

CHRONICLE

NEWS

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

JULY
2009

INSIDE:



Pastor's Message, cont'd;
& President's Message

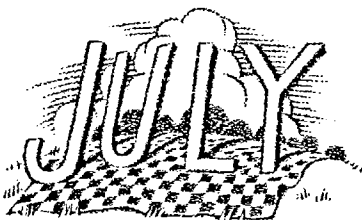
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CHRONICLE ARTICLES ARE
DUE ON THE SECOND
SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

FROM PASTOR'S DESK . . .

An American Theology for an American People

During the month of July our thoughts quite naturally turn to July 4th, "Independence Day," the day that we set aside to celebrate the birth of our great nation.

As we look back at our country's history, it cannot be denied that Independence Day *worked* because our ancestors were *independent people*. The colonies were not for the faint of heart. A new life, and in some cases, great fortune awaited those who weren't afraid of hardship and toil. As this great nation grew with westward expansion and the settling of new territories, the descendants of those original colonists were also called upon to exhibit that same strength of personal independence. "God helps those who help themselves" is nowhere found in the Bible, but it did appear in Benjamin Franklin's 1736 edition of *Poor Richard's Almanac*, and this phrase came to characterize our nation's collective approach to life. Perhaps not too surprisingly, that phrase also came to characterize the new nation's most popular form of the Christian religion.

In writing about frontier religion's approach to life and ministry, author Michael Horton observes:

"...it would not be the professors who would take theology (whether good or bad) to the evangelistic crusades. It would be those brave souls on horseback who would take the new evangelical confidence in human ability to the frontiers. The circuit riders who traversed the Appalachians under adverse conditions frequently represented the thinking of the rugged individualists with whom they came into contact...They evolved a kind of crude pietistic pragmatism with a single essential tenet: their business was to save souls as quickly and as widely as possible."

During the rugged frontier days of the early and mid 1800s, one figure looms larger on the American religious scene than any other: that of Charles Grandison Finney.

Finney's theology of individual independence perfectly complemented the rugged individualism of those he ministered to. Finney said that sinners are "required to effect" their own regeneration, and that "the sinner has all the faculties and natural attributes requisite to render perfect obedience to God. All he needs is to be induced." In other words..... God helps those who help themselves. Given the proper emotional sales pitch, any person can achieve eternal salvation without the work of the Holy Spirit, and indeed, without the necessity of God's grace, but by simply deciding to make it happen. This would make sense to his hearers, as after all, their very survival in a hostile territory was based on their strength of will, and a determined decision to *make it happen*.

While it's easy to see why Finney's message would have such a receptive audience at first, as time went on his listeners became more and more difficult to induce to "conversion." The reason for this is that those who repeatedly attended his crusades, complete with the roller-coaster ride of frantic emotional appeals that formed the basis of his approach, were eventually numbed by the very process intended to induce them to convert. Finney came to lament that areas where he had had initial success became "burned over."

(cont'd on Page 2)

About LCHS

Our Mission:

We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and witness God's love for us through worship, education, fellowship and human care.

Sundays

9 AM Worship & Holy Communion
10 AM Fellowship Coffee
10:15 Education Hour (Sept.-May):
Sunday School, age 3 thru Gr. 8;
Adult & Youth Studies

Thursdays

7:30 PM Casual Worship

Christian Education

Sunday School, age 3 thru Gr. 6
Sundays, 10:15 - 11:15 AM
Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation
Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Serving Opportunities:

Acolytes & Altar Assistants
Communion Assistants & Lectors
Choir / Instrumentalists
Stephen Ministry
Sunday School
Ushers
Youth Group (High School)
Working Boards:
Administration, Communications,
Education, Finance, Human Care,
Mission/ Evangelism, Stewardship,
Trustees, Worship/Music

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
150 Lions Dr. at Elk Grove Blvd.
Elk Grove Vlg., IL 60007

Church office: 847-437-5897
Office Fax: 847-437-5899
Website: www.holyspiritlutheranchurcheelkgrove.org

Pastor: The Rev. Timothy Manwell
e-mail: tmanwell@yahoo.com
weblog: <http://rev-tim.blogspot.com/>

Music Ministers:
Richard & Kathleen Rose

(Pastor's message cont'd from Page 1)

There is a clear lesson here for us even in our day and age. We can, and should, be proud of our history as American people, and celebrate the rugged individualism that formed colonies and territories into a great nation. But rugged individualism is decidedly *horizontal*. It works for clearing land, and taming a frontier—but that's all. In our standing before God, however, there is absolutely NOTHING that rugged individualism can do for us. In our standing before God, we MUST recognize that all sense of independence is LOST, and that we are totally and solely DEPENDENT on His grace. As the great old hymn says:

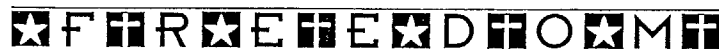
"All mankind fell in Adam's fall. One common sin infects us all;
From sire to son the bane descends, and over all the curse impends.

