

# OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project Newsletter

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Issue 16

Dec. 2005, Jan. & Feb 2006

# GOAL: Fall 2008 Opening of San Francisco Lutheran High School

*See next page*

## **Toward a San Francisco Lutheran High School**

It is said that the longest journey begins with a single step. It is true. With the help of Dr. Carl Moser, consultant for the feasibility study, the Steering Committee (formerly called the Exploratory Task Force) has set **the goal of starting a Lutheran high school for San Francisco** for the 2008-2009 academic school year.

By the grace of Almighty God, the Steering Committee is **stepping out in faith and the hope** that there will be a San Francisco Lutheran High School ready to open its doors before the Fall Semester of 2008. The Steering Committee earnestly asks for your prayers to the Lord God on behalf of this endeavor.

### **WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR**

For the first time in recent decades, the vision for a San Francisco Lutheran High School has been stated. An Open Forum was held in November, 2004 at West Portal Lutheran Church, at which 40 people from several different Missouri Synod Lutheran congregations and our 3 elementary & middle schools were in attendance. In January, 2005, the first Exploratory Task Force meeting was held. Since then, we have had several such meetings, held at Hope, West Portal, and Zion Lutheran Churches (and Schools), with representation from five of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches. However, we have had expressions of interest from members of all 9 San Francisco and Daly City LCMS congregations and encouragement from the pastors, principals, and Lutheran school teachers. Much interest has been expressed, also, by the parents of students in our 3 Lutheran schools.

It was agreed earlier this year to apply for **Synod's Genesis Project Feasibility Study**. This was approved by our Synod's School Ministry Department and \$8,000 from a CNH District, Circuit #1 fund for the feasibility study was secured after the English District paid the initial Genesis Project fee. Dr. Carl Moser was then assigned to work with us. Dr. Moser was for 20 years the head of our Church body's (LCMS) School Ministry Department. He himself is the founder of the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) and the Genesis Project. In other words, we are blessed with a great Genesis consultant!

In June, the Steering Committee met with Dr. Moser, who laid out for us the many steps and actions that would need to be undertaken. Mrs. Sandra Hadlock, a marketing expert and member of West Portal, has been a tremendous help and "organizer." The principals of West Portal and Zion, Mrs. Margaret Finley and Ms. Carolyn Grundt, authorized letters to be sent out to school parents in the upper grades. Several parents responded to the letters, indicating that they would like to be interviewed (about 50 minutes per interview) by Dr. Moser. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Moser conducted over 20 interviews, representing a good cross-section of the parents of our schools. He will have more interviews in February, 2006, when he returns. On Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at Zion, Dr. Moser met with the Steering Committee and other interested people. He reported generally on the interviews, guided us through an agenda, reviewed a demographic study, and gave out some "assignments"!

## FORWARD, FRIENDS!

Praise God! We are going forward. **Sub-committees** in the areas of finance, facilities, community support, survey & focus groups, congregational cooperative efforts, and community support are being formed, with chairs of most sub-committees in place. If you have expertise in any of these areas and would like to serve, please contact the undersigned at 415-661-0242, ext. 22, and leave your name, phone number, and area of expertise. Help is needed and desired! The Steering Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, Daly City. Meetings are open. We follow the agendas agreed upon with Dr. Moser and the Steering Committee leadership. It is our hope to establish a San Francisco Lutheran High School Association and conduct some needed surveys.

**In addition to your prayers, volunteer to serve on a sub-committee if it is an area of interest and skill.** Be willing to fill out a short survey form, once the Steering Committee has determined which surveys best fit our needs. Consider a financial gift, however great or small, above your faithful tithes and offerings to the Lord in your congregations. And consider, when asked, to be part of a focus group. Dr. Moser would like to meet with our school faculties at a time convenient for each. We are blessed with wonderful Lutheran school teachers, some of whom could also teach a course, if available, in our new high school. Tom Hurley of Zion, the proprietor of West Coast Church Supply in South San Francisco, and from whom our schools order supplies, is also involved in this effort.

Let me take this time to **personally thank** each member of the Steering Committee, other faithful attendees such as West Portal Congregational President Ernie Seaman, Elias Shamieh (father of two West Portal Lutheran School students and the man who did a fabulous job setting up the interviews), our friends in the San Francisco Lutheran Nehemiah Project, Dr. Carl Moser from St. Louis, our churches' members and schools' families, and all who have offered encouragement, prayer, and energy.

