

## “Traffic Jam on I-10”

It's a scene you'll see on many an interstate-highway journey. There you are, breezing down the road at 65. Suddenly you see red brake-lights up ahead. A lot of red brake-lights.

You brake too. It's a traffic jam. Everything's come to a dead stop. The interstate highway, marvel of modern engineering, has become a humble parking lot.

After a time, the traffic slowly begins to move. You creep forward. Finally you round a bend and you see something up ahead: an explanation, maybe, for the long delay. Flashing red lights. Lots of them.

Then you see a crumpled car or two, strewn at odd angles by the side of the road. An ambulance with its doors open. Paramedics grimly loading a stretcher into the back.

Then you see the state trooper, arm waving like a windmill. You don't need to hear her voice to know what she's saying: "Move along, move along, move along."

You're on your way again, except for your thoughts, which leapt out of your car back at the accident scene and are still roaming around back there. Your thoughts are hovering in the air, floating over that poor unfortunate, lying face-up on the stretcher. Alive or dead, who's to say?

It's a lamentable fact of modern life: the auto accident. Chances are, if you see one of those, you'll also witness a human behavior that's the bane of the highway patrol, and the cause of more tie-ups than the accident itself: the behavior known as "rubbernecking."

What's so riveting about an accident that evokes such curiosity -- such a fascination with the crumpled metal, the sparkling particles of windshield strewn like fallen stars across the asphalt, the dark puddle that's probably motor oil (but could be something else)? Probably not the accident itself. Very likely it's the sudden realization, amidst a long and tedious journey, that the boundary between life and death is not so far away as we may think. Suddenly, perceiving the flashing lights and the sputtering emergency flares, we remember our mortality.

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" asks the angel after the Ascension of Jesus. The rubbernecking disciples, staring up at the clouds, may have felt that same sense of mortality and fascination. But the angel reminded them of their call to "Move on." There was work for them to do.

Eventually, they do move on. They go out and spread the good news. They serve as *witnesses*. Let's be sure we do the same.

Yours in His service,

*Pastor Keith*

## Reflections on the Grand Canyon Synod 2017

This was the first time that I went to the ELCA assembly as one of your representatives. It was held at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa AZ from June 9 through 10. The theme was Call to Lead. Bishop Steve Talmage, who was stepping down to become the pastor at Love of Christ, felt this was the most important message for the assembly to explore and get direction for our future in the Lutheran Church.

We were presented with four seminarians who spoke as to their calling to become pastors. They were from diverse backgrounds and what I learned was how God touches our lives and gives us direction to lead. One example is Mr. Mateo Chavez who accepted the call after he had retired from teaching. He will be heading the congregation at San Juan Batista in Tucson. This is Spanish speaking congregation where Mr. Chavez worshipped. No matter where we are in life God leads and directs those to take up the call. We need to be aware of what are the signs for the calling. Four elements that need to be present are:

1. Self Awareness
2. Self Motivation
3. Empathy
4. Social Skills

All of the four seminarians had those around them that confirmed the call of God. This means that we are to be aware of seeing the signs in others. Bishop Talmage spoke to:

1. Developing recruiting skills and plans to those who have the call.
2. Create individual learning plans.
3. Support with year of discernment.
4. Grand Canyon Lay Academy

The need for pastors is great. This is why it is so important to find and support with programs those who have been called.

I was very impressed by the organization and thoughtful input throughout the assembly. We were introduced to the interim Bishop who will lead us for the next year. This will be a challenging time but with all of us working together we will look forward to a stronger Grand Canyon Synod.

Carol Leveratt

## **Treasurer's Report May 2017**

### Offerings

Total undesignated offerings in May were \$9,066, which was \$1,738 or 16.1% less than budget.

Total undesignated offerings for May year-to-date are \$44,988, which is \$928 or 2% lower than budget. Facility use donations are \$996 over budget due to Siloam Compassion Church payments.

### Expenses

Total May expenses were \$47 under budget due primarily to lower repairs & maintenance (\$500), partially offset by higher worship (\$244), office supplies (\$63), natural gas (\$58) and copier rental (\$53).

For May year-to-date, total expenses are \$1,610 below budget, due mainly to lower repairs and maintenance (\$1,272), natural gas (\$404) and stewardship (\$241).

### Designated Funds

Designated land sale funds at the end of May remain at \$43,974.

Designated property funds are at \$1,618.

The Sunday Dollars kitchen fund is at \$2,125.

The memorial fund is at \$9,443.

### Undesignated Fund Balance

Undesignated fund balance in the month of May decreased by \$1,439 to \$29,546.

For May year-to-date, undesignated fund balance has increased by \$1,145.

The complete financial report is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## **Treasurer's Report June 2017**

### Offerings

Total undesignated offerings in June were \$9,761, which was \$1,042 or 9.6% less than budget.

