

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

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IPLC

Inviting in God's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for others

FROM THE PASTOR

I am writing this on a cold winter's day, a reminder that seasons have changed. For some, we are now in "busy" season as we move toward all the celebrations in December, and all we think we need to get done before the BIG day. It's busy here at church, too.

As I think about Advent and Christmas I am struck by the fact that every year we tell the same story. Those of us who have preached during Christmas for many years sometimes wonder "what new can I say?" But then we are reminded that we don't need to say anything "new". The story is never old. Maybe it's like children who, at a certain age, never get tired of having the same book read over and over. When I was young, my father read Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" to us every year, chapter by chapter, and it was always new.

Why does his story of the babe of Bethlehem continue to fascinate us? What is it about this story that is so irresistible? Is it because it is a story of hope? Babies are always about hopes and dreams. Many in Jesus' day, suffering from oppression, were looking in hope to God. In our day of world disasters, dislocations, war, disease, and poverty and injustice, what do we need more than hope; hope which empowers caring and compassion? Many people bring their hopes to this story.

Hope is about the future. For us, it's about God's future, for-shadowed in this babe who started in Bethlehem and ended up on a cross; not as an end to it all, but as the beginning of a new life offered to all.

This season we will come together around word and sacrament each week, hearing the "old" story that is always new because it speaks in new ways to us. We will hear the story that speaks of hope, our hopes as individuals, our hopes as a congregation moving into a new phase of our life together in the year ahead. We will hear the story that reminds us that God is with us, sometimes in strange ways, never abandoning us. We will receive that promise again in bread and wine, the "visible word" of God, kindling our hope and our hopes, and sending us in Jesus' name to a needy world that needs God's hope.

I invite you will join us each week in worship to hear for yourself this story, which never grows old, but is always new, and to sing with us "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth".

Pastor Stone

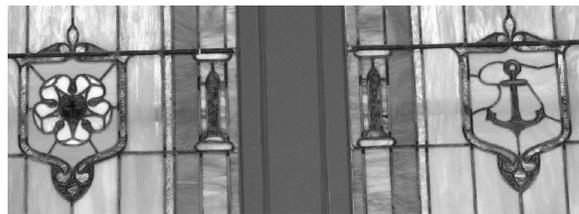
HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Now that we're nearing the end of the stained-glass window restoration in the sanctuary, it's a good time to tell newer members about the symbolism in our beautiful windows. For longtime members, consider it a refresher.

Today, we're focusing on the windows on the north (parsonage) side of the sanctuary. In the coming months, we hope to make the story of the rest of the windows crystal clear.

The next time you're in church, take a look at the windows to the right of the choir loft and organ. Here's what you're admiring, with the following description taken from a 1943 publication marking the 40th anniversary of IPLC:

"In the first window on the north side has been placed the Luther coat of arms, containing the black cross of sin, on the red heart of God's love. The heart rests upon the white rose of Christ's purity, which is an emblem of joy, comfort and peace. All are surrounded by a field of blue, which is symbolic of heaven, and reminds us of salvation in Christ for both time and eternity. The while emblem is encircled by a ring of gold which points to the endurance and riches of God's Kingdom of Glory.



The Luther Coat of Arms and the Anchor



The Fleur-De-Lis and the Star of David

"Next to it we have the anchor, the symbol of hope, 'the hope set before us: which we have as an anchor of the soul.' (Heb. 6:18, 19.) Christ is the eternal hope of mankind.

"In the next window [behind the narthex screen] we find the fleur-de-lis, flower of the lily. It is in reality the iris, which represents the purity of the Virgin Mary.

"The six-pointed star is the star of David and the emblem of Israel. To the Christian world it becomes the double triangle, symbolizing the trinity of God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier."

Speaking of the narthex screen, here's a bonus bit of IPLC history: The narthex screen was installed in the 1976 restoration. It is a custom-designed wall of oak and etched glass. It carries symbols of the presence of God. It was presented by the Gordon Johnson family, in memory of Gordon's grandfather Carl Andrews, who served on the original building committee.

—Ralph Greenslade

Thanks from the Director of "Faith"

Lord You are good and Your mercy endures forever!
These are the words to be remembered in our daily lives. It is because of His grace that "We are Forgiven". Through the generous participation of each and every one of you, we were blessed with a wonderful dinner and concert on Friday evening. How beautiful it was to see the gym filled not only with members of IPLC, but with our guests from Pilgrim Congregational Church of Oak Park, friends, family, neighbors *and* the Holy Spirit

Faith's goal this year was to raise funds for a P.A. system and musical equipment of our very own, that could be used here at home and also when we visit other venues without having to rent it. We are off to a great start thanks to you!

