

# Unity News

Vol. 62, No. 9

Seventy-Seventh Anniversary Year!

September 2010

## ---from Pastor Karen

### “CAN WE TALK...?”

Unity Ev. Lutheran Church  
8454 Glen Echo Drive  
Bel-Nor, Missouri 63121

**Pastor Karen Scherer**

**home phone: 385-6959**

**cell phone: 954-0306**

**Church Office:**

**phone: 314-382-4241**

**fax: 314-382-0475**

**Website:**

[www.unitybelnor-elca.org](http://www.unitybelnor-elca.org)

**e-mail:**

[office@unitybelnor-elca.org](mailto:office@unitybelnor-elca.org)

[newsletter@unitybelnor-elca.org](mailto:newsletter@unitybelnor-elca.org)

#### Unity Council Leaders

**President: Steve Webb**

**Pres-Elect: Jeanine Arrighi**

**Secretary: Leeann Kemper**

**Treasurer: Barb Klingsick**

#### **Council Members-at-Large:**

**Barb Hohl**

**Marilyn Oonk**

**Steve Reise**

**Sharon Repp**

**Evelyn Williams**

Do you remember how Joan Rivers used to engage audiences in her comedy sketches with this now famous line, “Can we talk...?” Well, that’s what the Council is calling us to do over the next few months – talk. “Talk about what?” you ask. Well, several things, but first a little background.

#### BACKGROUND

A little over a year and a half ago, several people asked about our becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. An RIC congregation is one that seeks to make clearer both in policy and practice that all people are welcome as full members, regardless of their sexual orientation, their gender identity or that of their children, siblings or friends.

In June of last year, a panel of people from Bethel, the only RIC congregation in the Metro area, was invited to speak to the congregation at the annual meeting to open the conversation and see if we wanted to explore this as a possibility for us. The consensus at that meeting was that this would be a positive step for us to take.

Since that time, a small group reviewed the ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality, which was adopted by the 2009 ELCA National Assembly.

*Please turn to page 2*



***Pastor Karen, from page 1***

In the spring we hosted the Rev. Bill and Valerie Yancey from Bethel who shared their experiences of becoming an RIC congregation some 18 years ago.

**LET'S TALK**

It is clear that while many who have attended these sessions are ready to move ahead, there are also many who are struggling with this. In addition, there are many in the congregation who have not attended these sessions. There is question as to whether people are afraid to speak their concerns for fear of offending or being seen in a bad light, or whether they are just not interested.

It's not easy talking honestly with one another about tough issues. Yet, any congregation/community that wants to be healthy and whole needs to learn to do so. Living in community doesn't mean we agree on everything. What it means is that we are committed – committed to God and to one another, to caring for one another, and serving with one another.

It also means that we must learn to listen and speak to one another in ways that enable honest, open conversation and promote respect for varying perspectives. When we do not do this invisible walls go up that separate us from genuine relationship – that's deadly.

So, can we talk?

Beginning Sunday, September 5, at 10:45 a.m., we will begin a series of discussions aimed at helping us talk – talk about tough

issues, our varying perspectives on homosexuality, Biblical interpretation, and whether we should become an RIC congregation. Every session will be important, so it is critical that you attend as many as possible.

I invite, I encourage, I implore you to come and participate, and pray that this time might help us grow in faith and community, honoring our diversity, as we listen and share with one another.

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”  
Philippians 1:6

Pastor Karen

***Dear Pastor Karen and Unity's Congregation--***

***Many thanks fo ryour thoughtfulness, your kindness, and your friendship. I thank all of you for making my work at Unity such a wonderful and memorable experience. Words cannot express my gratitude and how much my life has been enriched because of people like you. I was from the very beginning by your care and generosity to those in need, both in the local community and throughout the world. Unity will always hold a special place in my heart.***

***Yours,***

***Errie Reaves***

July 2, 2010

Dear Rev. Scherer,

The Department of Music, University of Missouri--St. Louis, very much appreciates the many kindnesses extended to us by Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The use of your beautiful facilities, the fine piano and organ truly enhance our programming. The students and faculty are grateful for your sharing. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

Yours,

Robert W. Nordman, Chair  
E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in

Music

### Save the Date

The annual '***Fantasy Faire***' dinner auction for Lutheran High Schools is Saturday, **November 20, 2010** at the Hilton St. Louis-Frontenac Hotel. Co-chairs Christine Hudson and Kathy Odegard invite you to join your friends for this evening's fun. Further information from the LHSA at [lhsastl.org](http://lhsastl.org).

Catholic Charities' '**St. Jane Center**' invites area residents to join its daily hot lunch program. In addition to tasty meals served at St. Ann Catholic Church at the Normandy Wedge, the St. Jane Center offers opportunities to meet new friends, bingo games, exercise clubs, trips to the supermarket and drugstore, special outings and guest speakers. Call the office at 314-383-6539 x102 to sign up today.

