

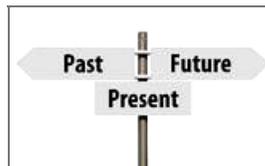
## Logoi from Theo

*Lo-gos (lo'gos; n. pl. lo'goi) [Greek: speech, word, reason]*

One early morning last week in these dog days of August, as I headed back to the condo after a particularly humid walk along the river, the lines from an old song crept slowly into my consciousness. This happens often and I never know what triggers a particular “play selection.” Anyway, soon I noticed I was moving to the beat: “*Here I go again—I hear the trumpets blow again—All aglow again—Taking a chance on love.*” Suddenly the lilt in the melody was also in my stride. September starts next week, start-up time—new ideas—new programs—new people—new things to do—a chance to take another chance. The internal singing gave me energy. I began to relive a fresh Fall expectancy of something new. The trumpets blow again. Maybe I’ll be aglow again ...

As I reached our building, I stopped and leaned over to suck a good breath. The mid-morning rays of sun were gleaming off glass and sparkling metal. And I thought to myself, “Theo, you’re just a sentimental fool who likes corny, forgotten songs. Or maybe, in the early autumn of your life, you’re beginning to believe the promise of forever newness in Christ.” Probably I’m a little of both, I thought to myself, as my aching legs made it up the front steps. All of me was yearning for the fresh clarity of September air as I walked through the foyer and into the courtyard garden to sit down and regroup.

And then it occurred to me that for our whole culture, regardless of our age or situation, the beginning of a new school year has become the most significant occasion for starting over—much more so than calendar or fiscal, or ecclesiastical new years. (Who, outside of the church faithful, even knows what or when the first Sunday in Advent is?) But the entire Western world seems to gear up again, not just people in schools, at this time of year. September is start-up, start anew, start-over month for practically everybody. It has become a chance to fashion a new beginning, to celebrate and take with us what we value in the past, and to leave behind and discard that which we did not value, that which did not work, that which did not enhance the fullness of life for us and for others.



It seems to me that in this broader and more profound sense, it is almost fall again, almost September for SABTL as well. It is time to begin again not just for our church programs and worship, but in a deeper sense that you as a faith community are becoming something new and moving into a different time in your life and identity. In the Biblical view of history, we are on our way, we are going somewhere ... we are always on our way. Every segment of time is a unique time. To try simply to repeat or reinvent the past is to fall into the cycle of the purely natural order and not to discover and celebrate our role as co-creators in the Kingdom of God for this special time and this special place as God works God’s purposes out for us and for the world.

And so, my fellow Christian movers in the race of faith, we are at the starting line. It is time to go again—time to hear the trumpets blow again. And most of all, it is time to take a collective and creative chance again on God’s love and on our future.

*“Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay.”*

*~Maya Angelou*

**The Episcopal Mission of St. Andrew’s By-the-Lake**

**GRAINS OF SAND**

## Reader's Choice Book Club of St. Andrew's

Our next meeting will be **Friday, September 7** at noon at Porter's. The lunch meeting will last about one hour. Readers and their guests are welcomed. For more information call Sandy Carlson at 723-1181 or Heather Pitschka at 720-8683.

## New "Shake-em-Up Sunday Format



Starting with this year's *Gathering Sunday, September 9*, we will be trying out a new Sunday morning format one Sunday every month, aiming for the second Sunday of the month (with variations). This decision was made after the community forum last May voiced the suggestion of having more youth participation in services.

We're not really sure what to call these Sundays, because we expect them to appeal to all those attending, not just youth and families, but they will seek to be more lively, more interactive, more "kid-friendly" while still recognizably Episcopal worship.

We chose to focus on Second Sundays because we hope everyone will stay and be involved in the CHUM sandwich activity held on that day, making a full morning of worship, fellowship, and service.

Come and see! (We'll follow this format through December, and then assess what is working well and what needs tweaking. Creative volunteers for this venture are encouraged to talk to Fr. Theo!)

## Next Bishop's Committee Meeting September 12



## Adult Formation This Fall Begins September 13 Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. SABTL Memorial Room

We've chosen to read John Dominic Crossan's 2010 study, *"The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of The Lord's Prayer."* There is still time to sign-up and books can be purchased or ordered for \$11.00. Fr. Theo will facilitate the discussion. At our first meeting we will set up ground rules and decide on how many weeks we want to meet.

*"A fresh and defensible reading of the prayer text, though definitely not the traditional interpretation."*

~Clay Schmidt, quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*

Intrigued? Join us!

## Friday Prayer Group



The Friday Prayer Group will resume monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month. The first meeting will be held on **September 14**, in the Mission Hall at 9:30 a.m. We will continue the format of a short meditation on the Gospel of the coming Sunday and prayer for the world, the church universal, and parish. Special needs and requests for prayer are invited.

