

# The Church Door

July & August 2007

## The Church Door

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events.

Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or cborreson@charter.net) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.

## Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church



As I write this I am preparing to leave for the SZS Assembly in Lansford, PA and follow that up with a week of vacation with Lauren, Becky and Ben. We plan on seeing the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, Hershey's Chocolate Museum and Amusement Park and Washington, DC before returning home. My mapping program tells me that we will spend some 35 hours total driving some 2023 miles on this trip (don't tell Lauren or she won't go). A two day pass to the amusement park costs \$62.50 per person, ouch! I shudder to think about the cost of hotels, food and gasoline for the trip.

I only mention this to raise the question of why will people go to so much trouble, considering the expense and time in-

involved to go to an amusement park or see some of our nation's memorials, but not drive a few miles to church on Sunday?

There are those who will, like many of you, make visiting the Lord's house on Sunday a high priority and remember to keep it a high priority when you travel. But there are those, whom we call the "unchurched," who do not place church as a high priority in their lives. But, guess what? We have found that they are not entirely happy with their decision but they won't come on their own.

Writing in a recent issue of Outreach Magazine Thom S. Rainer and Sam S. Rainer III reported that surprisingly, many people who are not currently attending a church are receptive to going. In fact, about 38% of the unchurched are receptive or highly receptive to attending church. The reason they do not attend is that they have yet to be

invited. If invited and escorted, 82% of the unchurched surveyed are open to attending church with a friend or acquaintance. Unfortunately, only 21% of active church-going Christians invited someone to church last year.

As you vacation or travel this summer, remember that the Lord does not take a vacation, so spend some time at a church away from home if you are out of town on Sunday. And, when you are in town on Sunday, remember the unchurched folks who are waiting for an invite and then do your stuff. In the words of the Psalmist, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1 (NRSV).

I pray that all have a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer.

God's blessings,  
Pastor Dennis

*The mission of Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:*

- *confess Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior,*
- *rejoice in worship and fellowship,*
- *grow in the Word, witness to our community,*
- *and serve others.*



## Reminder

The ministry of the church continues even when you're not here.

Don't forget to support DML while you are away this summer.

**Worship Assistants****Lessons****Hymns****July 1—5th Sunday after Pentecost**

| Servants |  | Lessons                 | Hymns                                     |
|----------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Deacon   | Michal Belani                            | 1 Kings 19:15–16, 19–21 | #478—Come, Oh, Come, O Quickenning Spirit |
| Lector   | Laurie Tilden                            | Psalm 16                | #508—Come Down, Oh Love Divine            |
| Acolyte  | Emily Johnson                            | Galatians 5:1, 13–25    | #197—O Living Bread from Heaven           |
| Nursery  | Shelly Ward                              | Luke 9:51–62            | #219—Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus        |
| Ushers   | Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden                |                         | #566—My Country 'Tis of Thee              |
| Tellers  | Tom & Donna Whitehead<br>Gordon Eggleton |                         |   |

**July 8—6th Sunday after Pentecost**

| Servants |   | Lessons                | Hymns                                 |
|----------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Deacon   | Jeff Ward                                 | Isaiah 66:10–14        | #718—Here in This Place**             |
| Lector   | _____                                     | Psalm 66:1–9           | #390—I Love to Tell the Story **      |
| Acolyte  | Nate Johnson                              | Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16 | #518—Beautiful Savior**               |
| Nursery  | Donna Whitehead                           | Luke 10:1–11, 16–20    | #333—Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me** |
| Ushers   | Brad Johnson & Ray VanderStelt            |                        |                                       |
| Tellers  | LaVern & Irene Borreson<br>Randy Borreson |                        |                                       |

**July 15—7th Sunday after Pentecost**

| Servants |  | Lessons             | Hymns |
|----------|--|---------------------|-------|
| Deacon   | Laurie Tilden                                    | Deuteronomy 30:9–14 |       |
| Lector   | _____  | Psalm 25:1–10       |       |
| Acolyte  | Matthew Kitchka                                  | Colossians 1:1–14   |       |
| Nursery  | Alice Doane                                      | Luke 10:25–37       |       |
| Ushers   | John Moore & Tom Proksa                          |                     |       |
| Tellers  | Tom & Betty Proksa<br>John Moore & Tom Whitehead |                     |       |

