

GRAINS OF SAND

The Episcopal Mission of St. Andrew's By—The—Lake

Logoi from Theo

February 2013

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

In my sermon for the first Sunday after Christmas, I talked about the fact that all of us know some form of darkness in our lives and in our world, but that—true to the Gospel of John—the light will always be able to overcome it. Now that could sound a little sappy or Pollyanna-ish, so I'm re-running an old article by Randall Friesen, editor of *Science of Mind* magazine. I like what he has to say: that perhaps we should thank God for making it difficult, for the times when things go badly. It is a reminder to us of how dependent we are on each other and on God, rather than trusting in our own ability to make things right.

“Yeah, I know, there are no bad things! There are only circumstances we label ‘bad.’ Like my cat dying, or my car registration going up, or a really awful hair-cut. Those all seem bad to me. Yet I have seen great things come into my life from bad experiences.

So I change the word ‘bad’ to ‘challenging.’ Immediately my mental state shifts to one in which I am not defeated, but inspired. After all, what is the option? ‘Bad’ things happen on a daily basis. I can choose to let them upset and control me, or I can choose to use them productively and benevolently. Since I desire a life of happiness and productivity, I choose the latter.

So I give thanks for the scary things, the monsters in dark corners. If nothing else, they provide contrast. The light is more dazzling after being in the dark.

Thanks for the tragic headlines in the news. They inspire me to know more about others and to take positive action to do what I can to make the world a better place.



Thanks for the people in my life who don't like me or what I do. I learn valuable lessons from them about myself and how to understand better why I do what I do.

Thanks for the sadness and anxiety I sometimes feel. It leads me to adjust my mental life to one more positive. It opens my eyes to the extremes of human suffering, allowing me to empathize more sincerely with my fellow human beings.

Thanks to rough times with my partner. Through them, I understand how to love more purely and selflessly.

Thanks for the frightening health situations. They instruct me how my body functions and how I operate in the world as a physical being.

Thanks for all the tiny day-to-day aggravations. They teach me skills for coping and being a good person, even when I don't feel like it.

Thanks for the bad things. They show me so clearly how much for which I have to be thankful!"

Amen to that! *Theo†*

Worship News for February

Lent begins with the ashes of Ash Wednesday at the dark end of winter (February 13 this year). It is a time of penitence, an introspective period during which we take stock of our lives and our relationships in order to “clean house” and prepare for the spiritual renewal of Easter. Lent is a time of recognizing our need for God to understand what we face in this life and to accompany us along the way. Its highest message is that God is so willing, and that in the depths of our pain, we can be related to our God, who also knows pain and tears and death.

Liturgies during Lent are subdued, introspective, and penitential in nature, often beginning in silence and with the general confession of the people. Because of the austerity of Lent, Alleluia is not said in prayer or sung in liturgy. The color used is deep purple, signifying penitence and the reflective mood of the season.

Lent has two major themes: The first is baptism, which in the early church occurred only at Easter. The Sunday readings provide a short course on the meaning of baptism. The second Lenten theme—one with which most of us are now more familiar—is that of renunciation. During Lent we are called to fast, pray, and give alms. This theme recalls Jesus’ testing, and through it the discipline of self-denial reflecting the sacrifice of our will to the purpose of God.



The Lenten Season is always the same duration: six weeks or 40 days (Sundays, always being days of celebration, are not included in the Lenten count). Since its starting date is determined by Easter (March 31 this year), Lent can begin as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

Ash Wednesday Services. The Ash Wednesday rite, with imposition of ashes, will be offered at Noon and 7 p.m. on February 13. The Christian “day of atonement,” Ash Wednesday begins the Paschal Cycle with a note of deep mourning and repentance, all the better to contrast with the explosive joy of Easter and the Resurrection.

Lenten Suppers. Every Thursday during Lent (2-21 through 3-32), we will gather at 5:30 for prayer followed by a meal and program. The prayer time will follow the Stations of the Cross, divided across the five weeks. The program will be on forgiveness and Fr. Theo will lead it.

Please sign up in the Mission Hall to give us an idea of how many people will attend. Also, sign up to help provide a soup and contribute bread.



February Calendar of Events

(The details of these events are on the following pages.)

