

Irving Park Lutheran Church Tidings

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Number 9

CONSECRATION SUNDAY AND RALLY DAY ARE COMING

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, culminating with members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and congregational council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

David Hall

IPLC Congregational Council President

RALLY DAY - 9/11/11

featuring this year's theme

The Kingdom of God is like....

Circle your calendar and be in Victory Hall at 9am for a light breakfast with activities for all Sunday School children. Our annual Rally Day parade will leave the Three Brother's Garden at 10:00 followed by worship at 10:30.

Sunday School will be back in session on 9/18/2011 at 9 sharp.

We have a few new things added to our calendar this year that should be fun for all ages.

Our teachers are ready and we all look forward to learning more about The Kingdom of God!

See you on 9/11 at 9.

KOINONIA LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

In October of last year, a team of five members (*Cindy Kuhn, David Hall, Larry Lundquist, Simeon Stumme, and Chris Richard*) and Pastor Petersen were tapped to learn and apply a new church planning and leadership program designed to help congregations be more focused and effective in carrying out Christ’s mission both in the congregation and out in the mission field. Fortunately, the team entered this process from a position of strength – our congregation has a remarkable track record of strong leadership, financial viability, program planning and community service.

In fact, the first stage of our process, which is coming to a close, was to ensure the preservation of the congregation’s foundation by thoroughly understanding our enduring values and defining what God has called our congregation to do (our purpose). We reviewed and researched past reports and mission statements and the demographics of our community and our congregation; gathered input from our community and our members, and tapped into recent research on churches and the state of religious life in the US. These findings, which we share with you in this report, have helped shape our understanding of Irving Park Lutheran’s Core Values and Purpose which in turn underpin our current Mission Statement - Inviting in Christ’s Name, Proclaiming the Gospel, Living in Fellowship, Caring for Others.

KEY FINDINGS

National Trends in Religious Affiliation

Nationally, church attendance has steadily decreased over the past two decades. In the most recent Pew Research, 33% of those surveyed said they never attended church.

Recent research also indicates that “traditional” belief in God and worship practices are changing. While traditional church attendance and those who describe themselves as religious has declined, there has been an increase in those attending multiple churches as well as those describing themselves as spiritual and religious (but not always connected to a specific denomination or theology).

The chart below captures how “religious” and “spiritual” are often defined in surveys of the general public. In the middle column are common descriptions attributed to IPLC by those we surveyed. Interestingly, those who describe themselves as spiritual are seeking experiences that are common attributes of IPLC among both members and non-members.

Religious	IPLC	Spirituality
Building Institutions Dogma Rules/order Not relevant	Liturgy Worship Music Singing Justice Theology Community	Nature Connections Transcending Wonder/prayer Exploration – questions OK

This intersection of what IPLC already offers and what many are seeking provides us opportunities to be a place where people can raise questions, experience worship, prayer and community while learning theology and spiritual practices that ground them in the Word and Sacraments.

Trends in Our Community

Within our immediate community (1-2 mile radius), we see a relatively diverse urban neighborhood. The neighborhoods to the west of us are largely white, while we have seen a marked increase in Hispanic residents especially to our immediate north and east, which also includes a larger population of African-Americans. Our neighbors are primarily working class (with a large segment of working poor and households who qualify for free school lunches) to solidly middle class. Education levels range from 20-40% with college degrees with pockets throughout our surrounding area of higher education/higher incomes. With the proximity to public transportation, our community includes transitional and homeless people. We know that the recent housing crisis has affected many of our neighbors in that foreclosures have increased in the community.

Our surrounding community has strong neighborhood associations and a good network of social services that focus on our immediate community. There are a variety of religious denominations in the neighborhood, including Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian), storefront churches, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Muslims. IPLC is the largest Lutheran church in our immediate area.