**July 22—Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

| Servants |                                       | Lessons            | Hymns                              |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Deacon   | Tom Whitehead                         | Ruth 1:6–18        | #479—Lord of All Hopefulness**     |
| Lector   | _____                                 | Psalm 73:23–28     | #325—Lord, The I Love              |
| Acolyte  | Becky Stroh                           | Acts 13:26–33a     | #235—Break Now the Bread of Life** |
| Nursery  | Polly Eagle                           | John 20:1-2, 11–18 | #501—He Leadeth Me**               |
| Ushers   | Emogene Cotal & Janet Wolf            |                    |                                    |
| Tellers  | Randy & Cindy Borreson<br>Polly Eagle |                    |                                    |

**July 29—9th Sunday after Pentecost**

| Servants |   | Lessons                  | Hymns                                   |
|----------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Deacon   | Andrew Kitchka                              | Genesis 18:20–32         | #560—Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices   |
| Lector   | _____                                       | Psalm 138                | #438—Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright  |
| Acolyte  | Andy Doane                                  | Colossians 2:6–5 [16–19] | #224—Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness |
| Nursery  | Lauren Johnson                              | Luke 11:1–13             | #221—Sent Forth by God's Blessing       |
| Ushers   | Gene Broge & Brian Doane                    |                          |   |
| Tellers  | Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf<br>Donna Whitehead |                          |   |

**August****Worship Assistants****Lessons****Hymns****August 5—10th Sunday after Pentecost**

|         | Servants                                 | Lessons                  | Hymns                            |
|---------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Deacon  | Michal Belani                            | Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; | #248—Dearest Jesus, at Your Word |
| Lector  | _____                                    | 2:18–23                  | #364—Son of God, Eternal Savior  |
| Acolyte | Emily Johnson                            | Psalm 49:1–12            | #552—In Thee Is Gladness         |
| Nursery | Nancy Johnson                            | Colossians 3:1–11        | #457—Jesus, Priceless Treasure   |
| Ushers  | Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden                | Luke 12:13–21            |                                  |
| Tellers | Tom & Donna Whitehead<br>Gordon Eggleton |                          |                                  |

**August 12—11th Sunday after Pentecost**

|         | Servants                                  | Lessons              | Hymns |
|---------|---|----------------------|-------|
| Deacon  | Michal Belani                             | Genesis 15:1–6       |       |
| Lector  | _____                                     | Psalm 33:12–22       | TBD   |
| Acolyte | Nate Johnson                              | Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 |       |
| Nursery | Beulah Justian                            | Luke 12:32–40        |       |
| Ushers  | Brad Johnson & Ray VanderStelt            |                      |       |
| Tellers | LaVern & Irene Borreson<br>Randy Borreson |                      |       |

**August 19—12th Sunday after Pentecost**

|         | Servants   | Lessons            | Hymns |
|---------|--|--------------------|-------|
| Deacon  | Jeff Ward  | Jeremiah 23:23-29  |       |
| Lector  | _____  | Psalm 82           | TBD   |
| Acolyte | Matthew Kitchka                                  | Hebrews 11:29–12:2 |       |
| Nursery | Rose Justian                                     | Luke 12:49-56      |       |
| Ushers  | John Moore & Tom Proksa                          |                    |       |
| Tellers | Tom & Betty Proksa<br>John Moore & Tom Whitehead |                    |       |

**August 26—13th Sunday after Pentecost**

|         | Servants                              | Lessons          | Hymns |
|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Deacon  | Rose Justian                          | Isaiah 58:9b-14  |       |
| Lector  | _____                                 | Psalm 103:1-8    | TBD   |
| Acolyte | Becky Stroh                           | Hebrews 12:18-29 |       |
| Nursery | Betty Proksa                          | Luke 13:10-17    |       |
| Ushers  | Emogene Cotal & Janet Wolf            |                  |       |
| Tellers | Randy & Cindy Borreson<br>Polly Eagle |                  |       |





## Council Minutes - June 18, 2007

President Tom Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pastor led devotions from the *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be To God!* Devotional Guide.