- 2/1 Reader’s Choice Book Club
- 2/2 TEC Wisdom Team Overnight
- 2/3 Assemble Life House Kits
- 2/8 Friday morning Prayer Group
- 2/10 Share the Love Concert Fundraiser
- 2/13 Ash Wednesday (see above)
- 2/17 Annual Meeting (see page 8)
- 2/21 Thursday Soup Supper and Program
- 2/23 Saturday Stitchers
- 2/28 Thursday Soup Supper and Program
- 3/7 Thursday Soup Supper and Program
- 3/14 Thursday Soup Supper and Program
- 3/21 Thursday Soup Supper and Program

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

Thanks to Brian Lundberg for organizing a wonderful Epiphany Pageant and Father Theo for providing a humorous and interesting narrative of the Nativity. Many of the elementary children participated and baby Wyatt made his debut as Jesus.

The elementary children of St. Andrew's are learning Bible stories about Jesus this session with Cameron Hubley. The middle school youth are discussing "Other Beliefs" through the Reform series with Mary Ellen Owens.



Submitted by Sally Buck

St. Andrew's Youth Group News and Events

February calendar of events:

Saturday 2/2

1 p.m. Saturday through 9 a.m. Sunday morning, TEC WISDOM TEAM (overnight planning meeting at St. Andrew's.)

Sunday 2/3

10:45 a.m. Assemble Life Aid kits for Life House during Coffee Hour. Video presentation for Life House.

Sunday 2/10

9:45 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Host Coffee Hour and help make bag lunches for CHUM.

Sunday 2/17

12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Bon Fire, hot dog roast, winter games at St. Andrew's.

SABTL Pilgrims

Where are they and what are they doing now? This newsletter column will begin with the April 2013 edition of the Grains of Sand.

Reader's Choice Book Club February 1

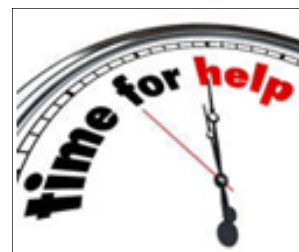
Please join us on Friday, February 1 at Noon at Porter's. For more information, call Heather Pitschka at 218-591-5667 or Sandy Carlson at 723-1181. Our next meeting will be on March 1.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

Holiday Service Project February 3

We met our goal of \$500.00 for the Life House Life Aid Kits! Thank you everyone for your contributions and making this fundraiser/service project a success. We will be purchasing the Life House Life Aid Kits the week of January 27th.

We would like to invite you to help assemble the kits during coffee hour on Sunday February 3.



Again, thank you for your support!

Peace,

Brian

You are Invited

Un-Fair Campaign

Community Report Back
and Moving Forward!



Monday, February 4, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Church of Restoration,
2623 West Second Street, Duluth

Wednesday, February 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Central Hillside Community Center
12 East Fourth Street, Duluth

Thursday February 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
2310 East Fourth Street, Duluth

Refreshments and childcare provided.
(call 218/727-1939)

Visit www.unfaircampaign.org for details.

Friday Prayer Group

February 8

The Prayer Group will meet on February 8 at
9:30 a.m. in the church Mission Hall.

Submitted by Joanne Blyler

Share the Love Concert Fundraiser

February 10

St. Andrew's Peace and Justice
Committee is pleased to
announce a return concert
with Bill and Laurie Bastien for
our "Share the Love" fundraiser.



This year's music will be on Sunday, February 10,
beginning with delicious desserts at 6:30 p.m.,
followed by great music at 7 p.m.. Tickets are still
available for this free concert (free-will donation).

This year we are also planning to have a silent
auction with a variety of white elephant gifts.
Sign-up sheets are available in the Mission Hall
to volunteer to donate "nice" desserts, help with
the set-up/clean-up and donate those "special"
gifts with which you are willing to part.

Please help support this activity to raise funds for
St. Andrew's programs that benefit CHUM and
other outreach activities.

Submitted Ginny Berger

Saturday Stitchers

February 23

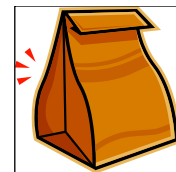
Do you like to knit, crochet, quilt, cross-stitch or
needlepoint? Is scrapbooking your favorite hobby?
Is your mending piling up? If so, this is the group
and the place for you!

Join us on Saturday, February 23 from 9:30 to 2
p.m. in the Mission Hall of St. Andrew's. A potluck
lunch will be served at noon. Mike and Sharon
Oliver will host and provide the main dish. Please
bring a side dish to share. Come for the day or for
as many hours as you can spare but do come!

