

GALILEE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
8860 SODA BAY
ROAD
KELSEYVILLE,
CA 95451
707-279-4832

www.galileekelseville.org

INTERIM PASTOR
DENIS EUCALYPTUS

**Morning
worship
10:00 AM**

**Sunday
School
and Adult
Bible
Study
9:00 AM**

**Prayer
with Pam
Monday's
5:00 PM**

**Prayer
with
Pastor
Denis
Saturday's
10:00 AM**

The Galilean

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2010

Pastor's Report-January 2010

I began as Galilee's interim pastor July 5, attended the Natural Church Development Committee July 9 and preached my first sermon July 12, as well as, attended the Council meeting and welcoming luncheon. My third week was spent at Zephyr Point Conference Center for my interim pastor training—all in all a smooth, quick start.

Galilee's financial constraints limited the number of hours I have been asked to work, which is 40 hours per month; and this limitation has defined my job description:

- Sermon preparation
- Sunday morning preaching and fellowship
- Responding to pastoral emergencies and funerals
- Supporting and coaching the leadership team
- Attending the Council and Worship /Music Committee meetings
- Supporting the prayer ministry
- Some writing and phone work (these are roughly in order of priority)

This limited involvement has worked well because the laity have stepped forward to take on most of the program planning, office and Ad-

ministrative detail, facility maintenance issues, financial accountability tasks, long-term planning processes and most of the pastoral care ministry.

Defining my work at Galilee are the five "Developmental Tasks" that are recommended by the denomination during the interim time. These five areas of preparation for calling a new pastor have, to a large extent, set my agenda for my preaching and for my work with the leadership.

Coming to terms with the congregation's history. Much of my preaching throughout the summer focused on the church's 45 year history, affirming its accomplishments, acknowledging its conflicts and healing and letting go of past wounds and hurts that members still carry. I have met individually with leaders and listened to their stories and experiences of being members of Galilee---a process that still continues.

Discovering a new identity, a new sense of mission. This fall I have preached on the meaning and purpose of church, and on some of the varied models of how to be a church, asking members to reflect on and discuss their ideas and views with each other. This effort was in

harmony with the work of the Natural Church Development group as well as the fall planning and goal setting retreat.

Helping the congregation's internal leadership grow and change. This task was well on the way before I arrived. The Natural Church Development committee intentionally encouraged a more energized and responsible leadership team. And I have refrained from doing things that the laity could do (and often better than I). I continue to make myself available to give counsel and direction to Galilee's leaders as well as ask them for their counsel and direction.

Rediscovering linkages to the denomination. I have been in regular conversation with Rev. Nancy Nelson, the Bishop's assistant, and her visit to Galilee was very helpful in strengthening the congregation's connection to the Synod. A second on-going connection is through several members' participation in Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. My hope is to find a way that the mission work of the ELCA can be highlighted and celebrated here, and that our members can sense a connection with the larger mission of the church in the world.

Establishing a new commitment between the people and the new pastor to engage in their mission together. The previous four areas are the groundwork for completing this task. Also, encouraging the search committee can be part of this task as well. My connection to the search committee is very limited by Lutheran rules, but I often have the search committee in mind when I preach...we are all called to ministry; the church is not here simply to serve its members. We are the Body of Christ. As this powerful idea is embraced by the search committee (and all members) it will set the table for a fruitful new pastor/parish relationship.

Many people at Galilee already embody their empowering understanding of Church membership. Some have found welcome and

hospitality at Galilee and now see themselves as a gateway for pilgrims seeking the grace of a loving community.

Some have found at Galilee the joy of abiding in the Christ Spirit and having the Christ Spirit abide in them, and now they see themselves as midwives for the Spirit, offering a place and experience which will allow this holy connection.

Some have found the healing love of God here at Galilee, and their lives have been knit back together from loss, confusion, fear or rejection—experiences that drag one down—and now they see a way that their unique gifts can be used for healing others as people come through the doors of the church.