**PRESENT:** Cindy Borreson, Randy Borreson, Emogene Cotal, Pastor Stroh, Russ Tilden, Tom Whitehead, Jeff Ward, Jan Wolf.

**EXCUSED:** Polly Eagle. **ABSENT:** Brian Doane

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary's report for May was presented in printed form.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report for May 2007 was presented in printed form.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** A written report was submitted.

- Hospital visits: 5/29 Clif Hellman, 6/18 Beryl Connelly, Dorothy Anderson, and Clif Hellman
- Pastoral Activities: 5/16 Worship Committee, 5/19 Led Church Council in Mission Statement Retreat, 5/23 Lutherfest planning at Lebanon Lutheran, 5/29 Flu Pandemic planning/Red Cross, 6/2 Stony Lake Conference Golf Outing, 6/11 Evangelism Committee, 6/12 Finance Committee, 6/7 Met w/Pastors Anderson & Michnay re: Summer Intern
- Personal Activities: 5/17 Volunteer Appreciation/Mediator Training
- Items Needing Attention:  
Tom, Donna, and I will plan a disaster response planning session for DML members and community, perhaps led by Red Cross at DML in the fall.

Gave Cindy invoice from Synod for Michal Belanji airfare and insurance - \$1503.72, of which we pay half (other half paid by Samuel Lutheran). Pastor read items that the Intern agrees to regarding their Visa to the US.

### Committee Reports

**Property:** 1) Brian, Pastor, and Randy repaired sprinklers and reset timers. 2) Locks – received quote from A-1 Lock for \$379.80 repair doors, not including door seals (they do not do seals). Includes adjustments to locking mechanism, locks and latches on front, west and 2 east doors, and janitor's closet. Would replace closure on east door. This would make the doors more secure and could possibly cost up to \$40 more due to problems with the east door. Russ Tilden moved to allow up to \$420 for A-1 Lock complete this work, second by Jeff Ward, Approved. Eve Circle has requested the carpet in the nursery be restretched and they will cover cost. Consensus is to allow this if they are to cover the cost.

**Evangelism:** Will be packing items from the barrel on Sunday (the 24<sup>th</sup>). Flu Shot Clinic is tentatively scheduled

for October 15.

**Finance:** Met last week; discussed investment and letter to congregation. Tom reviewed Analysis of DML's Investments. Jan Wolf moved that we adopt Scenario #4 for reducing our dependency on Investments, second by Russ Tilden, approved. Tom distributed the proposed letter to be mailed to the congregation. After reviewing and making recommendations, Tom will update and send to council members prior to mailing. Goal is to mail out this week so people can see him and/or Cindy on Sunday with any questions.

**Parish Education:** No report.

**Social Ministry:** No report.

**Stewardship:** Meeting will be after Pastor gets back from Synod and vacation.

**Worship & Music:** Scheduled Church Picnic for August 19, Pig-Roast. Try to have more Blue Book songs for the outdoor worship. Intern for Deacon July 1 and whatever Sunday's he will be here. Need items for next Newsletter.

**Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry:** Will not meet in June, next meeting in July.

### Special Committees

**Dorcas Circle:** On Summer Break

**Eve Circle:** Would like to have carpet in Nursery restretched.

**Men's Club:** Next meeting is July 7.

**Thrivent Habitat:** Need volunteers. Please call Habitat if you can work especially landscaping, cabinet workers. Habitat also needs help with their other homes, not just the Thrivent homes.

### Petitions and Communications

Priscilla Petersen on September 29 for her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Randy Borreson motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Tilden, approved. Cindy Borreson asked to use the Lounge on August 4 for a bridal shower. Motion by Jan Wolf, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Tilden, approved.

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

Will schedule Pandemic Presentation for shortly after the Flu Clinic.

Motion by Russ Tilden to not have meeting in July, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy Borreson, approved.