****BUT****

But Christ, the second Adam came, to bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way, our only hope our only stay."

As we once again turn our hearts and minds to celebrating the independence we have as Americans, may we also find time to celebrate our total and complete *dependence* on God's grace toward us. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

- Pastor Manwell



President's Message to the Congregation

I want to thank the Officers and Working Board members who completed their term of office. Thanks also to those who were willing to complete a second term of office. Last but not least are the members who were willing to be appointed to another term after serving two terms.

The Nominating Committee had a more difficult time than usual finding people to serve on boards. This is a result of the demographics of our membership. I plan to appoint a task force to make recommendations on changes to our current governing structure to allow for these changes.

I want to encourage the newly-elected Officers and Working Board members to attend the scheduled meetings: Tues., July 7, at 7:30 PM for Working Boards; Tues., Aug. 11, at 7:30 PM for Board of Directors (all Officers and Working Board Chairpersons).

I was excited to hear that at the Annual Meeting there was conversation regarding moving forward with the modernization effort.

The Living Nativity Committee almost has the new script completed. I'll let you know more as soon as I can.

Please continue praying for our church and its officers.

Randy Mode





HOLYSPIRITLUTHERANCHURCHELKGROVE.ORG

This may be a long name and it may be mouthful to say but it says it all. Yes, the new website address for our church is www.holyspiritlutheranchurchelkgrove.org

The site was set up and administered by the Board of Communication as a communication tool to promote the identity, beliefs, location and activities of LCHS. The site provides information regarding education offerings, recommended scriptural readings, and links to audio broadcasts of church sermons.

Activities of the congregation related to worship, fellowship, daily readings and special community activities are updated weekly by Tom Muchowicz and Mike Govert. The site includes a calendar so if you need to know what's happening on any given day, service times, who is hosting fellowship coffee or any activity at the church just visit the calendar page and click on a date or event for details.

Working Board members: If there is any information regarding your board's activities you want to share with the congregation or events you want to advertise contact Tom Muchowicz [tmuchowicz@yahoo.com] or Mike Govert.

Any suggestions related to the site or requests to add a page to the site dedicated to a working board or special group should be directed to Tom Muchowicz or Mike Govert.



GRACE PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Its red, white, and blue time at Preschool Summer Camp as we celebrate our great country! All the students are very excited about the fireworks and parades.

We were honored to be given American flags by the VFW at our May 20 graduation. Each student received a small flag from Mrs. Mary Lundgren, who is the Americanism chairperson for the Elk Grove VFW. Our students made a thank you card to them for their kindness. We made a large flag painted with our small hands. Everyone contributed to make a beautiful symbol of the freedom we enjoy. We thanked the VFW members for their flags and especially for their service and sacrifice to our country. God bless these dear veterans and our current soldiers. And God bless America!

- Love from your sisters in Christ, Akemi and Mary

Holy Days in JULY

This month, we have two Lesser Festivals on the calendar that I commend to your private devotion:

July 22nd St. Mary Magdalene:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection. Heal us now in body and mind, and call us to serve you in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

July 25th St. James the Elder, Apostle:

O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among The Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ; pour out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service which is the true mark of authority among your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

And while it is not a festival of the Church, I commend this prayer to you for the civil celebration of **Independence Day:**

Lord God Almighty, in whose name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

ADOPT-A-BILL

July's theme, "A Thankful Nation," gives you the opportunity to help defray one of the church's monthly bills. In addition to your weekly contribution, whether you give \$1,\$2,\$5,or more, your generous support will be recorded in your Statement of Giving. To participate: Enclose any amount to the bill of your choice in the special Adopt-A-Bill envelope and place it in the black collection folder found on the bulletin board. Checks should be made payable to LCHS. Thanks.



LCHS Cameo of Fran and Gerry O'Connell

by Mary Muchowicz

Tom and I spent a wonderful, fun evening interviewing Fran and Gerry O'Connell. We laughed a lot at all the great stories they told us about themselves and other members of LCHS.

Gerry was born in Chicago and lived on School Street on the West Side. They attended St. Philomena's Catholic Church. Just before his 5th birthday, they moved right across the street from Alfred Nobel School. Gerry was involved in many activities. He was a Safety Patrol guy and an Irish Tenor Singer. He had an English teacher who spent more time teaching them to sing. They did minstrel shows and many other musical presentations. Gerry had three brothers all of whom were younger than him. Both of his parents worked so he often took care of his brothers. Gerry attended Austin High School which had about 4000 students. He was very involved in baseball and speed skating. He played on varsity baseball as a freshman. His sophomore year, they took the City Championship. Their team got to play at Wrigley Field and also at Comiskey Park.

