

TIDINGS

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

Vol. 36, No. 8

August 2009

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Hands down, one of the most fun parts of the year here at IPLC is the four weeks in July known as Magic Mushroom. A normally quiet office is suddenly filled with the stomping of children's feet. The normal leisurely beginning to a day instead starts with some high energy children's worship. Every so often, my front yard is filled with classes or the backyard becomes a place for a water fight. There isn't much that can hold a candle to the joy and excitement of Magic Mushroom!

Over the last few years I have been blessed to lead some of the opening worship services during this summer program. Of course, this often leads to much mental rambling at home while I try to come up with the most creative and spiritual way to teach the kids. During the third week of Magic Mushroom I woke Josh up one morning to try and bounce some ideas off him- with one eye open he muttered, "Why don't you just tell them that God loves them? Isn't that enough?"

It is nice to know that God will sometimes even speak through one's spouse!

Even as we still look to these last days of summer, we know that Rally Day and the kick off of our fall programming are right around the corner. The very best lesson we can proclaim to our children, our new members, our old members, and everyone who enters church home is, "God loves you. That's enough."

As the summer rushes to a close, we would do well to remember the simple message of our faith- God loves you - and that's enough. As time gets more difficult to come by, as vacations creep in, stress gets the best of us, summer seems to short and fall comes to fast, our truth here isn't complicated. God loves you. That's enough.

In the Joy of God's Love,

Pastor Petersen

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

People often say that things come in threes. Quite often, it's disasters or notable deaths. But IPLC has had a much more pleasant trifecta in the last two months.

In last month's edition of the Tidings, we reported that the church had located its 100th recipient in the Return to Sender program in which we have returned World War II letters written by military personnel to our pastor, the Rev. Joshua Oden. Alvena Wohland of Boscobel, Wis., checked the Internet and discovered that her father-in-law, Ralph Wohland, was one of letter writers.

Even before the July Tidings went to press, a man in Florida whose uncle was one of our letter writers contacted us via e-mail. Roy C. Rissling's letters became the 101st to be returned to his family. They were mailed to his nephew, Donald Rissling, in Seminole, Fla. Before he passed away in 1958, Roy Rissling was a Cook County police officer. Roy Rissling was married to Esther (Wiberg) Rissling. Many members of the Wiberg family belonged to IPLC.

Our trifecta became complete on July 17, when Bonnie Melick, a retired high school teacher from Downstate Danvers (near Normal) searched for information about her father and saw his name on the IPLC Return To Sender list. Her father, Harold Eric Walles, was a member of the 1928 Confirmation Class.

Harold Walles had two long handwritten letters that he sent to Pastor Oden. One was written in 1941 while he was in training for the Navy at Great Lakes, the other came from the Canal Zone in Panama, where he was stationed in 1942.

In the church's 1938 directory, the Walles family lived at 3320 N. Keating.

Harold's parents were Henning and Elna, and his sister was Elizabeth, who was a member of the 1930 Confirmation Class. Elizabeth married Howard E. Sanger at IPLC on March 31, 1945.

Before he passed away in 1995 at the age of 81, Harold Walles worked for Continental Casualty Insurance Co. He met his wife, Ora Vest, at work. They were married in 1946.

Bonnie Melick and her family became the 102nd family to receive Return to Sender letters. Now we're down to 135 names. Let's hope our

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RETURN TO SENDER

The following letter was one of more than 1,000 written by IPLC members who served in the military during World War II. IPLC is trying to return original letters to the letter writers or their loved ones. This letter was one of three sent by Harold Johnson, a member of the 1932 Confirmation Class. In 1932, he lived at 2906 W. Cullom.

Dec. 27, 1942

Dear Pastor Oden,

I am sorry for taking so long to write to you but I have been moved around so much lately that I haven't had time to do much.

I left Harlingen, Texas, around a month ago and went to Tallahassee, Florida. We stayed there for a week, then we were sent to Greenville, S.C. We've been here now two and a half weeks. I really enjoy this part of the country better than the part of Texas I was in. I hope to stay here long enough so I can be able to get a furlough in January.