Adjourned at 9:03 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Borreson, Council Secretary

## Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2007

### ASSETS

#### Cash & Bank Accounts

#### Funds for General Operations

Checkbook .....\$172.11

Cash Account.....\$0.00

Savings - Reserve .....\$4,266.16

Total Funds for General Operations..... \$4,438.27

#### Funds for Special Purposes

#### Savings—Designated

Building Projects .....\$4,600.38

Evangelism ..... \$69.00

Eve Circle ..... \$760.22

Kitchen Fund .....\$620.87

Men's Club.....\$319.62

Youth Group .....\$285.39

Thrivent: 2 x 4 .....\$0.00

Thrivent: Noisy Offering .....\$235.10

Thrivent: Dinner.....\$138.00

Thrivent: Banks ..... \$97.25

Total Savings—Designated ..... \$7,125.83

Savings - Memorial ..... \$3,427.97

Savings - Social Security ..... \$624.82

Total Funds for Special Purposes .....\$11,177.82

Total Cash and Bank Accounts .....\$15,616.09

#### Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance

LB Money Market—Cash.....\$1,310.75

LB Fund..... \$23,838.11

LB Income Fund ..... \$36,885.12

Total Investments.....\$62,033.98

TOTAL ASSETS.....\$77,650.07

### LIABILITIES

WH—Federal Tax Liability ..... \$1,209.22

WH—State Tax Liability ..... \$311.15

TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$1,520.37

### Summary Information — May

Average Attendance = **70**

Offering Needed to meet Budget **\$8,804.33**

Amount Received toward Budget **\$7,874.00**

## Institute For Healing Racism

For Adults

July 14 & 21 8:30—4:30

First Lutheran Church

(The class meets on both days)

Facilitated by the Muskegon Institute for Healing Racism in Cooperation with the Stony Lake Conference of Evangelical Lutheran Churches

In an atmosphere of safety, hope, love and mutual respect we will learn how we can address racism, and how we can cure racism as a disease to create a healthy community for our families, children and neighbors.

Please enroll me in the institute. The enrollment is \$35 please attach a check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Paul Petersen, 720 Tournament Circle, Muskegon MI 49444 or e-mail [petersen@p-r-petersen.com](mailto:petersen@p-r-petersen.com)

### Where Is God?

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, are excessively mischievous. They are always getting into trouble and their parents know all about it. If any mischief occurs in their town, the two boys are probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys.

The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?!"

The boy screamed & bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time.

"God's missing and they think WE did it"

*Submitted by Darlene Boucher*

## What's Happening at D.M.C

### EVE Circle

Eve Circle meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join in. Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

### Dorcas Circle

On Summer Break. Contact Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil if you have any questions.

### MEN'S CLUB

The July Breakfast Meeting will be held on July 7 at 9:00 am at Mickey's. Please contact Russ Tilden (231-798-1032) or Tom Whitehead (231) 798-4454 with any questions.



### Easter Flowers

The cost of Lilies this year was \$15.00. If you purchased lilies for the Easter service and haven't paid for them yet, please pay your \$15 now in the offering plate. Please mark the envelope "For Easter Lilies". If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Borreson.

### If God wants us to be successful financially, why does he want us to give it back?



As a sign of our faith, our heavenly Father should be most important to us in our life. We give our best as a sign of our surrender to him. We do so cheerfully. The word cheerful in modern Greek can also mean hilarious. The Lord loves a hilarious giver. If our hearts are true, we would want to give everything to Him, but God only asks for ten percent because He knows our needs.



### THRIVENT BUILDS 2007 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat is working to complete 1921 Austin and two other homes, one of which is a Thrivent sponsored build. If you haven't already completed a volunteer form, please consider coming out to help with the Thrivent builds. Thrivent members are needed.

We have collected donations of \$1,215.21 towards our goal of \$1,200.00 for both Thrivent homes—great work.

We will have news on the second Thrivent Build soon. Watch for a new 2X4 to sign.

An Invitation from the Thrivent Builds Group:

Please join us for a meeting to plan and schedule our Habitat build this summer. We will be assigning days of work to Lutheran Churches. This will be a dinner meeting with dinner provided. Anyone interested in the build should attend, both Champions and people looking to help.

