



GOOD NEWS!

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

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(If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you, contact the Church Office)



This is another in my continuing series regarding how to become an “externally focused” church. It’s very practical stuff. For example, last month this quote pushed the envelope about how to grow: “Discipleship is not what happens inside the four walls of this church.” Community service and “Make a Difference Day” were cited as examples of what that means.

This month I’d like to call your attention to how important relationships are for becoming externally focused. Many times in the Gospel of John, Jesus uses the phrase “you do not know” to teach the importance of relationships, especially a relationship with God. For example, “He who sent me is true, and Him you do not know. I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent me.” – Jn 7:28,29. For many years I had a cup on my desk that said, “Your Friend, Jesus” with a logo of a nail printed hand. Our bond with Jesus is the pivotal relationship in our lives. Only that relationship bears eternal consequences.

Inviting others to have that relationship is our highest privilege. From Jesus’ invitation to His disciples, “Come, follow Me”, to His words of promise like “Come unto Me, all who labor and are heavy laden”, to His command to “Go and make disciples”, Jesus invites us to invite others to that life-giving relationship.

Message cont’d:

An externally focused church does that. The early Church did that. Did you know that in the early centuries, the Church grew at a rate of 40% per decade? That amazing growth happened without direct mail, telephone solicitation, newspapers and sundry advertising gimmicks. It was one on one relationships. The book, “The Externally Focused Church” says, “The church that develops long-term, trusting relationships with the community is the one that has an opportunity to influence its culture...In meeting the needs of others and serving alongside them, we cannot help but create relationship.” Through the centuries, the Church often and critically influenced communities and the world for Christ. Today... perhaps not so much. We need to do things differently than we have in recent times.

The authors further assert: “The goal of an externally focused church is to serve, but the ultimate goal is to build the Kingdom. This is service with a higher calling and a stronger motivation. Relationships are not only essential for gaining trust within the community; they are the door by which many individuals come into a relationship with Christ.”

Isn’t that just what we are about? Isn’t that just what OSL needs to become – a door by which many individuals come into a relationship with Christ? You can do it by inviting someone!

--- Pastor Steve Wipperman

FAMILY PROMISE

FAMILY PROMISE MAIN EVENT: **"PUTTING THE BRAKES ON HOMELESSNESS"**

DATE: Friday, October 25, 2013 at 6:00pm
until 7:00am on Saturday, October 26th

Gather your friends and family and come sleep in your car to make a strong statement in the fight against homelessness! All funds raised will help Family Promise to put the brakes on homelessness! Information about this event are in separate attachments in this newsletter and also available on the CAC lobby table. Please consider supporting this event and "putting the brakes on homelessness!"

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

\$47.10 was sent to Trinity Lutheran School so many thanks for your support. Please continue to save these. There is a box in the CAC lobby for your convenience.

Also, we are still collecting the Campbell soup labels so save those too! We collected 173 Campbell points.

Thank you! --*Barbara McCrorie*



**Shoeboxes
for kids**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All filled shoeboxes and donations to this mission need to be in by **Sunday November 3rd.**

Thank you for your support. --- Donna

REBECCA'S GARDEN OF HOPE

NEW MISSION MINISTRY



Rebecca's Garden of Hope is a Christian tutoring program for children of all ages. If you would like to be involved, call the Church Office. This month is the kickoff and the program will be taking place on **Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall.** It's a wonderful, rewarding way to serve the Lord!

October Mission of the Month

October is "Pop Tab" month for Ronald McDonald House Charities. This is the 10th year for this project for them. At Ronald McDonald House love comes in all shapes and sizes. Why not share the love and save your tabs from beverage and food cans.

Fun Facts about Pop Tabs measurement equivalents:

1 inch = 1 pop tab
1 foot = 12 pop tabs
1 lb = 1267 pop tabs
1 mile = 63,360 pop tabs

Put them in the jar on the table as you enter the Worship Center. *Thank You!!*



FALL RALLY

St. Paul Lutheran, Boca Raton
Sat., Oct. 12, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Theme: "Make Me a Servant!"



