



# Soundings

February 2010



## THE SECRET BOOK

Hidden in plain sight on many pastors' library shelves is a secret book. It is hidden so well that many people do not know of its existence. Despite its name it is used all the time. So what is this mysterious book? It is, Occasional Services A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. It is full of all sorts of prayers, psalms, and services that can be used anytime, anywhere. It is from this book that the service for the *Installation of a Pastor* or Bishop comes from, for instance. But there are many other forms, prayers and services in it. I would like to introduce you to a few.

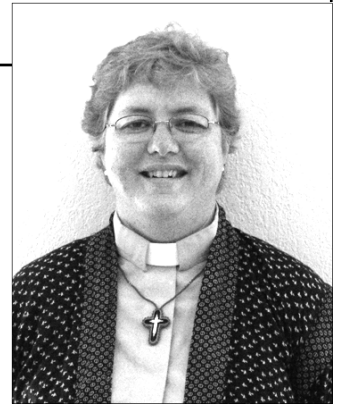
Did you know that Lutherans have a form of private confession just like our Catholic sisters and brothers do? We do. Should you wish, this *Individual Confession and Forgiveness* is available to you. In private, the pastor and the penitent say psalms and prayers together. A pastoral conversation may take place. Confession is made and God's forgiveness is given and received. The service is ended thus, "Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven, whose evil deeds have been forgotten. Rejoice in the Lord and go in peace."

Would you like to celebrate the anniversary of your marriage in the context of your church family? The secret book has a service for that. Friends are gathered in the church or home. Hymns are sung, prayers of thanksgiving are said. There are readings from scripture. The service ends with a blessing from children, family, and friends, and a blessing for continued, constant love. We can also celebrate and bless a civil marriage within the church setting.

Have you moved into a new home recently or would you like to recommit your home to the glory of God? There is in this book the *Blessing of a Dwelling*. Here also are found the services for *Commendation of the Dying*, *Comforting the Bereaved*, *Burial of the Dead*, and *Committal*.

There are all sorts of services having to do with church business. For instance, there is a service for *Thanksgiving at the Retirement of a Debt*. We could celebrate the elections of new council members with an

*Installation of Elected Parish Officers* service. There are services for the *Organization of a Congregation*, the *Reception of a Congregation*, and, unfortunately – *the Closing of a Congregation*. There are services of dedication for buildings, musical instruments, and worship furnishings.



There are two services for healing, *Service of the Word for Healing* and *Laying on of Hands and Anointing the Sick*. These are available to anyone at any time. However, I have learned since moving to Sitka that a lot of surgeries and medical procedures are done in Juneau or Seattle or Anchorage. I like the idea of sending people off with the blessings and prayers of your church family upholding you. A public or private blessing of healing is available to you.

Last but certainly not least, there are two services that can be used for Communion. When a layperson takes communion from the altar to a person's home or hospital the service of *Distribution of Communion to Those in Special Circumstances* can be used. Perhaps in the near future we will have a training session for those who feel led to this kind of ministry. There is also something called, *Celebration of Holy Communion with those in Special Circumstances*. The celebration of the Lord's Supper is available to you anytime, anywhere.

God is with us all the time, everywhere. Your church family strives to be with you in all the varieties of your need to celebrate, to grieve, to dedicate. The secret book is not so secret anymore. God's grace abounds!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Sandra †

## February Events

**Feb. 4, Thurs. 12:05 p.m.** Women of the ELCA business meeting

**Feb. 6, Sat. 8:30 a.m.** Parish Life breakfast meeting

**Feb. 7, Sun. Boy Scout Sunday**

**Noon:** Altar Guild Quarterly meeting

**Feb. 9, Tue.** March newsletter items are due.

**Feb. 10, Wed. 7 p.m.** Congregation Council meeting

**Feb. 17, Wed., 7 p.m.** Ash Wednesday - Imposition of Ashes

WELCA Cookie Care Packages packed and mailed

**Feb. 18, Thurs. 12:05 p.m.** Women of the ELCA Bible study

**Feb. 28, Sun.** Multi-Cultural Awareness Sunday - Mt. Edgecumbe High

School students to perform native dance

†



The Sitka Lutheran Church Directory of Active Members and Friends, 2010 is updated and ready for distribution. If you would like a copy, come by the church to pick one up or email the church office at [slc.admin@acsalaska.net](mailto:slc.admin@acsalaska.net) to have one mailed to you. †