Time to roll up our sleeves? I think so! We believe it is God's will to establish a San Francisco Lutheran High School which is academically-excellent, spiritually-sound, and safe and caring, for the good of our children and children's children.

*To God be the glory.*

In the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*The Rev. David P. Stechholz,*  
Acting Chair of the  
Steering Committee

**“EMBRACING GOD’S FUTURE”**  
**SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE LCMS CONGREGATIONS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO AND DALY CITY**

A special fellowship and missional event is being planned for the LCMS congregations of San Francisco and Daly City on the afternoon of Sunday, February 26, 2006.

**The place:**

Bethel and Grace Ministries,  
465 Woolsey St.  
San Francisco

**The theme:**

“Embracing God’s Future”.

**Speakers will be:**

the Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, President of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District-LCMS,  
and the CNH Mission Counselor for the San Francisco area, the Rev. Ed Krueger.

**The event** will begin with lunch and fellowship, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Newton will share his vision for ministry in this post-modern, post-Christian age: “Embracing God’s Future: Living in Babylon.” Rev. Krueger will follow up with a challenging presentation, based on Reggie McNeal’s book, “The Present Future: Six New Realities.” Both presentations will challenge the way we typically go about doing “church work”. The afternoon will also include singing led by one of the Praise Teams from the area, small group dialog on topics like “What might be some new mission fields and mission strategies for our area?” and a panel discussion comprised of the presenters, the Circuit Counselor, Rev. Ted Zimmerman, and the Mission Action Council representatives, including Mr. Tom Lee from Holy Spirit.

**Who is invited?** All members of the LCMS congregations in San Francisco and Daly City. We especially encourage the officers, leaders, and staff of the congregations to attend. A modest charge for each participant, to be determined, will help cover the food expenses for the day.

It’s been a while since we have had a large fellowship event like this one in the Circuit. Its mission emphasis is very timely too. So get the word out and ask people to reserve it on their calendars.



**Lutheran Schools**  
**A Great Place To Grow**

"... grow up into Him ... Christ." Ephesians 4:15

**Hope Lutheran Church and School**

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

Still enrolling  
 Kindergarten  
 through 6th grade  
 for 2005-2006.  
 Call office for details.



**West Portal Lutheran Church and School**

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

Still enrolling  
 Kindergarten  
 through 8th grade  
 for 2005-2006.  
 Call office for details.



**Zion Lutheran Church and School**

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

Still enrolling  
 Kindergarten  
 through 8th grade  
 for 2005-2006.  
 Call office for details.



**Community Support Groups**

A Christ-Centered Care Ministry of Zion Lutheran Church in San Francisco

Beginning in January 2006, Zion Lutheran Church of San Francisco, through its Health & Human Care Ministry, will be offering three specific support groups. They are:

- Cancer Patients
- Care Givers
- Those that suffer with Phobias

For more information on the Cancer and Care Givers support group, please contact Dwight Masuoka at (510) 799-3133.

For more information on the Phobia support group called Phobease, please contact Scott Zimmerman at (415) 452-3005.

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## Bethel & Grace Lutheran Ministries

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF  
465 Woolsey St, SF

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

Pastor Terry Chan  
SFmissions@aol.com

### 10th Annual Community Halloween Party

Bethel and Grace Ministries hosted the 10th Annual Halloween Happenings at Grace Lutheran on Woolsey St in San Francisco. This 10 year tradition draws in hundreds of children each year and provides them with a safe place to play games, win prizes, eat a meal, get a bag of candy with a Christian Witness and even be scared in the haunted house, and all of this is free for every child under 12.

This year we had a rough count of 520 people, parents and children. We had over 35 volunteers from three-four circuit congregations AND members from two neighborhood community organizations. These organizations appreciate that BAG provides a free and safe family-oriented Halloween Night party that raises the profile and brings a sense of "community" to the Portolo District neighborhood of Southeast San Francisco. Our volunteers helped run the games, serve food, hand out candy, run the haunted house and register the people so we can keep in contact with them to keep sharing the Gospel.

We have 152 registration forms by families who attended. We had 70 returning families and 82 new families (or at least were not on our list before). We look forward to being able to contact these families and invite them to Sunday School and worship services. They will also be invited to our Jesus Birthday Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Program and VBS, as well as any other events that we plan through the year.

