



# THE EPISTLE

Volume 10 Issue 11

St Paul Lutheran Church

November 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Monday of Pentecost 18 — October 17, 2011 — *Consistent and Intentional Faith*  
Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” Hebrews 12:1-2*

After the death of Bo Schembechler, the great Michigan football coach, there were countless clips narrating the life and career of this man. One interview was most instructive, and it dealt with a question posed to Schembechler just after he had won a game. The coach was asked if he believed it was his pre-game strategy that was most responsible for the victory. Schembechler's answer was that while the pre-game strategy was certainly a factor, the victory was truthfully clinched because of the hard work that he and his team did day-by-day, practice-by-practice. He went on to explain that, for over a year, the team learned something each day in practice about their opponents. Also, each time they practiced they learned something new about themselves, and worked on capitalizing on their strengths to bridge their weaknesses. It was this work over the long-haul, not just the pre-game strategy that gained the lasting results.

So it is in our faith-life, in our endeavor to live our lives as healthy disciples and caretakers of God's blessings. God-pleasing, sustainable results come from consistent, year-round and life-long living by Word and Sacrament. Sustainable results do not come by “spiritual guerilla warfare” where one “hits the battle hard” for a time, only to retreat from God's Means of Grace, trying to live life again on our own power and by our own plans. The “quick, easy approach” does not bring blessing to our lives to the church, or to the Kingdom of God. The writer of Hebrews presents this very truth to us today, reminding us to live in these end days running the race of faith with perseverance and consistency as we rely on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. But how can we do this, given our sinfulness and our natural propensity to take spiritual short-cuts?

First, we can run this race of faith with consistency and persevere because by the power given to us by the Holy Spirit, we can remember “*the great cloud of witnesses*” surrounding us and be strengthened for our faith-marathon. The “*great cloud of witnesses*” refers to the believers of old who were examples of consistent faithful living. Certainly added to this great group are the many faithful-departed brothers and sisters of the faith who worshiped and served the Lord with us here at our church and are now in glory. By the confident way they handled life, by their tireless worship and service to the Lord, by the gift of their faith-filled words and actions that we remember, their lives continue to encourage us to persevere in our present time and in our present circumstances.

Second, with the power of Christ at work within us, we also run the race consistently by throwing off every obstacle and every entangling sin. There are indeed obstacles in every believer's life that need to be avoided. We all have those sins which entangle us; you have yours, I have mine. And there are obstacles in life. One obstacle for the Hebrews (and often for us) is the temptation to be willing to turn from a life of worshiping Jesus to an easier, safer, earthly existence. It is the kind of living that centers around being served, rather than remembering that we are called like Jesus to be servants of God and others.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are daily led to remember our Baptism, and, in this process, God gives us not only the spiritual eyesight, but the insight and the foresight to live confessing our sin to Jesus and to live conscious of the many obstacles that Satan uses to cut short our stewardship, and to work in our congregation and serve in the Kingdom of God.

Third and foremost, the sacred writer of Hebrews presents the means by which we can run the race of faith consistently, persistently when he tells us: “*let us run*” as we “*fix our eyes on Jesus.*” Jesus is the Model Runner. He is the one in whom our faith is founded and perfected. He perfectly “ran in perseverance” for us sin-entangled children of God. Jesus endured death on a cross, ignoring the shame associated with such a death. In this way he was our all-sufficient Priest and our once-and-for-all Sacrifice for our sin. Calvary’s Cross is the place where Jesus obtained forgiveness for us for all the times we have chosen to live in fear rather than with trusting faith in his Word and his ways. By his blood, Jesus pardons us for succumbing to the temptation to live “hitting it hard” for awhile, thinking we can have the desired, spiritual outcome we want by retreating to our own pitiful plans to live life without God. Faith in his perfect sacrifice obtains forgiveness for the many times we have looked for the “quick fix,” avoiding worship, discipleship, and stewardship, choosing instead a life of ease.