Special thanks to Roger Bingaman, Dawn Benson, Norman Clearfield, Bill Sherlock, Eleanor Barrett and Eleanor Kepp, and Irving Park Lutheran Church for your continued support.

And remember, Much prayer, Much **POWER!**

WORSHIP MATTERS

This is a new column written by members of the Worship Team, to help explain what is going on in Worship.

The Worship team was asked to explain the practice of singing all of the verses of a hymn. I would like to take this opportunity to share a piece that I found about hymn writing and singing.

From the **LBW Ministers Desk Edition**: Hymns are selected "with reference to their function in a particular service on a specific day or occasion. The liturgical and biblical indexes as well as the divisions of material in the hymnal assist in this task.

"All stanzas of a hymn are usually sung so that its thought is conveyed completely." Leaving out a verse or two would mean leaving out a portion of the story, the complete meaning of the hymn text.

From **Wikipedia**, the free encyclopedia:

A hymn is a song specifically written as a song of praise, adoration or prayer, typically addressed to a god.

A writer of hymns is known as a hymnist or hymnodist, and the process of singing a hymn is called *hymnody*; the same word is used for the collectivity of hymns belonging to a particular denomination or period (e.g. "nineteenth century Methodist hymnody" would mean the body of hymns written and/or used by Methodists in the nineteenth century). Books called hymnals are collections of hymns, which may or may not include music.

The Western tradition of hymnody begins with the Homeric Hymns, a collection of ancient Greek hymns, the oldest of which were written in the 7th century BCE in praise of the gods of Greek mythology.

The Christian tradition

In Christian religions, hymns are usually directed toward God, or, in Catholicism and other denominations,

Refugee Ministry Updates

November was another month of great progress with our refugee family from Ethiopia.

Ejersso now has a job working as a dishwasher at Lincolnwood Place retirement home.

Their oldest daughter, five-year old Yabsira, is successfully enrolled in kindergarten at Belding School. The family has continued to make progress in learning the English language. They have finally received Social Security cards and obtained state id's. They have completed almost all of the required health check-up and screening tests. Over the next couple of months we hope that the family will be able to relocate to another apartment in the Irving Park / West Walker neighborhood.

The following areas where we could use additional support help either now or in the future for the family from Ethiopia: coordinating issues with the case worker at the refugee organization; school work and communications with Belding School; holidays; transportation; money management; assistance with finding a rental apartment.

We are continuing to work with the family of Henry Akumbe-Njiwah and provided assistance in helping them move into a three-bedroom apartment which they are renting from Eleanor Barrett. We could also use some assistance in working with Henry and the refugee organization in finding a better job for Henry.

also to Mary and sometimes to other Saints. Most Christian worship services have, since the earliest times, incorporated the singing of hymns.

Thomas Aquinas, in the introduction to his commentary on the Psalms, defined the Christian hymn thus: "*Hymnus est laus Dei cum cantico; canticum autem exultatio mentis de aeternis habita, prorumpens in vocem.*" ("A hymn is the praise of God with song; a song is the exultation of the mind dwelling on eternal things, bursting forth in the voice.)

Since there is a lack of musical notation in early writings, the actual musical forms in the early church can only be surmised. During the Middle Ages a rich hymnody developed in the form of Gregorian chant or plainsong. A familiar hymn of this type is the 11th century plainsong *Divinum Mysterium*, know to us as *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.

The Protestant Reformation produced a burst of hymn writing and congregational singing. Martin Luther is notable not only as a reformer, but as the author of many hymns including *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* which is sung today even in Roman Catholicism. Luther and his followers often used their hymns, or chorales, to teach tenets of the faith to worshipers. The earlier English writers tended to paraphrase biblical text, particularly Psalms; Isaac Watts followed this tradition, but is also credited as having written the first English hymn which was not a direct paraphrase of Scripture. Later writers took even more freedom, some included allegory and metaphor in their texts. Four-part harmony also became the norm, rather than unison singing.

