



THE M e s s e n g e r

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FROM OUR PASTOR

THE EARTH SHAKES!

by Pastor Renata Eustis

“The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised (Matthew 27: 51b-52).”

What were you doing when the earthquake hit? That’s been the question of the week around here.

Vicar Annabelle and I were meeting in my office. I actually have some previous experience with earthquakes and told Annabelle we needed to get in the door jamb. As we were standing there, I looked outside and couldn’t see anything else moving. The shaking intensified and all of a sudden I thought, “Maybe this isn’t an earthquake, maybe there’s about to be a gas explosion in the building. We better get as far away from here as we possibly can!” So we ran outside. Then we learned it was indeed an earthquake when we talked to the staff of THC who had felt the same thing.

I listened to various stories, both on the radio and in person. Over and over again, people said some version of “I thought it was just our building.” (My daughter, May, said her class thought it was the eighth graders.) Soon, we all realized that the earth had shaken—not just in the DC region—but all along a stretch of the Mid-Atlantic. Thankfully, this was a jolting experience with no serious injuries.

What’s most striking to me is that the earthquake was something that was happening to all of us but, at first, we didn’t see that. We each have our internal shaking—our fears, our doubts, our self-recriminations. Much of the time, this internal shaking is as hidden as tectonic plates. Then, there is a seismic shift—usually it’s a significant loss—and our hidden shaking comes to the surface where others can see it.

And hopefully, when it happens, there is a community of people around us to help us. Maybe some of those around us will even give us a glimpse of their own shaking. We might even see that—for all our herculean efforts to keep it together—we’re all pretty vulnerable. We’re all human.

When Jesus dies there are seismic shifts. There is an earthquake. The tombs are opened and the dead are raised. Jesus has an incredible ability to love people in all of our humanness. Compassion and forgiveness are his first response to our shaking hearts and lives. Astoundingly, there is new life.

I hope and pray and believe that we are a little bit changed by this earthquake—that we might look around and see others as so much more like us than not. That we would wake up to the wonder of being human beings who are also beloved children of God. That we would be shaken out of our sleepy complacency and treasure what has been given to us—the earth, each other, even our very lives.

Raise us, too, O Lord, to new life in you. Amen.

OFFICIAL ACTS

OFFICIAL ACTS January 1 – 7/31, 2011

Feb 18/11 interment of ashes and memorial service for Robert Ernest Heitmuller (Oct 8, 1917-Feb 10, 2011)

March 19/11 interment of ashes and memorial service for Judith A. Theiss (May 5 1939-March 8, 2011)

Easter, April 24/11, baptism of Michael Jun Song (15), Gabriel Andres Eng Garcia (11) and Maya Grace Eng Garcia (9) ; Lucinda Eng-Garcia joined our congregation through Affirmation of Baptism.

6/19/11 confirmation of Caroline Nwanze, George Nwanze, Malcolm Coker, Marie Nwanze, Nicholas Nwanze, and Noah Dakaud

7/17/11 baptism of Ronan Daniel Willis Ronan's baptismal sponsors are Shannon and Anthony Provenzano, Brie and Lance Wyatt, and Susy Cheston

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MOVING INTO ACTION!

By Marilee Rist, President

As I write this, people up and down the East Coast are preparing for Hurricane Irene. Seashore towns are being evacuated; supermarket bread aisles and milk cases are standing empty; preparations are under way for our everyday lives to be disrupted in ways as yet unclear. And this, only days after an earthquake already reminded us (if we needed reminding) that we are not in charge!

At times like this, the Gospel message is more clear and comforting than ever: We stand on the solid rock of Christ Jesus. That Gospel message drives us forward as we move into some of the busiest months of the CLC year.

As we commit our time and energy to our full array of fall programs and activities – from Yard Sale and Silent Auction, to music program, anniversary celebration, Sunday School and adult education, and much more – it's important to remember that this is not activity for its own sake. The programs we've committed to (and budgeted for) are core to advancing the Three Big Ideas that we identified in our congregational retreat last winter. With the new Sunday School season, we continue to invest in the Faith Formation of our children and youth. With the Yard Sale and its related outreach, we're putting Faith into Action in the community and beyond. With the music and adult education programs, we are helping one another dig deeper and explore the concept of Faith Transformation. And so on.