Trends and Insight into Our Congregation

Turning our review inward, we assessed our membership and activities. The majority of our membership comes largely from a 1-

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2 mile radius (60641, 60618, 60630, 60634, 60647) encompassing West Walker, Old Irving Park, Portage Park, Roscoe Village, Albany Park, and Jefferson neighborhoods. Despite our members' proximity to the church, our racial and economic make-up – while somewhat diverse – is not wholly representative of the neighborhood at large. Our membership is largely Caucasian; college educated; and strongly middle class (which in affect is middle upper class in our urban setting). There is a strong core of teaching/education professionals among our members.

Membership at Irving Park Lutheran is growing, with the increase coming mostly from families with children. However, worship attendance is the same (relatively stable) and includes regular attendees who are not members. While there is a reported increase in Sunday School attendance at other churches in the neighborhood, IPLC Sunday School attendance has remained flat in recent years. Our members/worship attendees largely became aware of IPLC from existing members, friends and neighbors in the community.

We asked both members and non-members about our programs and activities and the role our church plays in the community. We found that:

- Members most value (in order of importance): worship, music groups, IP Food Pantry support, Fine Arts Concerts
- Non members most value (in order of importance): IP Food Pantry support, Magic Mushroom, Three Brothers Community Garden, sports & fitness activities
- The influence of the Pastor (past and present) is important in how IPLC is perceived
- Members and Non members had slightly different views as to the most important thing a church should do. List appears in order of most important to least important:

Non-Members	Members
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directly help those in need 2. Provide fellowship activities for all ages 3. Compelling worship services 4. Provide a physical place for community activities 5. Advocate on social issues 6. Preach God's Word to all 7. Provide opportunities to learn about God 8. Provide training and development for common challenges 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compelling worship services 2. Preach God's Word to all 3. Provide opportunities for learning about God 4. Directly help those in need 5. Providing fellowship for all ages 6. Provide a physical place for community activities 7. Provide training and development for common challenges 8. Advocate on social issues

- Members are more likely than non-members to believe the IPLC performs well in worship, preaching and learning; both members and non-members say IPLC performs well in directly helping those in need.
- Most members and non-members are not familiar with other youth activities (e.g., Magic After School Place) outside Magic Mushroom
- Alternative worship opportunities are not well-known

We also asked both members and non-members to comment on our core values, and we invited members to provide thoughts on our purpose. Here are some common themes:

CORE VALUES	PURPOSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proud of history/tradition à but open to forward thinking, new approaches in meeting today and future needs • Aware of/attending to our position/locality in our neighborhood • Community of Faith: uniquely connecting the expression of gospel, worship, fellowship and service without being dogmatic/judgmental • Community service/stewardship: 1) direct help to community, 2) advocacy on behalf of the disenfranchised (social justice) • Friendliness, inclusiveness and welcoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship, prayer, faith • Bringing people into worship; participatory, • Helping those in need; serving the community; committed to the poor • Welcome/inviting (inclusive) to all • Bringing the community together • Meeting needs/enabling people to use their gifts to serve • Justice for all

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- Respect and value all people
 - Strong fellowship – family/friends
 - Involvement/participation in worship, activities
 - Progressive Christian perspective
 - Strong focus on education/youth
- Place/home to remember, experience, rejoice and share God's grace and love
 - Trusted source/place to learn/understand how I believe

The team's next step is to use all of this information and insight to define and refine IPLC core values and purpose. This will be shared with the Council as well as the congregation for input and comment. Then comes the fun part -- channeling our core values, purpose and our key strengths into identifying a vision and goals that will fulfill God's purpose for our community of faith. We will be seeking more input and ideas, so stay tuned!

ALL SAINTS DAY IS NOVEMBER 6TH, 2011.

