



THE EPISTLE

Volume 10 Issue 10

St Paul Lutheran Church

October 2011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Monday of Pentecost 13 —Sep. 12, 2011 — *Stewardship*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As autumn creeps in and the leaves begin to change and the mornings bring a crisp chill, the pattern of our lives takes a predictable change. We are ready for football at both high schools and universities. We trade the leafy greens and succulent tomatoes in the gardens for silken winter squashes and crisp blushing apples. The days get darker and we rush to get yard work done in the shortened time between our arrival home from work and dusk. Life in the church moves predictably as well. Already we have begun planning for the upcoming year, looking forward to Christmas and beyond. And as many of you are aware, the fall is the time when we begin talking about stewardship. Or more precisely begin a more intentional and focused discussion about stewardship.

At the heart of stewardship is the notion that we possess nothing. Instead we are simply caretakers for the owner. In the church we are clear. Everything belongs to God. We are here to care for it so that God's will and purpose are carried out. It is my hope that whenever I write and teach and preach we are getting a glimpse of how we are to care for the many things that God gives us. In short we call this discipleship. Over the time when I wrote about the marks of discipleship (prayer, study, worship, spiritual friendships, service and giving), I was, in a broad sense to be sure, discussing stewardship. Narrowly, when we hear the word "stewardship" our thoughts turn to money, as sure as the word "autumn" brings us to think about warmed apple cider and bright golden leaves. In some way our automatic connection between stewardship and money is unfortunate since it is a much broader idea. And surely some people hear "stewardship" and turn away.

But the reality is, we need to talk about it. The congregation needs to plan its mission. And as much as we might want to deny it, how we deal with money is a spiritual issue. If we are to care for all that God has given us, we must deal with what that means with how we care for our wallets and pocketbooks. When we talk about money it is not just about making sure that the church has enough money, although that is important. We cannot do the mission of the church without sufficient funds. But what we would like to do is to see our financial life as an arena for discipleship.

That being said, we will be undergoing an intentional program throughout October that speaks about stewardship in terms of the virtues of faith, hope and love. In Paul's letter to the people in Thessalonica, he wrote, "*We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Thessalonians 1:3). God graciously gives us faith, love, and hope – virtues essential for our lives as Christians and as God's stewards.

We are reminded that it is through faith that we have access into God's grace and a new relationship with him. Not only does faith justify us and give us peace with God (Romans 5:1), we are told by Paul in our theme verse that faith produces works. Faith leads to action. Through faith, we are empowered to fulfill God's purposes. Our deeds as stewards are evidence of our faith.

Love seeks the welfare of others ". . . *since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us*" (1 John 4:11-12). God's love in Christ will compel us to do things that appear foolish to unbelievers. God's love prompts us to give freely of our time, talents, and treasures to help others and extend his kingdom.

Through the resurrection of Jesus, we, as believers, are given the victory over death and the assurance of our salvation. Filled with the hope of eternal life with Jesus, we "*give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord, because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain*" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

By focusing on these virtues, it is our hope that the notion of stewardship will be opened up as a vital, that is, life-giving part of the Christian life. So while we will be engaging in some intentional discussions and reflections during the upcoming month, please understand that stewardship is part of the whole Christian life. Our conversations here are meant to nourish and bring meaning all year round.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Brian

For the past few months, our new educational opportunity has suffered from lack of a name. "Under Construction" is the best I could come up with. I pondered staying with that. After all, our whole lives are under construction as the Holy Spirit works on us. Nonetheless, "Under Construction" failed to communicate, at least as far I was concerned, the reason we were there. Thankfully, a new name has come to me that does bring out the purpose of our new ministry. I reveal that name now.

