

## Your Pastor's Ponderings

For my column this month, I thought I would share a global mission reminder as written by my wife to consider, reflect, and pray upon. – Pastor Will

Picnic season is coming to a close, but it seems as though we are never at a loss for finding reasons to eat (as anyone who has ever tried to find a good time to start a diet knows...). Yes, the reunion picnics are almost over, but then comes labor day cook-outs, the Jubilee (with those gooey cheese fries, ice cream, and apple dumplings...). And before you know it, it's Halloween – and really, who can resist sneaking into the kids' candy bags for a mini Snickers bar or two? Even in these days of recession, it seems that we always have plenty (often too much!) food right at our finger tips.

Therefore, it is hard for most of us to imagine going days without anything in our belly at all, or drinking muddy, unsanitary water from the only puddle left for miles and miles around – and having even that supply disappear.

Currently, the worst drought in 60 years is creating severe food and water shortages for millions of impoverished people in the Horn of Africa. (It is worse than the famine in the 80's that received widespread response thru the "We Are the World" song.) Combined with ongoing conflict in many countries, the region is facing an urgent, life-threatening humanitarian crisis.

The lack of rain, which began in late 2010, has led to several failed crop cycles, the death of livestock and the loss of agricultural livelihoods. More than 12 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti are affected by drought conditions which have led to widespread food shortages. The United Nations has declared a famine, in parts of Somalia. Left with few resources to provide for themselves and families, and displaced by ongoing conflict and fighting, hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing their homes in Somalia for camps in Ethiopia and Kenya (this does not include those too weak and ill from lack of food who can no longer travel).

But the refugee camps, built to hold 90,000 refugees, are currently hosting over 380,000 people and receiving more than 1,300 new arrivals each day. Many of the new ones have walked long distances and arrive even more malnourished and in poor physical condition.

Children are particularly affected; reports say 30 to 40 percent of the children are severely malnourished.

Even while those numbers may feel overwhelming, we remember that we belong to an abundant God who uses any gift that is shared. Just think of what God was able to do through Jesus with two fish and five little loaves of barley bread!

In these days, consider that you may be the answer to someone's prayer for "daily bread."

Consider that God can multiply the gift that you give to save the life of a child, a mother or father, a community leader. Consider what you might appreciate another doing for you if you were in the same circumstance.

Know that your past gifts have made a difference. Thanks to the many water projects and other sustainable agriculture projects funded by our gifts to ELCA World Hunger, a number of communities are making it through these hard times without the degree of suffering we have seen elsewhere.

Jesus reminded his disciples that we attend to Christ himself when we attend to one another's needs (*"I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me something to drink...for whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did to me."* – Matthew 25:35, 40). Let us then be moved to serve Christ as we attend to the needs of our African sisters and brothers.

See You on Sunday,

**Pastor Elisa**



**Business Meeting**

### **REMINDER: Joint Council**

The Joint Council will meet on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at Messiah @7pm. Please note that Assistant to the Bishop, Tim Knauss, will be with us for the first part of our meeting. See you there.



## **Somerset County Habitat for Humanity**

Somerset County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is conducting a bike and hike fundraising event on the Great Allegheny Passage bike trail September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is the third Bike N Hike fundraising event for the local Habitat for Humanity chapter. The activity will begin at the Rockwood trailhead and participants choose to bike east towards the Garrett trailhead access point on the trail, a 14 mile round trip, or hike west 2 miles towards the Markleton trailhead, a 4 mile round trip.

The cost for participating is \$15.00 with all proceeds going to Somerset County Habitat for Humanity. Pre-registered participants will receive a shirt and a lunch ticket for a bagged lunch at the conclusion of their trip.

Pre-registration deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

A registration form can be picked up in the narthex or at the church office. Any questions call John Minnich, 814-443-7660 or Art Gotjen, 4814-445-6274



## **POTATO PICKIN'**

My how time flies, it is again that time of the year to pick the potatoes for the Thrivent Potato project (same place as last year). The farmer, Ken Soldano, has killed the stalks and the potatoes will be mature and ready to pick on **Saturday, September 17. We will start around 9.00 AM.** Please bring buckets along for picking. We need pickers, baggers, and people to tie the bags, etc. We need volunteers any age. There will be jobs for everyone.

Lunch will be provided.

Directions will also be provided and placed in the narthex at each church



## **Lend Us Your Voices – Join the Sr. Choir**

Fall is a time for leaves to fall and voices to be raised as Messiah's Sr. Choir returns from our summer respite. We will start rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7pm on September 14<sup>th</sup> (the Wed

after the Jubilee). Join us every Wednesday thereafter for some fun, sharing, and singing. No experience necessary. We'd love to have you join us for great time and a God time.



