TO YOUR CONGREGATIONS IN DECEMBER

The Nehemiah Project will be organizing collection points in each of our congregations to accept donations of toys in the month of December to distribute to children in our neighborhoods. A portion of the toys will be donated to children of families attending our food pantries, and the remainder will be presented to the annual Toys for Tots program.

Meanwhile, we are currently carrying out our Fall projects again this year of collecting coats and blankets for distribution to those in need. Pull out your old coats and blankets (ideally reasonably clean) and bring them to your congregations. The Nehemiah Project will collect these items and distribute them to homeless families at St. Anthony's.

Tina Haner of Zion Lutheran continues to head up our newest project – touching the lives of homeless people through the distribution of personal care items. By now, all congregations should have a collection center for such items as tooth paste, tooth brushes, shaving items, etc. Tina has already delivered our first shipment of articles to places where homeless people are best served, such as at St. Anthony's.

THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT TURNS ATTENTION TO YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

Youth leaders from our member congregations have been meeting to organize for two youth service events in San Francisco this coming Summer. They will be inviting Lutheran youth from around the Bay Area to visit us in San Francisco over a July weekend and help us with service projects for our churches and the community. Another weekend event in August will focus on serving the needs of homeless populations in the City. This experience will help us plan and prepare for a synod event in 2006. It will take careful planning to find the resources to support these young people and provide supervision and opportunities for Christian learning and fellowship, so again, we need your help. See back page for more information.

PAGE 2 OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

Our purpose is to bring Lutherans together in the City to fulfill our mission of "Congregations doing the work of the Lord together, building urban ministry."

Please let your congregational representative know that you would like to join the Nehemiah Project in support of these mission outreaches. Your 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 - Anne Dulig

New Life Lutheran Church - Susan Yee

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church - Jerry Haney or Mel Schenck

West Portal Lutheran - Karen Jacob

Zion Lutheran Church - Tina Haner or Pastor Zimmerman

-- Mel Schenck

Bethel Center

HELP...HELP...HELP...

November 29 & 30---9AM to 4PM--We will be setting up for our Annual Boutique Event at Bethel's Schroeder Hall. Pete Eisenbacher is creating a giant Carousel with help from whomever will answer the call!

<u>December 1-2</u>--9AM to 7:00PM---We will be hanging clothes, setting up tables, putting out the sale items, putting finishing touches on packages, etc.

<u>December 3</u>---9AM to ??---We will be organizing sale tables and pricing---and cooking up the lunch.

Please LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP AT ANY OF THESE DAYS OR TIMES. Call Kewpee at 415-586-4977 to volunteer for Boutique Set Up.

<u>DECEMBER 4--</u>10AM TO 3PM--ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE. LUNCH SERVED AT NOON. TICKETS \$7.50.

<u>December 6 to 10</u>---WEEK LONG COOKIE BAKE--We will be making homemade cookies for the DECEMBER 11--COOKIE CAROUSEL. **If you would like to bake a few dozen cookies to donate by DECEMBER 10--Call Kewpee at 415-586-4977.**

<u>DECEMBER 11</u>---10AM TO 3PM---COOKIE CAROUSEL SOUP LUNCH SERVED NOON TO 2PM

FINALLY---WEDNESDAY <u>DECEMBER 15</u>--ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AT BETHEL CENTER 10AM TO NOON--Join us and our clients for morning coffee and (probably) cookies. Join us at morning chapel at 11:30AM.

PAGE 3 OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

THE FOOD PANTRIES AT GRACE AND SHEPHERD OF HILLS LUTHERAN NOW FOCUS ON MISSIONS

The new Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church has now been serving over 100 families every Saturday morning, and the original food pantry at Shepherd of the Hills distributed food to 66 families in the second week of November and looks as if it will continue to grow. While we cannot ask client families to attend worship services as a condition for food distribution, and we cannot use overt evangelism programs, we can talk with our clients and let them know how Christ is the center and support of our own lives. Most of the families served at Grace are Cantonese-speaking. While we have had a good core of volunteers for both Saturday distributions, we need Cantonese-speaking volunteers at the Grace Food Pantry to assist these client families with food selections and to answer their questions about how we can help their families in many other ways.

DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP? WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

We particularly need volunteers for our Friday Delivery Acceptance teams at both Grace and SOTH. These teams wait for the Food Bank delivery truck between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, unload the pallets of food when they arrive, and stock the food and produce to the tables in the distribution room so it is all ready for our distribution on Saturday. Our weekly shoppers also need help to move the carts around with food once a week at the S.F. Food Bank - so if you like shopping and have a couple of hours on Wednesday or Thursday morning, please let us know.