Some have found strength for their daily lives here at Galilee, a weekly reminder and encouragement to meet a broken and selfish world not on the world's terms, but with Christian values, even if others think that they are naïve, and now they see themselves as encouragers and teachers of the Way of Christ for those who come to Galilee struggling with moral and ethic confusion.

Some have been drawn to Galilee for a respite from the negativity of the world that surrounds them, and here they can sing and lift up prayers of Thanksgiving, and talk of love and compassion, and they see themselves inviting others to come and celebrate life.

And finally, some remember the church of their youth where they were taught that God loved them and that their world is full of miracles and that there is a place for them in heaven, and now they see themselves providing a church school for a new generation and giving youth a good foundation on which to build their lives.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as we continue in the dynamic, shared ministry in this way of being the church, 2010 will certainly be a very rich year.

---Rev. Denis Eucalyptus



Worship and Music



The Unsung Heroes of the Worship and Music Ministry

Mike and Barbara McCauley have been growing and placing flowers on our altar for a long time now. It's our hope that everyone recognizes their time and talent contributions. The flowers beautify the sanctuary weekly in ways that defy description. They add beauty to the world, as do the McCauleys. Thanks to Mike and Barbara and their son Dennis!

Submitted by Bob Hamilton

Thanks for a wonderful start!

Thanks to a generous donation by one of our members the new year started out great. Offering for the month through January 24 was \$1,1297. Needed for the each month is \$6856. The special offering collected on Jan. 24 for Haiti victims was \$500.

Dare to be 100

First Thursday of the month at noon

It's all about

D—Diet

A—Attitude

R—Retirement-Rest-Renewal

E—Exercise

Join us for companionship, sharing interest, activities and encouragement. A group younger in one another's company. Age is no limit. All are welcome. Call: **Gunhild Brown—277-9095**

Stewardship

Galilee Lutheran Church January 2010 Stewardship Committee Report

This has been an eventful year here at Galilee. The stewardship committee thanks everyone for their participation and giving in 2009. We plan to make 2010 even better.

In October we held a congregational retreat to look at our stewardship plan. We brainstormed what it means to be caregivers of this place and of ourselves. We created a beautiful poster that will be placed in the narthex. Pledge cards were distributed to be turned in on a following Sunday. We only received seven pledges. If you wish to commit your giving, pledge cards are still available in the narthex.

There will be a short message in the newsletter each month reminding us that stewardship is a yearlong process, not just in October every year. God has given us a wonderful sanctuary and beautiful surroundings. We need to take care of them. We need to take care of each other.

Our stewardship response is out of love and not because we are fearful. God gives us everything we have. Giving back a small portion of our time, talent and treasure should be a joy.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help at the church. There are many jobs and we have many hands. No one needs to feel overwhelmed.

Submitted by Laisne Hamilton

February 14th



Potluck to follow the Sunday morning service.

Don't forget the monthly bake sale also following the worship service.

Natural Church Development

Do you want to have a fun filled evening, away from house, no cooking dinner, just you and the kids and friends and family from church?? If so, come to our Family Nights which will begin again in the summer when the kids are out of school. Come to pizza night or ice cream sundae night and play games, sit and read a book, watch a movie or just sit and chat with friends. It's a fun night. Watch the church calendar for the dates, you will enjoy it.

Our Natural Church Development group has other activities that may interest you and bring you closer to God and a sense of well being. Come out to our Prayer groups. Prayers with Pastor Dennis are held on Saturday mornings in the church at 10:00AM. The other is held on Monday nights with Pam Roederer and is held at 5:00PM.

Bible Study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00AM and again at 11:30AM in the church conference room. The group is led by Howard Almon.

The "Doers" meet once a month on a Saturday morning. We have a light breakfast and then set out to clean our stretch of the highway or clean up the church grounds. We all come together to focus on one project as a team AND it's fun.