## **A Marathon for Blanket Sunday-**

Quilts are like friends - a great source of comfort and warmth, so come on out to the New Centerville Lutheran Parish's quilting marathon. Bring your needles, threads, knots, and scissors and join us as we attempt to add to our total of quilts and blankets for Blanket Sunday. The Marathon is a good time for a good cause – to provide those facing disaster with a source of comfort and warmth.

Our marathon will be held on **Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** and go all day. We begin at 12N and knot until we run out of tops or our fingers go numb (just kidding ☺). Come for an hour, come for the whole day, come any old way and join in the quilting, the laughing, and the fun.



## **Burgers and Dogs While You Watch the Parade -Jubilee Youth Group BBQ**

The Sr. High Youth going to New Orleans are hosting our **annual Jubilee BBQ on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.** In Messiah church parking lot, we will have hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill as well as chips, cookies, and drinks available to purchase. All proceeds benefit our youth group's trip to the National Youth Gathering next summer.

Feeling hungry while you wait for the parade to start? Walk on over to the church parking lot and grab yourself a quick bite to eat.



## **JUBILEE: Sr. High Youth Yard Sale – Part Two plus Return of the Vendors**

The Sr. Youth Rummage Sale in August went VERY well, but we have too many nice things not to do it again. So we are!

On **Sept 7-10** the New Centerville Parish Sr. High Youth Group will be having a continuation of their Yard Sale in the basement of Messiah. The yard sale will be open for viewing on Wednesday (9/7)

from 3pm til dark. Then again on Thur.(9/8) and Fri (9/9) from 10am til 7pm.

Then on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, we have the return of the Vender Show as well as the Rummage/Book Sale and Bake Sale from 9am til 3pm. Confirmed Vendors showcasing their wares include: Scentsi – scented candles, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Lea Sophia jewelry, Avon, Dove chocolate, 31 – purses and totes. Vendors will be upstairs in the large Sunday school room and Rummage/Books/Baked Goods will be downstairs in the fellowship hall.

**PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING ANYMORE DONATIONS!!! Thank You to everyone who donated previously!!!**

**2011 Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Church-wide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held Aug. 15-19 in Orlando. The theme was “Freed in Christ to Serve.”

- ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched
- “Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” social statement adopted
- Review process for social statements adopted
- Living into the Future Together resolutions adopted
- 2012-2013 Budget proposals adopted
- Memorials and constitutional changes adopted

For more information on the assembly, including daily legislative updates, videos and news blog, visit: [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly)



**SR. HIGH YOUTH –  
YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR  
BBQ & YARD SALE**

Please note that the Sr. High Youth are expected to help out both with the **BBQ on Weds.** AND **the Yard Sale on Sat.** Help for the yard sale during the week (Wed thru Fri) is not required but if you can stop by during the late afternoon or evening, it would be appreciated.

If possible, please plan on staying later than 3pm on Saturday as we will need help cleaning up the yard sale items and loading them to go to Salvation Army or Good Will. If you are unable to attend during the suggested times, please let Pastor Will know as soon as possible so

alternate plans can be made to ensure you do your fair share to help out with these events.

**ATTN: Sr. High Youth Group Meeting – September 18<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Will would like to meet with the Sr. High Youth and their parents on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> immediately after late worship at Messiah.** We need to discuss plans for possible fall fundraisers and pass out and go over registration expectations – forms, funds, etc.

Registration for the National Youth Gathering opens in October so we will need information and decisions regarding this by the end of September.



**BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR YOUTH GROUP BBQ & YARD SALE**

For those in the parish who can help, the Youth Group would like to have some baked goods donated for their BBQ and their Yard Sale during the week of the Jubilee. If you are able to assist, please drop items off at Messiah on Sunday morning (Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>) or any time during the week after 11am on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for baking and helping. Call the church office (926-2215) if you have any questions.



**Pastor Will: “I’d like to know more about You and Your Faith”**

As a way of helping me discern what might be the most helpful for all of us in preparing my sermons, I want to know what you’re struggling with and what you’re most interested in related to God and Jesus Christ. As a way of considering my sermon topics for the next few weeks or months, I’d like to include the entire congregation in the process. Simply answer the following questions below and turn them into me. You may turn them in by doing the following – 1) tear off this form and place in the offering plate, 2) email your answers to me, or 3) give them to me in person.

1. What are you struggling with (in faith or life)?
2. What questions do you have about faith?

3. What questions do you hear your non-Christian friends asking?
4. What topic do you wish you could hear a sermon about?