Logos and Life

In Greek, the word "logos" (long o sounds in both... think of our word logo and add an s) means most basically "word." But it can also mean speech, teaching, command, or any other matter of discourse. It can be a hard word to translate in places and depends heavily on the context. Much like the Christian life. But one of the great passages of the New Testament is the opening chapter of the gospel according to St. John where we hear that "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John uses the Greek word "logos" and then in later verses makes it clear that Jesus is in fact that Word, full of grace and truth. Much of our purpose for gathering on those evenings is to ponder what our life looks like, since we have been joined with the *Logos* of God. Our teaching ministry is meant to be informed by the presence of Jesus, and as such we hope that we find life in its midst.

Up for October 6, 2011: *Semper Ecclesia Reformanda* (The Church Must Always be Reforming): Lutheran Identity –In preparation for the celebration of the Reformation at the end of the month, we will look at classic understandings of being Lutheran.

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.



Women of the ELCA - St. Paul Unit

Wednesday – **October 12, 2011 - 1:00 pm** in the church lounge

To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark

All in the Family : Mother and Brothers

Theme verse – Mark 3:35

At the September meeting, members present filled 51 complete school kits to send to the Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project.

(http://lwr.org/site/c.dmJXKiOYJgI6G/b.7521997/k.98D3/School_Kits.htm)

Thank you to the St. Paul Youth Group for carrying, sorting and unpackaging all the kit donations prior to our meeting. With money donated from the congregation and our offerings, the unit voted to send \$70.00 to the LWR *Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund*.

CRADLE ROLL ANNOUNCEMENT: October is 'Happy Baptism' month! Half of the current cradle roll infants were baptized this month. If you have a child less than age 3 who has not received a birthday postcard, please contact Donna Ford-Werntz.

We will return to afternoon meetings in October for the next eight months. All women of the church are invited for the (approx.) 90 minute meeting each month.

St. Paul Youth Group



All youth in grades 6 through 12

Meeting: Sunday Oct. 9 5-7 pm

Watch email for meeting details!

THANK YOU

To the Junior Youth Group (+1 high school senior!) for delivering the Food Pantry donations from



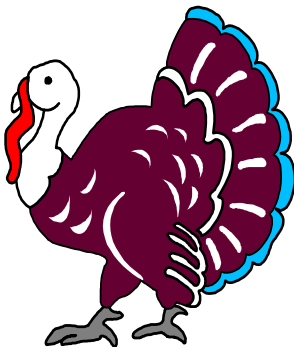
our Vacation Bible School to Christian Help, Inc. on Saturday Aug. 27th.

Questions: Contact Pastor Brian or Debby Borrelli

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, September 8th and would like to share the following highlights with you:

- The Property Committee has been working with members of the Fellowship Committee and the Bereavement Committee on a plan for renovating the kitchen. They have received plans and quotes from General Glass, and these were presented to council at the September meeting. There are two plans, one more extensive than the other, but both include upgrading the electrical wiring and replacing cabinets. The cost would be high: \$30,000 - \$40,000. Church council recognizes that this is a big expense, especially with other work that needs to be done, such as painting. We had a serious discussion about the need for the upgrades versus the cost. We do have commitments from individual members of the congregation for at \$10,000 toward the cost, and there is a possibility of more. Council and the Property Committee will be continuing to discuss this matter, but we wish the congregation to be aware that, in some form, it is likely to be an item on the agenda for the Budget Meeting in November. If you have any questions, the plans are included in the minutes book in the narthex, and you are encouraged to speak with any council member.
- Council finalized an evaluation form for the church secretary a few months ago, and is now working on evaluation forms for other members of the staff (custodian, sexton, choir director, organist).
- The exterior wood trim of the church needs to be painted, and some of the wood needs to be replaced. The congregation voted to include \$9000 in the spending plan for 2011 for painting. We have asked one painting firm to look at the building and are awaiting a quote from them, which will probably be \$15,000 - \$17,000. Our treasurer, Dave Stiles, has told us that there is about \$8000 available for this in the Kroger fund, the use of church fund, and the capital improvement fund. Again, we want you to be aware that this is likely to be an item on the agenda in November.