This year, our worship team is planning to remember the saints who have gone before us in a new way. We are asking that anyone who would like a loved one remembered this year bring in a small, light-weight bell with a note attached with the full name of the person who has died. These bells will be hung on our All Saints Day Banner and will ring during our traditional remembering of the saints. All bells must be in to the church office by October 30th so we have time to mount them on our banner. Bells will remain on the banner and will not be returned. If you have questions please see any member of our worship team or Pastor Petersen.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ALL OTHERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Phyllis Anderson, Julia Anderson-Bauer, (*grandmother passed away*), Gary Cady (*Karen Lurie's father is in need of healing*), family of Damian Calzada (*Liberty Delavega*), Paul Christensen, Roy Christensen, Chet Cwiertnia (*healing from stroke*), Lloyd & Marie DaMask, Bette Demarco, Brenda & Jerry Diakow, Dutch (*battling cancer*), Murel Esposito (*Mother of Karen Greenslade who broke a hip*), John Freels (*heart attack*), Steven Freels, Betty Fridlund, Fred Glure (*healing*), Rita Gumler (*recovering from heart attack and complications*), Geri Hahn (*Phil Bole's Aunt, recovering from surgery*), Billy Hahs, (*friend of Dwan Buetow, in need of healing*) Enid Johnson (*healing, in the hospital*), Ted Kaleta, Bonnie Kecseg (*Holly Lundquist's sister*), Paige Kecseg (*healing, niece of Holly & Larry*), Stacy Kirch-Coup, Buddy Lucas, Mary, Kathy Nylec (*sister of Kristin LeBlanc who is battling breast cancer*), Robert Patek (*battling cancer*), Rachel, Melanie Reshke (*healing from recent surgery*), Lakeisha Robinson (*Dwan's niece healing*), Gloria Rucinski, Lois Schill, Roseann Seabloom (*who lives in the neighborhood and is fighting breast cancer*), Deann Sherlock (*healing*), Scott Smith (*son of Tom Smith, throat surgery*) Cam Steffan, Peter Stich (*in need of healing*), Don Sturgis, Karen Thiesse (*friend of Grace Wielock who is battling breast cancer*), Tracey, The family of Valerie, Blanca Vargas (*healing*), Wally Wadycki, Janice Zehner, Military personnel and their families everywhere, our refugee families, and our homebound members .

FINE ARTS OCTOBER DATE CHANGED TO SEPTEMBER 18TH

Previously announced as October 2 Ben Melsky will present a harp recital on September 18 at 2:00 pm.

Harpist Ben Melsky is originally from Evanston where he started playing the harp at age eight. He holds both Bachelor's of Music and Master's of Music from Northwestern University graduating with String Program Honors and a Minor of Musicology. As a soloist, he has performed



at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as part of the Millenium Stage Conservatory Project, was a 2008 winner of the Northwestern University Concerto Competition with Alberto Ginastera's Harp Concerto, and has performed major concerti with the Instituto Cervantes Orchestra of Chicago, Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra, Middletown Symphony Orchestra, Southern Illinois Summer Music Festival, and Music Institute of Chicago's World's Fair Concert Series. Recently he was recorded at the Goodman Theater for their production of Animal Crackers.

As an orchestral musician he currently plays second harp with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and has played with the Chicago Philharmonic, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Southern Illinois Summer Music Festival Orchestra, Evanston Symphony Orchestra, Classical Symphony Orchestra, Northern Illinois University Symphony, Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra and FullScore Orchestra.

He currently maintains a private studio in addition to being an associate faculty member at Glenbrook South and Glenbrook North High Schools. His studio is open to all ages, abilities and interests.

Ben has studied with Elizabeth Cifani, Alison Attar, Kayo Ishimaru, and Carl Johnson and has participated in master classes with Marcia Dickstein, Jana Bouskgova, and Sarah Bullen.

RETURN TO SENDER

In the church's collection of World War II letters, two were written by Pvt. Dorris Larson of the Women's Army Corps. While many of our letter writers' stories have been relatively easy to follow, there appears to be more to Pvt. Larson's story than meets the eye.

Her first letter was written Nov. 10, 1943, while she was stationed at Daytona Beach, Fla. On the envelope, she clearly wrote her first name as "Doris" and she signed that letter "Mrs. Verne Larson."

But by the time she wrote her second letter, 13 months later in Paris, France, she had added another letter to her first name and signed it "Dorris Larson."