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

Peace and Justice

CHUM Lunches



Thanks to Liz Maeshima and Liz Benson Johnson
for spearheading the CHUM bag lunches from July
to December. Each month (second Sunday after
church), they had ingredients for 90 bag lunches

all ready to be made and packaged and taken to CHUM. Thanks also to everyone who migrates to the kitchen to put everything together.

Mike and Sharon Oliver are resuming this project for January through June.

CHUM Dinner



Thanks also to the many people who helped with the CHUM dinner on Tuesday, January 22. Ginny Berger performed her magic in the kitchen to make a chilimac hot dish and a macaroni and cheese with hotdogs hot dish with green beans and cole slaw as sides. Cooking help came from Gloria and Glen Nodgaard, Jeff Stark and Helen and Paul Hanten.

Joanne Blyler, Gloria and Glen, Sandy Carlson, Cindy Hendrickson, John and Margaret Handley donated sweets (bars, and brownies, cookies, cupcakes and flavored popcorn).

Dianna Venier and Ken Oliver, Donna Larson, Arlene Renken donated fruit (apples and oranges, blueberries and strawberries).

The youth donated the hot dogs.

An entourage delivered the food to CHUM and Sandy, Cindy, JC Curtis, Kris Rauschenfels, John and Margaret and Mike Oliver served and cleaned up at CHUM with grace and humor.

I hope I haven't missed anyone. I'm always impressed with how everything that is needed and everyone who is needed appear. We had an abundance of food to share, and it was just about the perfect amount.

The people we served helped unload the food and carry it in. They patiently waited in line while we set up to serve. We got many compliments on the food. They liked the comfort food hot dishes, they enjoyed the sweets, they appreciated the fruit and

vegetables (well, not everyone wanted veggies!, but many commented on how glad they were to get fruits and veggies) and Ginny's cole slaw was a big hit! They commented on how good everything tasted and how nice it was to get home-cooked food.

People have wondered about how many people we serve and I try to count each time, but it's a moving target. At the beginning of the hour there were 40 to 50 people in line. In the middle of serving, there was that many or more sitting and eating. Some came through the line for seconds and thirds. Some new people came in later, and at the end of the hour, there were quite a few people still at CHUM. It's a guesstimate. Ginny cooked for 80, and it was essentially gone at the end of the hour.

Submitted by Margaret Handley

Trust Not Fear



What has been your reaction to the shooting deaths in Newtown (and elsewhere)?

Perhaps similar to mine—disbelief, anger, a compulsion to **Do Something**, a sense of being overwhelmed by fast moving reactions by the NRA, the State of New York, and federal executive orders. My pile of related New York Times articles, a primer on weapons and web sites grows. A neighbor, an avid long-time hunter, talks with me about rifles and how what is referred to as “assault weapons” are really useful only for killing people. I attend a bell-ringing memorial service. There are record gun sales in Minnesota and across the nation.

Then, for me...**Nothing**...the distractions of daily life and even a bit of “what can we really change?” despair take center stage. Then I remember that there are lots of organizations, locally (e.g., www.protectmn.org) and nationally (www.bradycampaign.org) with simple ways to

make my voice heard. This is the time in America where great tragedy is connecting to great opportunity. It is a risky issue for legislators; they need to hear about changes we will support, e.g., **a ban on high capacity ammunition magazines, better access to mental health services, and universal background checks that include sales at gun shows.** The door to the reduction in gun violence is open wider than it has been for decades.

Still, as a person of faith, is there something more? What unique role does the Church play? Several Sundays ago, our congregation recited our baptismal covenant. One of the questions is *“Do you put your whole trust in Christ’s grace and love?”* The answer is *“I do.”* To me, that speaks of **trust and hope.** More than trust in just ourselves. Change is possible. We believe that we are given a power that means our striving for security can be based on trust, not fear. To paraphrase the Archbishop of Canterbury,...what weapons are at hand to use does makes a difference; when people live in an environment where fear is rampant and the default to frightening or disturbing situations is violence and the threat of violence and all you have is a gun, everything looks like a target.



So I see my role not to convince others of a particular piece of legislation but to demonstrate and make witness to trust, rather than fear—holding fast to a faith that I will be lead to act in ways that help make the vision of *“swords into plowshares”* a reality.