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:

EARTH LETTER — A quarterly mini-journal of Christian Environmental Spirituality

Publisher of Earth Letter is Earth Ministry, a tax-exempt, non-profit, Christian, ecumenical, environmental ministry incorporated in the state of Washington. It's mission is:

TO INSPIRE AND MOBILIZE THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TO PLAY A
LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BUILDING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Their outreach programs that focus upon building a clean-energy economy include panel speakers from the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Traditions sharing what their faiths say about environmental protection and global warming.

Earth Ministry activists learn about important environmental bills being addressed in Washington State Legislature sessions and put that knowledge into action during Environmental Lobby Day (Jan. 23) and Faith Advocacy Day (Jan. 29). Activists from across their state come together to support leadership on climate protection and healthy ecosystems. Members of Earth Ministry attend workshops on how to speak powerfully to legislators about why our faith values bring us to advocacy for ALL creation, sustainable agriculture, children's health bill, urban re-forestation, evergreen towns, etc. The Catholics hosted a Lobby Day for Earth Ministry and all other activists, and the University Lutheran Church led a legislative update on how their representatives take action on protecting God's Creation.

Our next Green Corner will summarize an article by Larry Rasmussen, emeritus Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor at Union Seminary, New York. His books include Earth Community, Earth Ethics; Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Reality and resistance.



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



PLEASE if you are in the church for any reason or are the last one to leave, check to make sure that the doors are locked!!! Recently we have been finding doors, especially in the narthex unlocked or even propped open with a cup. Please be responsible and check to make sure everything is locked. Thanks!

FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: Our Tuesday night classes came to an end and they were a great success. Unfortunately most of the people participating came from outside our church community, but they were very appreciative. The Friday quilting sessions are doing just fine. So far we have sent out over 140 quilts already this year and some more are being taken to the warehouse this month. We are so blessed to have people take the quilts for us because there is a great need for them all over the world. We have plenty of supplies but we are in need of some more sheets. Preferably flat sheets of all sizes. If you are sorting through your linen closet and have some gently used sheets please hand them over to us. We could use some more help, and that seems to be the case from every group in the church. We are a small church with lots of activities going on and it seems that most of us already have a job to do. Please pray that we will be able to continue our mission for a good long time yet.



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
Betty Kelso
Mary Rancier
Joe Shibley
Virginia Harris
Jim Tucker
Jim Craig
Bob Snider
Alana Mears
Peggy Soderberg
Mary Kretzer
Kevin Anderson
JoElaine Ford
Sone Armstrong
Fred Schaupp
Dana Fox
Terry Cuppett
Abram Billig

For what we are praying:

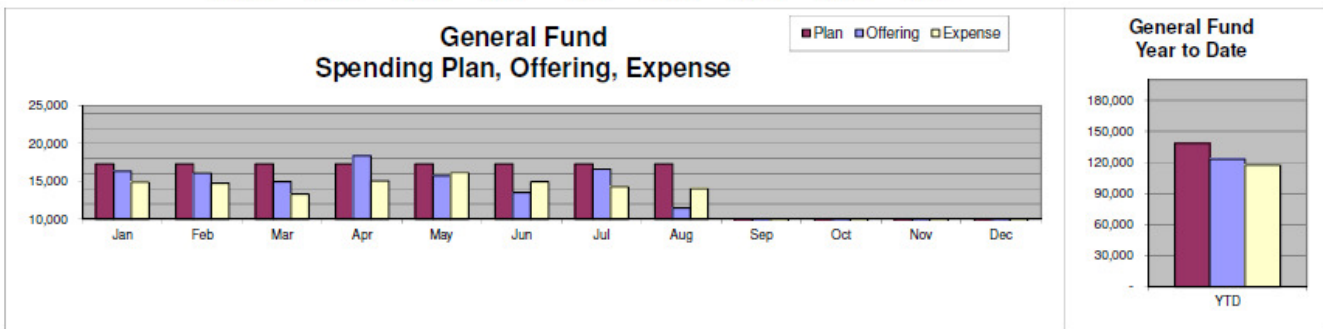
Melanoma
Illness
Surgery
Illness
Heart and lung
Health concerns
Parkinson's
Cancer
Myotonic dystrophy
Lyme disease
Cancer
Heart
Car accident
Cancer surgery
Illness
Illness
Surgery
Fall/broken bones
Deployed to Afghanistan