As we stand in that long line at the Safeway with our bread and milk in hand, we may not be exactly sure we've adequately prepared for a weekend of hurricane-related weather events. But we can feel confident that, as we roll up our sleeves for a busy fall at CLC, our mission is clear. We are bringing Christ to the world. We are Christ to the world.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a bit of time and energy to throw into any of the following activities?

Communications Working Group--Join an awesome group of communications thinkers and doers to look at the strategies and tactics we're using to reach out to members and guests! We hope to convene an initial meeting soon.

Pastor's 10th Anniversary – Special service, special music, reception.....do you have some good ideas for thanking Pastor Renata for a decade of service to Christ Lutheran? If so, please step up and volunteer for the 10th Anniversary Committee!

If any of these possibilities resonates, please contact Marilee Rist at marileerist@gmail.com or 571-225-4821 (cell). We need you now!

“Getting to Know You...”
by Annabelle Markey, Vicar

I thought “getting to know you...” would be a good title for this article for two reasons. First, I am still getting to know you all as I enter into my third month as vicar/intern. Your hospitality, graciousness, and patience while I learn your names and get settled have been overwhelming and truly appreciated! It has been a pleasure spending time with you in worship, during coffee hour, and getting together with some of you for coffee or lunch. By the way, if I have not yet contacted you for lunch, tea or coffee, please let me know as I’d love to seize the opportunity to spend time together!

Second, “getting to know you...” reflects two facts about me: I love music and singing, and I really enjoy show tunes (“Getting to Know You” is from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *The King and I* for those who aren’t show tune fans)! A couple of other things you should know: I love tacos, learning/studying languages, looking at medieval manuscripts, traveling, reading, playing soccer and crafting. In addition, I am married to a wonderful fellow named Jeff Markey, who does math and computer science work in Maryland. At the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, I am concentrating on Christian-Jewish dialogue, ecumenism and Biblical languages/studies.

There are so many things to which I am looking forward and anticipating learning! I am excited about developing, leading and participating in Bible studies with different ages and exploring together what it means to live out our faith in the world. I look forward to learning about the community, the needs within the community and how we at Christ Lutheran can address those needs. I am thrilled to examine different ways of reaching out to and welcoming those who do not have a church home.

Over the next two years, I know I will learn a tremendous amount about how to preach more effectively, how to plan meaningful worship, and how to serve in a pastoral role. I am anticipating being challenged and I look forward to how these challenges will help me to grow and strengthen my faith in Christ. I look forward to hearing your stories and seeing some of the ways God has been at work in this place. Lastly, I am looking forward to witnessing with my own eyes what this yard sale looks like!

COMING...A NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Thanks to Karen Christian, we are going to have an updated photo directory! Photo sessions will be scheduled for October 12, 13 and 14. To schedule your session go to our website, www.christlutheran-dc.org and click on the square “Family Album” button. If you don’t have access to the internet, call Karen in the church office and she will help you schedule a photo session time.

We hope all of our members participate. I know there are times I see someone in church who I recognize but I can’t remember the person’s name. The directory will be a helpful tool to overcome that.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 11
by Linda Ott

Our Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 11, 2011 with a rallying cry for young spirits to attend Sunday mornings to learn about God’s love for us, what it means to be Christian and Lutheran, stories from the Bible, issues related to social justice, and to meet other young people. We will rally in the Chapel at 9:15am to introduce parents and their children to our Sunday School format. There are two

age groups that meet each Sunday at 9:15am — 3-6 year olds in the Atrium and 6 to 12 year olds in the Sunday School room.

The Atrium, for ages 3-6, is led by Linda Ott, and introduces young children to prayer, praise, God's love, and Bible stories. The program is a Montessori-based exploration of living in spirit. The children gather for opening time and a brief message and then are given time to explore. The essence behind this first exposure is to teach faith by modeling behavior. The children learn practical skills as well as lessons on love, patience, tolerance, respect and other essential values.

For children 6 and up, our Sunday School is led by Fred Mills. This age group's classes combine Bible stories, social justice, care for the earth, and Christian and Lutheran anchoring in a structured and relaxed setting. How can it be both? Children gather around a weekly theme or Bible lesson and explore it through lesson, activities, crafts, song, and scripture. The children often offer ideas for elements of the time they spend together. They use computer modules and engage in various activities that relate practical life experiences to living the Christian life.