**Unity Gardening Help Wanted** - You are cordially invited to join the **Unity Garden Club** - no rules, no dues, just the satisfaction of a job well done. The invitation starts this spring. Grab your gardening gloves, some tools friends and family. Pick a day and make it a party or go solo. Here's what needs to be done: edge around beds and lawn area, mulch (order it, spread it), pull weeds, adopt a bed to care for, plant annuals as they arrive, rake (sweet gum balls), trim bushes, other.

**Books for Veterans** - Please bring used books (no magazines, please) to furnish the library at Jefferson Barracks. Please place in box in the narthex.

**Thanks from Immanuel**- *Thank you on behalf of Immanuel Lutheran Church for your continued support of our ministry. With your donations we were able to pay our monthly expenses. Unity's donations are blessings and again we thank you.*

Pastor Winston Loyd Jr.



## Lutheran School of Theology Offerings

### FALL CURRICULUM BEING READIED

Three courses and a workshop are the core of the Michaelmas 2010 term. At Trinity Lutheran, Chesterfield, Dr. Jim Kelhofer will teach the letters of Paul not covered in the spring term. Dr. Edward Schroeder and Rev. Ron Neustadt will team teach Lutheran Confessions focusing on the Augsburg Confession at Bethel Lutheran, University City. We are hopeful that an option will be to offer this class for seminary credit by an arrangement with Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Dr. Warren Crews will teach a course on "The Reformation(s)" at St. Mark Lutheran in Belleville.

A workshop will be offered on October 21 by Dr. Ed Krentz, professor emeritus at Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. The topic is "The Gospel of Matthew." The location is Unity Lutheran, Bel-Nor.



### PREACHING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT UNITY

The Rev. Dr. Edgar Krentz, Christ Seminary-Seminex, Professor of New Testament-Emeritus, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, author and lecturer will be at Unity on Thursday, October 21, to teach a preaching seminar on "Creating Identity: Preaching in the Year of Matthew."

Matthew seeks to strengthen his readers' commitment by strengthening their identity as members of the Jesus-Disciple community. Dr. Krentz will stress his great sermons, his use of the Old Testament, and special concerns reflected in his gospel.

This is part of the Michaelmas 2010 course offerings from the Lutheran School of Theology (LST) here in St. Louis. LST is a ministry of the Metro St. Louis Coalition of ELCA congregations. Established in 1995, LST offers unique learning opportunities for lay people, professional church workers, and candidates for theological degrees.

## September Birthdays

**9- Juliana Arrighi**  
**17- Jack Krone**  
**21- Pat Lilienkamp**  
**24- Marge Allen**  
**27- Steve Webb**  
**30- Gerald Arana**

Among the several offerings at LST are courses in biblical studies, systematic theology, religious education, church history, ecumenism, and church leadership. LST is committed to challenging and enriching study as well as practical application of the Word of God as it speaks to our times. All courses are grounded in the evangelical and catholic heritage of the Lutheran tradition, nourishing the life of the whole Church through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One-day workshop:

Thursday, Oct. 21

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$68, lunch included in price

Required Text: Your English Bible,

Recommended: Greek New Testament (or the Kurt Aland, Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum),

# September

United and  
Nurtured in Christ we are  
Inspired by the Holy Spirit  
Tell the Good News through worship, witness, education, and service to  
Young and Old

	1	2	3	4
5	9am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Education 4pm Holy Rollers Cycling	7pm Worship Cte 8pm Handbells	9:30 LLIM @ Unity 7:30 Stewardship	8:30 Jazzercise
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We thank these faithful members who provide Fellowship goodies in September:

- 5- Jeanine Arrighi
- 12- Evelyn Williams
- 19- Kathy & Gerry Arana
- 19- Ruth & Herb Hohenstein

August 2010							October 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## **Immanuel Happenings**

Janis Hutchingson, the Program Administrator, is getting to know more neighbors and they know her. Residents come into the building to talk to her. Enjoyed a successful Vacation Bible School with 28 kids (she had been expecting 25). More families are attending worship on Sundays. Rev. Winston is asking the congregation members to pray with him during worship service and the children are coming forward to pray voluntarily. Spiritual development is growing!

There was concern about the structure, wiring and plumbing of the building. A plumber went through the building and determined the plumbing pipes to be intact but that the outside gutters needed cleaning and that may have been the basement water problems. With the assurance of the plumber, the basement room will begin to be reconstructed with cubicles for workstations. COPE could use the cubicles and computers for job training and job searching. The basement windows need replacing. Please be on the lookout for 4 cubicles, desks and chairs. Janis needs another office desk -- the one she uses now is so big it takes up 25% of her office and the drawers don't open.

A suggestion was made to contact local farmers about donating produce for the neighbors.

Future plans for the remainder of 2010:

October -- 16 and 23 a winter clothing giveaway (deadline for collecting October 1; really needs men's clothing).. She would also like to serve chili.

October Halloween Party

November -- Thanksgiving food baskets. Goal is 20 families. PR will be on website.