## SE CLUSTER RENDEZVOUS

Members of SLC are invited to attend the Southeast Cluster Rendezvous March 5-7, 2010. It will be in Juneau at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. We're looking for one or two individuals to accompany Pr. Sandra as voting members. Let Pastor Sandra or the church office know if you want to go. †

## WORSHIP AT THE PIONEERS' HOME

Sitka Lutheran shares with St. Peter's Episcopal the communion services at the Sitka Pioneers' Home each Sunday at 1 p.m. Pastor Sandra and Elaine lead worship on the 3rd and 5th Sundays. All are welcome to join our elders in the chapel at the Pioneers' Home. †

## WELCA CARE PACKAGES

Goodies will be packed on Wednesday evening, February 17, following Ash Wednesday Service. Care cans/boxes are sent to college students, military servicemen, and other young adults away from home in new careers as a reminder that they are remembered in God's love by folks at Sitka Lutheran Church. Donations of cookies, candy and other treats are requested. Elaine Strelow is receiving mailing postage money and addresses, 747-3469 for more information. †

## MARCH NEWSLETTER DUE DATE

Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Johnstone, will be out of the office February 18 through, at least, March 5. With consultation with Pastor Sandra, it was decided to publish the March newsletter early, on March 17. So the **deadline** for items to add to that issue is moved up to **Feb. 9**. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation. Thank you. †

### Church Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Sandra S. Rudd  
Admin. Assist.: Cynthia Johnstone  
Accompanist: Joshua Houston, Elaine Strelow

### Congregation Council Members

President: .....Ben Downing  
Vice President: ..... Greg Johnstone  
Secretary:.....Elaine Strelow  
Treasurer.....Wayne Dye  
Craig Buehler.....Chris Pryor  
Helen Cunningham.....Kim Hunter  
Harvey Brandt.....Jon Fish

### Office Hours

**Secretary:** Monday - Friday, 8 - 11:30 a.m.;  
12:30 - 2 p.m.

### Pastor's office hours:

**Mon., Tue., Thurs. 9a.m. - noon**

**Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

**and by appointment; Friday - day off**

**You can phone Pastor Sandra at the church or her cell phone at 752-0123.**

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

This month's mailing of *Soundings* is made possible by donations to the general fund by members and friends of Sitka Lutheran Church.

A \$55 check will sponsor an issue of *Soundings*. To commemorate or celebrate a person or event, include with your donation that information and the issue you want dedicated (it must reach the office by the 20th of the previous month).

Send sponsor check, change of address or request for address removal to:

### SITKA LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 598

Sitka, AK 99835

(907) 747-3338

e-mail: [slc.admin@acsalaska.net](mailto:slc.admin@acsalaska.net)

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

## February Birthdays

Marie Lawson	Feb. 1
Keith Anderson	9
Marilyn Hanson	10
Linda Swanson	10
Delainey Steffes	11
Greg Hunter	12
Linda Janacek	20
Teagan Bickar	20
Anthony Buchholz	22
Lois Rhodes	23
Linda Selvig	23
Alexander Johnstone	24
Catherine Hawk	28
Craig Buehler	28
Colette Twitchell-Davis	28

*Happy Birthday!*



## ... from the Bookshelf

by Marilyn Hanson

The Trouble with Angels, Angels Everywhere, and Angels at Christmas by Debbie Macomber.

I was introduced to Debbie Macomber while visiting my sister Dianne, in DePere, Wisconsin last October and November.

Debbie Macomber is a prolific writer of at least 55 books. Yes, I said 55, if not more.

We are especially interested in her books that come out at Christmas—about angels! She writes stories that are poignant, hilarious and unforgettable, highlighting faith and hope that will give your heart wings.

Three angels, named Shirley, Goodness and Mercy, live in heaven under the tight control of Archangel Gabriel.

Gabriel processes all the prayers and requests of earth-dwellers. Some situations are so serious that he determines the need for heavenly help and angelic assistance. He then sends Shirley, Goodness and Mercy to intercede and/or solve the problems.