Treasurer's Report

August 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	-	-	-	-
Restricted													
Regular	17,578	16,650	17,008	16,692	18,304	17,197	16,942	16,982	14,798				
Special	4,155	4,485	4,485	5,818	5,818	5,530	5,856	5,856	6,181				
Standing	38,778	37,512	38,519	39,710	38,747	38,248	36,999	37,659	29,389				
Use of Church	278	655	705	831	957	1,082	1,307	1,437	1,562				
	60,789	59,302	60,718	63,051	63,826	62,058	61,104	61,933	51,931	-	-	-	-
Bank Balance (Centra)	74,189	67,513	70,580	74,695	78,470	76,562	74,479	77,699	67,739				
Plan	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					
Expense	14,900	14,782	13,338	15,068	16,175	14,965	14,335	14,068					



2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,623	2011 Average Sunday Offering	3,623
2011 Projected Average Sunday Offering (Spending Plan)	4,074	2011 Average Weekly Expense	3,460
	(450)		164
August Offering in excess of Expense	(2,583)	General Fund Balance	15,808
YTD Offering in excess of Expense	5,565	Average Offering 2004 - 2010	3,631

FROM GRETCHEN BROWN: THE LONG ARM OF THE CHURCH

Years ago we used to talk about 'the long arm of the church'; I recently thought of it again. Our quilting group, the Piecemakers, had made about 20 more quilts to be delivered to the worldwide distribution center in New Windsor, MD. After Renate made several appeals for someone to take them, it didn't seem convenient for anyone to do that. My husband's first parish (2 churches) were in rural Maryland, near Sykesville. I called a couple from one of the churches there to ask if they would be willing to meet me one Saturday in Hagerstown, where I would hand the quilts over to them to take on to New Windsor. They agreed, and after a quick lunch off they went—and I drove back home. A few days later they sent me the receipt for the quilts. (Thrivent gives us some money toward buying batting to make new quilts.) At New Windsor the quilts are packed up and sent around the world to those in most need. The 'arm of the church' becomes even longer when a lady in Minnesota pieces many quilt tops and sends the tops for us to make into new, warm quilts.

Another illustration is that when a member of another church—often far away—is hospitalized in Morgantown, the Pastor calls a Pastor here to minister to that person. And when I worked at WVU, a Dean's sister became very ill while on vacation in Hawaii. I was able to call a friend I had known in college—now a Pastor—and he was able to minister to her.

With our contributions and many ways of volunteering, we are all part of the 'long arm of the church' with our caring.

SERVING ST. PAUL October 2011	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
2nd 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	T. Potter	B. Peters S. Peters	L & L Paulson T & F Potter	M. L. Bennett A Grosso	K. Powell L. Paulson
9th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	F. Riegel	M. McCulla L. Cushing	L. Springer J & S McCulla	Gillen Family E. Stiles	S. Price T. Riegel
16th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	G. Grosso	Kyle Smith Katie Smith	G & K Kullman P. Smith Kevin Smith	Peters Family	B. Graham C. Toffle
23rd 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	S Kirkpatrick	S Ford-Werntz G. Riegel	E & C Melby D & S Lynch	A Carver L. Cushing	D. Borrelli LA Hartley
30th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	S. McEwuen	AJ Bartlett S. Bartlett	E & C Melby S. McEwuen	Martin Family	S. Gabbert M. Bartlett

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) 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 October 18th!!!**

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

October 2011

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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ST PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Morgantown WV 26505



The **Epistle** is a publication from:
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00–2:00
Friday 9:00–12:00
Telephone: (304)599-0620

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Vice President: Larry Springer
Secretary: Tamara Riegel
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