Could it be two different people writing the letters? After checking with our Return to Sender Handwriting Analysis Expert (also known as Karen Greenslade ... and yes, it's an unpaid position), it was determined without a doubt that the letters were written by the same person.

So we checked our 1938 IPLC directory, and there is neither a Doris C. Larson nor a Dorris C. Larson. But to further muddy the waters, there is a Doris V. Larson listed at 5025 N. Kennison.

To add to the intrigue, our box of letters included a copy of an article about Private First Class Dorris C. Larson that appeared on the front page of the Irving Park News on Nov. 24, 1944.

The fascinating article delved into her career as a switchboard operator for the Signal Corps, including her time working on the "general's switchboard." It was her responsibility to put through cross-channel calls for General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General John C.H. Lee, deputy commander for the European Theater of Operations.

"The first time I put through a call for General Eisenhower, he made the call himself," Larson told the Irving Park News. "He said, 'Please see that I'm not cut off, operator, the connection on this call was broken last night.' I was so nervous I could hardly plug in the line, but it went through without a hitch. He's very pleasant, but he's exacting, too."

The article said she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Knowles of 4924 W. Newport Ave., but it made no reference to her marriage to Verne Larson. There also is no mention of the Knowles family in our church directories.

The mystery gets deeper because her second letter to Pastor Joshua Oden, written in Paris on Dec. 17, 1944, makes no reference to Verne Larson and doesn't mention her conversation with General Eisenhower. Go figure ... and stay tuned.

We'll print Pvt. Larson's second letter that she wrote to Pastor Oden in the October edition of the Tidings.

--Ralph Greenslade

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Was it really 40 years ago?

If you're a longtime member of Irving Park Lutheran Church, 1971 probably seems like yesterday. If you're under 45 or a "newer" member, you undoubtedly don't remember an important period that brought IPLC a new pastor and a new parsonage.

The Rev. G. Erik Hagg served IPLC as vice pastor for the first nine months of 1971. Pastor Hagg, who was pastor at Nebo Lutheran Church at 3819 N. Menard from 1960-69, took over after the Rev. Kenneth E. Farb ended his 12-year run as IPLC pastor.

In March, IPLC extended a call to the Rev. Earl Carlson of Kewanee, Ill., to become the new full-time pastor. But the call was rejected.

About six months later, on Sunday, Sept. 26, 1971, the Rev. Ross Henry Larson officially was installed as the new pastor of IPLC. The installation ceremony marked the end of the nine-month ministry of Pastor Hagg.

Pastor Larson came to IPLC from Reen Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis. He stayed for 15 years before leaving IPLC in 1986.

Also in the summer of 1971, another member of the ministry team left IPLC. The Rev. Jim Pohl had completed his two-year term as assistant pastor.

In addition to the ministry shuffle, IPLC also demolished the original parsonage in May of 1971. Today, the "new" parsonage is almost 40 years old.

When Pastor Larson was going through the call process, he declined to comment about what he envisioned for the new parsonage. Pastor Hagg was impressed by Pastor Larson's wisdom in letting the Church Council decide what should be included in the new parsonage.

"Remember," Pastor Hagg wrote in the Tidings. "It will always be a parsonage, not a Larsonage."

--Ralph Greenslade

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 11—Rally Day
 September 18—Fine Arts
 September 25—Consecration Sunday

UP-COMING DATES

October 16—Congregational Meeting
 October 14—Carlson Trivia Night
 October 15—Pet Blessing
 October 15—Food Pantry Fund