And the shopping does cost the Nehemiah Project money each week. The San Francisco Food Bank gives us plenty of free fresh produce every week, but they sell us the food at \$.18 per pound of dry food (cans, cereal boxes, whatever) and \$.04 per pound for bread. Thus the Nehemiah Project spends about \$80 to \$90 of food per week for each pantry. So if you want to make a special offering to the Nehemiah project to help us buy food, we would appreciate that very much.

Please let your congregational representative know that you would like to join a food pantry team or donate to buy food. Your 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 - Anne Dulig New Life Lutheran Church - Susan Yee Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church - Jerry Haney or Mel Schenck

West Portal Lutheran - Karen Jacob

Zion Lutheran Church - Tina Haner or Pastor Zimmerman

⁻⁻ Mel Schenck



Hope Lutheran Church and School

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

Now enrolling
Kindergarten
through 6th grade
for Fall 2004.
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

Now enrolling
Kindergarten
through 8th grade
for Fall 2004.
Call office for details.



Zion Lutheran Church and School

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

Now enrolling
Kindergarten
through 8th grade
for Fall 2004.
Call office for details.



Forum for Lutheran High School in San Francisco

On Monday, November 15th, over 40 people attended an initial meeting toward starting a Lutheran High School in San Francisco and the immediate area. It was a most encouraging "forum," with an excellent presentation by Mr. Kris Schneider, Principal of Sacramento Lutheran High School. Out of this meeeting, an exploratory task force is being forum. Survey sheets were passed out inviting those who attended to participate in such ways as prayer, exploratory committee, help developing a business plan, financial gifts, etc. If you would like one of these sheets, contact the office at West Portal Lutheran Church (661-0242); the sheets are being collated and received by Mrs. Barbara Louie of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

The forum did not dwell on what took place in the past in an effort to establish a San Francisco Lutheran High School. Instead, a strong missional emphasis on leading souls to Jesus Christ was made, as well as the quality of such a school academically and in other ways. Mr. Schneider, the son-in-law of founding president of Concordia University-Irvine (Christ College), Dr. Charles Manske, is himself a product of Lutheran schools and colleges. He gave sound guidance at the forum, recommending that we engage Synod's Genesis Project to help us in the intial stages of development. Please keep this vision of a Lutheran High School in San Francisco in your prayers to the Lord that His perfect will may be done and that He may give us the courage of our faith and convictions to act.

In our Savior's Name, Pastor David Stechholz PAGE 5 OUR CHURCH IN S.F.

Bethel & Grace Lutheran Ministries

2525 Alemany Blvd., SF 465 Woolsey St, SF (415)587-2525 (415) 468-2937 Pastor Terry Chan SFmissions@aol.com

Staffing

A time table for filling the positions of youth worker and administrative assistant is being developed. We are also going to contract a Project Manager for the next phase of development for opening the Preschool in the Spring of 2005.

Music Ministry Team

The team will continue to lead the pre-service singing each week and play one song during the worship service. We are hoping the team can lead a praise service early next year, the team is tentatively planning to lead all the songs at the January 30, 2005 Sunday service (a fifth Sunday).

Small Groups for Strategic Growth

SG² needs to build momentum. The contacts that are being established through the Grace food bank may allow us to form a group for Chinese speaking people, mostly senior "grandmas and grandpas" after the new year. Catherine Tong is willing to help lead.

The downtown bible study group is going well and hopefully they will take an urgent look at inviting un-churched people rather than just being another inreach Christian group

Worship Service Schedule:

All services during Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas will be held at Grace as follows:

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, 10:30am Wednesday, Mid-week Advent, 7:00 pm on December 1, 8, and 15. Friday, Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm Saturday, Christmas Day at 10:30 am Sunday, Regular service at 10:30 am

Canaan Lutheran Church

495 - 9th Ave, San Francisco

(415) 221-0250

Pastor David Tin



First Lutheran Church

350 Dolores Way, SSF

(650) 583-5131

Pastor Jeff Schufreider

Hope Lutheran Church and School

55 San Fernando Way, Daly City (650) 991-4673 **Pastor Daniel Woo**home.earthlink.net/~hopedalycity Pastor/Education Director: Rev. Jeff Schufreider

The Pre-School and Elementary School are in full swing under the leadership of Reverend Jeffrey Schufreider. The children are preparing for the Christmas Program which will be held with the Advent Service on December 15th at 7:00 p.m. Principal Schufreider is also organizing a fund raiser for the elementary school that will be dedicated to the "hi tech" area of the classrooms. We have a goal to purchase a laser printer, "Net Nanny" software to keep the children safe from the internet, purchase computer work stations for the keyboards and CPUs and two computers.

