

# St. Leo Church Social Justice Page

**L'Honey Update: Bee Notes:** The hives were active this past week, thoroughly enjoying the warmer and sunnier weather. The healthier, over-wintered hives are expanding and beginning to set swarm cells. This reproductive process of making queen cells in anticipation of splitting off to make a new colony is a joyous time for the bees and has always given me hope. Some of the over-wintered hives have challenges. One hive that is struggling with a fungal infection known as Chalk Brood was setting both swarm queen cells as well as what is called supersedure queen cells that often are indications that the reigning queen is not doing well. With this colony I decided to make a "split" with these cells. A split is making an artificial swarm (new colony) with the queen cells. My hope is that the parent colony would be able to keep its original queen, if healthy, or work on continuing to raise a healthy replacement queen. If the parent colony falters on having a healthy queen, my plan would be to merge that split I made back with the parent colony, and they would both survive. However, if the parent colony recovers on its own, I will then have 2 colonies of bees instead of one!

Also, I have another hive with dysentery, or the possible gut infection known as Nosema. To try to help this hive, I have removed as many soiled bee frames and hive equipment as possible to lessen the infection load in the hive. I also gave it more honey as the colony's food supply was low. Often this infection will clear up as the weather warms and bees get out of the hive more often. There are some medications that may help but they are not always very effective. My hope is that the sunnier weather will help.

*The honeybee and the wonders of Creation speak to me of the Divine. God has blessed me to be privileged to care for these little "Servant of Christ." My desire is to do them well that they may teach me of God and allow me to grow in humility before my Lord.*

## **Peace Lutheran Community Meal: A Volunteer Role is Open**

St. Leo Parish has been offering a community meal to the neighborhood for about 25 years and I have been coordinating this effort for 15 of those years. We serve two meals a year, one evening in October and one in April. It is a lot of fun and builds community and ecumenical cooperation! My reason for stepping down is that I simply have too much to do and had to cut back. I would like to see this long-standing parish tradition to continue, but I need someone to take over.

**If you like to cook and have some time to commit to making a Bi-Annual Meal of delicious Sloppy Joes for neighbors in need – Please contact me: Rick Samyn VM/TEXT: 253 229-4114 or email to: [socialministry@stleoparsh.org](mailto:socialministry@stleoparsh.org)**

## **St. Leo Social Supportive Services and Clothing Boutique**

We are seeking parishioner volunteers to help service those in need who come to the rectory for assistance on **Wednesdays**. The volunteer task is to work with people in need who are looking for the following assistance:

Clothing, toiletries, picking up or dropping off paperwork related to our Social Supportive Services program or scheduling an appointment to see one of our volunteer social workers.

*The time slots for this volunteer position are: 9:30 to Noon, 12:30 to 3:30pm - Wednesdays.*

**For more information or to volunteer please contact: Rick Samyn: VM/TEXT 253 229-4114 or email to: [socialministry@stleoparish.org](mailto:socialministry@stleoparish.org)**