

OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project Newsletter

LC-
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Issue 39

Sept., Oct., & Nov. 2011

Retreat or Advance?

September. Time to get things moving again. Vacations are over for the most part. Students are back in school. Church programs are back up and running...or are they.

Many times at the beginning of a new year we start things off with a “retreat” for the leaders to come up with new ideas, new programs, and new ministries in an effort to make plans to move us forward. What do you think of when you think of the word “retreat”? Do you think of the camps you went to as a youth? Do you think of the business planning retreats you have been to for your work? Do you think of the endless planning retreats at your church? Retreat. Do you know what I think of when I hear the word retreat? I think of the military retreat. Oh oh, looks like we better retreat, head back to safe ground, before we get whooped by the enemy! Can’t you just picture the soldiers retreating back to their trenches or the woods to safety? Many times that’s what our church meetings, retreats, end up with. More of the same. Plan to do what we always have done but “do it much better.”

Would we not be better off to “advance” rather than “retreat”?

Think of the different attitude we might have if we attend an “Advance” instead of a “Retreat”. Let’s plan to advance our ministry, our sharing of the Gospel. Let’s “advance” into the community to show the love of God in His Son Jesus. Rather than have a “Retreat” this year, why not have an “Advance”? Let’s “advance” our ministry by encouraging more people to become involved in small groups or Bible study.

Think of how the word, the title, the concept brings about new thinking. We want to “advance” the message of salvation in Jesus, not “retreat” into our safe cocoons of our congregation. The San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project exists to partner with our San Francisco LCMS congregations to “Advance” the reach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the city. Food Pantries, Laguna Honda Ministry, Lutheran Social Services partnerships and Training are ways we can currently help your congregation “Advance” the Gospel message. We are open to new ideas. Please convey your “advancement” ideas to your congregational representative to the SFLNP or to your pastor.

We look forward to “advancing” the Gospel with you.

Tom Hurley Executive Director

thurley@sflnp.org

1.415.587.2525

Lay Training Program Continues! FREE!!!

September. Back to school time for our young people and it is time for us big people to start to think about going back to school, about enrolling in classes offered by the Mission Training Center-L.A.P.

www.missiontrainingcenter.com.

The San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project is able to offer to cover the costs of the classes for members of our San Francisco LCMS congregations who the *Pastor has approved* to take a class. This is a wonderful opportunity provided by a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to train and raise up leaders in our congregations.

The classes available for this Fall are:

Christian Faith with Dr. Butler – Sept. 10, Oct. 22, & Nov 5, 2011

Early Church History with Dr. Borecki – Tuesday evenings beginning Sept. 13, 2011

Leading Worship with Dr. Borecki – Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 29 & Nov. 19, 2011

More classes are available later in the year. For the complete descriptions of the courses along with a class syllabus visit <http://www.missiontrainingcenter.com/index.php?id=53>.

To enroll go to www.cu-portland.edu/lap click “LAP Online Course Enrollment Form” on the right. Scroll down to use the online enrollment form. In the section “District/Synod” enter “CNH/LCMS//SFLNP”. Students will be registered and The San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project will be billed for the cost of the course.

God’s riches blessings to each of you!



**Equipping apprentices of Jesus
for active ministry in the field**

Our Lutheran Schools

Hope Lutheran Church and School

55 San Fernando Way,
Daly City, CA
Phone: 650-991-HOPE (4673)
Fax: 650-991-9723

Now enrolling
Our new and expanded
Pre-School
for 2011-2012.
Call Cynthia Huang for tour.



West Portal Lutheran Church and School

200 Sloat Blvd,
San Francisco, CA 94132
Phone: 415-665-6330
Fax: 415-661-8402

Now enrolling
Kindergarten
through 8th grade
for 2011-2012.
Call office for details.



Zion Lutheran Church and School

495 - 9th Ave,
San Francisco, CA
Phone: 415-221-7500
Fax: 221-7141

Now enrolling
Kindergarten
through 8th grade
for 2011-2012.
Call office for details.



Ethiopian/Eritrean Ministry in San Francisco

Pastor Tesfai Tesema is a missionary of the CNH District, LCMS who is doing ministry with the Ethiopian/Eritrean people in the Bay Area. Pastor Tesema submits this report so we can all know what is happening with this new, important ministry in San Francisco.

