



THE EPISTLE

Volume 8 Issue 4

St Paul Lutheran Church

April 2009

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Thursday of Lent 4

March 26, 2009

The Atonement

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are journeying through Lent, where we started reflecting on the brokenness of creation, our relationships with God and others, and the brokenness of our own selves. In that reflection, we were reminded that the brokenness which surrounds us is what we call sin, and the very things that exhibit and make known that brokenness are the ways that sin keeps us separate and isolated from God. Throughout Lent, I have sought to remind us, in the words of our Ash Wednesday service that “God does not desire the death of sinners, but that they turn to him and live.”

As we have moved through Lent, we begin to move toward the very act that shows God’s desire for our return, namely the Crucifixion. You might ask, “What? Isn’t the act that shows God’s desire the Resurrection?” We had an excellent conversation around this distinction in our Tuesday morning bible study the other day. The reality of the matter is that the Church has always considered the death of Jesus to be connected to our salvation. Paul talks about us being united to Christ’s death in the waters of baptism, so that we too might be united with him in a resurrection like his. But our initial contact is first and foremost through the cross. It is in the cross that we find our atonement... a word that literally means “at-one-with.” The interesting thing about the Atonement however, is that while a great number of controversies in the early church required some doctrine to be hammered out and expounded, the Atonement never required that. I thought we might look at some of the various theories of the Atonement so that we might more fully reflect upon the salvific content of Jesus’ death.

The dominant theory of the atonement in the Western Church is known as “vicarious satisfaction” and was put forward by St. Anselm in his work *Cur Deus Homo?* or “Why did God become Man?” Anselm’s argument can be summarized as follows. Human beings are created to partake in God’s glory. In return for such a noble purpose, humans therefore owe complete obedience. However, since humans have turned away from God, we have dishonored God, and God’s honor demands that humans repay what was taken; thereby making satisfaction for their offense. God cannot simply set aside such a penalty because to do so would be to lie about being just and giving us what we deserve. This leaves humanity with quite a problem for they have nothing with which it might satisfy the divine justice since everything that humans have is tainted by their dishonor, where each and every sin is an infinite offense. The situation seems to be at an impasse, except God is not only perfectly just, but merciful, and it would be contrary to God’s goodness

and even his honor if his purpose for creation is not fulfilled or if he should abandon his creation. Therefore one who is both human and divine is needed, so that he might as the perfect and sinless human being repay the debt by living the perfectly obedient life. If he lives the perfectly obedient life, his death is unnecessary. However, in order to make satisfaction for all human beings, this God-man freely offers up his life on behalf of all humanity. One theologian has written,

... when Christ voluntarily surrenders his infinitely precious life for God's honor, and the Father accepts it, the superabundance of its worth calls forth some gracious recompense from God's justice. But Christ, being also God, wants for nothing; and so, lest God's righteousness be defeated by the injustice of no recompense being given, the benefits of Christ's death pass on to those on whom Christ would bestow them."¹

God's honor is thereby satisfied, humanity's debt is repaid and humanity receives the grace of salvation, as long as humans approach God in Christ's name, living righteously.

The Eastern Church has held a different view. Rather than seeing Christ's death paying back something owed to God, they see instead a ransom being paid to the devil. This theory arises very early in the Church, mainly with the teaching of the theologian Origen in the second and third centuries. In this theory, Adam and Eve in their disobedience to God's command essentially sell humanity into slavery under Satan. Justice then requires that a ransom be paid so that humanity might be redeemed from that slavery. Satan accepts Jesus' death as sufficient ransom for humanity. However, Satan is unaware that Jesus, being truly human and divine, could not be held by the bonds of death. C.S. Lewis portrays this ransom theory of the Atonement in volume one of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Aslan's death is taken as a ransom for Edmund's life after his deceit. The White Witch speaks of the "deep magic" requiring such a one's death, and Aslan steps in, offering up his life. Later on, after his rising, Aslan speaks to Lucy and Susan of a "deeper magic." Lewis holds up God's justice as the deep magic, but the "deeper magic" is God's self-giving and steadfast love.

