



# New Creation Lutheran Church

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*September*  
2006

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# Musicpalooza

# Sings America

## September 29 & 30

at

## New Creation Church

An evening of song showcasing  
American Music

**Admission: \$7:50**

Tickets available now.

7275 Santa Teresa Blvd. San Jose, CA. 95119 Ph: 408-972-9200

Website: [www.newcreationchurch-sj.org](http://www.newcreationchurch-sj.org)

Email: [office@newcreationchurch-sj.org](mailto:office@newcreationchurch-sj.org)

# Musicpalooza Evolution

Long, long ago and far, far away on a small insignificant planet in the Sol solar system an idea formed between two even more insignificant people. Let's show exactly who this person is who's playing for our church. I believe it was August 12<sup>th</sup> 1998 when the first show started. It showcased Tony Sotomayor, Gwen Mustin, Deb Underwood (Rye at the time) and I (Jim Underwood). I had put together about 40 minutes of songs that I was familiar with to tantalize and wow the congregation. They were mildly impressed.

## **Building a mole hill.**

One purpose, other than showing the congregation what abilities I had, was to possibly bring in new members to the church. It didn't work. We didn't advertise, knew nothing about soaking the neighborhood with flyers, and had very little contact with the people here. But, we still had fun.

## **Enlarging our scope**

As my involvement with the children's bell choir became increasingly intense, it was only natural that they too would join in the fun. Sarah and Rachel Doering were the first draftee's to enlist in the show. As soon as the word spread the rest of the kids followed suit.

## **"If you bake it, they will come!"**

"Let's try selling baked goods in order to increase funding!" Was the rationale in the beginning of seeing possible monetary advantages. During the intermission we ate most of it ourselves. And, more people did show up!

## **We can dance! (sort of)**

Getting these Lutherans to dance was like pulling a grisly bear's teeth. "No, your other left foot!" Again, it was cute; and it did prove miracles do happen.

## **"What a production!"**

Gradually, we added more props to the show like the lovely yellow curtain material; and lots of lighting including a spotlight. Ted Hemmig built a backdrop to hold the curtain the first year; then the next it held movie posters, and then finally it held the Broadway New York skyline that we all participated in drawing. Not only did we increase in material things, but also in personnel. We found we needed a stage manager (Glenda Voss) and a lighting chief (Ted Hemmig) and a microphone coordinator (Michelle Kruse).

## **"Too Big"**

Before we started rehearsing this year we decided to set down and plan (what a concept!) what form Musicpalooza would take. In years past we all dressed in costumes (which took time to make and time to put on) which made the show last about 40 minutes longer than usual. And, in the dressing room there was complete hysteria. So, apart from the minor objections, we are not having any costumes and only a couple of wireless mics.

## **Jobs R Us**

Last year most of the congregation was either in the show or helping out with the numerous jobs that needed to be done. Like light control, moving microphones, moving props, helping with ticket sales, drinks, etc.... This year some of that still remains. Since the tickets are sold on the nights and they are \$7:50 per person, we will need someone to handle that job. During intermission there will be drinks sold and free food which also requires a couple of people manning those jobs.

My original viewpoint for this event was to let the congregation have fun. I'm sure some people had fun last year. I hope by making some changes we will all have fun. Last year Musicpalooza became a living, breathing thing. This year it will be inspiring.

*Jim U.*



are you ready to **AKALOO** ?

## **What is akaloo???**

Akaloo means “to follow”. Jesus says to each of his disciples: “follow me... drop your nets... a new life awaits you.” akaloo comes from the Greek word: *akolouthein*, which means to follow. And this faith formation curriculum is inspired by these words of Jesus. It’s time to get ready to alaloo!

## **Are you ready to akaloo?**

Akaloo is a lifelong faith formation for the whole congregation. For children, youth, and adults. Akaloo is intentional discipleship that’s open to God’s surprises. Akaloo is following Jesus as the body of Christ.

## **Moving beyond Sunday school:**

Too many finish Sunday school and move on from church. It’s time for that to change. Let’s move beyond Sunday school and engage the whole congregation – children, youth, adults. Let’s dedicate ourselves to lifelong discipleship.

