

December 2010

HIGHER GROUND Newsletter

Lake Superior Interfaith Community Church

1414 E. 9th St.

Duluth, MN 55805

218-724-6554

President's Message

Sunday Services

11:00 a.m.

Lunch after every service.

Potluck 3rd Sundays

CHURCH BOARD

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Rebecca Lee

Harley Blake

Michael Walke

Bernadette Savage

Fog blankets Duluth today. The trees are bare of leaves. The sky and water are gray. An icy shroud covers half of Park Point. It is a day that makes me grateful for shelter, warmth and the nearness of loved ones.

Through December, darkness will descend earlier and earlier. A part of me grieves the loss of sun and the dropping temperatures. But there is also magic in this season. This is a special, spiritual time. In the tradition of earth religions, this is the time of contemplation.

The seed waits in the darkness. In the Christian tradition, we await the birth of the Christ child and the transition to a new age. This is our time to go inward. It is a time to discover and re-discover more deeply who we are.

Winter parallels the time in creation myth when there was only Darkness, before the worlds came into being. Milton wrote, "First there was Chaos, the vast immeasurable abyss, outrageous as a sea, dark, wild." The King James Bible says in Genesis, chapter 1, verse 2 "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Before what is created comes into being, we are in the Void and in a state of Unknowing. We are the seed waiting in the Darkness.

Steve Plasa, reported from Tom Kenyon's October workshop that we are now in the midst of a Chaotic Node. This chaos precedes change, great, evolutionary change. Our relationship with the earth is evolving as we develop more balanced respectful interactions with our living planet. We are open to solutions. Within our own church community, we have the opportunity to begin a book study in January of The Natural Step for Communities, How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices. One of the films Steve referenced 'Koyaanisqatsi' will also be shown in January. Carol Northcott has researched and obtained information on community composting and details her findings in this newsletter.

She secured 2 new bins to be used for kitchen scraps and food waste. Thank you, Carol! Individually and collectively we are rebalancing our male and female energies. And so we are grateful also to Kathleen Abel for leading us in a series on the 13 feminine archetypes! The first in this series, the Great Mother, is coincidentally a symbol for this time, waiting in stillness, empty and open to that which is to come.

To ride this tide of change Steve advised we attune our hearts daily to joy. In joy we raise our vibrational levels and open our hearts to "new relationships with nature and the earth, with higher dimensions of our existence and beings from outside our world." In December we will be focused on the Joy of the Season. In addition to the the Winter Solstice drumming circle on December 17, Sue Hall and Bernadette Savage, Mike Anderson and our beautiful choir will give voice to that Joy over the next few Sundays.

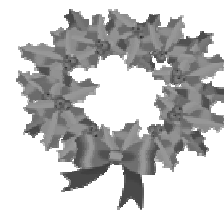
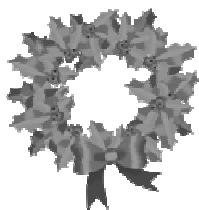
Beholding you in Peace and Joy, Ann

"O, Christmas Tree"- GIVING Tree, That Is

In December our annual Giving Tree will return, and with it our opportunity to make a contribution to our community. We'll start with hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens which will go to the Damiano Center. Remember that these items do not need to be brand new. If you have a gently used item that you no longer need, please bring it to hang on our tree.

In the following months we will collect personal care items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant and shampoo for the CHUM Center. We're giving you a heads-up now so that you can pick up items at your convenience as you do your holiday shopping. We'll also collect items and cash for our local animal shelters.

So please see what you can do to help 'decorate' our Giving Tree this holiday season! Thanks and blessings to all.



Upcoming Events

2nd Sunday of each month
Board Meeting

"Building the Sanctuary of the Open Heart."

Beginning Nov 13 4-5:30 p.m. LSICC

December 4 Week Three: **The Priestess**

Archetypes: Selene, Lady of the lake, Hestia, Blue Medicine Buddha

December 11 Week Four: **Creator/Destroyer**

Archetypes: Kali ma, Pele, Durga, Prometheus...

December 18 Week Five: **Lady Of Communion**

Archetypes: Artemis, Diana, Flora, Lady of the Beasts, Pan, Green Man, Oak King

December 25: no class

January 1 Week Six: **The Muse**

Archetypes: Calliope, Urania, Fana, Clio, Iris, Saint Bridgit, Mercury and more...

Dec. 17
7 p.m. Equinox Drumming

Ongoing Events

Debtors Anonymous Meeting
Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.
Contact Gary 728-4085

Gamblers Anonymous
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Gathering before Sunday service
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Circle Meeting

Timing Is Everything
Explore the predictability of life experiences



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Community Ed Class at Woodland is **Destiny vs. Free Will**: "Learn to explore the predictability of monthly cycles using the principles of Astrology and Numerology." Registration fee to school is \$5.00 plus \$15 for workbook payable to instructor night of class. Monday, January 24, 2011; 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Call Woodland to register or for information : 728-7463 OR Call the number above 218-341-5335

The Nature of Being

Phyllis McCoy

Intuitive Life Coach

612-789-8309

(Telephone Sessions By Appointment)

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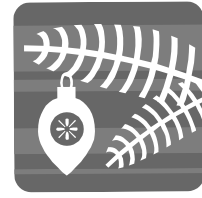
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Contact Barb Gudowski at 715-394-9246 or bgudowski@aol.com

If you have something of interest to share - email to the above address



*To you and yours
We wish you a very Merry Christmas
and
The most wonderful New Year*



Sacred Journeys of WI (Holly Gray Schuck) and The LAKEHOUSE B&B present:
Who are the ASCENDED MASTERS... Saturday-January 15, 2011

A one-day exploration of teachers* who have ascended.

