



St. Luke Lutheran Church

20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Pastoral Ponderings

By
Reverend Charles W. Froehlich

April 18, 2007

Dear St. Luke Family and Friends,

Last week much discussion in most places I went revolved around the "I mus Controversy" someone I refused to listen to because of his way of speaking to and about people. In truth I had fired him after hearing him one or two times on my car radio. Hopefully something positive can come out of the whole incident and we can all begin to respect one another and speak well of one another.

In the metropolitan New York area the conversation quickly turned to the Nor' easter that visited us over the weekend as we were drenched with heavy rain and a lot of wind. It kept many away from church on the Second Sunday of Easter. People's lives were uprooted by the power of rushing water that invaded our homes and businesses. For the most part people lost only personal belongings and are faced with rebuilding their lives, and we can all pull together to help those in need do that.

But then on Monday April 16th our very way of life was challenged by the senseless tragedy that touched the families of 33 people at Virginia Tech. The campus of the university will from this time forward be known as the place where the lives of those young people and their professors were cut short and all of the rest of the campus community will live with the scars of what they saw or heard on that fateful day. Their lives too will be changed. As I read about each of the people who lost their life on that day I was moved by the comments that their families and friends made about them and I was saddened that they would no longer have these special people to touch their lives in a personal way. They will have the memories but the memories are too short. My personal love and prayers go out to those families and the Virginia Tech community as I try to understand their sorrow and grief having had three children attend various colleges where I believed they were safe. Hopefully all of us will never forget to take time to express our love for our children and other members of the various communities that we are a part of.

This tragedy also brings great meaning and significance to this Easter season as we continue to reflect upon the great sacrifice our Father in heaven made for us in offering up His one and only Son for our salvation. Jesus lived and died that we might live not just in this world but in eternity. It is with that hope that we can see through tragedies such as the Virginia Tech tragedy and seek to be instruments of God's love and peace in the world that we are sojourning. Let us be people of prayer holding up those whose lives have been so drastically changed and seeking God's wisdom to be a reflection of Christ in the world.

OUR FLOCK

I am happy to report that our member Tressa Probst has been released from the hospital and is back home with her family. She thanks all of you who have been praying for her and her family and also those who went and donated platelets. She does not need any more at this time but might need more as her treatments continue...Please pray for Sue Hohn one of our members and Preschool teacher who broke her wrist and will be out for 3 weeks after undergoing surgery...Continued prayers for a number of our members who have either been hospitalized or are undergoing treatments including Harry Smith, Jean Gaccione, Lucy Crawford, Barbara Ascianto. We ask for special prayers for three children Matthew Bove, Eric Hansen and Luke Gentil.

Recently I heard of a few more college acceptances, Erica Anderson to Sacred Heart, Lindsay Blumberg Rath to Quinnipiac, Christine Braun to Suffolk Community College and Megan Ross to Holy Cross. Congratulations!!!! There still are a few more to hear from.

If you shop at the King Kullen in Commack bring in your receipts and St Luke will receive a 1% cash rebate for our expansion fund. Maybe your neighbors and friends would be willing to give you their receipts as well.

There are only two more Sundays to help decide which hair cut Jim will have as a part of the fundraiser for the summer youth retreats and gathering.

This year Camp Christ and Vacation Bible School will be during the same week August 6-10. We will need volunteers to help run these programs. Nancy Rivkin and Karin Gerges will be the coordinators.

Join us for Bible Study: Sundays 9:30am "Angels and Demons"

Mondays 7:30pm "Galatians A Life of Freedom"

Wednesdays 9:00pm "Acts"

A new member class will begin Tuesday May 1 for six Tuesdays from 7:30-9pm.

May the Lord bless you throughout the remainder of the week and may we all meet together at the Lord's Table on Sunday when we gather to celebrate Easter again.