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 Jazz	2 7-9 Alkies 9 Men's Volleyball	3 10:30 BBall
4 9:30 Worship	5 9:30 Jazz Labor Day	6 7-8:30 Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	7 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 7-930 Choirs	8 7 Jazz	9 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 7-9 Alkies 9-11 Volley	10 1030 BBall
11 9 Rally Day 10:30 Worship	12 9:30 Jazz 3-6 MAP 7 Council 7-9 Scouts	13 3-6 MAP 7 Carlson Board 7-8:30 Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	14 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7-9 Girls 7-930 Choirs	15 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7 Jazz	16 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 7-9 Alkies 9-11 Volley	17 1030 BBall
18 9 Chapel, Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Fine Arts	19 9:30 Jazz 3-6 MAP 7-9 Scouts	20 3-6 MAP 7-8:30 Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	21 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7-930 Choirs	22 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7 Jazz	23 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 6 Sunday School Movie Night 7-9 Alkies 9-11 Volley	24 10:30 BB
25 New Consecration Sunday 9 Chapel, Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 9:30 Jazz 3-6 MAP 7-9 Scouts	27 3-6 MAP 7-8:30 Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	28 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7-9 Girls	29 3-6 MAP 4 Drama 7 Jazz 7-930 Choirs	30 9-12 Jammin' 930 Jazz 3-6 MAP 7-9 Alkies 9-11 Volley	



T I D I N G S

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

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Rev. Brooke Petersen, Pastor

pastorpetersen@iplc.org

IPLC Office

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sundays this summer

9:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

STAFF

Dawn Benson

Church Secretary/Bookkeeper

dawn@iplc.org

Roger Bingaman

Dir. Of Music/Office Manager/Tidings

Editor *music@iplc.org*

Lynette Schroeter

Volunteer Sunday School Superintendent

gilschro@aol.com

Dwan Buetow

Mid-week Worship Coordinator

dwan@iplc.org

Chris Richard

Director of Ensemble

cnprichard@aol.com

Dawn Benson & Phil Bole

Custodians: *custodian@iplc.org*

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson Phil Bole

Paul Clausen Pat Desecki

Sue Geisler Jan Glure

David Hall Elmer Haneberg

Sharon Iverson Ginia Jahrke

Holly Lundquist Kylie Nieves

Sandra Stumme John Van Essen

Darcie Wadycki Cory Wojtkiewicz

Eleanor Kepp - Financial Secretary

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITUS

Lloyd DaMask Gordon Johnson

Richard Wielock

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Deborah Jennison
- 6 Roger Bingaman
- 8 Eleanor Barrett
- 9 Ellen Milczarek
- 11 Annette Beltran
- 12 Sue Geisler
- 13 Anthony Raygor
- 16 Samuel Garcia-Romo
Fred Glure
- 21 Kylie Nieves
- 24 Bruce Anderson
Carl Nelson
- 25 Benjamin Bole
Erik Haneberg
- 26 Donna DaMask
- 29 Gavin Brodersen
- 30 Katrina Grunst

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/1/01 Sarah & Robert Yu
- 9/3/05 Gretchen & Jason Siffring
- 9/6/87 Karen & Paul Helgeson
- 9/7/91 Deann & Bill Sherlock
- 9/10/49 Ann & Thomas Smith
- 9/15/51 Kris & Ray Helgeson
- 9/16/95 Nancy & Gerard Curtis
- 9/16/72 Gloria & Walter Rucinski
- 9/24/88 Marie & Guenter Grunst
- 9/24/05 Jennifer & Taylor Nicks
- 9/26/92 Dawn & Mitch Benson

ASSISTING MINISTER/LECTOR

- 4 Eleanor Kepp Sharon Iverson
- 11 Dwan Buetow Don Hamilton
- 18 Lee Stein Eleanor Barrett
- 25 Sharon Iverson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 4 Gerard Curtis, Sandra Stumme,
Roberta Bole
- 11 Holly Van Essen, Eleanor Kepp,
Dawn Benson
- 18 Grace Wielock
- 25 Sue Geisler

ACOLYTES

- 4 Isabelle Kiser
- 11 Andy Fogelis
- 18 Danielle Desecki
- 25 Emma Van Essen, Isabel Ebeid

COUNTERS

- 4 Darcie Wadycki Sandra Stumme
- 11 Bruce Anderson David Hall
- 18 Sharon Iverson Sue Geisler
- 25 Ginia Jahrke Holly Van Essen