What then of Luther? One might assume that given his place in time, he would think about the Atonement in terms of Anselm given his scholastic mode of thinking in so many areas. However, the theologian Gustaf Aulen claimed in his classic 1931 work *Christus Victor*, that Luther's view of the Atonement was more in line with the Orthodox view. One telling passage, according to Aulen, is from Luther's lectures on Genesis. Luther wrote there,

Thus a fisherman deceives a fish by enticing it with bait, and it was not unreasonable on the part of the fathers to apply this to Christ.⁴⁵ For He came into the world clothed in flesh and was cast into the water like a hook. After biting Him, the devil was suddenly pulled back out of the water by God, thrown on dry land, and crushed. This means that Christ presented to the devil His weak humanity, which covered that eternal and unconquerable majesty. Then the devil struck at the hook of His divinity, and by it all his power as well as the power of death and hell was overcome, as is stated in Col. 2:15: "He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in Him." But Satan could rightly have complained that he had been shamefully deluded and deceived, since he had thought that he would kill a man and was himself being killed after being decoyed by Him into a trick.²

¹ Hart, D.B., *The Beauty of the Infinite*, Eerdmans, 2003 p. 361

² Luther, M. 1999, c1968. *Luther's works, vol. 5 : Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 26-30* (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works. Vol. 5 (Ge 27:36). Concordia Publishing House: Saint Louis

In the *Small Catechism*, we might also turn to the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed, where Luther also writes,

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my LORD. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. ***He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.*** He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.³

While there is certainly some notion borrowed from Anselm regarding Christ's innocent suffering and death, the greater emphasis is on being purchased and freed from death and the power of the devil by Jesus' death, who simply could not be held by the bonds of death.

There are plenty other theories of the Atonement and we must not be forced to pick just one, although one might speak more clearly to us than another. However, as we move into Passiontide, let us view Christ's death as central and see how that might bring a fuller meaning into our Easter celebration.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

On a Liturgical Note:

Throughout the season of Easter, we will be omitting our Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness. Instead we will be using a Thanksgiving for Baptism. In my newsletter article, I commented about how Paul talks about our baptism uniting us to Christ's death, so that we might share in the Resurrection when he returns. It will be a time when we remember God's gracious covenant made with us in the waters of Baptism. And on some Sundays, we will get wet as water is sprinkled upon us from the font. Let us go about our lives of faith, in the glory of the Resurrection, walking wet.

³ Kolb, R. 2000. *The Book of Concord : The confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Fortress Press: Minneapolis

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

HOLY SATURDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES and EASTER EGG HUNT



April 11th, 1-3 PM

For all preschool and elementary children

Easter egg hunt

Make personal care kits for Health Right

Make stained glass butterflies to decorate the church

Dye Easter eggs

A light snack will be provided. Please wear play clothes

and bring a basket.

St. Paul Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 9, 2009 (8:30 AM to 2:30 PM)

Because of the Easter celebration coming in mid-April this year, we opted to move the rummage sale to the first weekend in May. We've already received a number of donations but, as always, are looking for more. So as you do your spring cleaning and start finding things that you just don't know why you're still hanging on to it, please consider donating it to the sale—the more the better. As in the past we're looking for household items, glassware, furniture, tools, games, sporting equipment and related specialty clothing, books, collectables, jewelry, garden tools, decorative items etc... Basically, anything in good, clean, usable condition BUT, please, NO clothing or TVs.

Items may be dropped off at the church beginning April 26th and either left in the Narthex or placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. If you need help unloading or would like to arrange for pick up, just let us know and we'll set it up.

Unsold items will be donated to the Wadestown Community Center or other charity. Proceeds will be used to support local charities and projects for St. Paul

Also, if you would like to help please let us know. We can always use extra hands. Please give me a call for pickup, to volunteer or if you have additional questions—304-292-1455.

Thanks, Glenn Borrelli

FROM THE CHAPEL:

With Holy Week just around the corner, we remind everyone of the opportunity to hear (and, if you like, sing) Gregorian chant the evenings of Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday (April 4-6), at 8:00 PM, in the context of Latin compline services. This compline liturgy lasts less than twenty-five minutes, but still offers a unique way to say, “No,” to the mad rush of life. An optional crash course in chant will be offered at 7:00 PM prior to each compline.

