



Tower Echoes

The Monthly Newsletter of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church
7500 Greenwood Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.783.2350 — www.prlc.org

Volume 56, Issue Nine

November, 2009

Second Annual Inter-faith Thanksgiving Eve Service to crown November's activities...

Wednesday evening
25 November
7:30 p.m.
Join with Muslims,
Christian, Buddhists
and Jews who are our
neighbors to praise
God in the unique
ways that we worship
and *give thanks*.



If you'd like to be a part of a combined choir for the service, come to the Tree of Life Room for rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. the night of the service.

If you'd like to be a part of the hospitality team for the evening, sign up on Count Me In on Sunday mornings, or call the church office to volunteer (206) 783-2350. The night of the event, please bring either a pie or another "finger food" to share as a part of the reception. Be sure to provide an index card with the recipe or ingredients of your *hors d'oeuvre*.



You may bring offerings of non-perishable food items to be used locally, or gifts of cash to assist with the international hunger crisis. This year our offerings this year will be shared with the World Food Program.



Holiday Office Hours

Please note, the church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, 26-27 November in observance of Thanksgiving. If you are in need of emergency pastoral assistance at this or any other time the church office is closed, please call the on-call emergency pager at 206-579-3766.

In the Family

Death

Metta Farmer
died 11 October

Baptized

Ian Calvert
25 October

Jacob Hostetler
25 October

Evelyn Croffut
1 November

10th Annual Turkey Trot

Enjoy the morning after Thanksgiving with your friends and neighbors walking, running, strolling, skipping or skating your way around Green Lake! All funds raised will benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Sponsor sheets are available in the church office or Grace Station on Sunday mornings.

Green Lake Aqua Theater
Friday, November 27

Check in and Registration 8:30-9 a.m.

Start time: 9:15 a.m.

General Fund Snapshot

	September	Year to Date
Income	56,635	543,208
Expenses	64,037	556,085
Net Income (loss)	(7,402)	(12,877)

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church

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office@prlc.org

Church Staff E-mail Addresses:

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Sunday Schedule:

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Education at 10:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadlines:

December 2009	November 25 (for 12/3 mailing)
January 2010	December 24 (for 12/31 mailing)
February 2010	January 29 (for 2/4 mailing)

The mission of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church is to provide a place to worship God, to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to reach out to the community.

First Communion Classes

To Parents of Young Children at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church-

It's our pleasure to invite your young son or daughter to join us for three Saturday morning classes that will prepare them for their first communion. Few opportunities for teaching give me as much joy as this! I am hoping that your child(ren) can join us for classes at the following times:

Saturday morning, 9:30 to 10:30am on 7, 14, 21 November.

We will gather in room 303.

Following these classes, your child will be welcome to receive his or her first communion.

For the first class on 7 November I would like to have at least one parent or other adult sponsor present. After that, I will work with the students without parents present, and invite you back for the closing portion of our class on 21 November, joining us at about 10:30am.

Please let me know of your plans to have your son or daughter participate.

Grace and Peace,

Abigail Jiménez
Children and Family Minister

New Additions to the Church Library

It's Not About the Hair and Other Certainties of Life & Cancer by Debra Jarvis.

This easy to read, funny, spiritual and touching book is the first hand account of a year's journey through the surprising diagnosis of breast cancer and subsequent chemotherapy treatment of an oncology chaplain at Seattle's Cancer Care Alliance. With humor and grace, Debra frankly describes the physical and emotional aspects of diagnosis and treatment and skillfully and compassionately addresses death and dying. Look for it in the Aging/Suffering/Grief Section.

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson

This book is now available in several formats: Audio book; Young Reader and Children's Book. An unexpected package arrived in the mail at PRLC one day. It was an unsolicited gift from Queen Anne Bookstore. The box contained copies of this book in several formats. Look for the young readers book and the children's book in the Children's section and the regular adult version and the audio book in the Spirited Women section. While looking around, you may find some other wonderful books of interest. You are welcome to check out books at any time.

Books of Seasonal Interest

Reformation Day is like a poke in the ribs to celebrate our uniquely Lutheran heritage. In the sections marked "Theology" and "Luther" there is a fine selection of resources such as Martin Marty's little book on Baptism, *Lutheran Questions*, *Lutheran Answers* and *When Faiths Collide*.

The coming of Advent is a great time to search out daily devotional books. Daily devotions are a wonderful help to help you or your family stay grounded in the Word Made Flesh through the hectic pre-Christmas season. Look for resources in the Advent/Christmas section or speak to me directly about borrowing one from my personal library.