Anyone who has an hour or two is invited to join the group. We always have coffee, tea, and food—sometimes a coffee cake, sometimes a light lunch. Lively conversation is an important part of our meeting as we share our concerns, joys, anticipations, and celebrations. Even those conversations are a form of prayer.

We will also plan for our annual Bayshore Eucharist.

Residents from Bayshore join us for a hymn sing, Eucharist, and lunch. The date will be announced when finalized with Bayshore staff.

Submitted by Joanne Blyler

## **Christian Formation for Children Classes Begin September 16**

A small group of volunteers has been planning Christian Formation for the children of St. Andrew's By-the-Lake. There will be three groups of classes: Kindergarten - 4th grade (Elementary); 5th - 7th grade (Middle School); 8th grade to Confirmed (High School). Classes will be held three to four Sundays per month.

Teachers are needed for two-month segments—six to eight classes. It is important to provide a familiar face to the children and consistency for the teachers. A schedule of lesson plans and activities are provided that focus on Bible stories using the Spark, Reform and Rob Bell teaching materials. This is a great opportunity to meet the children of St. Andrew's, revisit Bible stories, and consider theology through a teenager's point of view.



Please consider signing up for a two-month segment or split four months with someone and divide the schedule as convenient. In addition, we need adult volunteers to watch children in the nursery.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Education Wing or contact Sally Buck at 722-5822 or [timnsalbuck@gmail.com](mailto:timnsalbuck@gmail.com). I will confirm teacher schedules by email or at church and I'll provide the materials for your class.

Thank you for your concern with our children's

Christian Formation and for your consideration in helping out in this most important ministry!

Submitted by Sally Buck



## **Faith Week, September 9-16**

People of faith across Minnesota will be meeting during the week of September 9-16 to help recruit, activate, and train members of their congregation to defeat the proposed amendment that would further restrict the possibility that same-sex couples might someday have the freedom to marry. The St. Andrew's congregational event will be held on **Sunday, September 16** after our Sunday service. The primary goal is to have trained people that are committed to have at least 20 conversations between now and the November 6 election.

Having conversations are the most important thing that we can do to help defeat the amendment, especially with people who are conflicted and even with people who you know will vote NO. When Proposition 8 was on the ballot in California in 2008, only 60% of people in LGBT-affirming congregations voted "no."

### **Having the conversation is essential!**

If you attend our event you will learn how to have personal, effective, one-on-one conversations about why it is important to support the freedom to marry for same sex couples.

The information/training session will be held in the Mission Hall immediately after our Sunday service. Coffee and ice cream sundaes will be provided by two of the Host Committee members, Ginny and Sandy. Please plan on attending if you can and bring a friend.

Our faith challenges us to speak with love and hope in support of all Minnesota families.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## SABTL Saturday Stitches



Saturday, September 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mission Hall. Everyone welcome! Bring a stitching project and a potluck lunch item to share.

Submitted by Joan Hunn

## Deepening Roots: A Course for Formation September 27 to April 11, 2013

Many good church-goers realize that their knowledge of their own tradition is a little sketchy. Sunday school and confirmation classes seem distant, Sunday readings and sermons a bit hit-and-miss.

*Deepening Roots* is a two-year course of study that offers a chance to sink roots more deeply into the tradition. Participants will: read primary texts (like scripture) and optional other materials (approx. 2-3 hours/week); do personal work journaling, recording shifting God images, developing a spiritual autobiography, etc.; learn to think theologically/formationally.

The course is led by the Rev. Mary Ellen Ashcroft, PhD, Vicar at Spirit of the Wilderness in Grand Marais, MN, and co-founder of WindCradle Renewal Center near Grand Marais. Open to everyone, it will meet once a month at St. Paul's, Duluth, from September 27 to April 11, 2012-13. Cost is \$400 per year.

For more information or to register go to [www.episcopalmn.org](http://www.episcopalmn.org) and look under Events/School for Formation/Deepening Roots.

## Blessing of the Animals October 7



Look for details in the Sunday Bulletin and the October Grains of Sand.

## CROP Hunger Walk! Save the Date

Local congregations, organizations and volunteers will gather the afternoon of **Sunday, October 7** at Asbury United Methodist Church, 6822 Grand Avenue, Duluth, MN for the community-wide CROP Hunger Walk. Watch for more details as the event approaches!

Hosted by Church World Service, CROP Hunger Walks are made possible because of the support of local volunteers and organizations. Funds raised are used to end hunger around the world, with a portion of funds raised from the Duluth Head of the Lakes CROP Hunger Walk benefiting the local community.

