

A few months ago, a film crew was invited to our worship service to try to capture the feel of our liturgy for us to remember when we're away and to be able to share with our family and friends. Although watching a video can never be the same as being present with our community, we are happy to share with you two short videos of our worship services. The first one, of the sermon,

As Ash Wednesday ushered in our Lenten season this month, our congregation began our focus on fasting and feasting, which will include a look at food ethics. As we reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus during this time, we're reminded how he fed crowds of thousands and taught his disciples it was of the utmost importance to God that 'the least of these' have enough to eat. As the UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that one billion people, nearly one-sixth of humanity, is undernourished, now is the time not only for deep reflection but also for resolute action to make sure our sisters and brothers have access to food. The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EEA) is advocating on behalf of the hungry and has released an important "food bulletin" on the current issues affecting people's access to food (click here to read it). The EEA and our congregation are inviting people to fast from food, from CO₂ or from over-consumption during Lent to remind ourselves of this Kingdom-priority and to make a difference.

http://www.e-alliance.ch/typo3conf/ext/naw_securedl/secure.php?u=0&file=fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Bulletins/2010_02-FoodbulletinA4_WEB_.pdf&t=1267199021&hash=973bf7a1581178bceac3894316a6dbe3

This past month our congregation has been engaged in our annual Stewardship Campaign, when we pledge our time, talent, and 'treasure' (financial gifts) toward the life of our community. To symbolize our pledges, we placed colored paper in various shapes on a tree in our sanctuary (pictured). On Sunday 7 February, Ray Woodcock shared with us why he pledges to our congregation, based on that morning's Old Testament reading from Isaiah 6.1-8. [Read on...] If you haven't yet turned in your pledge sheets, please mail or email them to the office as soon as you can. To everyone who contributes to our community, through pledges or anonymously, we say a big "Thank you!" for making our congregation such a vibrant and welcoming place to be.

http://www.genevalutheran.ch/esc/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=197:scgcamp2010&catid=13:announcements&Itemid=85

This piece was shared by Ray Woodcock during our worship service on Sunday, 7 February 2010 and is based on that morning's Old Testament reading from Isaiah 6.1-8.

Good morning! My name is Ray Woodcock. I have been a member of this community for 25 years and am part of the Congregational Committee and the Stewardship Concern Group.

This is the second Sunday of our Stewardship campaign, and I wonder what this morning's Old Testament reading has to do with Stewardship?

Well, a lot!

The text reads, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"

And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

"Here am I, send me."

The willingness 'to be sent', the positive response to God's call, is the principle on which our service lies.

I will go!

service lies.

I will go!

I will go not because there is a reward at some point.

I will go because my sins are forgiven; my uttered words come no longer from unclean lips.

I fear no longer to be a fallen leaf, or a dead branch of a rotting tree; I awake with renewal *on* the tree of life, faith, and existence.

Later in Isaiah 6, verse 13 reads: “Who, when their leaves are cast in winter, have a substance within themselves, a vital principle, which preserves life in the root of the tree, and in due time sends it forth into all the branches??”

Who will go for us??

Who will take the commitment to work so that the tree of life — *of which our community is a branch* — continues to flourish?

Who will *practically* enable the continued vibrant life of our church and this congregation?

Who will go for us??

Okay, I will!

Here are my pledges. [*Ray placed his yellow-colored butterfly on the tree as he read his pledges.*]

Do you know what this is? It is not only a butterfly; it is my commitment to:

- count offerings x times throughout this year;
- usher x times;
- volunteer as a member of the stewardship and outreach concern groups; and
- not to be afraid when I visit the church office and find out there is other work that needs to be done!!!

During the offertory you are invited to come to the altar, make a hole in your 'shaped commitment', take a string, and hang it on the tree. Those who brought their pledges are invited to place them in the basket.

Let us go together!!

For several years folks have gathered at the Spaghetti Factory on Sunday mornings to discuss the week's Scripture readings before the worship service. Unfortunately, we are losing our long-time leader, Bill Strehlow, as he and his wife Karen relocate to the US for a happy retirement. Fortunately, a new member, Nancy Fulwiler, will now coordinate the group. Nancy writes, “I really love our church and appreciate so much all the thought, care and work that goes into every service. It is very meaningful to me and ... it is very satisfying to share your thoughts and ideas with others and adds great depth to the worship experience. So please join us. I look forward to seeing you!”

The Spaghetti Factory is at rue de la Fontaine 13, just around the corner from the church. Turn right as you exit the front of the church and immediately take a right at the corner. It is less than 50 yards and 3 stores down rue de la Fontaine.

Please contact Nancy (nancyfulwiler@hotmail.com) if you would like to be emailed the weekly Scripture readings, even if you do not attend the Spaghetti Factory Bible study.

Finally, please send your recipes! We'd love to put together a recipe book from the wealth of knowledge in our congregation about so many types of food, and we'd like to feature some of the recipes here in the Geneva Lutheran. If you can look up, dig out or call your parents for that favorite recipe, we'd love for you to share it with us!

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