Midday prayer (sext) will also be prayed Holy Monday through Holy Wednesday at 12:30 PM.

By the end of the month, we’ll be in “dead week.” Beginning April 27, we’ll pray sext (12:30 PM) and compline (9:45 PM) each weekday. Anyone is welcome to attend these prayer services. Following those final fortnight complines, “ten-chow,” a time of food and fellowship will be held.

For questions, please call Chaplain Riegel at 304-296-5388.



FROM THE PIECEMAKERS:

Another month has gone by and we have been busy as beavers. We sent out 30 quilts to the warehouse in New Windsor this month and we have a lot more ready to go. We stuffed Kay’s trunk to the hilt and it would not hold any more. If anyone is going in the direction of Baltimore maybe they could take some quilts to the warehouse in New Windsor, MD. It would be a great help to us because postage is way too high. We received another 30 quilt tops from Wisconsin, that makes it a lot easier for us to turn out the quilts. We are really grateful for all the help we have been getting from our congregation, be it in the line of materials or monetary contributions. It has made our mission of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief so much easier. Again many thanks and may your Easter Season be blessed as we are at St. Paul. The Piecemakers



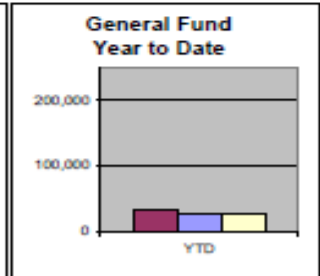
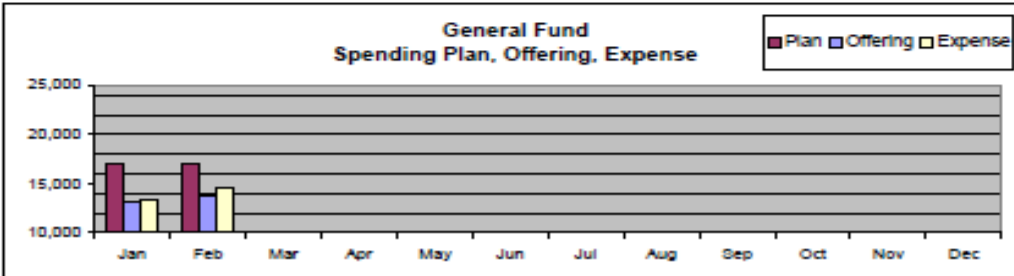
Time is running out! A few openings remain for the April 17-19 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend at Olmsted Manor and Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. Weekends are designed for the enrichment of ALL marriages and run from Friday night at 8 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. Two nights in the facility, all meals, and supplies are covered by a \$45/couple registration fee plus whatever confidential contribution you choose to make at the end of the weekend. If the April dates do not work for you, the other Western PA 2009 dates are: Sept. 18-20 at the Lutheran Camp Sequanota Retreat Center in Jennerstown and Oct. 16-18 at the Radisson Hotel in Sharon, PA. The website to sign up is: www.GodLovesMarriage.org. **If you’d like to attend the April weekend, call or email Western PA Chair Couple Fred & Julie Schamber today at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net to confirm openings.**