## CHUM Backpack Drive Yields \$180 from SABTL

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the CHUM Backpack project. Each year CHUM partners with several other organizations to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for children who may not otherwise go to school with the tools needed to facilitate their learning. Our goal this year was to assemble 500 backpacks. The CHUM staff reports that over 600 backpacks were assembled and distributed. The backpacks were distributed on August 21. Thanks again for making a difference for our children in Duluth.

Submitted by Joanne Blyler

## Peace and Justice Committee

On **Thursday, August 23**, we cooked and served another dinner for CHUM. The menu included Chili Mac hot dish, green beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, milk, and cake. Thanks to everyone who helped! Ginny Berger shopped and cooked, Mary Gaidas, Gloria and Glen Nodgaard, Helen and Paul Hanten, and Margaret Handley helped in the St. Andrew's kitchen. Margaret transported the food to



CHUM. Father Theo Park, Tim White, Jan Peterson, Margaret Handley, and JoAnne Axtell served the meal at CHUM, and Mary Gaidas, Jo Ann Carmack, Sandy Carlson, Gloria Nodgaard, Helen Hanten, Cindy Hendrickson, Jan Peterson, Margaret Handley, and JoAnne Axtell donated an abundance of fresh fruit.

This is the fourth time we have cooked dinner for CHUM, and there were more people served than we have seen in the past. When we arrived, many willing hands helped unpack the car and carry the food inside. People were very appreciative of the meal - they enjoyed the Chili Mac and seemed especially happy to have the fresh fruit. We left CHUM happy to have served, but sorry to see so many people in need.

CHUM lunches continue on the second Sunday of each month, headed by Liz Benson Johnson and Liz Maeshima. Thanks to all the volunteers who continue to stay after church to make brown-bag lunches.

Submitted by Margaret Handley

## Discovery Team Update August 2012

As our summer races towards fall, the activity of the Discovery Team is moving forward as well. The

survey was completed by 78 of our members and the results have been compiled and collated into a common database and summary document. The Discovery Team is in the process of reviewing all of the data and written comments that were shared. We deeply thank each person that completed the survey for the information and their thoughts and comments.

The Discovery Team will meet on **August 29** to begin to discuss the results of the survey. The results and questions that come from this analysis by the Discovery Team will be presented in a Congregational Meeting in late September or early October. Our team is crafting questions from the survey results that will be asked during the Focus Group meetings that will begin in October. The focus groups will be used to affirm the survey finding and clarify and/or add to the finding that will be used in completing the *“Ministry Portfolio”*.



The ministry portfolio is the document that will both describe who St. Andrew's is today and defines the characteristics of the priest we will call.

Defining what has to be done is much easier than the evaluation and compilation of all that has been shared in the 78 responses. You have shared a great deal of information about both what St. Andrew's has meant to you and what you want it to be in the future. The Discovery Team is aggressively moving forward in the process of evaluating what you have shared and converting the information into the responses that will be used in completing the *“Ministry Portfolio”*.

If you have questions on the process please contact any of the members of the Discovery Team. They are listed in the August Grains of Sand.

Submitted by Mark Bovee

*“I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness for it shows me the stars.”*

## Episcopal Community Services Announces New Direction for Organization

Episcopal Community Services (ECS), a nonprofit organization that has worked to end poverty through a number of social service programs since 1963, announced today that its Board of Directors has adopted a new vision for the organization that will link it more directly to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) and its faith communities throughout the state. The new mission will move the organization away from providing direct social services, resulting in the transfer or closure of current ECS programs by the end of 2012.

Board President Molly Wanstall, describes the new vision as a path to improve financial sustainability, but also to directly connect with and support Episcopal faith communities throughout Minnesota in their anti-poverty outreach and advocacy work.

*“Leveraging the passion and commitment of faith communities and their volunteer power across the state is a more sustainable path toward achieving our mission. We believe that working with faith communities holds the promise of doing more with fewer financial resources, but greater people resources,”* said Wanstall.

*“Each community has the opportunity to identify and help meet the most urgent local needs within its unique context and culture,”* added The Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp, vice president of the ECS board. *“This work will continue the legacy of ECS’ mission. In fact, it returns us to the focus of our founders,”* said The Rev. Hodapp.

ECS currently operates a number of distinct programs providing holistic, one-on-one support of individuals and families through initiatives that support housing stability, job readiness and creating community. The ECS Board of Directors will work in the coming months to transition clients, and if

possible, staff and programming, to other nonprofit organizations. They will be assisted by MAP for Nonprofits, which has helped other nonprofit organizations with similar situations.