The Pre-School will be holding a *Teddy Bear Tea and Advent Fair* on Saturday, December 11th, to raise \$1,500 for new pre-school materials. Children and adults will be able to make Advent and Christmas items to take home, learn more about the Advent season, decorate cookies to have with their tea and finally sing Christmas carols. If you would like to support these endeavors, please talk with Pastor Jeff.

The 2nd Annual *Harvest Carnival* was held on October 30th. There were over 300 in attendance! The children played games, ate 'carnival food', enjoyed the entertainment and had a great time. The members of Hope Lutheran's Chinese Ministries sponsored the *Lighthouse Café* on October 23rd. This follow-up to the Gospel Night of June 26th was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with members of the community. The next event will be the annual Chinese New Year Celebration.

Hope Lutheran Church will hold Advent Worship Services on December 1st, 8th and 15th at 7pm; Christmas Eve Worship Service at 11pm; Christmas Day Worship Service at 10am and New Year's Eve Worship Service at 7pm.

Please continue to pray for the teaching and resource staff of Hope Lutheran Ministries. Also, keep the growth of the schools in your prayers. We ask that you pray with us that we seize every opportunity to boldly proclaim the "Good News" to those who come to Hope Lutheran Church and Ministries.

Hope Lutheran offers many opportunities for fellowship through our schools—Pre-school*, Elementary K-6*, Extended Care, After School Tutorial, Chinese Language—Bible Studies, Youth Groups, sewing group, Mr. "Fix-it" group and Chinese Fellowship Groups.

*Currently accepting applications for Pre-school and Elementary School.

Email address: hopedalvcitv@earthlink.net

Web site address: home.earthlink.net/~hopedalycity

PAGE 7 **NEHEMIAH NEWS**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

E-mail: holyspirit_lc@yahoo.com (415) 661-1120

Vacant

2400 Noriega St, S.F.

As the cool winds of winter descend upon the Sunset in San Francisco, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and Advent season. A joyful season filled with thanksgiving and anticipation!

Our congregation has just completed "A Pastoral Quality" survey, as we begin our search for a new pastor. November 7th we held a Forum, of all fellowship leaders, which met with our advisor, Rev Ted Iverson. This Forum will provide quality feedback for Rev. Iverson in his role as our congregation's advisor during the pastoral vacancy. We expect to begin the Call process for a pastor early next year.

November 14th our congregation will have a Thanksgiving Foodfest after our morning worship services. A large variety of food will be offered, followed by a Silent Auction and Talent Show. The proceeds will benefit The SF Lutheran Nehemiah Project and Holy Spirit's Building Expansion Fund. Two food barrels from the SF Food Bank have been delivered to our church for the collection of donated non-perishable foods and canned foods.

November 20th at 4 p.m. there will be a gathering of persons to be baptized and confirmed on December 12th. Many of these persons are from China, where they never heard of Jesus. They will give their testimonies of how they come to know the Lord, and how the Love of Jesus has changed their lives.

December 12th there will be 6 baptisms and 20 persons confirmed. What a day of rejoicing this will be as we witness these persons begin their new life in Jesus Christ.

December 12th at 4 p.m., followed by dinner, there will be a Christmas celebration for Cantonese Speaking Seekers at Hope Lutheran Church. Friends and relatives are invited to this special Cantonese Gospel Outreach.

December 17th at 7 p.m. the English Ministry proudly presents a Christmas Musical Celebration & Banquet, featuring Pastor Lenny Szeto as the speaker and a musical production directed by our own Christopher Ng.

2005 Youth Mission Trip to Tijuana, Mexico! We have 28 youths registered for the trip to Tijuana June 11 - June 19, 2005. They will have the opportunity to experience a Christcentered & community impacting mission trip. We pray these young people will have a "servant" and "missionary" heart as they focus on two primary areas: children and home improvement. The work with children consists of a hands-on afternoon program known as Kids Club. The group will be staying and sleeping at an orphanage. There will be two days of home building projects under direction of Youthworks (the organization that is hosting this event). They will be bringing hope to a family and the opportunity to share the love of Christ with them.