On July 26, 2011 the group has moved out of home to a public space (store front) on Fulton and Webster. The first meeting was attended by twenty five people; which is an increase by one third from the attendance when we were meeting in home. God answered our prayer for space by opening the heart of people who run a café and a bible study at a store front ministry called Bethel, which is across the street from where the home fellowship has been meeting. This new place is conveniently located less than thirty yards from the old meeting place. We believe this was God's intervention.

The greater majority of Ethiopians in the city leave in close proximity around the city center and we are already drawing people from South San Francisco, Daly City, San Bruno, Oakland and Berkley. We have chosen our current location primarily because it is central to the Ethiopian population in San Francisco and because it is accessible with public transportation for people who come from as far as Oakland and Berkley. So far, we have met four times and the number of people is steadily increasing. Our last meeting was attended by thirty five people. We are continuing our search for Sunday morning worship service space. In addition to the number doubling up from what the group use to be when meeting in home, in this past few weeks after moving to a public space we have five adult conversions. While a couple of these conversions happened at our Tuesday evening meeting, the others happened through personal witnessing by lay members of the group. These converts will be baptized in the next couple of weeks after receiving some Bible instruction. It is important to point out that one of the strengths of this group is that the laity takes seriously their priesthood to unbelievers and the unchurched and actively witness in homes and streets. Moreover, it is very exciting and encouraging to hear a couple of families that are excited by this church plant who currently live one in San Bruno and the other in San Mateo are planning to move into San Francisco

Please pray for the work that God has began in the city of San Francisco to reach out to the Ethiopian and Eritrean population which is without church. Pray that God would energize us to be witnesses to this population.

God Bless,

Pastor Tesfai Tesema PhD

The **United for Life** organization invites you to participate in the San Francisco Life Chain on Sunday, October 2nd, 2PM- 4PM, on Park Presidio Blvd between Geary & Clement in San Francisco. This will be a peaceful, prayerful, and legal Christian witness against the killing of unborn children. For more information call 415- 751- 8083.

Bethel Grace Lutheran Ministries

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF
465 Woolsey St, SF

(415)587-2525
(415) 468-2937

Pastor Terrence Chan
SFmissions@aol.com

Our 2011-2012 After School Ministry Staff at Bethel Grace

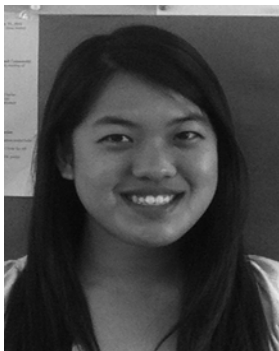
Elaine Mills - Teacher

Elaine was a teacher at West Portal Lutheran School for 20+ years and is still an active member there. For the past seven years she has served as a missionary in China teaching ESL to college students. Elaine can speak some conversational Mandarin and is working on her Cantonese too.

Elaine's quote: "It will be nice to be around children again."



Rebecca Law – Assistant Director



Rebecca is a senior at San Francisco State University majoring in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Elementary Teaching. She is an active member at San Francisco Church Assembly and most recently was a summer program teacher at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Rebecca is conversant in Cantonese and has a good ear for Mandarin.

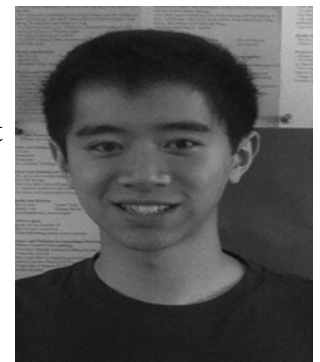
Rebecca's quote: "I enjoy working with children and inspiring them to be the best they can be. I believe God has called me to become a teacher for Him and to set a role model for kids to follow after God. My passion is Jesus and children!"

Corey Chang

Program Director

Corey was a teacher in our program in 2010-2011 and also a teacher in our 2011 summer program. He is currently a student at Skyline College and he is very involved in his church – New Life Lutheran. Corey plays several musical instruments while leading their praise band.

Corey's quote: "I am really excited to work with all the returning students, new students, staff, and volunteers this year."



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

E-mail: holyspirit_lc@yahoo.com
2400 Noriega St, S.F.