We invite you, whether you are 3, 8, 90 or ages in between, to come and visit our classes. You are always welcome but especially on September 11. We will gather in the chapel for the opening part, then go to the classrooms for the craft.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By Fred Mills and Lee Schray



A large group of Christ Lutheran members and friends socialized, had fun and learned about God's unfailing care for us during CLC's VBS on July 18-22. Altogether there were 24 kids and 29 adults. Each evening we had an opening in which we met people from the Bible who were Lost and Found, as dramatized by members of the CLC congregation. The Lost and Found stories were the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, the Prodigal Son, the Woman healed of a bleeding illness and Zacchaeus. Then we had great meals followed by activities. There were crafts (including a service project of housecleaning kits for new immigrants), games culminating in the much anticipated water balloon fights on Friday night, and finally, music and thoughtful discussion of the Bible stories led by Gerry Coleman. At the end of the evening everyone gathered again for music, faith witness, prayer and popsicles. The following Sunday VBS songs and stories were used as part of the worship service.

We are very thankful for the following adult participants who made this week a success: Howard Bell, Kendall Bentz, Tiffany Berry, Cheryl Beversdorf, David Blakemore, Suzy Cheston, Gerry Coleman, Karen Conley, Renata Eustis, David George, Clare McLaughlin, Paul McLaughlin, Annabelle Peake Markey, Beth Mills, Fred Mills, Alice Meyer, Joanne Noll, Pennie Noll, Linda Ott, Mack Ott, Matt Rist, Becky Robert, Sarah Rossing, LeeAnn Schray, Sharon Senghor, Bob Sylwester, Sara Sylwester, Rhea Ballard Thrower, Danielle Willis, Marilyn Zukel.

RECYCLING EYEGLASSES

If you are like me, you have several pairs of prescription eyeglasses that you no longer need. Here's how you can recycle them.

Janet Kelly is collecting all eyeglasses for the Lions club. The glasses are cleaned, sorted and sent all over the world and fitted by qualified ophthalmologists according to prescription. You can leave them in a box labeled Lions Club in the undercroft kitchen.

FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

After the "Listening Tour"

by Karin Klingman

Part of the training of a Stephen Minister is to learn about and practice listening. I guess this makes me more conscious of news items about "listening." I perked up when I heard on the radio that the President was going on a three-day "Listening Tour" a couple of weeks ago. And it seems that lots of our political leaders do these, because I did an internet search and up popped several others who had done the same. Listening is clearly important to our political leaders. But it's what happens after the listening that is probably more important, because that's when the problems are supposed to begin to get solved. Listening is an important part of Stephen Ministry too, though the process is a bit different. The Care Receiver tells their story. The Stephen Minister listens, with compassion and caring. By having someone listen to their story, the Care Receiver doesn't feel so alone, and they come to realize that someone cares. All this brings comfort to the Care Receiver. For political listening, the process ends within a defined period—the next election, but with Stephen Ministry the process takes as long as it needs to. Happily my analogy breaks down in other ways too, for example, Stephen Ministry listening and caring is non-judgmental, and it's confidential. And the "Stephen Ministry Listening Tour" ends with healing. If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Karin Klingman, Pastor Renata or Vicar Annabelle. There is a training class starting in the fall for new Stephen Ministers. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister visit with you, please contact Pastor Renata.

FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

RWANDA SCHOOL PROJECT POTLUCK DINNER

By Hetty Irmer



The potluck dinner on August 16th hosting Robin Strickler of the Rwanda School Project (RSP) was a smashing success! Nineteen people (including one 3-year-old) enjoyed delicious food and delightful conversation with one another and with Robin for the first part of the evening. Then, I invited everyone to introduce themselves so that we would all have a better feel for who had come to the event. I was

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pleased to notice that the evening drew a range of people including longtime members, recent visitors, and friends of CLC. Some folks wanted to know more about humanitarian work in Rwanda; others were interested in getting to know more about one of our yard sale beneficiaries.

And Robin did not let us down! She did a wonderful job of describing her journey to becoming the founder of RSP and the principal of the Rwamagana Lutheran School (RLS). She described how she was raised Lutheran in western VA and as an adult had been an educator in Japan for 8 years. On a home visit she met Rwandan seminarian John Rutsindintwarane who was studying in the States. They fell in love and married, and the question was, “What am I going to do in Rwanda?” She and John went to the Rwandan Ministry of Education to talk about possibilities. Lutheran World Relief had recently written a “white paper” on the need for secondary education in Rwanda, so Robin thought to herself, “Oh, I can start a secondary school!” She said she envisioned a little school house a la *Little House on the Prairie*. The reality has been much more complex, and continues to grow.