Jesus is the one on whom our faith and our stewardship depend from start to finish. He gives faith by Baptism and his Word. He strengthens our faith through his Word and his body and blood so that we have power to remember the great cloud of witnesses which surround us and the power to cast aside the sin and avoid the obstacles which are so eager to entangle us. In Word and Sacrament, Jesus gives us what we need to live consistently, so that “*whatever [we] do, whether in word or deed, [we] do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Colossians 3:17), giving him glory. Only Jesus can give us new minds and new hearts willing to use our resources consistently, over the long-haul, for him.

The way of faith and stewardship, followers of Jesus, is the way of the spiritual long-haul, not the temporal short run. This was true in the life of our Savior Jesus. This was true in the life of the Old Testament believers. And this is true for us. The Christian life of discipleship and stewardship is not a short sprint with a retreat to the bleachers. It is a life-long marathon run in Christ’s power. We will follow consistently with the power Jesus gives us, for that power gives us guidance to remember the “*cloud of witnesses*” that surround us. We will live consistent lives for Jesus by remembering our Baptism and, by Christ’s power in us, throwing off the obstacles and the sin which entangle us. All this comes by fixing our eyes on Jesus. This is a life process that begins and ends with Jesus and his Holy Spirit. We are reminded again that there are no shortcuts that will produce the lasting results that please God, bring blessing to us, and benefit our congregation and God’s Kingdom.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Brian

## Logos and Life

Up for November 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM: *Semper Ecclesia Reformanda* (The Church Must Always be Reforming): Lutheran Identity –As celebration of the Reformation, we will look at classic understandings of being Lutheran and its meaning for today

As a reminder, these evenings are meant to be independent of one another. You can feel free to pick and choose. Come to what interests you. We hope by offering a selection of topics from scriptural study, to theological reflections, to topical studies we can appeal to a wider audience in the congregation than a straight weekly bible study would.

Location to be announced.



## Women of the ELCA - St. Paul Unit

Wednesday – **Nov. 9, 2011 - 1:00 pm** in the church lounge

To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark

Power and Authority

Theme verse – Mark 4:40

At the October meeting, Ann Fremour was recognized with a special ‘Thank you’ for delivering 43 of the school kits to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, MD. ‘Congratulations’ were sent to Alice Robbins on the occasion of Chaplain Robbins’ 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary for her partnership in ministry.

All St. Paul Women of the ELCA are encouraged to bring program ideas for the Spring 2012 Cluster meeting which will be held at our church on April 14, 2012. ***THE MUSIC OF THE CHURCH*** has been selected as a general theme, but we now must narrow and collate the theme into a program!

### St. Paul Youth Group



**All youth in grades 6 through 12**

On Sunday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, the combined Middle and Senior High Youth Group (and their families) donated and served dinner for 30 people at the West Virginia University Hospital Rosenbaum Family House. 11 youth and 2 guests plus 5 adults participated in this activity. ***“Thank you”*** to Traci Hinkle for organizing this activity!



Next Meeting: Sunday Nov. 13 – time to be determined

Activity:

Sorting food donations and filling Thanksgiving baskets

## News from Council

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

- Council voted to move the storage container from the parking lot to the grass at the rear of the church. This will put the container in a less visible spot, and there are plans either to paint the container or to enclose it with fencing. We will hire Summers Towing, contingent upon not receiving a lower bid from another company.
- The annual congregational meeting on the spending plan has been set for November 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service. Committee chairs are asked to submit budget proposals to David Stiles.

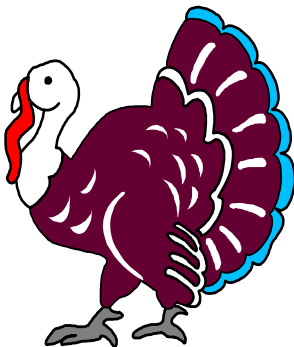
### Don't Bug Me!



Our Sunday School service project for this semester is collecting donations for the ELCA malaria campaign. A donation of \$10 will buy a mosquito net which will protect a family. To track our progress, we will remove a "mosquito" from our net every time we collect another \$10.

If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Mosquito Nets." We will be collecting all the money throughout the month of November.