Charles Wesley's hymns spread Methodist theology, not only within Methodism, but in most Protestant churches. He developed a new focus - expressing one's personal feelings in the relationship with God as well as the simple worship seen in older hymns. Wesley wrote:

*Where shall my wondering soul begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin,
A brand plucked from eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise,
Or sing my great deliverer's praise.*

FROM THE DESK OF NORMAN CLEARFIELD MINISTRY PROJECT COORDINATOR

November was another blessed month on the ministry front. Many good things have been happening with the refugee families which we are sponsoring. Read more about our refuge ministry efforts and volunteer opportunities in a separate Tidings article. Much progress has been made on moving forward on a ministry program for homeless people and other families in need in the Irving Park community, which will build on the tremendous work being done by the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

I was fortunate to be able to participate in many wonderful events during November. On November 11th, we had an excellent dinner and concert in the gym featuring Faith and the Gospel Choir from Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Over sixty people attended this event, and the good food and inspirational music were very uplifting.

On November 16th, the food

pantry had their annual Thanksgiving food distribution. Almost 300 people received food for themselves and their families. All of the food was distributed in less than three hours. I was extremely impressed with both the efficiency and more importantly the ministry aspects of the work that is done at the Food Pantry.

During the month of December, the Food Pantry is in need of monetary and other special donations to support their gift giving programs for children and their special food distribution efforts in December.

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I participated in a combined worship service at St. John's Episcopal Church. This was a wonderful and inspiring worship experience, and included participation from St. John's Episcopal, Irving Park Baptist, Park View Lutheran, Irving Park United Methodist, and Irving Park Lutheran churches. All of these churches are now active in the Irving Park Ministerial Association, which will soon be planning a series of combined church events for the 2006 calendar year.

Christian Churches Caring had their annual Pasta and Presents event in the gymnasium on Sunday, November 13th. This was a very successful and well-attended event once again this year. Look for more information about their Caring Callers program and ministry efforts to seniors in upcoming issues of the Tidings.

We are still in the beginning stages of getting the Cornerstone Ministry program started, which will be a ministry outreach program for homeless people, street people, and other families in need in the Irving Park community. We are currently actively involved in efforts to provide housing and other support for two homeless people in our community. During December I hope to get a committee of representatives from all of the churches in the Irving Park Ministerial Association and several other local churches involved in these

ministry efforts.

I have been recently participating in discussions about forming a partnership with the Albany Park Neighborhood Council around both ESL and GED classes oriented toward the Hispanic community and partnering with Roosevelt High School on after-school gym ministry programming. I have also been involved in supporting and attending meetings of the West Walker Civic Association, Pulaski Elston Business Association (PEBA), and the Albany Park Workers Center.

I hope to be involved soon in reviving discussions about the formation of a separate non-profit organization for our ministry work and in examining what our vision is for the property which the church currently owns on Pulaski Road.

Just a reminder that I will be participating in two mission trips in 2006. I will be leading a group of high school youth on a one-week trip to build houses in eastern Kentucky from March 24 – April 1, 2006. I will also be participating in and possibly co-leading a Habitat to Humanity work trip to Anchorage, Alaska in early August, 2006.

Don't forget the Fine Arts concert on December 4th, which will be a family and kid oriented event, including a performance by the Interfaith Children's Choir of Irving Park. The Albany Park Workers Center (Elston and Avers) will be hosting an open house and holiday party on the evening of Saturday, December 17th.

One of the many ways that we can honor the birth of Jesus is to continue our participation in ministry and giving endeavors. Let us take the time to remember how the birth of Jesus Christ changed our lives and the world around us. Best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season to everyone.

In Christ's Love,
Norman

MIDWEEK BANNER DEDICATION

On October 1st & 2nd, 2004, Midweek featured the first women's conference at Irving Park Lutheran Church. It was during this time that the women of IPLC, along with our friends and family members created a beautiful banner reflecting the spiritual blessings and growth that is a part of the Midweek Service. The banner, that has been without a pole to place it on has finally been purchased, and will now be displayed in Victory Hall beginning December 1st. We are forever grateful for those that attend both physically and in spirit through prayers for the continued growth of the Midweek Worship Service. God bless you and remember, **Much prayer, Much POWER!**

DECEMBER 2005

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

- 1 Micah 2:1-13
- 2 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
- 3 Psalm 79
- 4 Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 85:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
- 5 Isaiah 26:7-15
- 6 Isaiah 4:2-6
- 7 Mark 11:27-33
- 8 Malachi 2:10—3:1
- 9 Acts 11:1-18
- 10 Psalm 27
- 11 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 12 1 Kings 18:1-18
- 13 2 Kings 2:9-22
- 14 Mark 9:9-13
- 15 Malachi 3:16—4:6
- 16 Acts 3:17—4:4
- 17 Psalm 125
- 18 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
- 19 1 Samuel 1:1-18
- 20 1 Samuel 19-28
- 21 Mark 11:1-11
- 22 Judges 13:2-24
- 23 Hebrews 8:1-13
- 24 Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20
- 25 Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7, John 1:1-14
- 26 Luke 2:1-20
- 27 Isaiah 62:6-12
- 28 Psalm 100
- 29 Genesis 1:1—2:4a
- 30 Psalm 136
- 31 Titus 2:11—3:7