Treasurer's Report

St Paul Lutheran Church Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

February 2008

	February				Year to Date			Year to Date	
	General Fund	Spending Plan	+/- of Plan Reo'd-Spent	% of Plan Reo'd-Spent	General Fund to Date	Total Plan to Date	% of Plan Reo'd-Spent	Restricted Fund	Total Funds to Date
Support and Revenue									
Contributions	13,763	17,113	(3,349)	80%	25,842	34,226	78%	3,561	26,842
Designated/Restricted									
Total Assets	13,763	17,113	(3,349)	80%	25,842	34,226	78%	3,561	30,463
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted		0				0		2,932	2,932
Congregational Council	0	0			0	0		0	0
Benevolence	2,500	2,600	(100)	96%	2,500	5,200	48%	0	2,500
Church Mortgage	563	580	(17)	0%	1,126	1,160	97%	0	1,126
Committee - Christian Education	46	137	(82)	33%	556	625	89%	0	556
Committee - Fellowship	0	129	(129)	0%	21	363	6%	0	21
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	0	146	(146)	0%	384	852	45%	0	384
Committee - Property	25	167	(142)	15%	41	333	12%	0	41
Committee - Resource	0	0	0	0%	0	600	0%	0	0
Committee - Stewardship	0	0	0	0%	0	100	0%	0	0
Committee - Worship & Music	35	308	(272)	12%	336	1,355	25%	0	336
Insurance	0	301	(301)	0%	877	1,102	80%	0	877
Building Operation	1,480	1,841	(381)	80%	3,418	4,608	74%	0	3,418
Office Operation	554	384	170	144%	924	768	120%	0	924
Parish Communications	67	185	(118)	36%	365	420	87%	0	365
Payroll	9,344	9,102	242	103%	17,325	18,205	95%	0	17,325
Total Expenses	14,814	16,880	(1,298)	82%	27,872	36,721	78%	2,932	30,883
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(850)	1,233	(2,083)		(1,029)	(1,495)		630	(400)



Two Options for Today's Parishioners:

NEW - Electronic Giving Program

Traditional - Parish Envelope Program

A New Way to Give

Our church is embracing a giving option that may be more convenient for many of our parishioners - Electronic Giving. Beginning in January, this new giving option will work in the same manner as mortgages, loans payments, or insurance premiums that are automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account.

To sign up for this new giving option and have your donations transferred electronically to the church account on a regular basis, please fill out an authorization form and return it to the church office. You choose the donation frequency (weekly or monthly) and the donation amount for each fund you wish to support.

Important Benefits of Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving makes life easier for you and yields very significant benefits for our church.

Benefits for You:

- The satisfaction of giving to God first
- Easier to fulfill stewardship commitments
- Strengthens participation and support in the church

- Allows you to contribute even when you're away
- Easier personal budgeting
- More secure than bringing cash or checks to church

Benefits for our Church:

- Cultivates consistent giving
- More predictable cash flow for better planning
- Less work for office staff
- Secure and easy cash maintenance

Traditional Choices Remain

All registered parishioners will continue to receive envelopes, including envelopes for special collections for a variety of needs. Parish collections will be taken each week as usual. Participants in the Electronic Giving program are asked to mark their envelopes "EFT" and place them in the collection basket.

If you do not currently use envelopes, please consider participating in either our envelope program or the Electronic Giving program. Our parish needs your consistent support.

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, March 12th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- The carpet committee continues to procure samples and estimates and is working hard to give us good choices.
- Property committee reports that our new custodian, Vernon Dalton, started work March 2nd. They also reported that repairs are being made to the boiler.
- Council adopted a procedure and form for the establishment of memorial funds. This should establish a clear record of memorial funds and how they are to be disbursed.
- Giving has been very low, but this is not unusual in January and February. We will continue to keep you informed.
- The council meeting for April has been moved to the 16th, because the second Thursday of the month is Maundy Thursday.

WELCA NEWS: The April meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be in the church lounge on Wednesday, April 8th from 2 to 4 p.m. All women are welcome and urged to join us for fellowship and Bible study. The April 1st Wednesday night Lenten soup supper will be sponsored by WELCA. We hope to see you there at 6:00 p.m.



GATHER YOUR TEAM—WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S—THEY ARE DEPENDING ON US!

Again this year the WELCA is sponsoring the St. Paul mission project of funds to provide aid to the caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. The envelopes that are found in the hymnals this month are for your financial tax deductible donations. Please contribute what you can and put the envelope in the collection plate. Then if you would like, join us at the Blue Gate at the WVU coliseum on the morning of April 18th to participate in the walk. You will be provided a poster to carry saying St. Paul Lutheran Church and usually there is also a supply of tee-shirts for you to have one. Thrivent for Lutherans partially matches your contribution thus always making us the best team donation of all the teams. Thank you very much for your help!!!