"And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ" II Thessalonians 3:5

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New Life Chinese Lutheran Church

www.newlifechinese.org

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-6525

Pastor Chip Fox

Looking to the Road Ahead at New Life

On September 26, 2004, New Life celebrated Education Sunday by honoring all our Small Group, Fellowship, and Sunday School leaders. It was a very special day as we gave thanks and praise to God for their collective service to our Lord through the vital ministry of leading and teaching at New Life. While we spent some time reflecting on the past, we also asked our leaders to help seek clarity in God's will for New Life in 2005 and beyond. With the help of a survey provided by Natural Church Development, 30 leaders/members were asked to candidly provide answers about their spiritual journey at New Life. This marks only the beginning, as there will be follow on meetings to review the survey results, interpret the results, and put some concrete plans in place after prayerfully considering what God reveals to us through this process.

In December, at our follow up meeting and planning day, New Life's leaders will once again gather; this time to determine even more precisely God's future desire for New Life. The Rev. Ed Krueger, Mission Executive, CNH District LCMS ,who has experience in leading churches to realize their specific mission in doing the work of sharing the Gospel, will help provide support and guidance as New Life fine tunes her God given mission.

Sermon Series: The Lutheran Difference

Beginning on September 26th, we began a seven part sermon series that examined the Biblical roots that cause Lutherans to believe what they believe: 1st: "Sola Fide! By Faith Alone!" 2nd: "Sola Gratia! By Grace Alone! 3rd: "Sola Scriptura! Scripture Alone!" 4th: "Be Baptized!" 5ath: "Worship God Through The Blood!" 5bth: "Receive The Real Presence!" 6th: Let All Things Be Done Decently & In Order!" 7th: "Tell Them That The World May Know!" We were well readied for our Reformation Day celebration!

Mission John 3:16!

Starting in mid-October we began the sermon series about our Lord's call to mission: *God's Church On The Grow!* 1st: "Team New Life! & Team Shepherd of the Hills!" 2nd: "New Life/ Shepherd Of The Hills The Next Generation!" and 3nd: "Let God Empower Your Witness!" On October 31st George & Tomeka Shum led the Youth & Young Adult Fellowships in hosting our successful Harvest Festival. Many people gave wonderfully of their time and energy to make this outreach possible, and the many Gospel contacts were well ministered to and cared for. We look forward to seeing them again!

On November 7th, as we celebrated All Saints' Sunday, New Life & SOTH examined how God calls us to be His instruments to bring in the next generation of Jesus' saints. At the end of the sermon, everyone was invited to write down the names of "Five ["Pre-Christian"] Friends For Christ!" on the provided sheet. They volunteered to pray daily for and seek to invite them to this season's New Life outreach opportunities, including:

Thanksgiving Sunday Celebration & Luncheon: Sunday, 10:30 am, November 21st, 2004 Christmas Program & Dinner, Saturday 5pm: December 18th, 2004 Christmas Eve Candlelight Family Worship: Friday, 7:30pm, December 24th, 2004 Christmas Day Worship: Saturday, 10am, December 25th, 2004

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New Life Continued

Please Pray For Us!

1) Praise God for Rev. Ed Krueger's & Rev. Chip Fox's spiritual guidance of New Life and pray that the Lord would provide clarity on His will for New Life through His servants.

- 2) Each leader and member prayerfully considers their role in advancing New Life's mission.
- 3) That God would bless each New Lifer as they reach five for Christ.
- 4) That God would bless His outreach opportunities for "pre-Christians" mentioned directly above.

Pastor Chip Fox & President Tim Tam

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

395 Addison Street, San Francisco

(415) 586-3424

Pastor Chip Fox

Shepherd of the Hills members are currently looking forward to enjoying the company of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church members at joint services and fellowships during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Our English language worship services are now at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with Pastor Fox leading us. Retired Deaconess Jackie Haug-Schulz is currently leading our 9:00 a.m. Bible Class in a study of the book by Rev. Kelly Fryer entitled "Reclaiming the 'L' Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core".

West Portal Lutheran Church and School

www.westportallutheran.org

200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco (415) 661-0242 Pastor David Stechholz



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Missions Festival

On Saturday and Sunday, February 5th & 6th, West Portal will have it's annual missions festival. This year's speaker is the Rev. Gary Rohwer of POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach). POBLO is a worldwide Lutheran Ministry to Muslims in leading them to God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Rohwer will be the preacher for the three Services at WPLC and for the combined Youth and Adult Bible Class hour on Transfiguration Sunday morning, February 6th, at 9:45 a.m. More information to come.