Harold Johnson
Confirmation Class of
1932

My main reason for writing is to let you know that while I was laying on my cot yesterday, one of the fellows in our hut was tuning the radio and happened to stumble across some church service in Swedish. I told him to leave it there so I could listen to it. And right away I recognized your voice. I really was surprised, and it made me feel swell to be able to hear a service from our church while still being so far away. It even made me feel like I was sitting in church listening to your sermon.

I guess I was really lucky when he just happened to tune you in or I never would have heard you.

I also want to thank the church and you for the Christmas present you sent. It really came in handy.

Well, I guess that's all I can think of for now.

Yours truly,
Harold Johnson

TWO UPDATES FROM CAROLYN STYPKA, IPLC'S MISSIONARY

Greetings! Let me first extend my thanks and gratitude for you and everyone at Irving Park Lutheran for being interested and engaged in Global Missions work. I am particularly grateful for Cindy Kuhn, as she was the one who first suggest Irving Park Lutheran would be interested. It is a blessing to know that people back home are taking interest in international mission work. Being away from home and in a new culture can be tough at times, and it is comforting to have support outside of family and friends, both taking interest in and praying for us. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I think you should have received more official information about me through Global Missions, but please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Carolyn Stypka and I was born and raised on the Northwest side of Chicago. Mostly Irving Park, in fact! Last May of 2008 I graduated from Valparaiso University with a Bachelors of Art in Art, and a Bachelors of Social Work.

To first talk about my interests in missions, I immediately think of my interest in Social Work. I have had a strong desire to help and serve others through the field of social work. When I first went to Valpo, I was pre-med. After a year of Chemistry, I made the realize that I really just wanted to help people, and I definitely didn't need to do it in such a medical and scientific way. I had two internships during undergrad In the social work field. My senior internship was with hospice, a field that I admire, and grew much from. Through my sorority in college I was involved in various philanthropy opportunities. I attended my first "mission trip" in 2006 with some friends and Campus Crusade for Christ to work on homes affected by

Hurricane Katrina in Pass Christian, MS. My current plan is when I am done with my service in Japan to attend graduate school for my Masters in Social Work.

I have always been interested in learning both about my own culture (I'm 3rd generation Polish), as well as others. I first became interested in the country of Japan specifically during high school. I witnessed t traditional Taiko Drumming freshman year at my high school's International Days. I was so enamored by the performance, that I signed up as quickly as I could to get involved. It was during this time that I first d developed an idea to possibly live and work in Japan post-college. Apparently God had this in my plan, and here I am today!

I arrived in Japan at the end of September 2008. I spent 6 months in Tokyo, taking language and culture classes. I moved to Kumamoto, on the south/west island of Kyushu in mid-March. I've been teaching since April at Kyushu Lutheran High School and Junior High. I will be here until March of 2011.

I sent out email updates at least quarterly, and I just sent out a new one today. I will send it to you now, and will then add this email to the contact list. In that email, there is a link to a new blog of mine. The blog is not official communication, and therefore much more informal. Please feel free share information in any way you see fit with the congregation. You, or anyone with questions, can contact me at this email:

Carolyn.Stypka@gmail.com If there is anyone else I should be directly contacting from Irving Park Lutheran, please let me know.

In love and peace.

I hope this finds you well, and having an enjoyable and safe celebratory weekend of our nation's Independence Day. My 4th was celebrated with a rooftop pizza potluck with patriotic Budweiser, some sparklers in the park, and an impromptu rendition of our national anthem.

I find it harder and harder to write these update emails the longer and longer that I wait. I feel as so much has happened with the new placement, town, people, adjustments, churches. The past three and a half months in Kumamoto have certainly gone fast! Although I haven't made an official update since March, I have been keeping up a blog online. I write in it maybe twice a month, and it is simply short thoughts or stories I felt compelled to write down. Think of it more of a journal. If you'd like to check out the blog the site is:

www.stypkainjapan.blogspot.com I will not be sending out notifications when I update the blog, as it is fairly informal. These emails will continue to be send at least quarterly.

