



THE EPISTLE

Volume 11 Issue 2

St Paul Lutheran Church

February 2012

Update on Call Process (January 20, 2012)

For our first newsletter article, I wanted to explain in detail the process that we will use to call a new pastor. By the time you get this, it may be old news, regardless, it is important to review multiple times so that everyone will know what to expect.

On December 1, 2011, church council met with Bishop Dunkin. At that meeting it was established that Pastor Matthew Riegel will serve as our interim pastor. This is fortunate, as most of us know Pastor Riegel and he is already familiar with our congregation. He will be available for most Sunday services, and will be on call for hospital visits, emergencies, funerals, and weddings. Tuesdays, he will be available for office hours, and Bible study.

Bishop Dunkin reviewed the Mobility Data Base System and how to complete the Ministry Site Profile. He asked that I be the contact person for the Call Committee. My job will be to coordinate the Call Committee, and act as the liaison between the committee, Bishop Dunkin, and the congregation. I will not be a voting member of the committee.

The Mobility Data Base System is an online system that contains the call process forms (the Ministry Site Profile) that we will fill out to help us in our search to call a pastor. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) consists of fourteen pages of information. The council and call committee will fill out most of the information, including a description of the congregation, demographics, budget, and contact information. The congregation will fill out the "Top Five Ministry Tasks" and "Gifts for Ministry". These forms are to help us think about where the congregation is now and where we want to go in the future. All members of the congregation should have received copies of these forms in the mail.

Members of church council will compile the MSP data and submit that to the Call Committee by the end of January 2012. After the Call Committee has met and approved the data, it will be downloaded into the Mobility Data Base System. Once the MSP has been completed on-line, then Bishop Dunkin will be notified. He will be responsible for reading and proofing our work. From that point on, it will take approximately 6 months to a year to complete our search for a new pastor.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, either by phone or email. Home phone: 304-599-6741; email: Constance.Toffle@mail.wvu.edu.

Connie Toffle, President Church Council (2011)



Women of the ELCA - St. Paul Unit
Wednesday – Feb. 8, 2012 - 1:00 pm in the church lounge

To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark

Troubling Questions

Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' Mark 10:49

**** In case of inclement weather, please call the church office for cancellation notice. ****

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Monongalia Valley-Mountain Cluster Spring 2012 meeting

Saturday, April 14, 2012

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown

ALL Women of the congregation are encouraged to attend!

St. Paul Youth Group




All youth in grades 6 through 12

9 youth and 3 guests + 3 chaperones welcomed 2012 with a lock-in at the church on Dec. 31st-Jan. 1st. We played games, watched a movie, had a 'midnight' hot dog and s'more roast and raised a glass of sparkling grape juice to the New Year. Before Lights-Out, Chaplain Riegel led Compline in the sanctuary. Special **"THANK YOU!!"** to Chaplain Riegel and Carl Werntz as chaperones and to Mrs. Riegel, Faith, Mrs. Cushing and Mrs. Peters for breakfast on Sunday morning!

NEXT MEETING: Sunday Feb. 12th after worship

We will eat lunch and then travel as a group to the WOW! Factory at 1:00 p.m.

ACTIVITY: Decorating bowls at the  for the



luncheon.

Cost of bowl for each youth group member will be paid by Youth Group funds;

Parents and siblings may also participate – bowls are \$8.00 each.

PLEASE!! RSVP to MaryLee Cushing by Sunday, February 5th

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, January 13th and would like to share the following highlights with you:

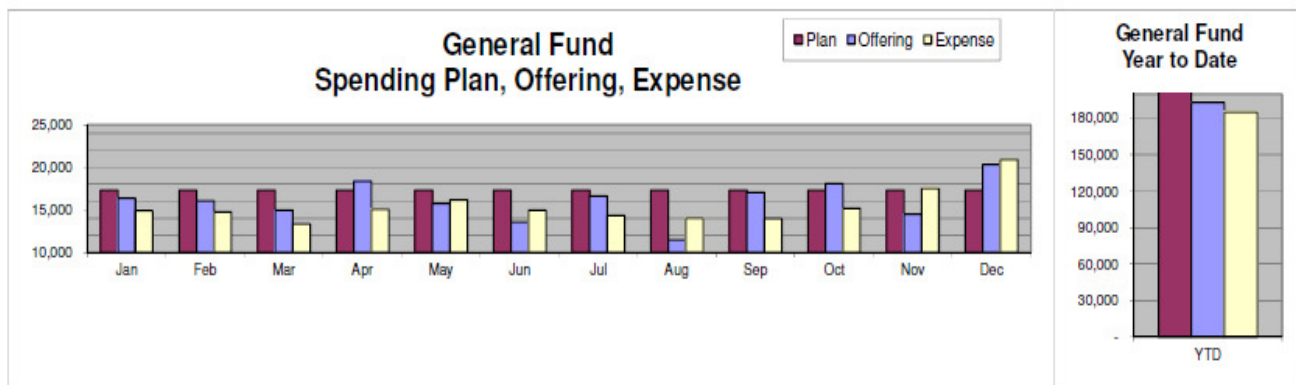
- Council agreed to send three months of mission support payments to the WV-WMd Synod, thus fulfilling our pledge for 2011.
- The constitution of our congregation mandates that in order to be eligible to vote, a member must have a communion of record and a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year. Please make sure you are able to vote at the meeting, and when it comes time to call a pastor, by filling out a communion card and placing it in the offering plate.

Treasurer's Report

December 2011

St Paul Lutheran Church Plan and Expense (General)

	2010 Year												
	End	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General	7,224	8,211	9,862	11,644	14,644	14,505	13,374	15,765	15,808	16,068	19,065	17,438	16,633
Restricted													
Regular	17,578	16,650	17,008	16,692	18,304	17,197	16,942	16,982	14,798	16,768	17,433	17,933	19,266
Special	4,155	4,485	4,485	5,818	5,818	5,530	5,856	5,856	6,181	6,281	6,373	6,370	6,619
Standing	38,778	37,512	38,519	39,710	38,747	38,248	36,999	37,659	29,389	35,879	38,985	45,364	46,207
Use of Church	278	655	705	831	957	1,082	1,307	1,437	1,562	1,687	1,812	2,077	2,276
	60,789	59,302	60,718	63,051	63,826	62,058	61,104	61,933	51,931	60,615	64,603	71,744	74,369
Bank Balance (Ce	74,189	67,513	70,580	74,695	78,470	76,562	74,479	77,699	67,739	76,682	83,668	89,182	91,002
	Plan	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314
	Offering	16,364	16,066	14,991	18,369	15,739	13,553	16,629	11,486	17,066	18,064	14,512	20,324
	Expense	14,900	14,782	13,338	15,068	16,175	14,965	14,335	14,068	13,960	15,156	17,548	20,919



2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,714.69	2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,714.69
111 Projected Average Sunday Offering (Spending Plan)	<u>3,995.56</u>	2011 Average Weekly Expense	<u>3,561.83</u>
	(281)		153

December Offering in excess of Expense	(595)	General Fund Balance	16,633
YTD Offering in excess of Expense	7,949	Average Offering 2004 - 2010	3,631

THE GREEN CORNER: 'I Believe in God and She is a Salmon' by Loretta Jancoski



In 2001, I turned 70 and decided to take stock of my spiritual life. That year I attended a conference at Whidbey Institute. It was quite remarkable in that nearly a dozen professionals retold the story of the universe beginning with the Big Bang over 15 billion years ago right up to today's debates about cloning. I was profoundly moved as I heard the story unfold chronologically in short, 10 to 15 minute presentations, each speaker coming from a different perspective—one ear would be told by a biologist, another by a geologist, and others by a sociologist, theologian, artist, cosmologist, anthropologist, even a poet and a musician.

At lunch that day, the man next to me and I marveled at how the story called into question just about everything we thought we knew about God. What kind of God hurls into being a universe that fifteen billion years later is still expanding at a rate so fast we humans don't even perceive it? What might names for God like Lord, Savior, and Redeemer mean in a post-Darwinian world? What does God have to do with the way we humans annually re-grow our entire physical body in the same manner

as we grow hair and nails, replacing the tissues of our stomachs weekly, shedding our skin monthly, and regenerating a new liver every six weeks? And with more than 98% of our body new each year, here we are, the same person!