**July 12, 2007 at 5:30 PM. Dinner provided!!**

Samuel Lutheran Church Downtown Muskegon. The parking lot is off Seaway. 540 Houston Ave., Muskegon.

All the volunteers are invited and also anyone who might not have signed up yet. Please contact Russ Tilden at 231-798-1032 with questions or if you can attend.

Look forward to seeing you there!



The Military Project has been completed with packages sent to all the military names provided. Keep your ears and eyes open for information on the next project. Thank you to everyone who supported this project with items in the barrel and monetary contributions.

### Planning Ahead

## Annual Church Picnic

Sunday—August 19, 2006

A Pig Roast is being planned;  
more information to come.

If you would like to help with the planning, please see a member of the Worship & Music Committee.



## Prayer List

Dorothy Anderson  
 Beryl Connelly  
 Clif Hellman  
 Stephen Hellman  
 Tom Hulka  
 Ray Johnson  
 Sandra Johnson  
*(friend of Donna VanderStelt)*  
 Cheryl Jimenez *(Shane Garrow's  
 mother)*  
 Beulah Justian  
 Maxine Pedersen  
*(Priscilla Pedersen's daughter)*

Vicki Majersky—Peterson  
 Kenneth Rewalt  
*(Kristina Garrow's uncle)*  
 Nancy Rizzo  
*(Ann Markgraf's daughter)*  
 Wally Roach  
 Jean Ryan  
*(friend of Lauren Stroh)*  
 Donna Stratton  
*(Cindy Borreson's aunt)*  
 Paul Suchovsky  
 Theresa Zhart  
*(Shelly Ward's Mom)*



## Remember those in the military

**Sgt. Kenneth Hawkins** *(Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew)*  
 United States Army—Serving in Iraq

**Private Lynzie Heiss** *(Ron Heiss's daughter)*  
 United States Army—Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

**LCPL Corey Judson** *(Virginia Kolarik's grandson)*  
 United States Marine Corp—Serving in the US

**SSgt. Kevin Sellon** *(Mike and Carol Sellon's son)*  
 United States Army—Serving in the US

**PO1 Russ Tilden, Jr.** *(Russ & Laurie Tilden's son)*  
 United States Navy—Stationed at Oceana Naval Base, Virginia Beach, VA

**TSgt. Harvey Wagenmaker** *(Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew)*  
 United States Air Force—Stationed at Fort Campbell, KY

**Sgt. Matt Young** *(friend of Nancy and Jim Gibson)*  
 United States Army--Serving in Iraq

**SPC Robert Borreson** *(Randy and Cindy Borreson's son)*



Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Do you have a loved one you would like included in the prayers or added to our prayer list? Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at [cborreson@charter.net](mailto:cborreson@charter.net) and she will see they are included.

## Festivals & Commemorations—July

### Sunday, July 01—Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); John Mason Neale (1818-1866); hymn translators

Neale was an English priest associated with the movement for church renewal at Cambridge. Winkworth lived most of her life in Manchester, where she was involved in promoting women's rights. These two hymnwriters translated many hymn texts into English. Catherine Winkworth devoted herself to the translation of German hymns, and John Mason Neale specialized in ancient Latin and Greek hymns.

Winkworth's translation of the hymn "Lord, thee I love with all my heart" (ELW 750) touches on themes present in both today's second reading and gospel. Neale's translation of "Christ is made the sure foundation" (ELW 645) might also be used today.

### Tuesday, July 03 Thomas, Apostle

Thomas is perhaps best remembered as "Doubting Thomas." But alongside this doubt, the Gospel of John shows Thomas as fiercely loyal: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). And John's gospel shows Thomas moving from doubt to deep faith. Thomas makes one of the strongest confessions of faith in the New Testament, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). From this confession of faith, ancient stories tell of Thomas's missionary work to India, where Christian communities were flourishing a thousand years before the arrival of sixteenth-century missionaries.

The feast of St. Thomas is observed on various dates, and a long tradition in the West placed it on December 21. In 1969, however, the Roman Catholic calendar moved it to July 3 in agreement with the Syrian Church. *Evangelical Lutheran*

*Worship* follows this ecumenical trend.