Thank you!



**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**—Once again this year we are collecting donations for Thanksgiving baskets that will be given to Scott's Run Settlement House and Rock Forge Presbyterian Church. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project please call the church office or see Dave Stiles. We are asking for donations of food (for a list of food needed please see upcoming church bulletins or call the church office) or monetary donations. If you would like to donate money please specify that your donation be used for the Thanksgiving baskets and place it in the offering. We appreciate your continuing support of this outreach to families in our community that need our help during this holiday season!!!!

**THE GREEN CORNER:**



Membership in Earth Ministry includes a subscription to Earth Letter. (\$35 per year, \$20 limited income). Join online via website: [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org), phone: 206-632-2426.

**EARTH MINISTRY  
MEMBER & CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES**

**CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:  
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL IN FAYETTEVILLE, AR**

Greening has begun in earnest at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Northwest Arkansas. Though their "Gaia Guild" formed less than a year ago, the congregation has accomplished much since then.

After encountering Earth Ministry materials and other faith and environment resources at the Mt. Sequoyah Caring for Creation conference, Terri Lane joined with St. Paul's members to co-found the Gaia Guild. The goal of the group is "to take a comprehensive approach to the greening of St. Paul's." The group soon joined Earth Ministry as a congregational member. They are using the Greening Congregations Handbook and our other resources to guide their work. In order to further focus their efforts, they formed four working groups:

- The **Education and Awareness** group is working to raise the profile of environmental issues in an intentionally intergenerational way. The group has helped youth leaders weave creation care themes into a retreat for 35 students, is organizing a single-day outing for younger children and their parents/caregivers, and a cre-

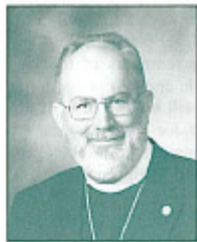
ation care speakers' series for adults.

- The goal of the **Footprint** group was to calculate St. Paul's carbon footprint using Interfaith Power & Light's Cool Congregations calculator. Members of the youth group gathered the information from church leaders. The results went to the church vestry to set carbon reduction goals.
- The **Communication** group publicized creation care events, and the **Interfaith Networking** group meets once a month with members of other religious communities to talk about how to green Northwest Arkansas.

Terri Lane says "I'm proud of the faith community for realizing caring for creation is at the heart of our faith," Earth Ministry is proud of St. Paul's as well.



**INDIVIDUAL MEMBER PROFILE:  
LUTHERAN BISHOP CHRIS BOERGER**



For some of Earth Ministry's members, care for creation fits so seamlessly with their vocation that an on-going partnership develops naturally. This happened between Earth Ministry and the Reverend Wm. Chris Boerger, Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

"When I was in seminary in the 1970s, the idea that was considered the most important theological advancement of the 20th century was the shift from seeing humans as dominating the Earth to viewing

humans as stewards of creation," the Bishop recalled.

After his election to bishop in 2001, he became more involved with Earth Ministry and its programs. He was initially impressed by the organization's theological background and also with Earth Ministry's ability to motivate the faith community to take an active role in environmental advocacy.

Currently, Bishop Boerger serves as chair of the ELCA's Care of Creation Ready Bench, which he describes as "a group of bishops who advocate for issues that pertain to faith and environment."

Earth Ministry has regularly called on Bishop Boerger to give testimony at climate and energy hearings, write religious environmental Op-Eds for newspapers, and meet with elected officials in support of environmental issues. When asked about his involvement in Earth Ministry's advocacy work, he replied, "It feels so good when Jessie Dye (a Roman Catholic who is Earth Ministry's Program and Outreach Director) refers to me as "her bishop."

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.  
Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God.  
Every creature is a word of God.  
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—  
I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.