Since I last wrote, I've completed more than the equivalent of a quarter semester. We had our midterm exams about two weeks ago. Most students will start their summer vacation at the end of this week, July 10th. My fellow teachers and I, as well as advanced class students, will continue coming to Luther Gakuin for at least the entire month of July. Although I won't be teaching classes, I will be working with students in Speech Competition preparation, grading, as well as doing all final preparations for English Summer Camp in Mt. Aso July 27-29th. Our theme this year is Wild, Wild West, so it's been a blast working on camp ideas. Hopefully they'll still be greeting us with "Howdy ya'll" come August back in school.

As far as teaching, I teach two classes of 3rd year junior high students, four classes of regular level 1st year high school students, and one class of English Tokushin (advanced, extra classes with an emphasis on English) 1st year high school students. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and seeing students get excited about English, which is sometimes a rarity depending on the day, and the particular class. My most challenging classes are my two junior high school students. It has taken alot of energy and trying new techniques each week for my partner teacher (also new) and I to at least gain the respect from our students to half pay attention, sometimes try and not constantly be talking. In the past month I was finally seeing both classes on a regular basis, and we were able to bring in a variety of ideas. It's been c challenging and fun to try and think up ways to engage the students. I've become more aware of seeing the variety of my students learning styles. It's been particularly rewarding seeing some more unmotivated students to get excited about drawing scenes from The Very Hungry Caterpillar or getting to try out spelling on the board.

I've been enjoying my time at my new church,

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THREE BROTHERS GARDEN KEEPS GROWING



Hi. MY NAME IS FRANKLIN and I want to tell you all about how I raised money for the Indian Tribe in Arizona for Magic Mushroom. I had this great idea about starting a car wash business in our alley. But first, I had to go and ask permission from the Alderman to see if I could do it. So, me, my mom and my sister, Margot, all walked to the Alderman's office to see if I could wash cars. On the way there my mom told me that since it was my idea, I had to ask the alderman and do all the talking. When we got to the office, I asked the man that was at the counter if I could wash cars in our alley to raise money for charity. His name was Bogey and he told me that they usually don't let kids do that because it blocks the alley and that the neighbors might get angry and complain to the alderman. I got really sad when he told me this, but then, guess what? The real alderman, Mr. Mell, came out and said hello to me and my mom and asked me what my name was and what I wanted to do. I told him my name was Franklin and that I wanted to start a car wash business in the alley to raise money for charity. He told me that the other day there was another little boy that was selling lemonade to raise money for charity, so he said that I could do it but for only a few days. Then the alderman told me that his middle name was Franklin and I thought that was pretty cool. His worker, Bogey, wrote me an official letter that the alderman signed and we went back to pick it up. And the alderman said that there was no reason to say "no." (but it was in the letter). Once I got permission, my sister and I started washing cars for charity and I ended up raising \$67.43 for the Indian Tribe. My mom and dad were pretty proud of me and my sister. Then I took the money into church and gave it to Miss Lee and then she told the other Magic Mushroom kids my story. I hope this money helps the people in Arizona!

Franklin P. Lurie



It's a Girl!

Emily Irene Wheeler, was born Sunday June 21, 2009 at 9:15am, 8 lb 2 oz and 21 1/2 inches long, parents are Ellen and Dan Wheeler and Grandmother is Linda Frederick.

(Continued from page 2)

good luck on the Internet continues!

The list of names is at IPLC.org. Click on the "News and Events" tab, and then click on "Return to Sender" in the box on the left. Any help locating any of the "lost" will be much appreciated!

--Ralph Greenslade

THE IPLC WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(W.E.L.C.A.) AT IPLC is very happy to announce that baking and selling goodies and crafts has allowed us to share our gifts, through donations, to the following causes.