### Friday, July 06 Jan Hus, martyr (c. 1369-1415)

Jan Hus was a Bohemian priest who spoke against abuses in the church of his day in many of the same ways Luther would a century later. He spoke against the withholding of the cup at the eucharist and because of this stance was excommunicated, not for heresy but for insubordination toward his archbishop. He preached against the selling of indulgences and was particularly mortified by the indulgence trade of two rival claimants to the papacy who were raising money for war against each other. He was found guilty of heresy by the Council of Constance and burned at the stake.

The followers of Jan Hus became known as the Czech Brethren and later became the Moravian Church, an ecumenical partner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Wednesday, July 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino (c. 480-c. 540)

Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries he wrote that his intent in drawing up his regulations was "to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. Benedict still encourages a generous spirit of hospitality in that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself.

### Thursday, July 12 Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala (1866-1931)

In 1930, this Swedish theologian, ecumenist, and social activist received the Nobel Prize for peace. Söderblom (ZAY-der-blom) saw the value of the ancient worship of the church catholic and encouraged the liturgical movement. He also valued the work of liberal Protestant scholars and believed social action was a first step on the path toward a united Christianity. He organized the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work, one of the organizations that in 1948 came together to form the World Council of Churches.

As you commemorate Söderblom, discuss the ecumenical situation in the church in this new millennium. What are some of the achievements of the past century? What hopes of Söderblom's might still wait to be achieved?

### Tuesday, July 17 Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies (1474-1566)

Bartolomé de Las Casas was a Spanish priest and a missionary in the Western Hemisphere. He first came to the West while serving in the military, and he was granted a large estate that included a number of indigenous slaves. When he was ordained in 1513, he granted freedom to his servants. This act characterized much of the rest of Las Casas's ministry. Throughout the Caribbean and Central America, he worked to stop the enslavement of native people, to halt the brutal treatment of women by military forces, and to promote laws that humanized the process of colonization.

In a time when churches continue to work for the rights of all people, we can recall the words of Las Casas: "The Indians are our brothers, and Christ has given his

life for them. Why, then, do we persecute them with such inhuman savagery when they do not deserve such treatment?"

### **Sunday, July 22**

#### **Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

The gospels report Mary Magdalene was one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. When she went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with the news and has been called "the apostle to the apostles" for her proclamation of the resurrection. Because John's gospel describes Mary as weeping at the tomb, she is often portrayed in art with red eyes. Icons depict her standing by the tomb and holding a bright red egg.

### **Monday, July 23**

#### **Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church (c. 1303-1373)**

Birgitta (beer-GEET-uh) was married at age 13 and had four daughters with her husband. She was a woman of some standing who, in her early thirties, served as the chief lady-in-waiting to the queen of Sweden. She was widowed at the age of thirty-eight, shortly after she and her husband had made a religious pilgrimage. Following the death of her husband the religious dreams and visions that had begun in her youth occurred more regularly. Her devotional commitments led her to give to the poor and needy all that she owned, and she began to live a more ascetic life. She founded an order of monks and nuns, the Order of the Holy Savior (Brigittines), whose superior was a woman. Today the Society of St. Birgitta is a laypersons' society that continues her work of prayer and charity.

### **Wednesday, July 25**

#### **James, Apostle**

James is one of the sons of Zebedee and is counted as one of the

twelve disciples. Together with his brother John they had the nickname "sons of thunder." One of the stories in the New Testament tells of their request for Jesus to grant them places of honor in the kingdom. They are also reported to have asked Jesus for permission to send down fire on a Samaritan village that had not welcomed them. James was the first of the Twelve to suffer martyrdom and is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in scripture. He is sometimes called James the Elder to distinguish him from James the Less, commemorated with Philip on May 1, and James of Jerusalem, commemorated on October 23.

James is frequently pictured with a scallop shell. It recalls his life as a fisherman, his call to fish for people, and the gift of our baptism into Christ.