*These teachers are called THE GREAT WHITE BROTHERHOOD

This workshop continues the discussion and experience helping us to come into a personal relationship with those ancestors who have undergone the process of spiritual transformation and who remain attentive to the spiritual needs of humanity. They are called: The ASCENDED MASTERS or The Great White Brotherhood (White refers to light.)

We will use both guided meditation and open forum for this workshop. Just back from Mt. Shasta, Holly Gray Schuck teaches with heart about the masters who have walked the Earth and made their ascension and has a personal relationship with several masters who have helped her understand the “holon” of ascension or the Mer-Ka-Ba. Come and join us for this provocative day that will aid us in our own ascension process.

Workshop runs from 9:00-4:00 Saturday. (Registration and check-in is at 8:30 a.m.)

COST for this one day event is only \$125 and includes catered lunch.

The LAKE HOUSE is offering a special room rate of \$80(for 2) or \$40 (single) for those that need to stay overnight. Workshop is held at THE LAKE HOUSE B&B in Stone Lake, WI.

Call for more information: 715-865-6803 / \$25 deposit will hold your space for this workshop.

Make payments to: Holly Schuck N5793 Division Ave. STONE LAKE, WI 54876

Combined Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) & Opening Our Doors (OOD) Retreat—11/6/10

Identify common goals: OOD began as people of faith struggled to become open to GLBTA people. SSL grew out of OOD in an effort to carry the work on all year. Both have a goal of faith equality.

Going forward:

- Continue to encourage and inspire safe faith community, and provide opportunities for healing.
- Keep the faith element present and vibrant; stay active working for civil justice and equality.
- Help churches move towards denominational change.
- Help us to deepen our understanding of our mission and to learn about one another as people of faith.
- Sponsor events to reach out to GLBTA community, and a *Coming Out* service each fall.
- Work with *Together for Youth* and the schools on issues like bullying.
- Be ready to offer institutional support when people experience prejudice, vandalism, etc. Be ready with a response.
- Members of the GLBTA community have volunteered for Bentleyville Sunday evening, 12/5. Come, show your pride.

Planning: A possible January meeting is planned to work on a mission statement, goals, and 2011 timeline.

COMPOSTING

WLSSD has loaned Lake Superior Interfaith Community Church two Food Waste collection containers. We can reduce the amount of trash we send to the landfill by using them to collect the food scraps as we prepare our Sunday meal. The following are compostable items: Meat, fish, small bones ; Spoiled or moldy food; Tea leaves & tea bags; Coffee grounds & filters; Fruits, vegetables, peels & pits; Cheese & butter; Baked goods, dough, pasta, rice; Anything that is/was edible; even biodegradable plates, cups, napkins, and utensils.

To use the system we will need people willing to haul the food scrap bags to one of the collect sites. Currently the site at Chester Creek Cafe is for households only and WLSSD recommends we use a WLSSD site: during the Winter at the Materials recycling center on Rice Lake road open Tuesday through Saturday and during the Summer the Yard Waste site at WLSSD open Friday through Monday. We will be start a sign-up for volunteers.

We have done some preliminary research on the cost of biodegradable compostable plates and bowls. The cost per item is about 6 to 9 cents per item. On the other hand, bills for water and electricity will increase slightly for heating and consumption of water to wash dishes. Another item will be wear and tear on the dishwasher.

The board will be evaluating whether to switch to compostable plates or continue to wash the reusable plates at their next meetings. Please provide them with your feedback to help make a decision.

Friendly Reminder

It is flu season and, please, take extra precautions Wash your hands, cough into the crook of the elbow vs. coughing into one’s hands.

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 Duluth, MN 55805

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If this issue is addressed to an individual who no longer wishes to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office and leave message 724-6554 or drop us a note. Thank you

To schedule Church events, please contact the President, Ann McKie and submit a written proposal with dates and times.

Ann McKie: 218-720-2844/218-391-9737
 Or ann@mckiesplints.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.lsicc.org

December	January 2011
Dec. 5 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Cheryl Larson "Transmutation" Healer - Rev. Jean Kwako	<i>Happy New Year</i> Jan 2 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Rev. Coni Sharp Healer -
Dec.12 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Rev. Phyllis McCoy Healer - Jean Captain Conferences following lunch	Jan 9 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Rev. Phyllis McCoy Healer -
Dec. 19 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Rev. Sharon Szukis Healer - Rev. Sharon Manns Pot Luck	Jan 16 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Healer - Pot Luck
<i>Merry Christmas</i> Dec. 26 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Cedric Littlewolf Healer - Rev. Jerome Kwako Fold newsletter 9:30 a.m.	Jan 23 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Healer -
	Jan 30 11:00 a.m. Speaker - Rev. Kim Luedtke Healer - Fold Newsletter 9:30 a.m.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/duluthlsicc> It's Free!

web site: www.lsicc.org Featuring calendar of speakers & healers, newsletters, links, pictures, Mission Statement, and more!