She first wanted it to be just a girls’ school, but John said, ‘no – boys need education too, for moral and ethical grounding, because they participated in the genocide.’ While she and John were hatching plans in Rwanda for a little school, the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA – which had become a sister synod with the newly formed Rwanda Lutheran Church – wanted to build a Lutheran congregation and school in Rwanda, sharing the premises and cooperating together. This is happening on the land that was purchased in 2005, and Robin said that it is “an interesting process to develop that teamwork.” The church and the Rwamagana Lutheran School are in the District of Rwamagana which is the capital of the Eastern Province of Rwanda. The School has been designated an “L’Ecole d’ Excellence”. This designation is both an honor and a large responsibility, and Robin sounded confident about her teachers’ and students’ capacity to live up to the title. She hopes that the first students who will graduate in about 5 years, will be well-positioned for entrance into good universities in neighboring countries.

The Current Rwanda

Robin then talked about the current political and social circumstances in Rwanda (which is a landlocked country in east Africa about the size of Maryland). She stated, “The government in about 1,000 different ways is on a good track for the development of the country. Nobody could have guessed 17 years ago [at the time of the 1994 genocide] that the country would be functioning as well as it is today. That’s a powerful thing to be a part of.” She went on: “Rwanda has embarked upon an experiment on: ‘How do you ask people who have participated in genocide and victims of genocide to come and live together?’” She said that question is being answered right at RLS, where students and staff come from both the (formerly named) Hutu and Tutsi tribes, and from families where individuals were both perpetrators of genocide and victims. About half of the current students are orphans and another quarter have only one parent. She stated that the most pressing issue for the students is not trauma from the genocide, but lack of parents – either from the genocide or from the AIDS epidemic. “In Rwanda, kids ask each other, ‘do you have parents?’ The boys often end up on the street, and the girls are literally stuck with distant relatives, which can be pretty difficult. Also, many children are ‘functionally orphaned’ because their parents are alive but cannot care for them due to illness or poverty.”

She also said that there is a lot of government pressure to get things moving in education. This government is the first in Rwanda’s history to offer universal primary education, but there is no system to enforce that. Therefore, 40-45% of students drop out before 6th grade. Girls especially, after the age of 10, are “indispensable to their families” the vast majority of whom are subsistence farmers. Girls fetch firewood, carry water, care for babies and the elderly, etc.

Priorities of Rwamagana Lutheran School

This led Robin to talk about the priorities of the RLS, which are radical in Rwanda. Their first priority is the education of girls, and they are actively seeking scholarships for girls (which is one possibility for the use of the yardsale funds). Their second priority is teacher pedagogy, and their third priority is

environmental sustainability. The pedagogy model is Expeditionary Learning, which Robin discovered when “God really stepped in” and she met a woman who taught this form of education when she and John were in Iowa. Elements of this Expeditionary Learning (which is what Outward Bound is based on) include cooperation; competing with a standard and not with other students; affirming statements and a positive code of conduct (rather than “a list of don’ts”); and a high level of personal responsibility.

The school will be a model for environmental sustainability in nearly every way possible – both through the curriculum and the construction of the buildings. The environmental issues in Rwanda are many: water pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, and energy issues to name a few. RLS will have solar power, passive lighting, roof water catchment, and chickens. They received a new grant for a biogas digester which will transform human and cow waste into methane gas. Robin hopes to eventually be able to power the kitchen and the chemistry lab with biogas; currently they are using firewood.