Pastor Shiu Ming Lau
Assoc. Pastor Chris Ng
(415) 661- 1120

SUMMER DAY CAMP

A very successful Summer Day Camp was held for counselors and students on June 6th to July 15th at St Francis Chapel and Sunset Extension locations. The parents of students were invited to a special Family Sunday Worship on July 3rd in the afternoon.

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

408 people enjoyed a wonderful picnic on July 9th at Coyote Point Park. Log in to our website to see the pictures – www.lcholyspirit.com – News page.

SUNNY PATHS

A Special Needs Program was held on 7/18-7/29 for families with children pre-school to 8th grade . More information can be had by emailing Cecelia Ng or DCE Allen at sunnypaths@yahoo.com.

YOUNG LEADERS AWARD

A special event to recognize and encourage the young leaders in our congregation was held on July 15, 2011 at West Portal Lutheran Church with Pastor Iverson as a speaker on “Leadership”.

MISSION TRIPS Our church sponsored three mission trips this year: -

MEXICO - June 22 – 26, 2011 24 youths and team leaders went to Mexico to share the Gospel and serve among them. We give thanks to the Lord for a very successful trip and safety and good health of team members.

CHINA - July 18- 31, 2011 20 youths and team leaders went to Canton, China .

We thank God for a safe trip and pray their work be fruitful in God’s Kingdom.

CHINA - October 18-30, 2011 – the team will be going to Canton and Sichuan. Please pray for the Lord’s guidance, protection and a fruitful trip.

MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR

August 7th a special seminar was conducted by Martha McNeil, Licensed Marriage & Family Thereapist was held in the afternoon at St Francis Chapel.

AT HOME

Everyone was encouraged to join a Sunday School class for the New Session: July 3rd through August 28th. Six special classes are being held each Sunday.

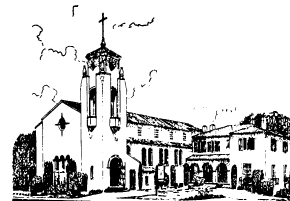
DEDICATION OF BOOK – “BRINGING CHRIST TO THE CHINESE” will be held on August 28th at 4 pm at the church location – 3601 Noriega Street. This book is the life story of Pastor Wilbert Holt and his wife, Geri Holt, on the mission field in China, Hong Kong and San Francisco, covering over 66 years of mission work. We will also dedicate the “Advanced Education Fund” which will be supported by donations and royalties from the book. Copies of the book may be obtained at the dedication or from West Coast Church Supplies, South San Francisco.

West Portal Lutheran Church and School

www.westportallutheran.org

200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco (415) 661-0242

Rev. Todd Arnold



Events and Activities at West Portal Lutheran:

A successful summer school session was held in June and July, followed by Vacation Bible School. The regular school year resumed on August 15th. Two new school teachers were welcomed to the faculty this year: Grace Yuen, 4th Grade, and Gordon Kitagawa, Physical Education and Athletic Director. Grace is a graduate of Concordia University, Irvine, and also of West Portal Lutheran School. She did her student teaching in Ms. Lee's classroom this past school year and then finished the year as our PE. teacher and playground supervisor at the Sloat campus. Gordon is no stranger to WPLS. He has done an outstanding job as our Athletic Director. He will continue in that position and will also be taking on the responsibilities of PE teacher and playground supervisor at the Sloat campus.

WPL also celebrated one of its annual bitter-sweet moments in August, with the Vicar "exchange". We bid a fond farewell to Seminarian Darren Harbaugh and his family as they returned to the St. Louis seminary. The following week we welcomed Steven Williamson-Link, from the Ft. Wayne seminary, as our new vicar.

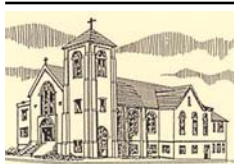
Upcoming events of note for WPLC&S include:

- WPL's annual Missions Festival on Sunday, Sept. 11th. We are blessed to have Dr. Sai R. Park as our keynote speaker. Dr. Park is an OB/GYN and professor emeritus from the University of California - Davis Medical School. He is the founder of SAM-Care, International, a non-profit organization that does medical mission trips and provides humanitarian assistance to some of the most desolate regions around the world.
- A Disaster Preparedness course presented by the Red Cross on Sunday, October 2nd "Reunion Sunday" on October 16th. **Sunday October 16.** This is an opportunity for members of West Portal Lutheran Church and School, past and present, to come together to celebrate: God's grace and His goodness to us over the years; to celebrate the 60th anniversary of West Portal Lutheran School, which began its first academic year in the fall of 1951; and to renew relationships. Over the years it is easy to get out of the habit of "meeting together" (Heb. 10:25). Reunion Sunday affords us the opportunity to see old friends, to re-establish relationships, and to reconnect with West Portal Lutheran.