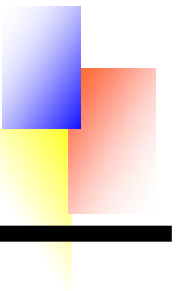
## **Currently:**

Classes for pre-school and elementary children and junior high youth will be held during Sunday worship at 10:15 AM

Confirmation Classes for youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are being formed

Adult classes & small groups will begin in October.

Sign-ups now at the church office, or [nclcsj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nclcsj@sbcglobal.net)



New Creation Lutheran Church

# September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1:30-5:30pm UCG 6:30pm Bible Study Gp 7:30pm Musicpalooza
3 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Prayer service 10:15am Worship 4:30pm APC	4 7pm Musicpalooza	5 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	6 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	7 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	8 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	9 Workday 1:30-5:30pm UCG 6:30pm Bible Study Gp 7:30pm Musicpalooza
10 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Prayer service 10:15am Worship 4:30pm APC	11 7pm Musicpalooza	12 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	13 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	14 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	15 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	16 1:30-5:30pm UCG 6:30pm Bible Study Gp 7:30pm Musicpalooza
17 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Prayer service 10:15am Worship 4:30pm APC	18 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	19 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	20 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	21 7:30pm Musicpalooza Tech Rehearsal	22 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	23 1:30-5:30pm UCG 6:30pm Bible Study Gp 7:30pm Musicpalooza
24 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Prayer service 10:15am Worship 4:30pm APC	25 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	26 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	27 4:00pm Confirmation class 7pm Musicpalooza Reh.	28 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	29 4pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm crafting @New Creation 7:30pm APC	30 1:30-5:30pm UCG 6:30pm Bible Study Gp 7:30pm Musicpalooza

**You are warmly invited by**  
**NEW CREATION CHURCH** to come to:

**Musicpalooza:**

A musical extravaganza

Fri. & Sat. September 29 & 30

7-9:30 PM

**Pet Blessing**

rite at 10:30 & 12:30)

Saturday, October 14

(Blessing

10AM -1PM

**The New Life Band:**

Saturday November 11,

7-9:30 PM

A concert of African music with donations raised for their elementary school in Tanzania

**Worship led by The New Life Band**

Sunday November 12, 10:15 AM

**International Craft & Gift Bazaar**

Sunday, November 12,

(make this a Christmas with a Conscience)

9AM-1PM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17, 10:15 AM



The Ice Cream Social on Saturday touched the lives of over 15 of our neighbors, who all walked to the event.

You all had a hand in making it a great success! And fun was had by all.

The student and teacher blessing on Sunday was a great beginning of a new "tradition" for our community.

Thanks to everyone.

New Creation Church Presents....

# Pet Blessing & Pet Fair

In honor of:  
St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals. Saturday, October 14th, 2006, 10am-1pm.

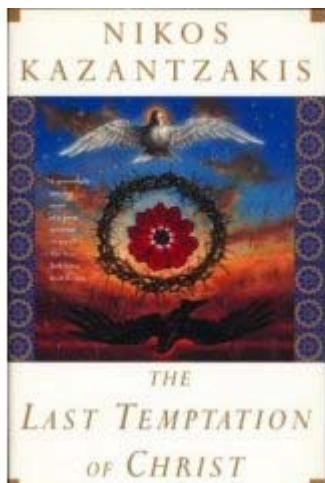


All pets are welcome! There will be presentations, resource materials, raffles & refreshments!  
Call 408-972-9200 for more information.



All pets must be kept on a leash or in appropriate carriers. Water will be available, as well as plastic bags for cleaning up.

New Creation Lutheran Church  
7275 Santa Teresa Blvd.  
San Jose, CA. 95139



**Books & Brew—*Date to be announced*—**  
The Book is: The Last Temptation of Christ  
By Nikus Kazantzakis

Birthdays			Anniversaries	
6-Sep	Cory	Oogjen	Ted & Kathy Hemmig	12-Sep
8-Sep	Doug	Morse	Bob & Carol Busby	20-Sep
11-Sep	Anne	Carlson	Cory & Michelle Oogjen	21-Sep
18-Sep	Becky	Everson		
20-Sep	Sally	Pierce		
23-Sep	Dustin	Dimas		
28-Sep	Kirsten	Hemmig		

