



UniChu News – October 2008

University Church: *The Church Home of Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry at Stanford University*
We Don't Have All the Answers. We Love to Ask the Questions. You Are Welcome Here.

Pentecost: As we near the end of the very long, green season of Pentecost, the Gospel lessons include stories of miracles and parables, as well as a focus on discipleship and commitment. This season invites us to a place of abundance, with the Earth as our teacher. Our learning comes from paying attention to the agricultural metaphor that this season provides. We often speak of “making” our lives: making a living, making friends, making a difference, making love, making time. What would happen if we began to speak a different language and imagined the ‘growing’ of our lives?

News

Our own Mark Showalter will give a free, non-technical, illustrated talk on *Saturn's Restless Rings: Latest Results from the Cassini Mission* in the Smithwick Theater, Foothill College in Los Altos Hills on Wednesday, November 12, at 7 pm. Mark insists that no background in science will be required for this talk. Seating is first come, first served. (You may not know that Mark Showalter is a member of UniChu and an astrophysicist whose research focuses primarily on ring-moon systems. He has been a member of the Cassini science team for nearly a decade, and had a lead role in planning some of Cassini's observations. He is the discoverer of Jupiter's outermost ring, Saturn's moon Pan, and two moons and two faint rings of Uranus ... how cool!

Presidential Election Thoughts:

Today, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson issued a pastoral letter to the ELCA about the upcoming U.S. presidential election. The complete text of the letter is available online at <http://www.elca.org/bishopstatement>.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum: Soon, we'll take up the ELCA's *Book of Faith* Initiative. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word. If you are interested in participating in this (or even leading a session), please [let me know!](#)

Prayer Concerns

Let's continue to remember:

- All those who are new to the Stanford and ELCM Communities.
- Those in our community who are traveling.
- Those who are seeking employment.
- Those who lack healthcare.
- Those among us who are in need of prayer.

If you would like to include someone in prayer, CHECK WITH THEM FIRST, then [drop a note to PG.](#)

Opportunities for Worship & Community:

Worship/Eucharist: 10:00 am, Sunday at UniChu

Bread and Belonging: 6:00 – 8:00, Tuesdays

Thurs. Eucharist: 12:10 pm, MemChu side chapel.

Lunch with Pr. Greg: See below!



Contact Info: Sometimes you just need a good listening to...

To chat with PG, drop a note to prgreg@stanford.edu.

In an emergency, call his cell phone: 510.847.1475.

To chat with Pr. Corrie, email her at coryl@stanford.edu.

Writers and Assisting Ministers

The role of assisting minister is an important one in Christian theology and I'd like to revive it here. Maybe you have the gift of writing: Would you consider writing and leading the Prayers on Sunday morning? Would you like to be a communion minister? If so, please contact Pr. Greg at PrGreg@stanford.edu.

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**Got cars?** Two cars are needed for central American families; either a donation or at a reasonable price. Contact South Bay Sanctuary Covenant at 650.494.8340.

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Lunch or Coffee with PG:

Thank you for the time you are making to spend with me, show me around, and tell me some of your story. I count this as precious time. If we've not yet had the chance to get together, please go to <http://www.gracefultools.com/appointments/view.z?ID=1642> and sign up for a time.

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## What's the Deal with Prayer?

By: Pr. Jamie Bouzard, ELCM @ Texas State

Good question. Lots of people pray, but what good does it do? Will God really answer prayer? Why do some go unanswered?

Some pray to change the future; "If I pray, my grandpa will get better." Some pray because they want to be changed: "Lord," they might pray, "help me accept my grandpa's dying." Some pray simply as a way to share their thoughts and cares with a power greater than themselves; some pray out of habit. Some use pre-written prayers, while some prefer spontaneous outpourings. Some seek silence and solitude, while some prefer to pray out loud or in groups. None are wrong, and whatever method works for you, use it. But there still remains the question: why pray at all?

Every relationship is strengthened by conversation; prayer is at its heart a conversation with God. Listening and speaking (not simply foisting a list of demands on God) is how that relationship grows in depth and maturity. Your true and best friends are those with whom you can share everything, from that for which you are thankful to the worst of your fears and failings, knowing that your real friends will love you anyway. So it is with God, who welcomes our

**Lutheran Student Movement:** Students from across the country will gather in Chicago from December 31<sup>st</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun opportunity to connect with other students and with the workings of the national and global church. Think of this as a service project for the larger church. The conference theme is:

**Transformed to Reach Out! – Romans 12:2**

## Quick Links

[ELCM/University Church](#)

[Episcopal Church USA](#)

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

[Our ELCM Facebook Group](#)

[Stanford Associated Religions](#)

**The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational** Readers are asked to take any word, add, subtract, or change one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the best:

**Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very high.

**Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

**Karmageddon:** Like, everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's a serious bummer.

**Dopeler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smart when they come at you rapidly.

**Beelzebug:** Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

sharing everything. And God already knows the worst in us, and has chosen to love us anyway, so there's no need to hold back.

All this is a longish way to say that prayer is at its heart an invitation from God to be friends, the real and best kind of friends that, if we are blessed, we will find in at least a few more people. The difference; God will never graduate and move away, never lose our address, never forget us, and never tire of calling us friends. Now does that mean God will keep your grandpa from getting sick? Not necessarily, although sometimes prayer seems to work that way. More importantly, prayer is a reminder that even when the worst comes our way, we have a hope and a friend that nothing can take from us. Ever. So happy praying, and remember this campus ministry in your prayers, please.

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Yahoo! Search to help ELCM/UniChu:

What if UniChu got paid every time you searched the Internet or made a purchase online? www.GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates 50% of its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity you designate. www.GoodShop.com donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Just enter University Lutheran Church as the charity to support!

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**Bless My Crib:** The invitation still stands. Whether it's a dorm room, house, or apartment, it's good to bless it with prayer. Yours truly, PG, will come to your place for an Order of Blessing, which takes about five minutes. [Send me an email!](#)

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New Directory: Don't forget to be in touch with Mary Wisnewski about your entry in the New Directory! We don't want to miss anyone!

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**If you've been thinking** about coming to church, to B&B, or to Thursday Eucharist but just don't know how to cross the door without a friend, you're not the first. Shy people are among our favorite people. Grab a random friend to come with you, or just call me at 510.847.1475 and I'll arrange for someone to meet you. Don't let shyness get in the way of one of the best places you'll find friends and a reminder of God's love.

# 2008 Church Council (with email addresses)

- President [Julie Steinbrenner](#)
- Vice President [Eve Zoebisch](#)
- Secretary [Brian Sakai](#)
- Treasurer [Steve Schaefer](#)
- [Dana Backman](#)
- [Mary Bay](#)
- [Eric Donhowe](#)
- [Christina Hall](#)
- [Silas Johnson](#)
- [Pete Lovely](#)
- [Sara Michie](#)
- [Sondra Murphy](#)
- [Sonja Swanson](#)
- [Pr. Greg Schaefer](#)

## Other Announcements

Remember to check the bulletin boards in the Seminar Building for important announcements and information . . . there is a lot to read!

**Want to contribute poetry, essays, updates, articles, announcements, questions, or stories. to this newsletter?**

**Interested in taking charge of it?**

**Even better! [Drop a note.](#)**

**We Don't Have All the Answers.**

**We Love to Ask the Questions.**

**You Are Welcome Here.**

**ELCM @ UniChu** is a welcoming spiritual community, a place for people of any gender, race, national origin, and sexual orientation. Growing together in faith, we seek the unity for which God longs through learning, worship, service, and fellowship.