Zion Lutheran Church and School

www.zion luther anchurch.org

495 - 9th Ave, SF

(415) 221-7500

Pastor Ted Zimmerman

ZION SCHEDULES SERVICES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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

- Wednesday, Dec. 1, Grades 6-8
- Wednesday, Dec. 8, Grades K-2
- Wednesday, Dec. 15, Grades 3-5

Christmas Eve Services:

- Friday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Family Service: *Good News for All*
- Friday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m. Carol and Candlelight Service: The First (and Best) Gift of Christmas

Christmas Day Service:

• Saturday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - Communion Service: The Word of God, Light, and New Creation!

Zion Lutheran continued

Sunday after Christmas:

• Sunday, Dec. 26, one service only at 11 a.m.! Not Time Yet!

No Services scheduled for New Year's Eve or Day

ZION ADDS THIRD SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Zion now offers three services and three styles of worship on Sunday morning:

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Blended Worship

8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services are held in the Sanctuary. The 9:30 a.m. contemporary service is held in the Fireside Room. The new contemporary service targets the youth of the congregation and community, as well as our day school families. The 8:00 a.m. traditional service targets long-time Lutherans as well as those who like liturgical worship. The 11:00 a.m. service seeks to blend more contemporary hymns and worship elements with some traditional elements, and is conducted in a somewhat more "user friendly" style for the sake of those from our community not accustomed to liturgical worship.

Canaan Lutheran continues to offer worship in Cantonese and Mandarin in the sanctuary at the 9:30 a.m. hour.

(Article continued on next page.)

TASK FORCES AT WORK TO HELP ZION ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES IN ITS MINISTRY:

Zion currently has five Task Forces at work addressing critical issues for improving and expanding ministry. The five task forces are:

- Worship Task Force Tom Hurley, Chair
- Small Group Ministry Task Force Agnes Lee, Chair
- Outreach Task Force Terry Wong, Chair
- Education Task Force Richard Ulmer, Chair (This Task Force will address issues other than the Day School ministry.)

Some members of the Outreach Task Force and Pastor Zimmerman recently attended the National Outreach Conference in San Diego, CA, November 3 through 6, in order to get some ideas that can be used to improve our outreach to the people of our community. Likewise, Pastor Zimmerman and Agnes Lee attended a Small Group workshop at the CA-NV-HI District office in order to become facilitators and trainers for a small group ministry start at Zion.

The fifth Task Force is the Building Expansion Committee that is already will along the way in its work. It is currently working with the architect and engineers developing the detailed plans needed to submit to the City Building Department. Serious construction should be underway this spring, although some preliminary steps may begin before Christmas.

You are invited to join us for a Christmas Cantata.

The combined choirs of Bethel and Grace Ministries and West Portal will be presenting the cantata, "How Great Our Joy". It will be directed by J. Wayne Kerr, director from West Portal and Jan Lundquist, director from Bethel and Grace Ministries. Mary Lynne Shumway will accompany on the piano.

Please join us. Wed, Dec. 8th, 7:30 pm at West Portal Sunday, Dec. 12th, 10:30 am at Grace

2005 Summer Servant Events

We are planning to try 2 Servant Event this summer, 2005, in order to get information and practice so we can send in an application by Sept. 1, 2005 to have a Synodically Sponsored Event in the Summer of 2006. Our Summer 2005 events will focus on San Francisco and invite youth groups from the Bay Area. There may be a possibility to grow into a Mission Trip to Mexico with these groups as well. SFLNP was going to be the sponsoring entity for these events. We can probably get some funding through Thrivent. We will be looking for other donations as well.

We are looking at the weekends of July 8-10, 2005 and August 5-7, 2005.

For July 8-10, we are hoping to make this a Join Hands Day (Thrivent sponsored event) and help our congregations or congregational members. We will do projects at the church properties or homes of members or neighbors. These projects will be decided on prior to the event.

The second event, August 5-7 will be a Homeless and Hungry theme. We will have the participants experience, in some degree, what it is like to be homeless and hungry and then go and help some who have to experience it every day. We can work with the Food Pantries, Food Bank, Soup Kitchens, and Organizations that try to combat homelessness.

If you are interested in participating, volunteering to help lead, or donating food or other items for these projects, please contact Karen Jacob, 650-583-6920.

Fall Collection

Help us make personal care packs by collecting travel size toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, mouthwash, soap, hand cream and make up. Contact Tina Haner (Zion) 415-751-1629 for more info.

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_one@juno.com or (415) 587-7387 or Karen Jacob at dce@westportallutheran.org or (415) 661-0242.