Around the Parish & Beyond

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

Our dynamic group of men who share breakfast conversation and Bible Study is always open to and welcoming of new members. Come join us on Saturday 21 November 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Tree of Life Room. Breakfast is served first, then Pastor Hoffman will lead us in a study of Philippians 4:4-9.

Circle Bible Study Groups in November

•Mary/Martha

11 November at 1 p.m. in Tree of Life

•Bethany

16 November at 9:30 a.m.

•Salem

18 November at 9:30 a.m. at Mabel Rockness

Our text for this month's Bible study is Philippians 4:4-9. In these six short verses, St. Paul lays out the depth and breadth of Christian hope and responsibility. It's a perfect text to study together as we prepare for the celebration of Christ the King, Thanksgiving, and the beginning of a new church year as Advent approaches.

Advent Memorial Service

Each year we gather together a group of Phinney members and friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one. While the rest of the world celebrates, the Christmas holiday season can be one of the most difficult for those who grieve. Come to this service to be fed by God's word and the comforting message of hope that Christmas brings to all people.

DATE	Thursday, 17 December
TIME	3 and 7 p.m.
PLACE	PRLC Sanctuary

Greenwood Fire Response

As you probably know by now, a devastating fire ravaged a stretch of 85th St recently destroying four businesses that were mainstays of our community. While we rejoice that there was no loss of life, the loss of property and livelihood was formidable. Opportunities have sprung from the ashes to assist in the recovery of the individuals and families adversely affected by the fire. We will keep you posted on future volunteer opportunities to help our neighbors, but if you'd like to be involved immedi-

ately, send an email to help@greenbeancoffee.org. You will be notified as needs arise. Also, a Greenwood Fire Relief Fund is growing at the Chase branch on 85th and Greenwood, and you can keep up to speed on the recovery process at www.greenbeancoffee.org.

Eucharistic Sharing in a World of Need

If you want a stronger connection between your ministry of service and your Sunday worship, then don't miss *Eucharistic Sharing in a World of Need*, on Saturday 21 November, at St. John United Lutheran Church, Seattle. The event will feature two presentations by Dr. Samuel Torvend, Professor of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University, small group sharing about our congregations' ministries on behalf of the hungry, eucharist and a simple celebratory lunch.

Time: 8:45 AM – 1 PM

Where: St. John United Lutheran, 5515 Phinney

Cost: a non-perishable food item and/or cash donation for local food banks plus optional lunch-time donations for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. To sign up, email Carol Jensen, revcjensen@gmail.com by 18 November.

On Thursday evening, 12 November, there will be an area-wide celebration to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. This is a historic agreement between Lutherans and Roman Catholics on a divisive issue at the time of the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

Western Washington Lutherans and Roman Catholics Gather Together

Thursday, 12 November 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Madeleine Sophie Roman Catholic Church
4400 130th Place SE – Bellevue

Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, worship leader
Bishop Wm. Chris Boerger, homilist

Phinney Ridge Gospel Choir
St. Madeline Sophie Contemporary Choir

Reception to follow.

The Offertory and the Eucharist

Ritual Actions Speak Louder than Words

Our return to the renewed sanctuary on August 30 presented a time to refresh some of our liturgical practices. Our actions, especially ritual actions, convey meaning as well as perform a function. You've probably noticed some changes in the ritual actions before and after the Eucharist. Here's some background on the recent modifications to our ritual action in regard to the Eucharist.

The Table

The table around which we gather as the body of Christ is reminiscent of tables at which Jesus sat and broke bread with his disciples. We are particularly reminded of the Last Supper and of the table at Emmaus, where the resurrected Christ was made known in the breaking of the bread.

We set the Lord's Table as we would our own for an important gathering and celebration. We set it with care and with our best. We use clean linens, our finest serving pieces and we act with the honor and dignity that the meal deserves. The table is prepared when the meal is ready to be presented and when the meal is finished, the table is cleared.

The Offertory

The Eucharistic liturgy always follows the gathering of offerings from the community. In most instances, this is a gathering of money given from the treasure God has given us which we then return to be used for the mission of Christ in the world.

One of the Offertory Prayers in our Sunday liturgy includes these words:

*You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts*

Following the offering of money by the ushers, the eucharistic ministers, on behalf of the whole congregation, bring forward the bread and wine to be used in Holy Communion. When presented along with the gifts of treasure, we make an offering of simple elements from our lives (bread and wine) to be made holy by Christ. Just as Christ blesses us, common and imperfect as we are, Christ blesses the gifts we bring and makes them a means of forgiveness and grace for all who receive them.

Liturgy (our pattern of worship) is literally *the work of the people*. To be engaged in this work is to have it come from our very lives and our hearts. Think about your actions in worship and those of the worship leaders. Ritual action is meaningless unless it conveys something that adds meaning to the experience. If you have questions about worship or ritual action, please feel free to ask so that your worship will be rich.