The School is Growing

We watched a video showing a photo montage of the building of the main school building and visitors from around the globe. Then Robin explained that, at full capacity, the school will have over 400 students in S1-S6 (equivalent to 7th-12th grade). They currently have 43 students, age 13-21, half boys and half girls, in S1 and S2. Twelve girls and 6 boys are living at the school because they need the better living environment in order to succeed in their studies. Robin told a heart-wrenching story of a 13-year-old girl who was doing poorly in class but clearly had kinesthetic intelligence. Robin thought, “If she can dance and move so well, she must have the capacity to learn other things.” Robin and a teacher visited the girl at her home, a mud and brick house where she lived with her grandmother, invalid mother and baby brother (maybe other siblings too?). They discovered that the girl had been the primary caretaker for her infant brother. The baby had gotten sick and she took him to the hospital and cared for him there as best she could, but he died. In addition, the grandmother relied on this girl to do many household tasks. But when the grandmother saw how much her granddaughter wanted to go to school and how Robin and the teacher were concerned for her, the grandmother offered to take on the girl’s chores so that she could live at the school. This young girl has experienced so much loss, and is being given a chance at a new life as a student at RLS.

The current dormitories are a small house that was on the property for the girls and a classroom for the boys. The bathrooms are rudimentary outhouses and makeshift showers. They want to build ten dorm rooms to house sixty students. This will provide housing not only for students like the girl above, but also for paying students. Robin said that the challenge is to attract students whose families can afford the \$1200/year tuition. And now that RLS is getting a good reputation, better off families are interested in sending their children there. But it is in the countryside – too far to commute from the capital city of Kigali. Robin explained that the #1 funding priority now is funds for the dormitories, which will cost a total of about \$240,000 (ten dorms at \$24k each). Another priority is solar power so that the school and dormitories can have consistent electricity; currently they have power for only a few hours a day.

A New Relationship

After Robin concluded her talk, we all gathered for a group photo. It was such a friendly evening; there really seemed to be a spirit of cooperation and community. And Robin was genuinely pleased to have been invited. She is very open to an ongoing relationship with us. Robin shared even more with us about the Rwanda School Project, but I have gone on long enough. Please feel free to ask me or anyone else in the photo about the evening!

\$176 was contributed to the Rwanda School Project in the offering basket, which we gave to Robin. Another \$280 has been contributed since then. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to the Rwanda School Project and give it to me. These contributions will be added to the yard sale check and mailed together.

REQUESTED PRAYERS

These we pray for,,,

By Elise Fisher

- Derek Keskar and his son Aaron were thankful for the time they spent together this summer as Aaron visited from Detroit. Aaron helped Derek with his catering business. He'll be a senior this year and "is thinking over my options.
- Herb Turvey is doing well and gaining weight at Springhouse of Silver Spring.
- Jan Beeching-Pieper is suffering the effects of a recently diagnosed brain tumor. She is the mother of Daniel, the first of the tenors of our augmented choir.
- Mary Hamer is now living at Marty Jewett's home. She can be reached by phone, 202-882-7490 or by mail, 5318 Colorado Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20011. Mary would love to see you or hear from you. She is very grateful for the loving care that has been extended by CLC.

And for all those in our prayers we offer the words of an old collect for Compline, attributed to St Augustine: Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, . . . and all for your love's sake. Amen

IN MEMORIAM CLARITA STROBERG

CLARITA AMANDA CLAUSSEN CRAIGIE STROBERG

By Alice Meyer

of Silver Spring, MD died August 25, 2011 at Springhouse Assisted Living in Silver Spring with Montgomery Hospice Care. Ms. Stroberg had been a resident of Silver Spring for over 45 years. She was born in Chicago, IL on October 27, 1913 to Marie and Ernest Claussen, Both her parents had emigrated from Germany. Her parents divorced several years after Ms. Stroberg's birth. She grew up with her mother in Birmingham, AL. In 1927 Clarita and her mother travelled to Germany to handle some property her mother had inherited. During the year they were there, Clarita became fluent in German. They returned to Birmingham where Clarita attended high school and Birmingham-Southern College. She graduated in May 1935 with a Bachelor of Arts. She then went to the University of Iowa where she taught German. She moved to Washington DC to teach German at George Washington University. She and Stanton Craigie had a short marriage which ended in divorce. She then began working for the Health, Education and Welfare Department of the US Government as a personnel classifier. She continued to work for the government in several agencies receiving a promotion in each agency. She worked for the government over 30 years. On February 5, 1983 she married Harold Rae Stroberg. Mr. Stroberg died on January 29, 1985. Ms. Stroberg leaves no immediate relatives but remained close to Mr. Stroberg's nieces and nephews.

On September 6 there will a graveside service for her in Sycamore, IL where Harold Stroberg is buried. There will be a memorial service celebrating her life on September 17, 2pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 5101 16th Street NW, Washington, DC. In remembrance of Clarita's life, contributions may be made to Christ Lutheran Church.