Meister Eckhart (1260-1328 Ad)



**FROM THE PIECEMAKERS:** Another month has gone by and we are busy as can be. The quilts are flying out of here as fast as we can make them. Thanks to Gretchen Brown and Ann Fremouw for taking them to the warehouse. At least they are going where they are most needed. Cold weather is coming and our quilts will keep someone snugly and warm. The beautiful hand embroidered Baby Quilt is on display but it will probably be gone by November. We have another big shipment of quilt tops from Joan Failing from Wisconsin. I don't know how she finds time to make the hundreds of quilt tops for us. It is really a blessing to have such dedicated people that care about the less fortunate so much. As we are approaching the Feast of Thanksgiving our little group deserves to spend some time with their family and friends and we also think and care for the needy in our community. As it is a wonderful feeling to be able to share with the less fortunate even if we can only give a little of ourselves as Jesus wants us to do.

We have some quilts to take home for someone to work on, if you have any extra time let the Piecemakers know please. We wish all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ a Wonderful Thanksgiving. I know the Lord has blessed all of us in some way.



## 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  
Mary Rancier  
Joe Shibley  
Virginia Harris  
Jim Tucker  
Jim Craig  
Ruth Gladfelter  
JoElaine Ford  
Alana Mears  
Tim Marton  
Betty Kelso  
Kelso Family  
Abrham Billig

### For what we are praying:

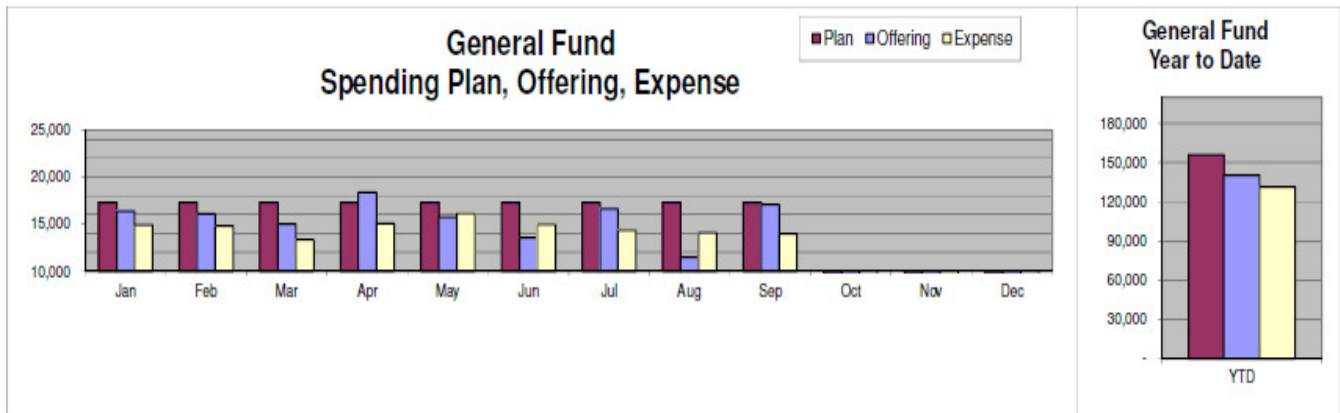
Melanoma  
Illness  
Illness  
Heart and lung  
Health concerns  
Parkinson's  
Cancer  
Fall  
Neck surgery  
Lyme disease  
Cancer  
Died/entered the church at rest  
Comfort in the midst of grief  
Deployed to Afghanistan

# Treasurer's Report

September 2011

## St Paul Lutheran Church Plan and Expense (General)

	2010 Year												
	End	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>General</b>	7,224	8,211	9,862	11,644	14,644	14,505	13,374	15,765	15,808	16,068	-	-	-
<b>Restricted</b>													
Regular	17,578	16,650	17,008	16,692	18,304	17,197	16,942	16,982	14,798	16,768			
Special	4,155	4,485	4,485	5,818	5,818	5,530	5,856	5,856	6,181	6,281			
Standing	38,778	37,512	38,519	39,710	38,747	38,248	36,999	37,659	29,389	35,879			
Use of Church	278	655	705	831	957	1,082	1,307	1,437	1,562	1,687			
	60,789	59,302	60,718	63,051	63,826	62,058	61,104	61,933	51,931	60,615	-	-	-
<b>Bank Balance (Centra)</b>	<b>74,189</b>	<b>67,513</b>	<b>70,580</b>	<b>74,695</b>	<b>78,470</b>	<b>76,562</b>	<b>74,479</b>	<b>77,699</b>	<b>67,739</b>	<b>76,682</b>			
<b>Plan</b>	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314	17,314			
<b>Offering</b>	16,364	16,066	14,991	18,369	15,739	13,553	16,629	11,486	17,066				
<b>Expense</b>	14,900	14,782	13,338	15,068	16,175	14,965	14,335	14,068	13,960				



