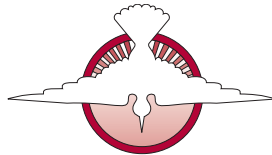


Stories TO Tell



All Saints Lutheran Church

November 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 4

A Spirit-filled community where people make a difference

& Gifts TO Share

***Glorifying God
in all we do***

Ordinary people at start of extraordinary stories

Every great story begins with an ordinary person doing something out of the ordinary. All Saints has had great stories in 2009.

Like many people, Betsy Rechel enjoys gardening. Her story became great when she agreed to tend All Saints' Pantry Patch. Betsy planted vegetables in five raised beds at the rear of the church property from April until the final hard freeze of the year. So far in 2009, those five beds have produced 108 pounds of collard greens, 121 cucumbers, 25 zucchini, 205 peppers and 37 pounds of cherry tomatoes. In all, the gardens yielded about \$750 worth of fresh produce for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantries to supplement the canned, frozen and boxed foods they distribute.

Like many people, Robyn Ramsay enjoys sewing. Her story became great when she joined others at All Saints to create beautiful quilted banners for the Gathering worship space and the Sanctuary. Their work enhances the visual experience of worship for everyone entering those spaces.



Like many people, Michelle and Russ Grose are a married couple who want Christ at the center of their marriage. Their story became great when they invited others to join with them to grow together as Christian couples through study, fellowship and mutual support. They are launching a couples' small group ministry at All Saints.

Each year, ordinary people do something extraordinary when they teach Sunday School, usher, greet, read scripture, clean the kitchen, serve on congregation council or participate in any of the hundreds of acts of service at All Saints. Together, these acts

See **STORIES**, other side

2010 Ministry Opportunities form

The 2010 Ministry Opportunity Form is enclosed.

Everyone at All Saints is asked to complete this form each year to offer themselves as servants of Christ through the work of the congregation.

If you are already serving, please complete the form as a confirmation of your desire to continue that service in 2010.

Please give prayerful consideration to God's blessings of your time, ability and personality as you decide how you can contribute to our community of faith.

If you have questions about anything on the form, you may contact the staff person listed for each of the areas on the form.

God's people using God's resources for God's purposes

New for 2010: Sunday morning volunteer scheduling software

Sunday morning ministries are grouped together on the Ministry Opportunity form because early next year, the church plans changes to the scheduling system for Sunday worship volunteers.

These changes are intended to make it easier for volunteers to coordinate their schedules and those of their families.



What is the new system?

- A password-protected, Web-based schedule coordinating service exclusive to All Saints volunteers

How will it work?

- Everyone volunteering for Sunday morning ministries will receive an e-mail assigning them a password • The program will guide volunteers to manage their ministry preferences on-line, indicate their availability before each new schedule is created and facilitate substitution requests and responses by e-mail

What are the benefits?

The software will:

- Make it easier to accommodate your needs, such as service preferences, vacation times and family volunteering
- Coordinate schedules to eliminate conflicting ministry assignments
- Will allow the church to compile quarterly schedules and send e-mail reminders (or by U.S. mail for those who don't use e-mail).
- Help you to manage emergencies or changes to your schedule by requesting a substitute or a trade from the quarter's roster of volunteers in your ministry.

Stories

STORIES, from front

create a community of faith that gives glory to God.

Remember the Old Testament story of David and Goliath? An ordinary boy conquered a renowned warrior saying, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts. ... This very day the Lord will deliver

you into my hand ... so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel..." 1Samuel 17:45-46

Great stories of Christian servants are like the story of David. Ordinary people, with the help of Christ, are able to perform extraordinary acts so that all Earth may know that there is a God.

What's your story?

Cheerful sacrifices

Emily called Marge. "How about shopping on Saturday morning? We can go out to lunch and have a good talk."

Thanks, Emily," Marge replied. "But I'm going with my small group from church to pack Christmas boxes for kids overseas."

"You'd rather do that than shop?" Emily asked in amazement.

"Sure," Marge said. "I love to be able to give and I can think of the joy-filled faces of those kids when they get the boxes. Spending a Saturday doing those gifts is a gift to me."

Our stewardship theme for this year focuses on "Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share." We recognize that God has showered us with gifts of grace that literally fill our lives. In response we live, joyfully sharing God's gifts and giving thanks for all that God has given—especially the gift of forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ.

Because God has given so graciously, we can respond as Paul encourages: "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

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