YARD SALE

32nd ANNUAL SALE - SEPTEMBER 24 and 25

By Joanne Noll

Heat and "sweat equity" are by-words for the 2011 benefit Yard Sale, especially for those who have given their time gathering our terrific inventory for this year. Folks have been so generous with their donations we decided to have a furniture only "pre-sale" on August 20. Now we are setting our sights toward the "big event". Keep bringing in your donations! Clothes on hangers, please!

Dates this year are Saturday, September 24, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, September 25, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. The big garage is full and there is still plenty of furniture in the undercroft. The garage was priced August 27. After August 28 signs were hung and the undercroft was rearranged to pile up furniture, set tables, etc. Ideally all donations should be delivered by "carry out" day September 11. We will need all workers on Saturday, September 24, and 30-40 people on Sunday, September 25, for half-price day. Last year we had lines each day.

The house clean-out/estate/sale/delivery/garage crew has been working hard all year to "truck" the inventory you see (and a lot you don't see). Helping so far were Kendall Bentz, David Blakemore, Jeanne Buster, Ellon Carpenter, Nigel Chun, Charles Fortson, Beth Mills, Joanne Noll, Mack Ott, Scott Pitner, Bob & Sara Sylwester, Norm Theiss, Desta Tesemma, Jackson Visser, Marilyn Zukel. In addition about 19 people helped with the furniture pre-sale.

Here is the SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:

SEPTEMBER 11: After church help CARRY OUT items from storage to tables in the undercroft. Coffee hour downstairs too!

SEPTEMBER 12-16: Daytime and evening workers SORT donations into departments. Hours from 10:00 am until .? Bring a bag lunch. It's fun to see what's in the boxes! The jewelry team needs helpers too! Call Janet Kelly at 301-593-4910 or 301-754-7059.

SEPTEMBER 19-23: Day and evening workers PRICE items for sale. We'll need lots of people every day. If you wish to work in the evening, call ahead to be sure you can get into the building.

SEPTEMBER 24: BIG SALE DAY, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Outside workers come at 8:00 am or before. Inside workers come at 8:30 am. NOTE THE EARLY TIMES (we'll have the coffee on). There will be loads of stuff to take outside from the big garage, undercroft, narthex, and Parish Hall. We need everyone! The lunch crew will be on duty.

EAR OF CHRIST

From Bob Sylwester:*****ST OLAF'S COLLEGE GREAT CHORAL
MUSIC*******

For great choral music that matches the Sunday's Biblical readings, go to web site "www.singforjoy.org". Click on "Listen" and then click on "PLAY". The site is hosted by St. Olaf's College and you can choose the music associated with the readings for the next Sunday or the previous week. Choral groups from around the world are featured and the program is truly "Grand Music Gracious Word" as noted in the heading of their monthly newsletter.

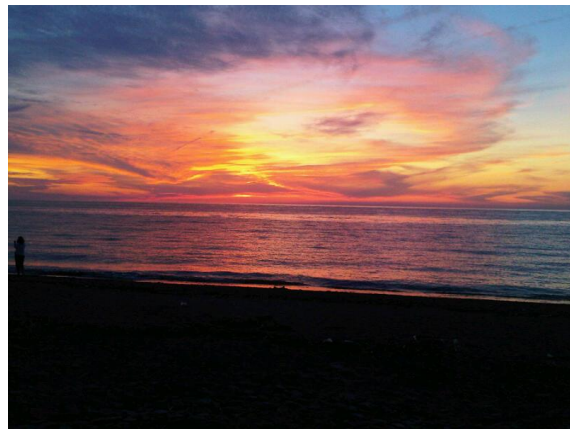
From the Higgins - Irmer household:

- **Brian** went to western Virginia at the end of July with a group from Church of the Saviour to learn about Mountaintop removal coal mining. He found it to be a very moving experience -- both upsetting and inspiring to meet a small group of Christian activists there who are doing what they can to change the situation.

-- **Hetty and Clementine** went to Anna Maria Island (gulf coast of Florida) in early August for an annual family reunion. Good times with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, and lots of pool swimming was done by a little fishie named Clemi!

-- In September, **Clementine** will begin full-day preschool at the Center for Young Children at the University of Maryland. We are excited for this new stage -- once we get over the first transitional weeks!