The assignments are frequently done reluctantly because Gabriel knows these three angels and the trouble they manage to generate.

As a reader, you soon figure out their personalities and why they get into some of the most “god-awful” situations.

Despite their sometimes messed-up helping, they invariably come out with a “lived happily ever after” ending.

Pick up one of D. Macomber’s easy-to-read angel books for some chuckles and some hearty laughs all mixed in with a diplomatic dose of how we should live.

Remember—there are angels among us... and sometimes [*usually*] we don’t even know it. †

## ALASKA COMPUTER CENTER

Next time you walk into the Alaska Computer Center, tell Rob “Thank you.” In December after Pastor Sandra arrived, Rob came to the office to get the computer working properly. He waived the fee “as our Merry Christmas gift to you”. †

## FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

First Quarter, 2010 Altar Guild meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 7 immediately after church in the Upper Room. Guests are welcome.

**Altar Guild Annual Report Correction:** Gale Kehres’ name was inadvertently omitted from the list Altar Guild members. We regret the error. Ms. Kehres joined the group in January 2009 and her involvement is much appreciated. †

## ... from the Sacristy Kim Hunter

I saw this sign on a church bulletin board: "Make time for the quiet moments as God whispers and the world is loud." That reminded me of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Then I thought of the Mary and Martha story in Luke 10:38-42, and of a book that I had read: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World. I then remembered a bit of wisdom from Socrates: "Beware, the barrenness of a busy life!"

Dear Lord,

Help us, each day, to take the time to sit at your feet. Help us to tune out the many distractions of the world and to listen as you teach us. Help us to be diligent in our scripture reading and prayer life, so that we may become better disciples. And Lord, fill us up with your Holy Spirit, so that we will overflow with your love and hope and peace and joy, ready to proclaim your word in this very loud and busy world. Amen †

## IT'S THAT EASY!

How about a painless and gratifying way to support SLC? Every time groceries are bought at AC Lakeside save the receipts and turn them in at SLC.

Isn't that easy?

Receipts for October, November and December 2009 have been tallied and submitted. They totaled \$12,902.04. One percent of that amount is \$129.02. A check from AC Lakeside will be added to the general fund of SLC. This is one of the highest totals I've seen in awhile! Thank you.

An impressive number of January 2010 receipts has already been turned in. Keep 'em comin'! It's that easy!

Marilyn Hanson †

## SLC CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JAN. 13, 2010

Members Present: Pastor Sandra Rudd, Helen Cunningham, Ben Downing, Wayne Dye, Jon Fish, Chris Pryor, Elaine Strelow

Absent Out of Town or Excused: Harvey Brandt, Craig Buehler, Kim Hunter, Greg Johnstone

Staff/Visitors/Guests: Cynthia Johnstone

The meeting was called to order by President Downing at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday evening, Jan. 13, 2010.

Pastor Sandra opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the December 16 meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's report for December was accepted pending audit.

Pastor Sandra reported that her household goods shipment has arrived from Anchorage. She seeks comments on the healing litany included in the January 3 worship service, and comments on the adult forum sessions for Sunday mornings. She called attention to the All Alaska Youth Gathering scheduled for March 5-7 out of Anchorage. Helen will publicize opportunity for Sitka Lutheran youth to attend with funding available.

### Unfinished Business

Jon Fish continues research on hearing assistance in the sanctuary with contacts to be made with other facilities.

Eve Fish has volunteered to attend Lutheran Southeast Cluster Meeting in Juneau on March 5-7. Others are being recruited.

For Pastor Sandra's installation on Saturday, January 30, at 2 p.m., invitations have been sent to Southeast Lutheran congregations and local Sitka churches. Food and fellowship will follow the service.

### New Business

Responding to a request from Harvey Brandt of Resources Committee, Helen Cunningham moved, seconded by Wayne Dye, to approve up to \$2,000 from History Funds to hire a grant writer. Motion carried.

An excess piano has been given to a community applicant and removed from the church.

Pastor Sandra, Ben Downing, and Cynthia Johnstone will research an offer from Grace Harbor Church of a

used surplus color copier. Concerns were expressed about maintenance and cost of supplies.

A proposed agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting (second half) to be held on January 17 was reviewed.