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Nancy and David Hall - December 14, 1996

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ayla Benson, Diane Plambeck
- 3 Deja Carrasquillo, Holly Lundquist
Aimie Rucinski, Rochelle Wilson
- 4 Santos Rivera, Jr.
- 6 Shirley Atkinson
- 7 Dallas Brodersen
- 8 Pat Desecki
- 10 Reuben Erickson
- 11 Marie Grunst
- 15 Wendy Faucher, Lillian Heminover, Alan Johnson
- 16 Kathleen Swanson
- 17 David Hall
- 18 Rebecca Haneberg, Sylvia Harrison
- 20 Holly Cheslak, Gloria Rucinski, Ken Swanson
- 23 Noel Nape
- 24 Lee Stein
- 28 James Smith Grattan
- 30 Marga Burbatt
- 30 Jeff Greenslade

From the Midweek Coordinator:

We are blessed to share another Christmas Holiday with you and yours during Midweek Service at IPLC. Faith and Midweek will celebrate "**Home for the Holidays**" on Thursday December 15th with our Christmas potluck at 6:00 pm, immediately followed by our Christmas musical worship service, featuring both Sacred and Secular holiday favorites. Please plan on joining us to close our Midweek service for the year 2005, by bringing a dish to share, a friend to embrace and a spirit to worship with.
Much prayer, Much Power!

ADDRESS CHANGE

Marga Burbatt
Call the office for information

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



December 4, 2:00 pm—The Fine Arts Committee presents Ken Lonnquist and the musical production “Old Befana.” Also performing is the Interfaith Children’s Choir of Irving Park joined by the children’s choir from Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park.

December 18, 10:30 Worship Service—The annual Sunday School Program

December 24, 10:30 am—Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 11:00 pm—Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25, 10:30 am—Christmas Day Worship

DECEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Midweek 7:30 Basketball	2 8:00 Alkies Only	3 10:00 Confirmation 10:30 Basketball 6:30 LYONS Party
4 9:00 Chapel, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Ensemble 2:00 Fine Arts 	5 7:00 Scouts	6 7:00 Scouts	7 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Stewardship Bells, Girl Scouts 8:00 Chancel	8 11:00 Hope Circle 7:00 Midweek 7:30 Basketball	9 8:00 Alkies Only	10 10:30 Basketball
11 9:00 Chapel, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Assistant Minister Training 	12 7:00 Scouts 7:30 Council	13 7:00 Scouts	14 4:30 ICCIP 6:00 Music Department Party 7:00 Girl Scouts	15 6:00 Christmas Potluck 7:00 Midweek 7:30 Basketball	16 8:00 Alkies Only	17 10:00 Confirmation 10:30 Sunday School Rehearsal 10:30 Basketball
18 10:30 Worship 11:30 Ensemble 	19 7:00 Scouts 7:30 Miriam	20 7:00 Scouts	21 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Service Team, Bells, Girl Scouts 8:00 Chancel	22 6:00 Potluck 7:00 Midweek 7:30 Basketball	23 8:00 Alkies Only	24 10:30 am Family Service 11:00 pm Traditional Service 
25 10:30 am Christmas Morning Service 	26	27	28	29	30 8:00 Alkies Only	31 10:30 Basketball

Please Check weekly bulletin for updates.

TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2005, VOLUME XXXII, No. XII

Visit our Website: <http://www.iplc.org>

Rev. Paul Stone, Interim Pastor
E-mail: pastorstone@ameritech.net

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 Chapel, Sunday School and
Adult Studies
10:30 Holy Communion

Thursday

7:00 pm Midweek Worship

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson	Roger Bingaman
Phil Bole	Dwan Buetow
Alison Freels	Sue Geisler
Elmer Haneberg	Sharon Iverson
Eleanor Kepp	Larry Lundquist
Noel Nape	Richard A. Plambeck
Bill Sherlock	Lynette Schroeter
Isaac Sporrong	Lee Stein
Holly Van Essen	

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