone
When I trip to the doctor with a broken-armed son.
"Doctors have schedules,"
The nurse says, with a smile,
"We'll get you worked in but it will take a while."
Now, I know that God
Has a plan for my life.
But I expected peace and calm and not tension and strife.
What's the answer? I'll tell you.
God is always there.
So work through each problem with a quick arrow-prayer.
And when day is done
And your head hits the bed
Don't close your eyes 'til your thanks-giving prayer's said.

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13455 2nd Avenue S.W.
Burien, WA 98146-3399

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Email: glendale14@juno.com
Website: www.glendalelutheranwa.org
Pastor Lee: prphil@glendalelutheranwa.org

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Seattle, WA
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Study and Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship with Holy Communion

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 8:00 am—5:00 pm
Office Phone: (206) 244-9400

STAFF

Philip K. Lee - Pastor
Kerstin Shaffer – Dir. of Music Ministry
Earl Ericksen - Visitation Pastor
Paul Kragness – Custodian

November 2007 _____

VISION STATEMENT

Every Member Sharing in Christ's Ministry

MISSION STATEMENT

Make Jesus Christ Known through Evangelism,
Discipleship, Worship, and Service

MOTTO

Making Christ Known – Growing in Grace