Late in February, I plan to offer a table of information and tools in our Mission Hall. Whatever your perspective on this complex issue, there is much common ground to plow.

Pray...Study...Act

Submitted by JoAnne Axtell

Discovery Team Update

January 2013



The update this month is coming from both the perspective of the Discovery Team and the Bishop’s Committee. I have had the privilege of sitting on both for the last year. We are nearing the completion of the Discovery Teams work and there has been plenty of it. As well, the Bishop’s Committee has been working very hard in this transition creating working committee descriptions. These descriptions emphasizes the work each committee does.

We have a very talented and dedicated Discovery Team who has put together both the **Ministry Portfolio and the St. Andrew’s Profile.** The St. Andrew’s Profile is a document that allows us to give a more detailed snapshot of who we are. It will include pictures and give short descriptions on the things we do that make us who we are. This document will go out to prospective candidates who have actually made inquires about the position. The Discovery Team met on January 30 to finalize both documents and the Bishop’s Committee and Bishop Brian Prior will review them. **Both of these documents will be available to our St. Andrew’s members at our annual meeting scheduled for February 17, 2013.**

At this point, I am switching hats and need to address the portion of the Ministry Portfolio that the Bishop’s Committee completed. The Ministry Portfolio is the document that Bishop Prior puts on the National Episcopal Website. It provides an outline of St. Andrew’s and the attributes of the priest we are seeking. It also provides the amount of compensation we can offer for the position. The problem the Bishop’s Committee is facing is that we have not received pledge responses from some of our members. I urge those that can pledge to get their pledges in so that the Bishop’s Committee can accurately establish our projected 2013 budget and confidently define what we can offer our new priest. I stated 12 months ago that

the Discovery Process is a process not completed solely by the Discovery Team but a process completed by all of the church members. We do need all of our combined efforts now!

As we progress, the Bishop's Committee will be sharing outlines of our working committees at the annual meeting and we will be asking for participation from our members. The intent is that these are **working committees**. Establishing the working committees will be one of the tasks of the new Bishop's Committee for 2013. As you read through these working committees, please consider if there is a committee you would like to join in 2013. As our new priest comes on board, we hope to be running with our new working structure in place.



The work is by no means over but we are very close to transitioning from the **Discovery Phase** of our search process to the actual **Search Phase** for our new priest. In the two documents the Discovery Team has put together we have outlined our history, described who we are today and shared some of our combined visions of the future. The readings from Sunday, January 20, talked about gifts given to each of us. I urge each of you to share those gifts as we move to realize the vision we have defined for St. Andrew's.

The Discovery Team and Bishop's Committee thanks all of our members for their input and commitment to St. Andrew's. We also thank The Reverend Dr. Theo Park for his leadership and the sincere interest he has taken in St. Andrew's and its future.

**"We are a people on the way,
to knowing, loving and serving God."**

Submitted by Mark Bovee

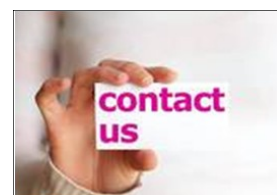
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Directory Updates

Have you changed your phone number, address, or email contact since July 2012? Please notify Fr. Theo so that he may correct the church directory. Thanks!



Directory Change

Nan Stubenvoll has a new phone number:
650-575-3794

St. Andrew's Website

If you haven't visited the St. Andrew's website be sure to do so. New pages and new posts have been added and it's starting to look real good. Go to: standrewsbythelake.org and check it out!

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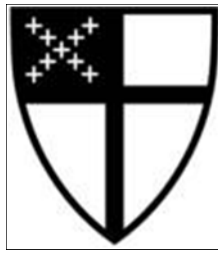
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Suggestion/comments appreciated.

***A People
on the Way
to
knowing,
loving,
and
serving God.***

We're on Facebook
and the web!
standrewsbythelake.org



Annual Meeting

February 17

Please make time to attend the Annual Meeting following the Sunday service on February 17. We will report on “things done and left undone” in 2012, review the proposed budget before it is sent to the Bishop for approval, discuss what goals we hope to achieve in 2013 and beyond, and elect a new slate to fill vestry positions. The completed Ministry Portfolio and the St. Andrew's Profile will also be available at this meeting. It promises to be a lively morning, full of possibility and the power of the Spirit!



Coffee and snacks will be served.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Friday, February 22 is the deadline
for the March Grain of Sand.