Total undesignated offerings for June year-to-date are \$54,749, which is \$1,971 or 3.5% lower than budget. Facility use donations are \$776 over budget due to Siloam Compassion Church payments.

### Expenses

Total June expenses were \$796 under budget due primarily to lower repairs & maintenance (\$500), pension & insurance (\$287) and synod conference (\$261), partially offset by higher evangelism for website costs (\$290) and stewardship (\$219).

For June year-to-date, total expenses are \$2,406 below budget, due mainly to lower repairs and maintenance (\$1,772) and natural gas (\$494).

### Designated Funds

Designated land sale funds at the end of June remain at \$43,974.

Designated property funds are at \$1,618.

The Sunday Dollars kitchen fund is at \$2,159.

The memorial fund is at \$9,443.

### Undesignated Fund Balance

Undesignated fund balance in the month of June decreased by \$3,001 to \$26,546.

For June year-to-date, undesignated fund balance has decreased by \$1,856.

The complete financial report is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

# **AUGUST 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> THE LUNCH BUNCH CONTINUES TOURING RESTAURANTS AROUND TUCSON** with lunch at noon at the Cozy Corner Cafe. Located at Golf Links and Harrison, this eatery offers good food at a good prices and plenty of room for gathering for fellowship! For more information and to reserve your place, please contact Sheryl Felde at 885-5325.

**AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup> OUR PRIMAVERA TEAM MEETS** in Fellowship Hall at 10am to make lunches for the working men at Primavera. Help is not only needed to assemble the lunches but to provide the ingredients. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can assist us.

## **ON-GOING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY to**

8/4 Don Foreman, Maggie Cook

8/6 Jack Garner

8/7 Judith Hamre-Lelo

8/10 Greg Hamre-Lelo

8/12 Marion McGrew

8/17 Sheryl Felde, Ashley Sanchez

8/25 Emi Victorson

8/27 Jeff Williams

8/30 Destiny Vasquez

### **HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARY**

8/2 Brendan and Akiko Victorson

8/4 Ashley and Ryan Judd

**IF YOU NEED A RIDE FOR ANY SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU!**

**DO YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READINGS?** The Thursday Bible Study at 11:30 led by Pastor Keith, are a deeper study of the following Sunday's readings and usually last 60- 90 minutes. It an excellent way to learn the history and context of the readings as well gaining a more meaningful look into what it is that our Lord is trying to teach us. For more information, please call the church office.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TAKING A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS!** The kids (and teachers) did a phenomenal job this year and have earned a well-deserved break. The last class was May 28<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**ON BEHALF OF OUR SMALL QUILTER'S GROUP-** I want to thank each and every one of you for your great support. One Sunday in June we displayed our completed quilts to be blessed before donating 18 to Aviva and selling 7. The donations and sale monies will be used to buy thread, batting and materials. And yes, we still have a few in reserve. God Bless you!  
Marge Smith

**BOX TOP LABELS** are still being collected and sent to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission to assist the school financially. Campbell Soup Labels were discontinued in July 2016. So please continue to bring in those Box Top Labels found on General Mills Products and our contact person, Geri Eberle, will pass them onto the mission. Check out the letter posted in the Narthex from Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission!

**DO YOU LIKE HAVING COMMUNION?** Please consider helping the Altar Guild as we set and clean the table for the Holy Meal. We will train you (it's not hard at all) and only takes about 20 minutes each Sunday. Men are perfectly acceptable in this role! Please see Jay if you can help out!

**SUNDAY DOLLARS-** Yes, we are still doing Sunday dollars. As a way of making our giving "regular and intentional", we encourage you to place one \$1 bill in the offering plate for each member of your family attending worship. Please use only single dollar bills. Other cash is counted as "loose plate" and goes into the general fund. Sunday dollars are currently being set aside for future kitchen renovations.

**SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TABLE** – Who doesn't like to have a chance to sit down with a cup of hot coffee (or tea), a sweet treat, and for a little while, just chat? It could be with a friend you've known for a long time or someone you just met. It's a nice feeling, isn't it? Well that's what we try to provide right after each Sunday service. Here's a place to talk about the sermon or the music. Here's a time to discuss an event that just occurred or will be coming up soon. You may think that you're just giving yourself a little refreshment time, but don't forget the person you greet with conversation. Could it be that person needed somebody to share their thoughts with as well? Could it be you're a blessing to someone and you never knew it? By the way, that's alright, God knew, and it's called... loving your neighbor.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY CORRECTIONS TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION-** please let Jay in the office know as soon as possible.

**NAME TAGS ARE A BLESSING!** It's such a simple thing to wear. It gives others the idea; that you are part of the community, that you are friendly, and most important of all that you are approachable. Our name tags have a clip to fasten to your clothes. And they're FREE for the asking! If you happen to lose it, we'll gladly make another. Anyone that attends worship is welcome to request and wear a name tag. Membership is not a requirement.