Lutheran World Federation \$200

ELCA Hunger Appeal \$150

Stand with Africa \$200

IPLC Doors \$300

Senior Link Alliance \$100

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago \$100 (Given honor of Meagan Sherman-Sporong's graduation from seminary)

Magic Afterschool Place \$250

LOMC - Swing Choir \$200

A big THANK YOU to all who helped in this effort!



DWAN BUETOW graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Northeastern Illinois University, December 13, 2008. She will be entering Graduate School at Northeastern, August 31, 2009, pursuing a Masters Degree in Human Resource Development.

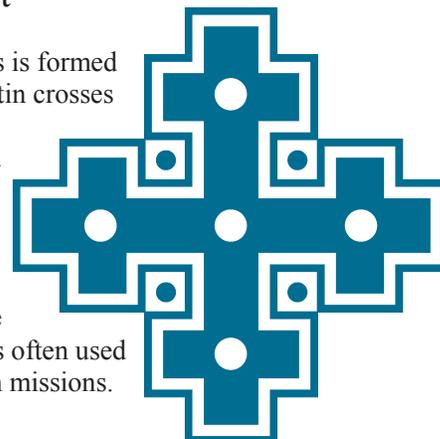


Is September 13. Look for details to come.

+ CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS +

Cross Crosslet

This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. This cross is often used in connection with missions.





TIDINGS

From Irving Park Lutheran Church
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IPLC Office
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SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Summer worship 9:30 a.m.

STAFF

Dawn Benson

Church Secretary/Bookkeeper
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Roger Bingaman

Dir. Of Music/Office Manager/Tidings
Editor *music@iplc.org*

Lynette Schroeter

Volunteer Sunday School Superintendent
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Dwan Buetow

Mid-week Worship Coordinator
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Chris Richard

Director of Ensemble
cnprichard@aol.com

Erin & Marc Menet

Youth Director, *erin@iplc.org*

Dawn Benson & Phil Bole

Custodians: *custodian@iplc.org*

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bruce Anderson | Phil Bole |
| Paul Clausen | Pat Desecki |
| Sue Geisler | David Hall |
| Elmer Haneberg | Jill Hjelmgren |
| Eleanor Kepp | Holly Lundquist |
| Karen Lurie | Lynette Schroeter |
| Bill Sherlock | Sandra Stumme |
| Holly Van Essen | Darcie Wadycki |

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITUS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Lloyd DaMask | Gordon Johnson |
| Richard Wielock | |

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gabriel Neff
- 2 Alice Sherlock
- 2 Darcie Wadycki
- 5 Robert Driskill Jr.
- 8 Olivia Greenslade
- 9 Timothy Jennison
- 11 John Frank
- 14 Kathleen Cumbee
- 14 Estelle Haupers
- 14 Meagan Sherman-Sporrong
- 17 Max Engel
- 20 Amanda Joy Driskill
- 22 Dawn Benson
- 23 Anthony Perez
- 24 Kurt Schroeter
- 26 Dwan Buetow
- 26 Nancy Johnson
- 31 Jessica Bacoulis
- 31 Ralph Greenslade
- 31 Stina Larson

ACOLYTES

- 2 Nathan & Lucas Beltran
- 9 Emily Anderson
- 16 Sarah Clausen
- 23 Caitlin Liubin
- 30 Laura Jennison

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Valerie & Nels Wadycki
- 6 Debra & Kyle Rogers
- 7 Roberta & Phil Bole
- 9 Laura & Eric Jay
- 17 Dorothy & Kenneth Swanson
- 18 Ruth & Paul Clausen
- 26 Rise & Andrew Weir

ASSISTING MINISTERS

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2 David Hall | Fred Glure |
| 9 Eleanor Kepp | Jan Glure |
| 16 Dawn Benson | Sue Geisler |
| 23 Sharon Iverson | Sharon Iverson |
| 30 Lee Stein | Grace Wielock |

LECTORS

- 2 Lee Stein
- 9 Rise Wier
- 16
- 23 Cincy Kuhn
- 30 Nick Monroe