When Gerry was 15, he went to Kedvale Playground to shoot some hoops (it happened to be his birthday). There he started talking to two girls. One of them, named "Fran," was new in the neighborhood. She was going to be a freshman and Gerry would be starting his sophomore year. Gerry was telling them stories about high school and Fran thought he was so funny. Fran was smitten right then and there. She got their Jewish friend to get Gerry to invite her to the Valentine's Party, but felt that Gerry didn't ask her properly when he said "Well, I guess we're going to this party together." After that, this Jewish friend just disappears and they never saw her again. They refer her to the Jewish angel who introduced them. Fran and Gerry were at the playground almost every night and would play ping pong, go ice skating, sing together, and walk home together. Fran and Gerry were great singing partners. Fran felt that Gerry was her perfect lead singer.

After Gerry graduated high school, the CUBS wanted to sign him, but Gerry had seen other baseball players who sat on the bench in the Minor leagues and had to move their families all over and had bonuses limited. He had a career speaker in high school who talked about technical sales and he felt that an Engineering degree would help him in that field. The Scout for the CUBS told him that he should attend Western Michigan and wrote a letter to Charlie Maher who invited Gerry to try out. Gerry made the team, but was late in getting signed up for classes and ended up having to take a lot of sophomore classes his freshmen year. In his sopho-

more year, Gerry made the Varsity Baseball team. They won the MAC Conference 9 – 0 in his junior year and went to the Nationals in Omaha. They lost to Lake Forest by only 1 run, but that second in the Nationals was the best record Western Michigan has ever had. After graduation, the Scout for the CUBS again invited Gerry to sign, but he decided against it. Two weeks later...he and Fran were married. Gerry began working for Swift and was there for 3 years as a Purchasing Agent. He then served 6 months in the Service and was in the National Guard for 6 years. After his 6 months in the Service, Gerry worked for an Electric Heater Mfg. until 1973 when he started his own company which they now work from their home.

Fran was also born in Chicago at St. Joseph Hospital and lived on the North side at 2030 Montrose near Damen. She lived around the corner from Pilgrim Lutheran (where Jan Wilshe was also a member). She began going to Sunday School when she was 4 years old and really loved it. Her Dad's job took them to Minnesota for several years when she was 8 to 10 years old. Fran says that it was in 5th grade that she learned to sing harmony. This was during World War II and her Dad got sick, so they moved back to Chicago and because of a housing shortage they moved in with her grandmother when Fran was 11 years old. Fran and her sister lived in the attic. Fran attended Audubon School which was close to Riverview and Wrigley. When her grandmother and her friends decided that they should move out, they helped them find a place near Kedvale and North Avenue. Fran went to Alfred Nobel School in 8th grade. Gerry had already graduated from there and was in high school. In high school, Fran was President of the Girl's Glee Club which had 200 members and performed at Orchestra Hall every year. Fran took a lot of secretarial courses so didn't have time for Home Ec courses. In her sophomore year, she was recruited to work at Wrigley through the Work Study program. She left school every day at 2:30 and would take several buses to get to work. She said that the people at Wrigley became her family. She met quite a few notable people such as P.K. Wrigley, Pat Buttram, Bill Veeck, and Otis Shepherd. Otis was an artist who lived in a pad on the 16th floor of the Wrigley building. Fran once posed for him, because he liked her jaw structure. Fran went to Wright Jr. College and took some of those Home Ec classes she missed out on in high school.

Before they got married, Gerry thought that Fran would be a crummy Catholic, so he attended Adult Confirmation classes with Pastor Steinhoff at Pilgrim Lutheran. Fran says they had

(cont'd on Page 5)

(LCHS Cameo of O'Connells, cont'd)

a lot of discussions on the differences of Catholicism and Lutheranism. In 1959, they attended an art show and fell in love with a painting that was \$40. They only had \$42.50, but bought the painting. From there, they went to look at Centex houses in Elk Grove Village. They decided to buy one on Elk Grove Blvd. and put \$2 down to hold the house. That left them 50 cents to put gas in their car to get home. They moved to Elk Grove Village in 1959. Pastor Marty knocked on their door and invited them to join his church. They missed being charter members by just one year. Pastor Marty also invited Gerry to be a Deacon and Gerry agreed without really knowing what a Deacon did. Fran remembers that the early gardeners at that time were Annette Roscoe and Gladys Parker.