**PRAYER CHAIN-** Our church has a Prayer Chain. Anyone with a prayer request, please call **Shirley Berner at 885-4892**. Also, anyone that is interested in helping on the Prayer Chain please contact Shirley to lighten the load. Thank You! We are more than happy to pray for anyone added to the prayer list for as long as they need us to but occasionally we try to update the list just to make sure that we are offering current prayer requests. **If you have someone on the list that should be taken off or someone to add, please contact Shirley Berner or Jay Froehlich in the office.**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

Donald Stoelting (husband of Hanna), Michael H. Botti, (son of Mike Botti), Chris Camp, John Stum (son of Paul & Martha Stum), Audrey Neymeyer (granddaughter of Cheryl Emtman), Clay Hardwick (grandson of Jane Dunfee), Jessica & Tom Lauwers, James Simpson (from Aspire), Levi Thompson (grandson of Dave Kitner), Jonathon Batchler (nephew of Bill and Jay Froehlich), Travis Dodge (friend of MaKain Willard), Tyler and Jay Jahn, Chip Boyce (friend of Maybelle Armier).

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS**

Bob Williamson, Cheryl Emtman, Sarah Williams (niece of Cheryl Emtman), Maybelle & Mike Armier, Sara Seagrove, Tiffany (granddaughter of Virginia Reymer), Christopher Lawson (grandson of Maggie Cook), the Robnett Family, Jeannie Van Sickle (daughter Mark Westlake), Virginia Reymer, Robert Lloyd, Ron Briggs (friend of Cheryl Emtman), Eric Leland, Peter Leveratt (brother of Carol Leveratt), Ryan Judd, Alice Yaskanich, Kathie Josephs, Betty Hetler, Marion McGrew, Mark Westlake, Susan Martinez, and Gretchen Surhoff (niece of Paul & Sharon Surhoff), Walter Brewer, Sharon Dukes, George Nelson (cousin of Sharon Dukes), Helen Hardy (mother of Pastor Keith), Christine Gilbert, David Glarborg (son of Estelle Glarborg), Kirk Aurand (son of Bill Aurand).

## **Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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**WHEN THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE SOIL-** the message is that we should all be good soil—people who hear the word of the kingdom of God and understand it. When you hear the word of the kingdom, don't be like the *path* which susceptible to the evil one who “comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart.” Don't be the *rocky ground* in which a plant “has no root, but endures only for a while”. Don't be the *thorny* soil, in which “the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing”. And don't be like the fearful farmer who never sowed any seed. His harvest was ... nothing at all. Jesus simply keeps sowing the word of the Kingdom of God, even though it lands on religious people who wonder if he is possessed, on disciples who struggle to understand him and on least one young rich man who cannot part with his possession in order to follow Jesus. Listen to the story of the Sower, and learn that Jesus is incredibly generous in the way that he shares the word of the kingdom with all the people of the world. Listen and learn that God's Word is incredibly fruitful, and that a great harvest is guaranteed.



# August 2017 Sign Up Sheet

	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27
Altar	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Greeter	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman
Reader	Don Foreman	Carol Leveratt	Vickie Luthro	Sheryl Felde
Prayers	Don Foreman	Carol Leveratt	Vickie Luthro	Sheryl Felde
Communion Assistant	Carol Leveratt	Bill Froehlich	Ken Luthro	Don Foreman
Acolyte	Robyn Lauwers	Robyn Lauwers	Robyn Lauwers	Robyn Lauwers

**USHERS**-Doug Smith and Austin Lauwers

**COUNTERS**-Walter Brewer, Ken Luthro

# August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <b>11:30 Bible Study</b>	4	5
6 <b>Sunday School 8:30am</b> <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Food Share</i> <i>-Home Communion</i>	7	8	9	10 <b>11:30 Bible Study</b>	11 <b>Noon Lunch Bunch</b>	12
13 <b>Sunday School 8:30am</b> <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Ask Pastor</i>	14 <b>7pm Council</b>	15	16	17 <b>11:30 Bible Study</b>	18	19
20 <b>Sunday School 8:30am</b> <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-10:30 Healing Service</i>	21	22	23	24 <b>11:30 Bible Study</b>	25	26
27 <b>Sunday School 8:30am</b> <b>Worship 9:30am</b> <i>-Celebration</i>	28	29 <b>10am Primavera</b>	30	31 <b>11:30 Bible Study</b>		

## Monday

Office closed  
NAMI 10-12  
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00  
CAP 7-9

## Tuesday

Office closed  
Cub Scouts 7:00

## Wednesday

Food Pantry 9-11:30  
NAMI 10-12  
Boy Scouts 6:45

## Thursday

**Bible Study 11:30-12:30**  
**Food Pantry 9-11:30**  
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00  
Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00

## Friday

Food Pantry 9-11:30

## Saturday

Siloam Compassion Church 2:30

## Sunday

Siloam Compassion Church 2:00