**Comming soon**



**Outdoor Worship, September 3<sup>rd</sup> –**  
**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS @HICKORY HOLLOW**  
**CAMPGROUND**

Our final outdoor worship of the summer will be on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> of Labor Day Weekend. As a special part of our worship service for that evening, we will be having a blessing of the animals. Please feel free to bring any pets and animals you own to receive a blessing in the tradition and commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi. Please ensure that your pets have a cage or leash to keep them calm and safe as there will be other animals present.

**Our worship begins at 5pm in the Hickory Hollow Pavilion** followed by a picnic, campfire and fellowship. Our last service recognizing the firefighters and EMTs of the NCRVFD was well attended and received. Lets make our last outdoor worship of the year just as memorable.



**The Power of a Simple Gift!!!!**

Once again this year, we are planning to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We can start collecting items for boys and girls (ages 2 to 14) now and continue until we pack the boxes in November. Thrivent will also be supporting our project.

The following list is to help you add items to your shopping list each week. You can follow the weekly list or just buy items when you see them and bring them to the church.

**September – Health / Hygiene items**

- SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>** – soap & washcloths
- SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** - toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs
- SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>** – T-shirts, socks
- SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** - plastic shoeboxes (6quart)

**October – Fun (toys) and learning items**

- OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>** - yoyos, Slinkys, toy jewelry, play doh, balls
- OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>** - small toys that light up or make noise matchbox cars, small cars and trucks



**Jubilee Parade – Our Last Safari Ride**

We will be entering a float in the Jubilee parade again. Utilizing those wonderful VBS decorations, come join our menagerie of lions, hippos, zebras, giraffes, and elephants as we journey one more time through the Lord's Prayer and share it with our community.

We would like Parish members and VBS participants to walk behind or ride our Jubilee Float. If your children can come, please have them wear their Tie-Dye T-Shirts that they made during VBS.

The Parade is on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The parade is scheduled to begin at 6:15pm. The last two year's our float has started out at the big equipment shed on the Mud Pike. You can meet us there, at the church, or join us as we enter the main route at the intersection of 281 and Mud Pike around 6:30pm. Call Pastor Will if you have any questions.



**Worship Schedule Change for Jubilee**

**Jubilee Sunday is September 11<sup>th</sup>.** This means a change in our regular worship schedule for that Sunday. All are invited to the Jubilee grounds at 9am for a community worship service. I am assisting with that service this year but I will not be preaching.

OR all are invited to attend a parish worship service at Samuel's that morning at 10:30am. There will be no regular worship at Messiah or at St. Paul.

Yes, this is the 10 year anniversary of 9/11 – I suspect they will incorporate that memory into the Jubilee service. For our worship at Samuel's, there will be a special portion of the worship service that day honoring that remembrance and praying for peace as well as Holy Communion.

**OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>** - small stuffed animals, small dolls

**OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>** - flashlights, batteries, watches,  
solar calculators

**A box will be placed in each church for your donations. Have fun shopping and thank you for your support.**



### **SAMUEL's -- ALSM Auxiliary Updates:**

- 1) The Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries will hold their annual Fall Bazaar on **Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** at Friedens Lutheran Church from 10am to 4pm.
- 2) In conjunction with the bazaar, ALSM is having a fundraiser event at Hoss' Steak and Seafood House, who will donate 20% of your check on that day to ALSM. The event will be on **Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets available in the narthex soon.
- 3) **Bazaar Help Need** –ALS M is also looking for help with donations to the Bazaar –
  - A) We are hoping to receive Baked Goods for the Bake Sale. Baked Good items will be received the Thursday and Friday (September 29 & 30) before the Bazaar.
  - B) We are looking for Yard Sale Items as well, especially for the following:
    - a) Books, b) Games, c) Puzzles, d) Toys, e) Children's Clothing (**NO Shoes!**), etc.  
**!!Please NO Adult Clothing or shoes!!**



### **CONFIRMATION RETURNS**

Mark your calendars, as confirmation is set to begin this month.

Sept 17 (Sat) - 9am: Servant Event, Potato Picking @ Saldano Farm

Sept. 18 (Sun) – 5:15pm – 6:30pm: **FIRST CLASS - @ Messiah**

Sept. 24 (Sat) – 9am: Servant Event: Camp Sequanota Work Day (meet at camp)

Sept. 25 (Sun) – 2-4pm: Servant Event: Wheels for Water (Rockwood Bike Trail)

*Note: Confirmands are not required to be at all the servant events. Just remember that you are asked to attend 3 out of the 7 opportunities during the confirmation year. We happen to have three opportunities right at the outset of confirmation. Please let us know which ones you can make, so we know whether to expect you or not.*

Time Change: Confirmation class will meet on Sunday evenings this year from 5:15pm until 6:30pm.