Photo of sunset over Lake Erie from
Karin Klingman's summer travels.



From **Jeanne Buster**:

As long as I'm still standing upright and able to walk, my plans for this fall include:

On September 26, I will be in Minnesota for the annual family outing at our Ottertail Lake cabin before closing it up for the winter.

On October 11, a former work colleague and I will be flying to Berlin, via Frankfurt, before heading out by train to re-visit Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and the Czech Republic) for three weeks.

Each year, I spend Thanksgiving week in London with friends; this year, I also plan to include a visit with a friend in Brussels before heading back to London and home.

The **Kelly Family** vacationed in the Outer Banks (Salvo), N.C. Dean and Janet rented a house with Bryan, Amy, and grandchildren Zachary, Casey and Austin. Sharon and Paul were able to come down for a few days too, so it was a really fun family time! Beautiful weather - all too short (as most vacations are!!)

Mack Ott's book, on which he has been working since 2003, will be published sometime in 2012 by Transaction Publishers, Inc., the official press for Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey. The book, *The Political Economy of Nation Building, the World's Unfinished Business*, examines the origins of the liberal nation state in its key institutions that evolved in England between the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the Glorious Revolution of 1688—the rule of law, private property rights, separation of faith and governance and autonomous financial policy—drawing implications for contemporary economic growth and political development based on these institutions, assessing the challenges of economic inequality and populism to liberal nationhood. The Anglo-centric focus is due to the large number of political institutions that originated in England, including Parliament, the modern central bank, political parties and a largely politically free press. I am very excited about this coming event, a first in the Ott household that, *Messenger* September Edition 2011

like many things at CLC, could not have happened without the support, patience, and faith of Linda. There will be a book-signing at CLC when this elusive tome finally is in print.

On other fronts, Mack is negotiating with a consulting contractor in Barcelona, DFC Group, on a contract for extensive work in Kigali, Rwanda during 2011-13, at the central bank relating to Rwanda's accession to the East African Monetary Union. Simultaneously, he is also negotiating through this Group for a position advising the State Bank of Vietnam on its research capacity. Stay tuned for further developments—pictures at 11!

On August 31st, 2011, Anita Josey Herring, Josh Herring and Asia Christian, were invited to have a private tour of White House by the Director of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske.

From Jana & James Shepperd: On a warm and sunny Sunday, August 14, our second daughter Margareta Coralie, was baptized at the Bratislava International Church and welcomed into the Lord's family. Her sponsors were Matthew and Lucia Rist as well as Michaela Fellnerova and Matthias Foeldeak, Jana's first cousins. "Gretka" Coralie, as we call her, charmed Pastor Misina with her big brown eyes and seemed to enjoy the holy sprinkling.



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On August 31st, 2011, Anita Josey Herring, Josh Herring and Asia Christian, were invited to have a private tour of White House by the Director of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske.

FROM LUTHERANS CONCERNED

Greetings, LC/MWDC friends of an inclusive church which welcomes ALL!

Please join us on Friday evening, September 23, for the LC/MWDC (Lutherans Concerned/Metro Washington DC) Chapter banquet!

We are pleased and honored to announce that our guest speaker will be Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, retired Anglican bishop in Uganda. The ministry he leads, the St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre in Kampala, has been the lone voice for reason and Christian reconciliation in a country where many—including many religious leaders—advocate that homosexuality (or even befriending those thought to be GLBT) should be a capital offense. The bishop himself has been the target of death threats and condemnations.

During his US visit, Bishop Senyonjo will also visit Union Seminary (NYC) to participate in a consultation for religious and secular leaders concerned with the exportation of homophobia to Uganda and other parts of Africa. He is being honored with Union's distinguished Alumni Award.

A silent auction will be held to benefit SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Action League), the St. Paul's *Messenger* September Edition 2011

Foundation for International Reconciliation (the US-based organization which supports the Bishop's work in Uganda), and LC/MWDC.

The host Reconciling in Christ congregation is again the Lutheran Church of the Reformation (212 E Capitol St NE). The social hour starts at 6:30 pm; the banquet follows at 7:30. Dress is business casual.

Tickets are \$25 (basic) and \$40 (patron). Please RSVP soon to Philip Moeller (202-543-1282) or pwmoeller@aol.com.