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Battey	10/2	Louise Lutes	10/20
Fred Hepler	10/2	Herv Hugel	10/22
Bert Kramer	10/2	Kay Schubert	10/22
Dottie Castorina	10/9	Judy Leverenz	10/25
Geraldine Christman	10/17	Steve Wipperman	10/31
Laura Jones	10/17		
June Hamlin	10/18		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Norman & Linda Hawkins	10/3
Mark & Eileen Eggen	10/16

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and it is not on the list, please inform the Church Office (561-582-4430) or alex@osl-lw.org



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!

Choir rehearsals have resumed on Sundays immediately following the worship service! **We can always use new voices and bell ringers!** We look forward to seeing you!



CROS MINISTRIES STILL NEEDS HELP!

We will continue taking donations. **The MOST NEEDED Basic food items include:** peanut butter, canned tuna and meats, two pound bags of rice, canned beans or one pound bags of beans, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, soup (canned or boxed), macaroni and cheese, pasta, and canned fruit. *Thank you for being a blessing to those in need.*



21st of the month!



**REFORMATION
Sunday**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
OCTOBER 27TH
POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

Please join us in celebrating Reformation Sunday, October 27th. We will have a potluck luncheon in Parish Hall immediately following the service. OS� will provide the meat and we ask you to bring a dish (some suggestions are potato salad, coleslaw, salad, green beans, mashed potatoes, desserts).

We will be setting up Parish Hall on Saturday, October 26th from 9:00 am to noon and we can your help if you are available. Thanks!



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE**

LSF OPENS NEW SCHOOL IN BELLE GLADE, FL

Lutheran Services Florida has successfully opened the Sellew Excel Charter School in Belle Glade, Florida. On the first day of class 120 K – 3rd grade students started their year in a newly remodeled building equipped with the latest in teaching technology. Thanks to many generous donors the students received free school uniforms and school supplies. Belle Glade is one of the poorest and depressed areas of the state. All of the students in the school come from an economically disadvantaged family and qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Lutheran Service Florida is honored to be in a position to bring these children God's healing, hope, and help. For more information on the school please see the video posted at www.lstnet.org

FL/GA DISTRICT OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Session Two:

The Power of Some—Sharing Christ as a Congregation

Sat., 10/19, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

While an individual Christian witness is powerful, so too is the combined effect of a group of Christians sharing the Gospel. This training session will help participants find ways to best utilize their witnessing efforts as a congregation. A warm and welcoming environment is essential when attracting visitors. Attendees will assess what makes a church a friendly and inviting place by viewing it through the eyes of a guest. Looking beyond the church itself, participants will be encouraged-and challenged-to take his or her Gospel witness into the community. Doing this brings the congregation into the world, socially influencing it and, hopefully, bringing others-through its Gospel witness-into the fold. Call the church office (582-4430) to register or online: <http://flgadistrict.org/outreach-initiative-registration/>

LSF Can Help Your Church Find Outreach Opportunities

More and more congregations and groups within congregations are now using Lutheran Services Florida as the conduit to link their social ministry outreach with the people who need it most. Some groups are putting together layettes and others are gathering toiletries. A few are making children's clothes while some are putting together backpacks filled with school supplies. As Lutherans, we all understand the importance of bringing God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ, but we aren't always sure who those people are or where to find them. Lutheran Services Florida works with people in need every single day. Last year we worked with more than 52,000 of them. We would be honored to deliver your offerings to them on your behalf. For more information, please contact Steve Cecchetti at scecchetti@lsfnet.org or call [407-878-8397](tel:407-878-8397).

A BIG THANK YOU TO PEGGY & JOEL VANARMAN!!

The Trustees and the Church Office wish to thank Peggy and Joel VanArman for their time and effort in helping to catalog the materials in the science lab of the school and for volunteering to help us to dispose of the chemicals. Peggy spent hours compiling the information and both she and Joel removed them from the school. Thanks for all the things you do for Our Savior!!