**The Service Committee is collecting items for Personal Care Kits & School Kits. All items must be in original wrapping. A box will be put in the Narthex @ Messiah as in previous years.**

#### **Health Kit Items:**

Regular Bath Towels (prefer dark) 2-Soap (bath size bars) any brand  
Toothbrushes / Combs (wide tooth preferred) Metal Nail Files  
Metal Nail Clippers w/file **NO Toothpaste !!!**

#### **School Kit Items:**

8 ½" by 11" Pads and Note Books Blunt Scissors (steel)  
Pencil Sharpeners Pencils with Erasers  
2 ½ inch Erasers Pens  
8, 16, or 24 Crayons  
30 Centimeter Ruler OR ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

**We appreciate all donations from the congregation and Thrivent!!**

PS -- Yard sale items for the Bazaar may be dropped at Samuel's church starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you drop your items off at Samuel's Church, Betty and company will see to it that they are delivered to Friedens. Thank you for your prayerful support and help.



### **Wisdom in the Word Parish Bible Study –**

All are invited to come, pray, and study scripture as we explore the Book of Faith. This month we continue our study in the Book of Revelation.

**Our study meets on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the lounge @M.** Please note because of a previous commitment for the pastor, we are meeting a week earlier than usual.



### **Profiles of Our Partners: Where Your Benevolence Dollars Go for Synod Ministry**

**A Look at the Face of ALSM: Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries**

When we indicate offerings toward benevolence on our giving envelopes, too often we might not realize where that money is going. We think simply in terms of a word “Synod” or “Churchwide”, perhaps without realizing who that money is helping. Yes at times our offering on occasion will help subsidize the salaries of people like Bishop Pile and his assistants or the running of the Synod office. More often though our offerings are put to work helping the agencies around our area (our partners) that assist those in need. In the coming months, we will put a face on those partners by sharing a little more about them in our bulletins and newsletter.

**This week, we look at ALSM: Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.** ALSM offers health and human services that span the generations, touching the lives of people in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset County. They offer such services as child care, children’s programs, counseling, in-home care, adult day services and retirement living communities.

In Somerset, we see the faces of ALSM through such services as their Senior Daily Living Center(on Tabernacle Drive in Edgewood Estates), their Lutheran Commons at Berlin Pike (a senior housing apartment center), their Volunteer Transportation Program, their Counseling Services, and a little farther away-the Lutheran Home in Johnstown.

We support ALSM through our benevolence, auxiliary functions (like the Fall Bazaar), and our Harvest Home program. If you’d like to know more about ALSM, you may look them up on their website ([www.alsm.org](http://www.alsm.org)) or call them at 1-814-400-2285.



**The Victory Sunday School** class will be sponsoring the Missionaries for the month of September



**On the Horizon: Worship Happenings in September**

**Sept. 4 – Called to Community Sunday**

Through today’s Gospel and in the coming weeks, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ’s resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. The Holy Spirit is always at work—

in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ’s body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals.  
**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Jubilee Sunday/Sunday of God’s Forgiveness/Tenth Anniversary of 9/11**

Today in worship, we hear that God’s forgiveness is not based on our idea of fairness, but rather on abundant, unimaginable grace. In the Gospel, we hear how the king forgives our entire debt, no matter how enormous it is and we also are challenged to stretch our perspective and forgive each other. With Peter, we learn to stop keeping score.

All are invited to join us for either Community Worship on the Jubilee grounds at 9am or for a parish worship service at Samuel’s at 10:30am. No worship for SP or M that day.

**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of Jonah and the Big Fish/Blessing of Teachers and Students**

In worship today, the scriptures illustrate how uncomfortable Jonah and the laborers are with God’s unchecked mercy. God doesn’t play by our rules, and that can be very discomfoting. It can be discomfoting for us to engage the poor and the outcast of our society. It can be discomfoting for us to welcome immigrants into our communities. It can be discomfoting to address the pervasive racism that still surrounds us. And it can be very discomfoting for us to open our lives to the transforming power of the cross of Christ. Could it be that the more uncomfortable we become with the reckless love of God, the closer we are to understanding the meaning of grace?

In worship today, we will take a moment to remember those who teach and those who are taught as we have a Blessing of Teachers and Students at the beginning of anew school year.

**Sept.25<sup>th</sup> – God’s Amazing Grace Sunday**

Worship is a time of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, wediscover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God’s grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. Our readings today reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God because of amazing grace.