Save-the-Date Advent Events

Advent Event **Sunday, 29 November, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall**
Everyone is invited to come and enjoy refreshments and Advent activities between morning services in preparation for this holy season.

The WAY Advent Social **Sunday Evening , 6 December, Narthex**

Children's Choir Evening Prayer **Sunday, 6 December at 7 p.m.**

Gospel Choir Christmas Concert **Saturday, 12 December at 4 p.m.**

"Hope, A Healing Christmas Celebration"

Please join us for a celebration of the season as we raise money and awareness for breast cancer education and early detection.

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting **Sunday, 13 December at 12:30**
Meeting in Fellowship Hall, over light lunch, we ratify our 2010 budget

Advent Memorial Services **Thursday 17 December 3 & 7 p.m.**
Come to this service to be fed by God's word and the comforting message of hope that Christmas brings to all people.

Annual Food Bank Christmas Distribution **Tuesday, 22 December**

Christmas Eve Liturgies **Thursday, 24 December**
5 p.m. Service led by Angel, Cherub, Choristers, and Youth Choirs
The Christmas Story from Luke 2 and Holy Communion

11 p.m. Candle Light Service led by Chancel Choir

Christmas Day Service **Friday, 25 December at 11 a.m.**

The Back Page, by Pastor Hoffman

I've always believed in grass-roots ecumenism. Let's use the example of Lutherans and Roman Catholics. By grass-roots, I mean that it has always made sense to me that our unity would be much more likely to begin from one next door neighbor to another talking about their experiences in their respective churches than it would at the level of formal, international dialogues between the leaders of the two faiths. When a Lutheran woman marries a Roman Catholic man, the families get to know one another and learn that "people are people." We have more in common than we might have imagined.

Congregations working together – say, Lutherans and United Methodists soon learn (as we did right here this September!) that our services are much the same. We each cherish God's Word, and love to receive the sacraments. We know many of the same hymns, our prayers are fervent cries to God for many of the same concerns. We even both have bishops! Suddenly, it's not so strange any more to worship in a congregation different from our own. We might be as likely on vacation to step in to a Methodist Church or a Roman Catholic Church as we might a Lutheran congregation.

Much the same can be said with our relationships with other faiths. I remember upon first coming to Seattle that I took a group of middle school students to visit the Idris Mosque in Northgate one summer afternoon. Shortly after I pulled the van into the parking lot I realized that I had no idea how to act once I crossed the threshold. Would I take my shoes off? Would people here greet me by shaking hands? Would the boys be separated from the girls?

Last year about this time, men and women of goodwill from local Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish communities sat with one another in our narthex and, week after week, planned a Thanksgiving service that was almost unbelievable. We listened and we spoke, we tried our best to learn from one another, about one another. It was grass-roots. Person to person. The most amazing thing happened! Those of us who planned the service became friends! We've had a year of e-mail communications. We have shared joys and challenges since last year's service. And, best of all, we have gathered together again to plan for an "second annual" Thanksgiving Eve Inter-faith Service. Everyone was so overjoyed by the hospitality and the wonder of the service here at Phinney that the group decided that we should come here again this year. And so we will! Wednesday evening, 25 November at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendar, NOW!

Since last Thanksgiving Eve, I have – along with many of you – visited the synagogue and the mosque to worship with our new friends. We were even invited as a part of our visit to the Masjid Umar Al-Farooq to "make wudu." That is, to participate in the ritual washing that prepares one for daily prayers. That's not an experience I ever thought I'd have! But being together has made us closer, more understanding, and better able to appreciate one another's lives and faiths.

It's a good and salutary thing to pray for and work for world peace and global understanding at all sorts of macro-levels. I am proud to belong to a church body that has such rich, varied, and excellent resources as inter-faith dialogues and Lutheran World Relief. But there's something about sitting one to one, toe to toe, shoulder to shoulder to some one who loves God in their understanding of God as much as I do in my own way of thinking about God. From my perspective, this is a great way to begin to make the world a more compassionate place for everyone.

I hope you can join the congregation for services on Thanksgiving Eve. You won't regret having been part of making the world a better place.

In Christ,
Pastor Hoffman

Save a Tree
Get this newsletter by email!
Send your name and email to
office@prc.org

TIME VALUE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

7500 Greenwood Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103

 PHINNEY RIDGE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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You are invited!

Intergenerational Advent Event

The first Sunday in Advent

November 29

9:45-10:45am

Fellowship Hall

We hope everyone
will join us for fun and fellowship
to celebrate the
season of holy anticipation.

Enjoy refreshments, make Advent wreathes, paper chains and more...