Collection Projects

We are still asking for such items as **shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste and perhaps tooth brushes, shaving items, etc.**

We also continue to collect **food for our Food Pantries: rice, beans, cereal, canned corn or other veggies, soups, tuna, canned fruit, etc.**



Zion Lutheran Church and School

www.zionsf.org
495 - 9th Ave, SF (415) 221-7500 Pastor Eric Borchers

Save the Date!

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Zion Parish Hall. Please join us for this entertaining and enlightening event.

The first meeting of our new board of trustees took place on Monday 8/22. This was primarily an informational meeting with a little training thrown in. Our new constitution and bylaws are still in the district review. As soon as approval is given, we will be able to implement our new governance in its entirety.

School started on 8/15. It is good to see our staff and students refreshed and eager to go after the summer break.

Plans are in the works for fall activities with both the Church and School.

Saturday October 22nd, 10 am – 3 pm, is the date for the fall carnival., there will be a silent auction, food, games, etc.

Mr. Kyle Hovatter is our new director of church music. We are delighted to have him with us. In addition, the school has a new music teacher as well.

Sunday school has begun after the summer break and Adult Bible class will begin shortly. Plans are in the making for an informative and strengthening study.

“You & Your Money” by Chris Benson please join us for & Karaoke for Fun; wine & cheese will take place in our Hebrews Coffee House on Fri. 10/14, 7-9 pm.

Confirmation classes to begin in September.

We are going to be meeting as a congregation with Carlos Hernandez from Planting Gospel Seeds by Serving Human Needs soon.

October 27-30

Zion is working to hold a "Trunk or Treat" on 9th Ave between Geary and Anza on Halloween to provide a safe environment for families between 6:30 and 8:30pm. More info to come.

For Halloween, the school will have a “Costume Parade” on October 31 at 2PM.

Bethel Center Notes....

Who isn't stressed about news of the economy? Early in the summer we anxiously waited to hear the budget news out of Sacramento. We were hit with an unexpected decrease in May, and wondered what we could expect as weeks progressed. As many of you may know, we decided, all evidence aside, that we refused to worry. God provides what we need--He always has. Still with impending decreases, and the loss of 2 wonderful staff persons (one retired and one returned to college), we found ourselves with a number of challenges.

Facing the summer, we decided to host a Rummage Sale, a little less grand than ones in former years. No large group of 60 volunteers, we hosted the event with 3 staff members and 8 volunteers--for whom we were very grateful. Yet, even with less staffing, less funding, something wonderful happened!

We met new, curious, friendly and caring neighbors from the area! Our last rummage sale was years ago. In July (we held it for every weekend) we met folks who just moved to the country, folks who had been customers as long as 25 years ago shopping with us once again, and people who never knew we were here!

All of the shoppers were curious about the church, and asked about services. We told them of the Bethel-Grace merge and the current worship opportunities at the Grace church. All seemed happy to come into the building and made comments about the Center and the work that is being done here. The neighbors came by with donations to the sale, monetary gifts for the Center, and just to visit. It was a surprisingly enjoyable event. *(I never thought I would ever say that about a rummage sale.)* New immigrants to the United States came and purchased items (one family came every day that we were open) to furnish their homes. Long time neighbors brought in bags, to make sure we had enough, others came to joke and visit. Our last day we hosted a neighborhood BBQ, and one of our own client's Mother prepared an Asian Noodle Dish-which was delicious! Thank you Grace.

The end result? Here we are at the end of the summer. We raised over \$3,000.00, and we met some great folks. We learned the neighborhood alive and well with good people, wanting to help and support this small ministry that still continues after 38 years.

Bethel Center continues in the merging process with Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Our new date? October 1st. We will keep you informed as the process continues!



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Yikes! 14 weeks away...Our Annual Christmas Boutique Saturday December 3, and Our Annual Cookie Fest on Saturday December 10. (Both days open 10am to 3pm)

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Deaconess Beverly Lipscomb