### Committee Reports

Activities were highlighted from Parish Life Committee, Worship Planning Team, Women of the ELCA, Outreach, Resources, Stewardship, and Summer Volunteers recruitment for 2010.

The meeting adjourned with Pastor Sandra leading the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Wed., February 10, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Elaine Strelow, Secretary †

## SITKA LUTHERAN CHURCH MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 17, 2010

The Annual Congregational Meeting (second half) was held on Sunday, January 17, 2010 following worship and potluck luncheon.

President Ben Downing called the meeting to order with 27 signing the member attendance list (quorum 17), plus non-members and children.

Pastor Sandra Rudd led the opening prayer printed in report cover published by ELCA.

Motion carried to approve Minutes as printed of the November 22, 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting (first half).

The new congregational directory was presented by Administrative Assistant Cynthia Johnstone.

Each of the printed reports from officers and committee functions was reviewed with supplementary comments. Motion carried to accept the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Motion carried to accept all reports as printed with thanks to God for opportunities and accomplishments which they reflect for the past year.

For Southeast Cluster Meeting in Juneau on March 5-7, Eve Fish plans to represent Sitka Lutheran Church. President Downing appealed for others to attend Cluster Meeting, as well as Synod Assembly on April 22-24 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Anchorage.

Concerning Renovate and Renew program, President Downing stated that a building elevator and ADA access issues remain, but focus for the coming year will be on other aspects of congregational ministry. Helen Cunningham accented the Resources Committee's hope to see repair to the church wall portion facing the Franklin Building.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Sandra Rudd.

Elaine Strelow, Secretary †

## PASTOR ROSS HIDY REMEMBERED

BY HARVEY BRANDT

This article is dedicated to the **Rev. Ross Hidy**; friend, advisor, Supply Pastor (SLC & St. Paul Lutheran/Kodiak), historian, archivist, researcher and proud Lutheran. He was a man of action. Ross believed that Lutheran history should be cherished and published. He was a successful Pastor and upon retirement he energetically focused on Lutheran History – including SLC History. He worked with The Rev. Dr. Toivo Harjunpaa on SLC History along with many other projects (books, articles, photos, archives, etc.).

I will certainly miss Ross. From the mid-1980s on Ross and I collaborated on a number of projects: (a) Researching and publishing "Frost Among the Eskimos – The Memoirs of Helen Frost Missionary in Alaska 1926-61" (b) Organizing the Rev. Dr. Toivo Harjunpaa papers for the Lutheran archives (c) Organizing SLC historic documents (d) Working together on SLC research. What little I know about archiving documents I learned from Ross.

Ross had a passion for history, especially properly archiving Lutheran documents from individual congregations. He believed that each Lutheran congregation should properly organize and save their precious history. It most certainly was an education working with Ross in his home in Concord, CA, at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Library/archives or in Sitka. His Alaskan interests were wide-ranging; he loved salmon fishing, traditional Eskimo art (especially George Ahgukuk – Shishmaref), researching early Lutheran missionaries in Alaska and simply traveling in Alaska.

Ross died peacefully in his home at age 92 (Concord, CA) on October 10, 2009. He will be sorely missed. **Ross – we salute you for your service to Lutherans as a Pastor, Historian, Archivist and friend of Sitka Lutheran Church and Lutheran Churches throughout the western United States.** †

## A MESSAGE FROM

### LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA

Need help? Know a friend or neighbor who needs help? With one easy phone call, friendly, trained specialists will connect you with the community services that best fit your needs. **Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221.** This is the number for Alaska 211, the best source for getting answers to your questions of who can help. Alaska 211 can help all Alaskans, no matter what community they live in.

According to Karen Bitzer, Director of Alaska 211, food assistance is still the number one request through the help line. Lutherans should be proud of the fact that the LSSA Food Pantry last year distributed 341,000 pounds of food to our neighbors in need. That is an increase of close to 70,000 pounds in 2008. This increase was made possible by the generous contributions that we receive from individuals, congregations, schools and an additional \$10,000 grant from FEMA that was funded with stimulus dollars. However, the need for food assistance is still growing, so we ask for your continued support of our food ministry.

We have had some requests for blankets and comforters these past few months. If you have any blankets or comforters or quilts that are crowding that closet, we would appreciate the donation. Also we are running low on personal hygiene kits and we could use small bottles of toiletries.

Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup> and that means Easter will soon be upon us. It has been a tradition at LSSA that we pass out Easter Baskets to children of the families we serve in the Food Pantry. You can touch the lives of those children with the message of Jesus' resurrection by providing the agency with an Easter basket. Whatever you would put in an Easter basket for your child or grandchild is appropriate. We do ask that you also include a child's story or activity or coloring book in each basket. You can bring your filled Easter basket to the agency office any time during office hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Distribution will begin in the middle of March.

We wish to thank the United Way and the Rasmuson Foundation for providing LSSA with a \$19,000 Safety Net grant in the last quarter of 2009. We helped 88 families with emergency shelter and rent or utility assistance. A total of \$500,000 was awarded to agencies throughout the state. †

## ATTENDANCE DIPS AT SLC

Attendance at Sunday services has dropped rather dramatically since 2007 (see figures below). Attendance was calculated using Sundays only. In mid-2008 the early Sunday morning service was dropped due to rather meager attendance; however, the addition of this second service some four or five years earlier caused attendance to increase more than 10% per Sunday.

We trust that good things will happen at SLC in 2010 and that we see an increase in attendance at Sunday worship services.

- Average Sunday attendance – 2007 = 70
- Average Sunday attendance – 2008 = 61
- Average Sunday attendance – 2009 = 46

†

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH & SERVICE

**HISTORY COMMITTEE** coordinates the Summer Volunteer Program and promotes our rich history. Call Harvey Brandt at 747-6447 for more information.

**WEDNESDAY SOUP & WORSHIP:** At 6 p.m. we share a meal of soup and bread. We take turns cooking. A casual vespers service begins at 6:30. Occasionally we share Holy Communion. Everyone is invited to participate in this relaxed and meaningful experience.

**ALTAR GUILD:** Dedicated to preparing the worship space. New members are welcome. If you are interested, contact Marilyn Hanson, 747-6989.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (age 3 through high school) & ADULT FORUM:** September through May, 9:15 a.m. every Sunday.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA:** All women of Sitka Lutheran Church are members of Women of the ELCA and are encouraged to participate. Meetings are held at 12:05 p.m. first and third Thursdays of each month. Call Elaine Strelow, 747-3469 for more information.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. following soup and vespers at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

**QUILTS TO COMFORT:** From October through March, come and help stitch quilts together from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and go as you are able every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. No special talent is required.

**PIONEERS' HOME HOLY COMMUNION,** Sundays at 1 p.m., shared with St. Peter's Episcopal Church. †



Our sisters and brothers in need of prayer:

**Cynthia Johnstone \*** - healing after knee surgery

Kathleen Brandt - continued healing after surgery

Anna, Sue Fleming's great-niece - bone marrow transplant

Tom Smotherman - spreading cancer

Alice Schell \* - recovering from heart surgery

Family of Vern Brewer, grieving his death

Marilyn Oen \* - rehabilitation after critical car accident

Emma Kohler's son, "Butch" - heart problems

Kelly W. Perkins - leukemia treatment

Shirley Anderson \* - stroke recovery

Anna Lawton's friend, Sharon Stetson - health problems and unemployment

Anna Lawton's cousin, John Ricaporte - thyroid cancer surgery

Anna Lawton's cousin, John Bartels Jr. - thyroid cancer, continued improvement

Jaeson Hora, Eve Fish's brother - skin cancer and brain tumor

Phyllis Kluting\* - cancer treatment

Trevor Kluting, chronic health concerns

Pioneers' Home residents and staff

Families of all who are serving or have died serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

Bishops Mark Hanson (ELCA) & Michael Keys (Alaska Synod)

\* Addresses available at the church office.

**Please call the church office, 747-3338, with any changes to the prayer list.**



Prayer Ventures is a guide to daily prayer for the global outreach ministry of the church. It is produced by the Division for Global Mission and the Division for Outreach. Find your copy for this month in the narthex. †

**Sitka Lutheran Church has a website.**

**[www.sitkalutheranchurch.org](http://www.sitkalutheranchurch.org)**

There you'll find:

- a list of weekly events
- links to the history of SLC
- the current issue of our monthly newsletter, *Soundings* and calendar
- a lot of information and links to much more