Our Natural Church Development group meets once a month to discuss ways we as a congregation can make Galilee Lutheran Church a place where people can come together as a loving family to love and serve the Lord. We discuss ways in which to get the congregation involved in small holistic groups as mentioned above and to develop new groups. Some ideas discussed are a book club, gardening club or a cooking club. We are also focusing on ways to increase the "flock" ; ways to fill the pews on Sunday. Right now we average 50 people on Sunday, wouldn't 60 or perhaps more be nice? Our team identifies the churches strengths and weaknesses and works on them to make Galilee bigger and better.

If you would like to become a member of our Natural Church Development team let Pete Johnson know, new faces and new ideas are greatly appreciated. To serve on the team is a very rewarding experience knowing you are doing something good for the church and the congregation, to love and serve the lord, it's makes you feel good.

Submitted by Vale Hanzel

Galilee Choir



Choir meets each Sunday at 9:00 AM. Bring your voice. We'll find a place for it.

A quote from Martin Luther, 1538

"I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely **gift of music**, which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure **given** mankind by **God**. The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them...next to the Word of God, the noble **art of music** is the **greatest treasure** in this world. It controls our thought, minds, hearts, and spirits...

Our dear fathers and prophets did not desire without reason that music be always used in the churches. Hence we have so many songs and psalms. This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself of the fact that God has created man for the express purpose of **praising & extolling God**.

Submitted by Eva Johnson

From our President

So looking ahead for 2010. I set a goal for at least five new giving units this year and to continue that pace for the next five years.

With additional people on board we can fill all the spots on our committees, reduce some of the work load on the few that have many jobs here and add diversity to our team. We will investigate to find out what the people living around our church need. We need to keep an eye on the things that are going well so they don't slip away as well. Here are some of the strategies I think we need to use to meet that goal.

1. Contact the people who fell out of the back door. Ask why they left. Some of the people are Jeannie-Landon Myers, Dr. Duncan McGinnis, Virginia Long and Kai and Lis Peterson.
2. Use our friendship qualities on visitors . Make special effort to meet them, introduce yourself and get to know them. Invite them back.
3. Bring friends to Galilee worship services, our social events and other functions.
4. Develop new programs for the folks in the Rivera's. Expand family to include the community.
5. Staff and expand our Evangelism committee.

I think this year will be exciting for Galilee. Our call committee led by Carrie Maldonado needs our prayer. Their work is very hard and has a great deal of responsibility. We need to remember our Mission here at Galilee. Keep flexible, be patient and embrace change with all your love.

In Christ's love

Pete Johnson

A NOTE FROM YOUR WEBMASTER

February 2010. Where has the time gone? I remember not to many years ago all correspondence and newsletters were produced with a typewriter. Now in this age, we can do all our work on computers. If you want to find a place to worship, a restaurant, lodging or most anything you can search the internet for the answer. The internet reaches out to the world to disseminate information. We at Galilee are using the internet to our advantage through our web site. Check your web site often. How things have advanced in such a short time is amazing. Just a thought for now... Your webmaster

Submitted by Marvin Hanson

Work Party



Put on your gloves and overalls and meet at the church for our cleanup day February

20th from 9:00 AM until noon.. Come and join the gang and help keep our church and grounds the beautiful place it is.



**Pastor Denis
cleaning up the
road**



No birthdays or anniversaries this month.

If you have an article or something you would like in the newsletter please let me know.

lhanson38@att.net

I need the information by February 15 in order to have time to put everything together.

Thank you for your cooperation

SINGING WITH THE LUTHERANS

by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of 'Michael Row the Boat Ashore', they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their under-wear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of Children of the Heavenly Father in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate..

6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.

7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LC-MS groom make for a mixed marriage.

(For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCA is Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and LC-MS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.)

10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.

13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add a little too much color.

14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

*It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;

*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;

*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;

*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;

*When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, 'May the Force be with you', you respond, 'and also with you';

*And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, 'Good-bye'.

May you wake each day with His blessings, Sleep each night in His keeping, And always walk in His tender care.

This was an e-mail received from Mary Beth a while ago. I thought it was worth sharing..