### **Saturday, July 28**

#### **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), musicians**

These three composers have done much to enrich the worship life of the church. Johann Sebastian Bach drew on the Lutheran tradition of hymnody and wrote about two hundred cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and festival day in the Lutheran calendar of his day. He has been called "the fifth evangelist" for the ways he proclaimed the gospel through his music. George Frederick Handel was not primarily a church musician, but his great work *Messiah* is a musical proclamation of the scriptures. Heinrich Schütz wrote choral settings of biblical texts and paid special attention to ways his composition would underscore the meaning of the words.

A musical gathering might be planned to commemorate these and other great church composers. Remember to include a prayer of thanksgiving for organists, choir directors, composers, and all who make music in worship.

### **Sunday, July 29—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany**

Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality and refreshment they offered Jesus in their home. Following the characterization drawn by Luke, Martha represents the active life, Mary the contemplative. Mary is identified in the fourth gospel as the one who anointed Jesus before his passion and who was criticized for her act of devotion. Lazarus, Mary's and Martha's brother, was raised from the dead by Jesus as a sign of the eternal life offered to all believers. It was over Lazarus's tomb that Jesus wept for love of his friend.

Congregations might commemorate these three early witnesses to Christ by reflecting on the role of hospitality in both home and church and the blessing of friendship.

### **Sunday, July 29—Olaf, King of Norway, martyr (995-1030)**

Olaf is considered the patron saint of Norway. In his early career he engaged in war and piracy in the Baltic and in Normandy. In Rouen, though, he was baptized and became a Christian. He returned to Norway, succeeded his father as king, and from then on Christianity was the dominant religion of the realm. He revised the laws of the nation and enforced them with strict impartiality, eliminating the possibility of bribes. He thereby alienated much of the aristocracy. The harshness that he sometimes resorted to in order to establish Christianity and his own law led to a rebellion. After being driven from the country and into exile, he enlisted support from Sweden to try to regain his kingdom, but he died in battle.

Olaf reminds the church of the temptation to establish Christianity by waging war, whether military or social. How might the church bear witness to the one who calls it to pray for enemies and persecutors?

## Festivals & Commemorations—August

### Wednesday, August 08—Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) (c. 1170-1221)

Dominic was a Spanish priest who preached against the Albigensians, a heretical sect that held gnostic and dualistic beliefs. Dominic believed that a stumbling block to restoring heretics to the church was the wealth of clergy, so he formed an itinerant religious order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), who lived in poverty, studied philosophy and theology, and preached against heresy. The method of this order was to use kindness and gentle argument, rather than harsh judgment, to bring unorthodox Christians back to the fold. Dominic was opposed to burning Christians at the stake. Three times Dominic was offered the office of bishop, which he refused so that he could continue in his work of preaching.

### Friday, August 10

#### Lawrence, deacon, martyr (d. 258)

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

### Saturday, August 11—Clare, renewer of the church (1194-1253)

At age 18, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she deter-

mined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

### Monday, August 13

#### Florence Nightingale (1820-1910); Clara Maass (1876-1901); renewers of society

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of -thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and resumed her work there for hospital reform.

Clara Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.

### Tuesday, August 14

#### Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941); Kaj Munk (1898-1944); martyrs

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest, born Raymond Kolbe. After spending some time working in Asia, he returned in 1936 to his native Poland, where he supervised a friary that came to house thousands of Polish war refugees, mostly Jews. The Nazis were watching, however, and he was arrested. Confined in Auschwitz, Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man who was a husband and father. After two weeks, he was executed by a lethal injection.

Kaj (pronounced KYE) Munk, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, was an outspoken critic of the Nazis, who occupied Denmark during the Second World War. His plays frequently highlighted the eventual victory of the Christian faith despite the church's weak and ineffective witness. The Nazis feared Munk because his sermons and articles helped to strengthen the Danish resistance movement. He was executed by the Gestapo on January 5, 1944.

### Wednesday, August 15

#### Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the

rich are sent away empty-handed.

Hymns to commemorate Mary as *theotokos* might include "Sing of Mary, pure and lowly" or a paraphrase of the Magnificat, such as "Canticle of the Turning."