## Ten Things You Can Do Before the Election

Sometimes we're so tired of politics, tired of old schemes and empty dreams, that we forget what politics could be. Politics is about the potential of societies to do more, to be more. Politics is about faith. It is about believing in our collective ability to realize the world that Christ advocated for, but if we forget that element of believing, we lose our opportunity. If we don't believe in our ability to take action, if we don't believe in the hope that our government embodies, then we will be continually disappointed.

So before we find ourselves sitting through yet another election, let's start standing up and working for the world we want. Let's start believing in the possibility of Christ's vision here on earth and our own ability to realize that vision. Let's start having faith. If we listen, and speak, and vote, we can choose the world we want, and choose leaders who will work with us to create it.

**1. Register to Vote.** It's hard to believe, but roughly one out of four people of voting age weren't registered to vote in the 2008 election. For information on how to register, visit a public building, such as a library, or contact the Federal Election Commission ([www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)). If you are already registered, get five other people to register. Working women who are heads of households are the least likely to be registered to vote. Ask.

### **2. Inform Yourself on the Issues.**

Study information from our denomination ([www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn)) and organizations such as *Sojourners/Call to Renewal* ([www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net)), and *Bread for the World* ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)). Discern

Your views on issues such as poverty and economic justice, national security, health care, education, tax policy, the environment, and the role of church and state. Watch the debates and discuss them with others from our church and community. What did you agree or disagree with and why?

**3. Think and Pray.** Our Christian values should inform our political decisions, and because of this, deciding how to vote is never easy. Remember that we are called to place the well-being of others before our own self-interest. In weighing a candidate's performance or a particular issue, consider the promises of the Baptismal Covenant: What position or which person comes closest to serving Christ in all persons and loving one's neighbor as one's self? Which position or person represents the best hope for establishing justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being? Educate yourself about positions, be clear about priorities, and think and pray about whom you entrust with the responsibility to lead our community, state, and nation.

**4. Write Letters and Emails to Candidates.** All candidates want to earn your vote. As a citizen you will be their boss, and as a taxpayer you will pay their salaries. Let them know that as a Christian, you care deeply about issues such as creating a peaceful world, working for economic and social justice, and protecting God's creation. You can find their contact information on campaign materials or on the Internet.

**5. Write a Letter to the Editor or Call Talk Radio Shows.** Use the power of mass media. Besides the front page, "*Letters to the Editor*" is the most commonly read section of the paper. The most effective letters are short (250 words), to the point, civil, well-reasoned, and—most importantly—from the heart. Local talk radio reaches thousands of people in our surrounding area. This is a great opportunity to reframe the debate about the Christian values that should inform public policies.

**6. Ask Questions at Candidate Forums and Town Hall Meetings.** The simple act of asking a question at a town hall meeting is a great way to make candidates go "*on the record*" with issues you care about. Before you go, research the candidates' records

and practice what you'll say. Check the local paper for scheduled events.

**7. Organize in Our Church.** While churches cannot endorse candidates or political parties, churches *can and should* influence what issues are important to voters and candidates and are allowed to take a stand on proposed legislation. Talk to church leaders about engaging in constructive dialogue as a congregation about the Christian values that should inform electoral decisions. Also, our congregation has strength in numbers—everything can be done more powerfully with a community than with a single person.

**8. Talk to Your Friends and Neighbors.** During the election cycle, you will see TV ads, receive phone calls, and greet canvassers knocking on your door who are all asking for your vote. While these efforts can be effective, the people with whom you are most likely to have a healthy dialogue are people who know and trust you. Speak up about your concerns and listen to theirs.

**9. Volunteer to Help Get Out the Vote.** In most communities, there are non-partisan efforts both to register people to vote and to ensure they vote. Voting is empowerment, and efforts are needed particularly in low-income and other disenfranchised communities. To find out what's going on in our state, visit *Project Vote Smart* ([www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)), which helps non-partisan nonprofit and community groups promote voting and other forms of civic participation. On Election Day, arrange to take several of your neighbors or members of our congregation to the polls, especially if they have no other way to get there.

**10. Vote November 6!!!**  
The simple act of voting is one of the most empowering actions you can do to create a just and peaceful world. If you think your vote doesn't matter, think again. Then act.



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Suggestion/comments  
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*A People  
on the Way  
to  
Knowing,  
Loving,  
and  
Serving  
God*

We're on the web!  
[standrewsbythelake.org](http://standrewsbythelake.org)



**September 23 is the deadline  
for the October Grains of Sand.**

## **Is Your Pledge Current?**

This summer, like most of the preceding summers, has produced a problem for the treasurer...a cash shortage. We recognize that Episcopalians are the only people God trusts enough to give the summer off, but our bills still come in. How can you help? What can you do? Check your quarterly statement to see if you are on track with your pledge. If you are behind, see what you can do to catch up.