Statistics: Giving & Attendance				
Date	Offering	Other	Total Giving	Attendance
7/2/2006	1797.77	240	2037.77	34
7/9/2006	775	37	812	31
7/16/2006	1424	333	1757	50
7/23/2006	685	944.5	1629.5	47
7/30/2006	2018.2	215	2233.2	45
			<b>8469.47</b>	



Dear colleagues in ministry,

Grace and peace to you. As we move out of summer into the busier schedules of fall, I have been thinking about what an intriguing time it is to be in ministry. At a recent synod assembly, I commented that I think I might have the best call in this church, for I am privileged to see what the Holy Spirit is doing through the faith lives of ELCA members and through ELCA ministries. The response to my statement was a bit surprising, but wonderful to experience: pastors and lay rostered leaders spontaneously lined up to challenge me. They wanted to tell me *why theirs* is the best call in this church.

I share that experience not to foster a greater spirit of competition among us. In fact, I have heard many of you describe the challenge of serving in a religious marketplace that is both competitive and consumer-oriented and in a culture that seems both fractious and polarized. Such conditions can lead to a feeling of isolation and discouragement in ministry. It is, therefore, a great sign of hope for this church to hear the stories of those who proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, who are grounded in the strong theological themes of the ongoing Lutheran Reformation, who delight in seeing members deepen their lives of discipleship, who are imaginative as their ministries are shaped by changing contexts, who are energized by teaching and working with youth and families, and who are renewed by the Holy Spirit in their lives of prayer, conversation, and reflection.

In July, the ELCA Church Council held a retreat that focused on one of the churchwide organization's strategic directions: "Support congregations in their call to be faithful, welcoming, and generous, sharing the mind of Christ." Kenneth Inskeep, ELCA director for research and evaluation, shared a very helpful overview of ELCA membership and congregations, and comparable information about other religious bodies in the United States.

ELCA teaching theologian James Nieman of Hartford Seminary suggested that in light of membership losses, we might think the primary questions are, "Will we survive this decline? Can we ever make our impact felt again?" He argued that these are neither the principal challenges nor our most pertinent issues.

Nieman contends that the most pressing questions are, "What shall we proclaim? How shall we support our mutual work?" Thus the underlying challenge is theological: what we proclaim as church in mission. He said, "If we long merely for survival and influence, we will abandon solidarity with the margins, lose our distinctive voice, and foster disconnection and fragmentation."

Think about the core language of the church that describes God's encounter with us, and shapes the patterns of faithful life and work in and beyond the church. For Lutherans, that story is centered in the living Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. Through the gospel, the Holy Spirit brings us to faith and gives us gifts for ministry. In a culture preoccupied with success, it is a theology of the cross that must continue to shape our identity and mission.

Nieman expanded upon four "distinctive and potent ways" we can contribute to the mission of this church:

- Reframing the tools: move past accountability based on direct measures (numbers, trends, finances) to focus on the formation of what Nieman calls "faithful character" in congregations.
- Remembering small congregations: small size does not mean low vitality; there is a distinctive voice of the small congregation in the larger ecology of the church.
- Rethinking larger congregations: 28 percent of ELCA congregations are growing in membership. What do reciprocal relationships between congregations of various sizes look like in this interdependent church engaged in God's mission?
- Reclaiming our testimony: how might all the baptized be encouraged to share daily the story of who they are in light of God's grace and mercy in Christ Jesus?
- How do we together discern what God is doing so that we might give faithful witness to it?

There's no need to debate who has the best call. Rather, we can encourage each other, pray for each other, listen to each other, and see our calls as shared calls to ministries of Word and Sacrament and Word and Service. I thank God for each of you in your ministries, whether in congregations, in specialized settings, or in retirement and share this blessing from the rite of installation with you: "(May) the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

With gratitude for your ministry, Mark S. Hanson

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
**“Good Goats: Healing our Image of God**

For women who need a break & a prayer

**Meet at:** MoonBeans Coffee Shop  
6219 Santa Teresa Blvd.

**FRIDAYS, 4:00 PM**

Beginning September 6, 2006  
Led by Pastor Anne Carlson

**NURSERY AND CHILD CARE AVAILABLE**

Please reserve by calling  
Pastor Anne at 408-406-8749

**New Creation Church: a new kind of church**

[www.newcreationchurch-sj.org](http://www.newcreationchurch-sj.org)