### Coming Soon

**Dec 3**, Bethel Center Boutique, 10 am-3 pm at Bethel site, 2525 Alemany Blvd

**Dec 10**, Bethel Center Cookie Fest and Soup Lunch, 11 am at Bethel site, 2525 Alemany Blvd

**Dec 11**, Advent Cantata at Grace site, 465 Woolsey St

**Dec 17**, Jesus Birthday Party, noon at Grace site, 465 Woolsey St

**Dec 18**, Sunday School Christmas Program, 10:30 am at Grace site, 465 Woolsey St

**Dec 24**, 5 pm Candlelight service at Grace site, 465 Woolsey St

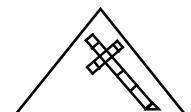
**Dec 25**, 10:30 am Christmas Worship at Grace site, 465 Woolsey St

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## Hope Lutheran Church and School

55 San Fernando Way, Daly City (650) 991-4673

Pastor Daniel Woo



Web: [hopedalycity.org](http://hopedalycity.org) Email: [hopedalycity@comcast.net](mailto:hopedalycity@comcast.net) Education Director: Rev. Jeff Schufreider

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## Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

E-mail: holyspirit\_lc@yahoo.com

2400 Noriega St, S.F.

(415) 661-1120

Vacant

On **October 29<sup>th</sup>**, Eight fellowships of our church combined to share highlights of their fellowships with each other. They chose three subjects to discuss: 1<sup>st</sup>- History of the Fellowship (Past), 2<sup>nd</sup>- Uniqueness of the Fellowship (Present) and 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ministry of the Fellowship (Future). Two fellowships found they were unique - Many of our Chinese pastors came from Hope Fellowship; Our Church Officers and Elders came from Agape/Unity Fellowship. A good time was had by all.

**Thanksgiving - November 24<sup>th</sup>**, Our congregation will have a special "Praise Celebration". Each member will write a letter to God and to friends expressing their thanks and appreciation for things that took place during the past year. They will be shared at the celebration. We will not have our usual food fest but rather encourage members to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends.

**Christmas Season! On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, LWML ladies of our Love in Action Society, together with Zone One officers, will have a special Christmas gathering for about 150 Chinese people, who visit the Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran church, 465 Woolsey Street. There will be Singing and a Cantonese Christmas message by Amy Mui of our church. The Love in Action ladies prepared 150 Christmas gifts for each person attending. Attractively packaged were Chinese noodles, cookies, candies and two Chinese gospel tracts. They also prepared about 30 stuffed animals with a Christmas packet tied around the necks of the toys, for children who will attend. This is the second special gathering at Grace Church, which has been sponsored by Zone One LWML, reaching out to this special mission field, many who are newcomers to our country.

The highlight of the Christmas season will be our Special Service on **December 18<sup>th</sup>** when 14 persons will be baptized and 7 persons confirmed by Rev. Ted Iverson. Surely the Angels in Heaven will join us in rejoicing as these persons accept and confirm Jesus Christ as their personal Savior on that festive day.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** the English Ministry will celebrate with a Christmas program at Grace Lutheran Church, 465 Woolsey Street. A special Christmas program is planned with Rev. Chris Bensen as speaker. It will be followed by a Christmas dinner.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** the Chinese Ministry will celebrate with a special evangelistic service in the Gym at West Portal Lutheran Church. Special speaker will be Rev. Paul Chan. We anticipate 350 people at this Service. A Chinese meal will be served after the program.

The Lord still has our congregation in a "waiting pattern" as we search for the Pastor he has prepared for us. In the meantime, we are grateful for the many Pastors who bring the message of God's love and hope to our congregation each Sunday.

Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I say rejoice!

In everything by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God! Phil 4:4

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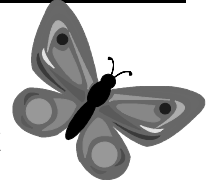
## New Life Chinese Lutheran Church

[www.newlifechinese.org](http://www.newlifechinese.org)

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-6525

Pastor Chip Fox




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## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-3424

Pastor Chip Fox

### Food Pantry Reminder

We are always ready for new volunteers. If you are interested in participating, contact your congregational representative.

Or you can donate food, we would love more pasta, rice, canned corn and cereal.

You can also make monetary donations to help as we purchase the food weekly for our neighbors.

I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.  
I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden  
I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU

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## West Portal Lutheran Church and School

[www.westportallutheran.org](http://www.westportallutheran.org)

200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco

(415) 661-0242

Pastor David Stechholz



The past three months have been busy ones at West Portal Lutheran. The beginning of a new school year, of course, brought a flurry of activities in late August/early September. Teachers, students and staff have barely settled into a quasi-stable routine, and now the holiday season is upon us!