HIV/AIDS REPORT FROM KARIN KLINGMAN

I usually travel around upstate NY and western PA in the summer visiting family, friends and avoiding the heat of a mid-Atlantic, which I did do this year in mid-August. But for work, I usually attend one of the big International AIDS meetings. This year was the biennial International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention held this time in Rome, Italy. The International AIDS Society is an interesting organization, comprised of not just the medical and biologic researchers who work in HIV AIDS, but also the social scientists and the patient advocates. So even though Rome was the "hard sciences meeting," it had a broader viewpoint. The next meeting in the Society's biennial schedule of international meetings is the "big one", the World AIDS Conference, to be held July 22-27, 2012 in Washington, DC. That meeting covers the whole breadth of the Society: science, society, and policy. The meeting will be in the US for the first time since 1990 because when the US Government imposed a travel ban prohibiting people living with HIV from coming into the country, the Society refused to have further meetings in the US. (President Obama lifted the ban shortly after taking office in January 2011.) The World AIDS Conference has a history of being an activist conference. It was during the 2000 Durban Conference that the activists and scientists got the South African government to come to grips with the disease ravishing its population and forced promises from the government and pharmaceutical companies to bring treatment to the millions living with the infection. In 2002, at the Barcelona meeting, Tommy Thompson, then the HHS Secretary was booed off the stage by activists off the stage. They were protesting the US "funding gap" for support of the Global Fund and for the US policy of funding abstinence-only programs and not other programs promoting a broader range of prevention modalities. After that, the Bush administration slashed funding support for the conference and limited travel of US government employees to the meetings, which brought criticism from Bill Gates at the 2006 Toronto conference. One wonders therefore what will be in store for us when about 25,000 attendees and the conference returns to the US for the first time in 22 years, during a presidential election year, to the city with the highest HIV prevalence in the US? I wonder, too, what we as a community of caring people should consider doing for that week in July when our city will be the focus of the world's HIV/AIDS community and its attendant press coverage? We should begin thinking about this now as a church and as a synod. Our church, the synod, and nationally, have a history of supporting HIV/AIDS outreach and education. Planning for next year's conference will begin soon. Watch the bulletin for meetings and discussions that will take place over the next few months.



FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear friends,

I am writing you as I wait for the bus back to the Orlando airport. The Churchwide Assembly has just

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ended. I am tired, and very tired of sitting. And I am very proud of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I saw and heard evidence at the Assembly that we are a church determined to put faith into action. We approved a new campaign to work against malaria throughout the world (and I learned that in our synod group at the Assembly there were two people who had themselves almost died from malaria as children). We approved material related to the LIFT Task Force to renew the lives of congregations in our church. And we wrestled with issues that will help us make faithful Christian witness in this decade and into the more distant future.

The Churchwide Assembly addressed several issues important to our synod. Our memorials on working for justice and peace for Palestine and Israel formed the basis for a document the Assembly overwhelmingly adopted. I had several conversations, including one with the Secretary General of the Lutheran World Federation, about our memorial on the persecution of the Oromo people in Ethiopia. The memorial we adopted against bullying was adopted by the whole church.

By the way, the Assembly was addressed by the new president of Lutheran Men in Mission, who turns out to be Rich White from St. Andrew's in Centreville in our synod.

The worship services were the high points of every day. The preaching was powerful and the music was glorious. I prayed for our synod. And I prayed for our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I'll be glad to tell you in more detail how many signs of life and hope and grace I saw at the Assembly. God has showered us with blessings and opportunities. God has set us free in Christ to serve in the world. I am grateful to be able to do this with you.

In Jesus,
Dick Graham
The Rev. Richard H. Graham
Bishop
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FROM THE NEW MESSENGER EDITOR

I follow Linda Ott who did an excellent job as the editor for 5 or 6 years. I'd like to know if there is anything you would like to see in the Messenger. I'm open to any suggestions. Have something for the next edition? Send it to CLCMessenger@gmail.com

Thanks,
Alice Meyer

The following important information is copied from the last issue.

The *Messenger* is CLC's primary paper source for news about our congregation and community.

Want to go paperless and receive the Messenger electronically? Let the church office know and look for the *Messenger* on CLC's website www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messenger.pdf.

Looking for an old *Messenger*? Back issues from July 2008 to the present are on our website www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messengerarchive.html