**Monday, August 20**  
**Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux**  
**(1090-1153)**

Bernard was a Cistercian monk who became an abbot of great spiritual depth. He was a mystical writer deeply devoted to the humanity of Christ and consequently to the affective dimension of spirituality. He was critical of one of the foremost theologians of the day, Peter Abelard, because he believed Abelard's approach to faith was too rational and did not provide sufficient room for mystery. Bernard's devotional writings are still read today. His sermon on the Song of Solomon treats that Old Testament book as an allegory of Christ's love for humanity. Bernard wrote several hymns that are still sung today in translation. His hymn "Jesus the very thought of you" (ELW 754) could be a way to commemorate this monk at worship today.

**Friday, August 24**  
**Bartholomew, Apostle**

Bartholomew is mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The list in John does not include him but rather Nathanael. These two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on these lists of the Twelve, little is known. Some traditions say Bartholomew preached in India or Armenia following the resurrection. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was killed.

**Tuesday, August 28—Augustine,**  
**Bishop of Hippo (354-430)**

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was

a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and made bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow move toward faith and includes the line "Late have I loved thee."

**Tuesday, August 28—Moses the**  
**Black, monk, martyr (330-400)**

A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. Prior to his conversion he had been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers. The story of his conversion is unknown, but eventually he became a desert monk at Skete. The habit of his monastic community was white, though Moses is reported to have said, "God knows I am black within." The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He was murdered when Berbers attacked his monastery.

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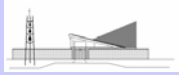
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|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|----|--|
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club  | 16  | 17<br><br><i>Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies</i> | 18  | 19<br><b>NO Bible Study</b> | 20 | 21   |
| <b>22 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club<br><i>Mary Magdalene, apostle</i>           | 23<br><br><i>Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church (c. 1303-1373)</i> | 24  | 25<br><br><i>James, apostle</i>   | 26                          | 27 | 28 9 am Mutual Ministry (@ Mickey's)<br><i>Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), George Frederick Handel (1685-1750)</i> |
| <b>29 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club<br>Pastor Dennis on vacation - returns 8/11 | 30  | 31  | Pastor will be on vacation July 29 - August 11. Pastor Michnay will serve as Guest Pastor on July 29 and August 5.<br><hr/> |                             |    |  |

# August 2007

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Pastor will be on vacation July 29 – August 11. Pastor Michnay will serve as Guest Pastor on July 29 and August 5.  |   |   | 1  | 2<br>NO Bible Study                                   | 3  | 4<br>9 am Men's Club @ Mickey's Restaurant            |
| <b>Sunday, August 19 - Annual Church Picnic</b>   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| 5 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club<br>Pastor Dennis on vacation – returns 8/11<br><i>Sisters Day</i> | 6<br>NO Dorcas Circle<br><br>Friendship Day   | 7<br>5:30 pm Property Committee<br><br>7 pm Finance Committee                                       | 8<br><i>Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) (c. 1170-1221)</i> | 9<br>NO Bible Study                                   | 10<br><i>Lawrence, deacon, martyr (d. 258)</i> | 11<br><i>Clare, renewer of the church (1194-1253)</i> |
| 12 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club  | 13<br>NO Parish Ed Committee<br><i>Florence Nightingale (1820-1910); Clara Maass (1876-1901); renewers of society</i> | 14<br>6:30 Eve Circle<br><br><i>Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941); Kaj Munk (1898-1944); martyrs</i>     | 15<br><i>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</i>  | 16<br>NO Bible Study                                  | 17   | 18  |
| 19 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist/Outdoor Worship<br>NO BIBLE Club<br>Annual Church Picnic                          | 20<br>6:30 pm Congregation Council<br><i>Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux (1090-1153)</i>                                  | 21<br>7 pm Worship & Music Committee  | 22   | 23<br>NO Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Stewardship Committee | 24<br><i>Bartholomew, Apostle</i>              | 25<br>9 am Mutual Ministry (@ Mickey's)               |
| 26 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>NO Choir Practice<br>10 am Holy Eucharist<br>NO BIBLE Club  | 27  | 28<br><i>Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430)</i><br><i>Moses the Black, monk, martyr (330-400)</i> | 29   | 30<br>NO Bible Study                                  | 31   |   |

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**The Church Door**  
The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

July - August 2007



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