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, a Leaders' Retreat was held on the Sunset School Campus. An earnest review of the West Portal Lutheran's mission statement and congregational goals was carried out and several changes recommended. Another working group began the task of developing a job description for an Associate Pastor position at WPL, as mandated by the Voters' Assembly earlier this year.

The Church and School Music Ministry is flourishing under the directorship of Kantor Wayne Kerr. Several new choirs have been started this fall. On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a special Music Ministry Dedication was held to honor several special gifts to the handbell choirs and the music program as a whole.

The Reformation season just passed was notable for several events at WPL. Foremost were some rousing Reformation Sunday services with a full compliment of choral, brass, and other musical renditions to the Lord. A Harvest Party for the school children was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>

## West Portal Continued

in the Sloat Campus gym, which provided a safe and Christ-oriented celebration for the youngsters. In addition, the Thrivent group at WPL held a Reformation Eve Celebration fund-raiser on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Satiated by a sumptuous German-style feast of brats, sour kraut, potato salad, and apple-crisp, a crowd of 80 attendees were entertained by a Q & A session between Vicar Andrew Dinger and Martin Luther himself (Pastor Stechholz) and his wife Katie (Janet Stechholz). A greater appreciate of Katie von Bora's beer brewing skills was gained by all! And more than adequate funds were raised for needed improvements to the Parish Hall.

The WPL Youth have been active in service and social events. Vicar Dinger led the youth on an outing to the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The youth are preparing for a trip to Pasadena in December, to assist Petal Pushers in constructing the Lutheran Hour float for the Rose Bowl Parade. Toward this end, they conducted a successful potato bake sale on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Currently, they are hiring themselves out for yard, garden and other work to raise additional funds. Our school youth have also remained active in the Laguna Honda Service Project, joining with the Pastor, Vicar, Kantor, Elders and other volunteers, to help residents of the care facility enjoy Chapel services on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month.

This past quarter has also been remarkable for a number of major natural disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the earthquake in Kashmir. Both church and school members have been surprisingly responsive to special collections for relief aid to the victims of these disasters.

### Upcoming events include

Angel Tree Evangelism Outreach on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>** - School Christmas Service in Haake Hall Gym, 7:30pm

**Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5 & 11 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day Festival Eucharist with Baptisms - 10 am

**Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** - New Year's Eve Service at 5:00 pm (note 5:00)

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** - New Year's Day (Sunday) Service at 10 am

In February:

Return Visit of Dr. Carl Moser for the Steering Committee's work toward a San Francisco Lutheran High School, **February 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** - This will include more interviews, church visits, meeting with the Steering Cmt., etc.

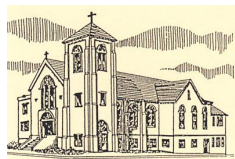
And in St. Louis, a special recognition of WPL Church & School by Lutherans in Medical Missions, which WPL has helped support.

And then in March:

Guest Preacher, Dr. Jack Preus, President of CU-I, at WPL along with a 5-man acappella group, "Witness." Ironically, this is when WPL School's Revelation Handbell group will be at Concordia University-Irvine for the big CU-I Handbell Festival.

May the Lord of the Harvest continue to bless the activities and efforts of all our LCMS congregations in the Bay Area.

Respectfully submitted, in Christ,  
Bob Bok, WPL Nehemiah Representative



## Zion Lutheran Church and School

www.zionlutheranchurch.org

495 - 9th Ave, SF

(415) 221-7500

Pastor Ted Zimmerman

### ZION SCHEDULES SERVICES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Midweek Services, the Wednesdays of Advent, most led by children of Zion Day School. All services begin at 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, Nov. 30, Lessons and Carols for Advent
- Wednesday, Dec. 1, led by Grades 6-8
- Wednesday, Dec. 8, led by Grades 3-5
- Wednesday, Dec. 15, led by Grades K-2

### Christmas Eve Services:

- Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. - Family Service: *Christmas Eyes*
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m. - Candlelight Service: *Lessons and Carols and Candlelight*

### Christmas Day Service:

- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - Communion Service: *Christmas and Baptism* (Yes, a baptism is also scheduled. The connection is a natural. Christmas is about Nativity. Baptism is about Nativity. Christmas says Christ is born for us. Baptism says Christ is born in us.)

### The Name of Jesus:

- Sunday, January 1, 8 and 11 a.m. - *What's in a Name?*

### ZION TO HOST DAVE AND BARB ANDERSON IN FEBRUARY

Mark your calendars for **Friday evening, February 10, 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church!** On that evening Zion will host musical evangelists Dave and Barb Anderson, together with keyboard artist Dale Pust. Free will offering in support of Fellowship Ministry will be received. Cf. Attachment with picture.

