

“The lessons of life ... our journey is our RABBI”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
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Beginning of August ... 2017

Dear Friends ...

Do you ever look at life ... and wonder: “What’s it all about, Alfie??”
Lately I’ve been thinking a lot about the “passage of time.” The older I get ... the longer I’m here ...
the more of you I meet ... the more moments we share ----- I realize more and more ... it’s in the
“passage of time” ... well, this is where we meet God ... this is where God speaks to us.

You think of your journey ... as I reflect on mine.

When you get this letter ... I will be at Heartland Children’s Home (we return Saturday ... so, you’ll probably
hear about it Sunday!@!!). This will be our 20th annual trip to Heartland. My son Quinton was less than a year
old when we first met him there ... he’s almost 17 now. I remember the days when he was young and cuddly,
and actually listened to me!! I think of all the fragile kids we’ve met over the years ... how in their weakness
and fragility ... they become a voice of God’s gentle power.

Had kind-of an “emotional moment” this week.

My friend and mentor – Pastor Walter Ledogar – is very sick at Northwestern Hospital.
His wife Carol died less than a year ago ... and now Walter is struggling. Pastor Ledogar served his parish –
Christ Lutheran Church here in Orland – for 50 years. He welcomed me with open arms when I came here in
in 1974. Our churches never “competed” ... we just appreciate the gifts each of our communities have
to offer. I’m holding Walter’s hand in his hospital room ... and, with a few tears ... he

quotes these words from 2 Timothy:

“I have done my best in the race.

I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith ...”

In his fragility ... Pastor Ledogar witnesses to the incredible power and strength God shares with each of us.

We can read all the books.

We can study in all the towers of wisdom.

Many of us have had years of catechism and heard
multitudes of sermons from all kinds of preachers.

But ... the ultimate teacher ... the most amazing “rabbi” ...
is the journey of life we share each day.

I’ve always said ----- as a church, we have our share of “shortcomings” ... it’s part of being human.

But one thing we have to offer is the *real-ness and simplicity of RELIGION.*

Your journey is Jesus’ journey. Jesus’ journey is your journey.

We are who we are and our calling is take whatever gifts we have, whatever time and energy we have ----
and “run the race ... do our best ... and keep the faith.”

No matter how old or young we are time is short!!

To all the “Walts” out there ... who have run “the full distance” ...

Thanks for being our “rabbi” ... and teaching us what’s important and what’s not.

See you “in the humble temple” ----- love and joy “rev”

ENJOY WHAT IS LEFT OF SUMMER

We have our share of “empty seats” during the summer. I miss many of you but I hope you will return soon. We’ve had nice attendance on Thursday nights ... it’s fun being outdoors, weather permitting. **Please remember to support our humble enterprise** ... even when you are not here. We finally had to replace our front parking lot ... and we did it without having to have a special fund-raising effort. We also need to “raise-up” or replace our sign ... since it’s being blocked by the wall along LaGrange Road. That will cost a substantial amount ... but we haven’t got a number yet from the sign company. YOUR SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH ... and we can’t do “what we do” without you.

OUR FUN-FESTS WITH ST. COLETTA’S will continue through the month of August. Our developmentally disabled friends and their counselors mean so much to us.....and, again, they remind us of how precious each day is.

SEPTEMBER BRINGS SOME NEW OPPORTUNITIES ... AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN GETTING THEM STARTED ...

We have several registration forms at the church ... please do this if you have not yet ...

*SUNDAY SCHOOL begins September 10, 9:45 – 10:45 ... we have classes for kids who are 3 by September 1, though 6th grade.

*THE YOUTH GROUP ... 7TH – 12TH GRADERS ... kicks into “high gear.”

*CONFIRMATION CLASSES for 7th – 8th graders ... we begin at the end of September. Confirmation is a 2-year program, getting young people ready for adult membership. We have a lot of fun ... and we only meet 2 Mondays per month!@!! ----- with no homework!!

*HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ... make sure you fill out your scholarship form soon ... we want to present you with your check before you begin your college and/or trade-school classes.

THE ADULT CHOIR begins rehearsing Sunday, September 10 --- between services. What a wonderful group.

The only qualification is the “joy of music.” The choir is open to high school students ... and we have a program whereby students can earn money towards their college education. Please call our music director – Doug Klang – if you have any questions. (708-945-2188)

YES, THERE WILL BE A BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL ... dates and topic will be “un-veiled” soon.

THE CIVIL WAR BAND IS COMING HERE ... SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 ... FOR A 2:00 PM CONCERT ...

They have not been here since my brother Gary (the founder of the band) died years ago. They want to return. They still remember how well we fed them afterwards!! More information to follow, as the dates approaches.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

**We keep praying for Pastor Walt Ledogar and his family. *Josh Ostby – son of Nancy and Tom Ellis – who now resides at Salem Village in Joliet. *Walt Schillinger, who continues his re-hab at Burgess in Westmont. *Anita Delgau had her check-up ... and she is cancer-free.*

Judy Splayt and Peggy Sullivan have concluded their treatments for cancer ... they, too, are cancer free.

**Scott Hone continues his re-hab after major knee surgery. *Pat Diepen’s sister Brenda died recently.*

**Wayne and Sandy Demkowicz have had a tough period --- their dog Sammy died at the age of 16 ... also, they lost their nephew Justin and cousin Wayne. *Marion Berglund is recovering from a fall.*

**Dottie Gierach is now 95 ... is no longer driving ... lives at Smith Crossing, and misses us a lot, as we miss her. *Linda Ruisz faces more surgery in her long journey with cancer. *Kieren Conway is living with cancer again. *Ken Reiss’ sister Dot Hamilton is doing well after cancer surgery.*

