



Message from Pastor Tim

October 2011: Let's Get Together

In this month of focusing on Stewardship, I happened to run across a devotional that was written by Janet M. Corpus that really struck me as being the type of attitude we ought to have all the time, but especially during this time of the year.

It's not a miracle that when we share, what we have is more bountiful. If two people drive to work, the same amount of gasoline makes two round trips instead of one. If three households share a rototiller, they all save money and space—and they learn cooperation, grow in relationship, and maybe get a few gardening tips that can increase their yields. If four children share a basketball, they learn to play and work together and can afford to get a soccer ball as well. They might need to share with more children to get the full use of these balls, which might mean they could afford a soccer goal as well. If five people in an office share a printer, they save money, can upgrade more often, and get a few steps more exercise than they would if they each had one in their offices. If six people eat together, they can use less gas and electricity and maybe have fewer leftovers to risk spoiling. If seven people tell one another stories of God's work in their lives all grow and are strengthened in faith. If eight people contribute \$15 each to the World Hunger Appeal, they can buy a goat for someone in south India, which will provide four quarts of milk daily, manure for vegetable crop fertilizer, two kids a year and a steady source of income. If nine people stand on a street corner on a different night each week, that street corner will be safer for anyone walking by. If 10 people put their heads together, they can come up with more creative ideas than they could separately. If 12 people decide to follow Jesus, they can change the world (even if one of them drops out).

Whenever we think about our congregation, we sometimes tend to think about it in terms of my congregation. The true beauty of what God has given to Lutheran Church of Our Savior is that which is brought together with His love. We may like to boast of that which we have individually done. But what sets Christians apart from others is what they are able to do together. The miracle comes when we share.

In this time of focusing on Stewardship, I encourage each of us to let the miracle of God's love shine through us. A perfect example is what LCOS did in August when we participated in the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We set a goal of \$5,000 and we exceeded that goal by over \$1,500. There wasn't any one person who made the campaign so successful; it was what we were able to accomplish together that made the difference.

During the month of October we will be focusing on stewardship. I'm sure there will be many challenges ahead, it always seems like there are! But this is something we are doing together. Not only together here at LCOS, but together also with our fellow sisters and brothers in the ELCA, and fellow Christians around the world. And God has certainly given us the resources to do everything that He has a vision for....together. May God continue to bless each of you!

*Peace,
Pastor Tim*