In 1961 Caryn was born after Gerry and Fran had been married for 5 years. Gerry wrote a poem about their long wait for their first child.

In 1960, Gerry bought a banjo and invited a friend who played guitar to join him and Fran to form a trio. They did many art fairs, dinners, church functions, sing-alongs, and weddings. In 1965 they put \$50 down on a lot near Salt Creek on Essex Road. Their house sold right away, so they lived for 6 months in the Washington Square Apartments. Since they did not have a year and weren't gardening, they bought bikes and did a lot of riding. They really loved the lot they picked out because of the beautiful trees on the property. At a Progressive Dinner, they were telling other members about the lots. Jerry and Vi Russell bought one next door to them along with Heynes, Snyders, Moores, and Glosses. They used to call Essex Road "Holy Spirit Lane" (Gerry still thinks he should have gotten a commission from this). In 1968, their son Sean was born 7 years after Caryn. Also in 1968, their friend Pastor Viereck from St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Skokie asked them if they would perform at the Chicago Folk Service that had just been written by a local song writer. They did, and an article was published in The Tribune, and they were invited to sing at churches throughout Chicago and the suburbs even as far as Rockford and Milwaukee. At Holy Spirit, they had a special early morning folk service once a month. Once when in Batavia for their son's BMX racing, they chanced upon a wedding being set up in the park and the couple's musician was unable to make the wedding. Fran and Gerry volunteered to fill in and played and sang for that wedding. Over the years, Fran and Gerry's beautifully blended voices have graced over 30 weddings. Gerry paints and also does photography and we got to see a lot of his work which is beautifully displayed in their house. In

1990 after the problems at LCHS, Gerry began to write poetry and shared several of those poems with us.

Gerry and Fran have always been very active at Holy Spirit. Gerry was President of Council. They were both Youth Group leaders and had 68 kids in Youth Group. They would take them for weekends to Wisconsin and often had Friday night Hootenannies with the kids in their living room. Rita Schwerin, Marilyn Quinn, and Fran used to volunteer at "Bargains Unlimited" which benefited 5 different organizations. One of them was the home for unwed mothers that Al Broten headed. Fran was involved in Women's Guild; and now provides the flowers for services, gardens with Lorraine Herforth and Lynn Heffley, sings in Mixed Choir and makes costumes for the Living Nativity. Gerry wrote the beautiful script for our Living Nativity and at Jane Broten's suggestion developed the character of Amashar, the biblical story teller. He did such a wonderful job of narrating the Living Nativity and Fran's lovely voice in the Choir was such a wonderful addition to the story which for many years was our gift to the community. Gerry was always very active in the wonderful Men's Dinners at LCHS. They are hoping in the future to do "Oklahoma" for one of the dinners.

We had a real treat when they shared a video with us of the Herforths, Strelaus, O'Connells, and Betty Jarosch at Detroit Island. I love Lorraine's comment about "Two Dips in a Dingy" when Gerry and Ray were in an inflatable dingy, paddling against each other and going in circles. I also loved Ray Strelau as Professor Francois Ramone. They had great hikes, great commentary, and delightful sing-alongs.

Gerry and Fran consider Holy Spirit to be a second home and truly a blessing. We at Holy Spirit are truly blessed with this talented, fun, giving couple. Thank you Fran and Gerry, we had a wonderful evening with you when doing this interview.

- Mary Muchowicz, Interviewer



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 150 Lions Drive at Elk Grove Boulevard
 Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007-4299

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7:30 - Casual Worship 7:30 - A. A. Mtg.	3 <i>Thomas, Apostle</i> (Office closed for July 4 th holiday)	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 <i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 - Communion Service 10:15- Fellowship Coffee (Trustees)	6	7 7:30 - Working Board meetings	8	9 7:30 - Casual Worship 7:30 - A. A. Mtg.	10	11
12 <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 - Summer Choir rehearsal 9:00 - Communion Service 10:00 -Fellowship Coffee(Stephen Min) (August newsl. articles due today!)	13 7:00 - Stephen Min. Supervision	14	15	16 7:30 - Casual Worship 7:30 - A. A. Mtg.	17	18
19 <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 - Summer Choir rehearsal 9:00 - Communion Service 10:00 - Fellowship Coffee (Mission/Ev.)	20	21	22 <i>Mary Magdalene</i>	23 7:30 - Casual Worship 7:30 - A. A. Mtg.	24	25 <i>James, Apostle</i>
26 <i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 - Summer Choir rehearsal 9:00 - Communion Service 10:00 - Fellowship Coffee (Finance)	27 Grace Int'l Camp Session 3 begins 7:00 - Stephen Min. Supervision	28	29	30 7:30 - Casual Worship 7:30 - A. A. Mtg.	31	