December -- toy giveaway

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Friends of Immanuel,

We have just completed Vacation Bible School (VBS), and it was another big success. We had 28 kids from the neighborhood to participate in VBS this year. The ages were from 3-15, we couldn't turn anyone away . With the volunteer help of Debbie Grupe, her group of youth from Atonement Lutheran Church, Tawanna Lawson and her family from the neighborhood . We had approximately 8 volunteers to help daily, we had a great time. Each day had a theme, with the kids hearing a daily Bible scripture and a craft activities to match. Each day the kids left with a Bible verse to remember and craft completed to show the family. The kids learned songs and fun prayers, picture frames were made, thanks to Khalilah Charrington our volunteer photographer they had pictures to take home to remember this time. Our goal was for the children to meet new people and learn how God works in their life. VBS was for one week, August 2-6, from 9-noon with breakfast and lunch being served. The response exceeded my expectation and the lessons learned I know will last a lifetime.

On the last day the kids were presented with backpacks full of school supplies donated by Gateway Homeless Services, Marcus Ave Outreach and several of the Metro Coalition Churches. Vouchers from Walmart and Target were also donated with special thanks going to members of Atonement Lutheran Church, Keith Holste and Christ Lutheran Church. With the donations received we were able to reach outside of VBS a give 12 kids from the neighborhood in need, backpacks and school supplies.



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### JDRF Bake Sale

Please mark your calendars now. Sunday, Sept. 19 before & after Worship Service, we will host our JDRF Bake Sale. Once again we will honor Bobbie's 10 year old granddaughter and the many others who have this chronic, debilitating disease.

For your eating pleasure, we will feature lots of delicious rich & tasty home baked goodies along with many special items for those who may need a low fat, low sugar diet. Andrea has been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes since before she was 2 years old. Our dream is a Cure for Diabetes. All donations will be sent to the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation who is dedicated to finding a Cure. Thrivent Financial For Lutherans will provide supplemental funds.

### Lutheran Leaders in Mission (LLIM) to Meet at Unity

The Metro Coalition's monthly gathering of rostered leaders will be meeting at Unity on Thursday, September from 9:30 – 12 noon. Pastors, youth ministers, Christian education directors, deaconesses, and others come together to support one another, share ideas, and worship together. Usually there is a speaker or special presentation; this month we will be hearing from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans regarding the latest changes in their congregational funding programs.

We will also be introducing and welcoming new colleagues recently called to Zion, Ferguson, Rev. Richard Brenton; Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, Rev. Linda Daniels-Block; Holy Trinity, St. Louis, Rev. Larry Block; Peace, Washington, Rev. Aimee Appel; and St. Martin of Tours, IL, Rev. Heidi Wallace; and the new intern.

Thank You For "Back To School Shower".

Our Back to School Shower was another huge success. Sam & Nancy Valenti delivered our gifts to Sunshine Homeless Ministry just in time for "Opening Day" at School. They were greeted with smiles and appreciation. Sunshine Ministry is committed to providing high quality Christian social services to the poor and needy of St. Louis.

News from Aquilla -- She has a new apartment number: 410. (See congregational directory for her current address.) She is also playing her keyboard for the residential singers and is really enjoying life since her physical reassessment. She is again attending the opera, shopping, museums and anything else she can find to attend. She sends her love to everyone at Unity!

### Transitions

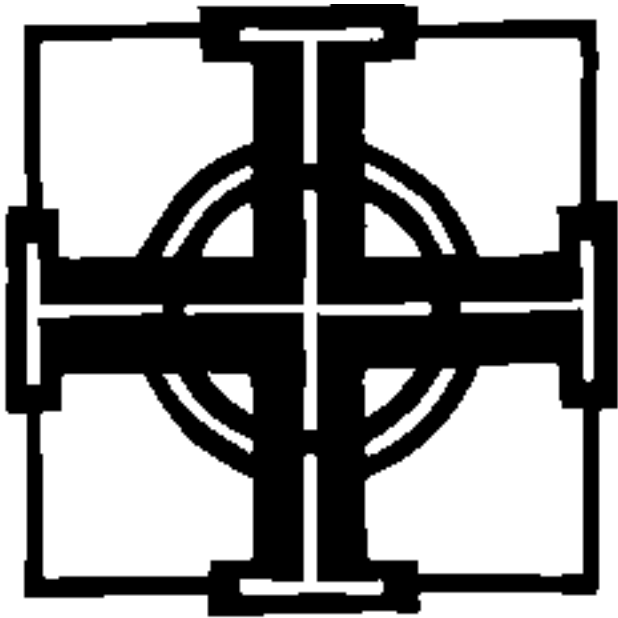
We offer our prayers of condolence to the following families:

--to the family of our fellow member, **Richard Heinrich**, who died on Monday, August 23;

--to **Peter Nettling and his family** on the death of his mother, Catherine Nettling, on August 2 in Sarasota, FL, after a long illness.

--to the family of our friend and former member **Paul Michaelson**, who died on August 6. Unity members have contributed to a trust fund for Paul and Angelica's two children.

Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8454 Glen Echo Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63121



### ***Flu shots—already??***

You've perhaps seen the signs outside local Walgreen's stores and other vendors, advertising flu shots for the coming flu season. That's no mistake—they're available now, they're multi-strain compositions, and include the H1N1 flu strain. Talk with your doctor now and avoid the lines later!