2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,596.50	2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,596.50
2011 Projected Average Sunday Offering (Spending Plan)	3,996	2011 Average Weekly Expense	3,374.15
	<b>(399)</b>		<b>222</b>
August Offering in excess of Expense	<b>3,106</b>	General Fund Balance	<b>16,068</b>
YTD Offering in excess of Expense	<b>8,671</b>	Average Offering 2004 - 2010	<b>3,631</b>

The Service League of Morgantown invites all to share the spirit of the season at their annual Holiday Open House at the Old Stone House, 313 Chestnut Street. Please join us Friday, Nov. 4, 10 am-6 pm; Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 am-6 pm; and Sunday, Nov. 6, 12 noon-4 pm. Enjoy spiced tea and homemade cookies while shopping. The Service League is a non-profit volunteer organization where proceeds from sales are returned to the community to help in-need citizens of Monongalia County. If you cannot join us for the Open House, we will have an additional extended hours shopping day on Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 am-6 pm. Our extended holiday hours of operation, starting after the Open House, will be Monday-Friday 10 am-2 pm; Saturday 11 am-3 pm; and Sunday 12 noon-4 pm. Please watch for additional advertised specials in the local media.



SERVING ST. PAUL November 2011	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
6th  10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	S. Price	B. Peters S. Peters	L & L Paulson T & F Potter	M. L. Bennett A Grosso	S. Price K. Gillen
13th  10:00 AM	M. Haas	B. Stiles	Ethan Stiles L. Cushing	L. Springer D & C Custer	A Carver Emily Stiles	S. Leonard L. Springer
20th  10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	G. Grosso	Kyle Smith Katie Smith	G & K Kullman P. Smith Kevin Smith	Peters Family	D. Borrelli LA Hartley
22rd Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM	S. Woodruff	S McEwuen	G. Riegel	S. McEwuen		
27th  10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	B. Peters	AJ Bartlett S. Bartlett	E & C Melby LA Hartley	Martin Family	D. Borrelli T. Riegel

**ALL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** If you and/or your family know of dates you will be away from St. Paul - PLEASE - contact Debby Borrelli (304-292-1455 or [jleku@comcast.net](mailto:jleku@comcast.net)) with those dates. (Worship schedules are due by the 18th of the previous month; i.e. the Sept. schedule will be finished by Aug. 18th, etc.) Also, the church office always has my contact information.



**Deadline for next  
month's newsletter  
is the November 14th!!!**

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

## November 2011

### Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
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6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service	7	8 10:00 AM Bible Study	9 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Choir	10 7:00 PM Council Meeting	11 10:00 AM Piecemakers	12 9:00 AM Saints Journey With Saints																																																																																																								
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service 6:30 PM Mom's Bible Study Congregational Meeting	14	15 10:00 AM Bible Study	16 7:00 PM Choir	17	18 10:00 AM Piecemakers	19																																																																																																								
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ST PAUL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

309 Baldwin St  
Morgantown WV 26505



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Friday 9:00–12:00  
Telephone: (304)599-0620

**Officers Of The Congregation**

President: Connie Toffle  
Vice President: Larry Springer  
Secretary: Tamara Riegel  
Treasurer: Dave Stiles  
Financial Secretary: Sandy Price

**Council Members**

Grethe Myles	Larry Springer	Connie Toffle
Connie Toffle	Kevin Gillen	Lee Paulson
Tamara Riegel	Lu Ann Hartley	Misti Bartlett
	Emily Stiles	