### ZION DAY SCHOOL SEEKS WASC-NLS ACCREDITATION

Every six years Zion seeks joint accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Lutheran Schools Association. It's that time again, and so the school's administration, staff and school parents are busy working in various committees gathering information, making observations and compiling reports (with accompanying documentation) for the appointed evaluation team when it comes in February. They will also meet with the evaluation team to answer questions about their reports. The team is scheduled to be on site late in February. Before they leave, they will meet with administration and staff to announce their recommendations. Assuming their reports are favorable, Zion's Day School Ministry will be accredited for another six-year period.

This process is important for two reasons. It forces our ministry to be reflective about how well it is doing carrying out its mission. Are we accomplishing what we say we want to be doing? It also gives assurance to parents interested in enrolling their children in the school that this ministry is committed to quality education and nurture of children.

## Reach Out and Touch Someone

Some time ago, this theme was used in an advertising campaign. This theme is relevant to the object of the SFLNP collection of personal care items.

For many low income families, food and clothing are second only to housing. Things like toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant are "luxury" items. We have been providing these items to fill the need at St Anthony's Mission.

I have been assured by the driver who picks up our donations that we always seem to call "just when supplies have run out!" As SFLNP's representative, I have received a "God Bless You" many times for all of our support.

Please continue to collect these items and turn them into your congregations collection box. Know that a hearty "God Bless You!" is coming your way.

Tina Haner

### Laguna Honda Service

Our congregations have a great ministry to the residents of Laguna Honda. Every Saturday there is a chapel service for them. We have volunteers from different churches help bring the residents from their rooms to the chapel, assist them in worship and then bring them back again. The more help we have, the better chance to get every one down in time.

All ages are welcome! No experience needed. Meet at Laguna Honda at 9:30 am in the Gerald Simon Theatre. You will get instructions on what to do and maybe a partner who has done it before. You are welcome any and every week. We are usually done by noon.

Our current assigned Saturdays for the month are:

1st - Holy Spirit,                      2nd - Hope, and Bethel & Grace,                      3rd - Zion and New Life,  
4th - West Portal,                      5th - All Area Youth Groups

### Bethel Center

Coming Events:

**Saturday, December 3** Christmas Boutique at Bethel Lutheran Church,  
10 am-3 pm with Lunch served starting at 11:30 am

**Saturday, December 10** Christmas Cookie Fest at Bethel Lutheran Church  
11:30 am Soup Lunch available

Call Bethel Center at 415-586-4977 for more information  
or to donate items or your time.

Check out our web site at [thebethelcenter.org](http://thebethelcenter.org)

## Your Congregational Representatives are:

Bethel Lutheran Church – Beverly Lipscomb or Frank Moser  
Grace Lutheran Church – Mildred Furness or Norma Byrd  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church – Karl Randolph  
Hope Lutheran Church – Cynthia Silva  
New Life Lutheran Church – Susan Yee  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran – Jerry Haney or Don McPartland  
West Portal Lutheran – Dr. Bob Bok or Karen Jacob  
Zion Lutheran Church – Tina Haner or Pastor Zimmerman

Please let them know if you would like to volunteer to help in any way. You can join a food pantry team or donate food or money to buy food, you can help with our personal care item collection, you can even offer a service that we can make all of the congregations aware of. Please feel free to share any ideas for projects we can get involved in.

## Come Hear an Advent Cantata

Bethel and Grace Ministries and West Portal are again combining the voices of their choirs to present a wonderful Advent Cantata.

### *The Candles of Advent*

West Portal, 200 Sloat Blvd., Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 pm

Bethel and Grace Ministries, 465 Woolsey St., Sun., Dec. 11 at 10:30 am

## Congregational Needs?

SFLNP wants to help your congregation with things you may need. What are some things your church may need help with? Volunteers for specific events, painting, repair work, cleaning or something else? We are looking for more projects and would like to put out a special edition of the Our Church paper just to present these needs to our other congregations. We want to help each other and find places for everyone to volunteer. Please give projects to your SFLNP representative, or contact us directly and let us know where you need help.

For questions, comments or to submit articles, please contact Frank Moser at [bearded\\_oneder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bearded_oneder@sbcglobal.net) or (415) 587-7387 or Karen Jacob at [dce@westportallutheran.org](mailto:dce@westportallutheran.org) or (650) 583-6920.