Having exposed our questions to each other, my lunch partner looked at me and said 'I believe in God and She is a salmon.'

As the statement slowly sank in, it began to put some order around the confused truncated God images that keep a home in my soul. To deal with my truncated images, I always have my antenna out to pick up clues that might impose some kind of order and sense on them. That's why I was so ready to latch onto my lunch partner's statement: I believe in God and She is a salmon?

What's so special about salmon? Aren't they just one more species in trouble? Grocery stores, fish markets, and restaurants are full of salmon. Fish hatcheries produce millions of new salmon from the eggs harvested off a few hundred fish—that would die anyway. And I say, 'Oh, the paucity of our minds and imaginations.'

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!!!

FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: We are back in full swing making quilts after our two week Christmas break. The weather already has prevented us from having one session. I finally have been able to deliver six quilts to New Beginnings (a home for unwed mothers). So far we have not heard from them if they liked our quilts or not. Cece Melby took twelve lap quilts to Sundale Nursing Home and was able to talk to most of the recipients. One lady was actually a quilter herself at one time and I thought she would not think much about our simple quilts but she really loved it. Our quilts are made for daily use and not works of art, just for display. One of our quilters is at Healthsouth recuperating from pneumonia. Susan Barry and I went to visit her on Sunday and brought her one of the lap quilts. She is a real Godsend to us. We recently received a large shipment of quilts tops from Joanne Failing in Wisconsin. It is always a lot of fun to unpack her shipments. She is a real Godsend to us. Unfortunately she is experiencing some health problems herself now. Please pray for her and for all of us. St. Paul has really been blessed to do this mission. Hopefully through God's Grace we will be able to continue with it.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS — VBS will be held June 24-28, 2012

Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving

The Prayer List for St. Paul

In The Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes: The Second Commandment: You are not to misuse the name of your God. What is this? Answer: We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God. Following this command to call on God's name in every situation, we list her intercessions to be lifted up in the midst of our congregation's worship.

Person for whom we intercede:

Marty Ferer
Ann Cloonan
Virginia Harris
Joe Shibley
Wade Kilmer
Tom Jubar
Jim Tucker
Ruth Gladfelter
Alana Mears
Michael Frownfelter
Karen Starkey
Alana Mears
Bob Burrell
Amanda Cash
Joanne Failing
Renate Strakal
Melva Martin
Robert Bonnette

For what we are praying:

Melanoma
Illness
Health concerns
Heart & kidney
Illness
Cancer
Parkinson's
Fall
Lyme disease
OCD
Cancer
Lyme disease
Bypass surgert
Illness
Breast cancer
Leg pain
Heart
Illness

SERVING ST. PAUL February 2012	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
5th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Price	Katie Smith Kyle Smith	L & L Paulson Paul Smith Kevin Smith	Metzger Family	L. Paulson B. Graham
12th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	G. Grosso	F. Riegel G. Riegel	G & K Kullman T & F Potter	M L Bennett L. Cushing	A Fremouw D. Borrelli
19th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	S. McEwuen	AJ Bartlett S. Bartlett B. Peters S. Peters	LA Hartley L. Springer	A Carver Katie Smith	K. Gillen S. Gabbert
22nd Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM	S. Woodruff	F. Riegel	S Ford/Werntz G. Riegel	Ford/Werntz Family		
26th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	M Kirkpatrick	S. Ford/Werntz L. Cushing	K. Powell E & C Melby	Martin Family A Grosso	C. Toffle S Kirkpatrick

Wednesday Vespers Lector (7 PM) — March 29—Sally Leonard



**Deadline for next
month's newsletter
is the February 18th!!!**

**If you cannot serve, please find your
replacement! Thanks!!**

February 2012

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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ST PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

309 Baldwin St
Morgantown WV 26505



The **Epistle** is a publication from:

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV

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Friday 9:00–12:00

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Vice President: Larry Springer

Secretary: Tamara Riegel

Treasurer: Dave Stiles

Financial Secretary: Sandy Price

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