SERVICES AT ST. PAUL AND THE CAMPUS CHAPEL			
DATE	TYPE	TIME	PLACE
April 5 Palm Sunday	Service of Holy Communion	10:00 AM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Mass	7:00 PM	Chapel
	Compline	9:00 PM	Chapel
April 6	Sext	12:30 PM	Chapel
	Schola	7:00 PM	Chapel
	Latin/Gregorian Compline	8:00 PM	Chapel
April 7	Synod's Chrism Mass	11:00 AM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Sext	12:30 PM	Chapel
	Schola	7:00 PM	Chapel
	Latin/Gregorian Compline	8:00 PM	Chapel
April 8	Sext	12:30 PM	Chapel
	Schola	7:00 PM	Chapel
	Latin/Gregorian Compline	8:00 PM	Chapel
April 9 Maundy Thursday	Foot Washing/Communion	12:00 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Foot Washing/Communion	7:00 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Compline	9:45 PM	Chapel
April 10 Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	12:00 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Adoration of the Cross	7:30 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
April 11	Children's Program	1:00 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Easter Vigil	8:00 PM	St. Paul Lutheran
April 12 Easter Sunday	Matins (Coffee/Pastries Following Service)	7:00 AM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Continental Breakfast	8:00 AM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Festival Service of Holy Communion	10:00 AM	St. Paul Lutheran
	Service	7:00 PM	Chapel



EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2009

After the 7:00 AM service coffee and pastries will be available in the Narthex

Easter Continental Breakfast 8:00 – 9:30 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

Come and visit together and enjoy finger foods.

Your help is needed:

_____ **7:00 AM** - to set up coffee, tea, Juice, and water.

_____ **8:00 to 9:30 AM** General Help to refresh tables and food

_____ **9:30AM** for final clean up

_____ **Provide finger food**

(Please check the area you where you can help).

Name _____

Phone _____

Questions Call Mary Ellen Smith (599-0462)

**You can drop this form off at the church office or call Mary Ellen to offer your assistance.
Thank You!!!!**

THE GREEN CORNER

ADVOCACY

Caring for Creation by Mary Minette, Director of Environmental Education & Advocacy, ELCA

“We know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter” and ELCA’s concern was outlined in 1993 by a social statement of the church’s vision of our place in creation and summons us to act as a worship community to protect the earth from environmental harm.

“Today living creatures, and the air, soil, and water that support them, face unprecedented threats.” The social statement lists myriad ways that we have failed as stewards but it also gives us a “vision of hope and justice for creation” by means of individual and collective actions. We are urged to act and stand, most boldly and without delay, for the poor and powerless most vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Should you wish to join the Lutheran advocacy network to persuade our recently elected officials to act for a cleaner environment, contact our e-advocacy network (www.elca.org/advocacy). The full text of the “Social statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice” is available at (www.elca.org/socialstatements).

SUMMER PLANNING

West Virginia “Wild and Wonderful” offers exciting programs for summer adventures, and it is never too early to begin planning for youth activities. The Mountain Institute has offered adventures for both youth, adults, and families. Contact the Institute for the 2009 updated calendar. Note the varied past programs:

WV Youth Ecology I (ages 9-11) — 5 days. Exploration, hiking, creek critters, cavings, nature study, stars and games.

WV Youth Ecology II (ages 11-13). Creek adventure, canoeing, backpacking, caving, hiking, stars, navigation and games.

Astronomy Camp (ages 13-17). Constellations, galaxies, trip to Greenbank Radio Astronomy Observatory, caving, hiking and games.

Family Adventures — Weekends to allow adults and kids to have fun together and acquire new skills in camping and exploring the most beautiful mountain spots.

Arts of Nature — Sculpture, collage, watercolor, sketching, hiking, relaxation, over 400 acre campus and open space.

Visit the MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE 1-800-874-3050
(mountain.org/appalachia).



Prayer Corner

One of the most important things we can do for others is to pray for them, not just generally, but especially for particular needs and interests that they have. . . "The great intercessors remain the men and women of secret influence in all communities, and to be mentioned in their prayers is incomparably more enriching than to be mentioned in their wills. (W.E. Sangster)

Please pray for those in need. We ask you to include:

Illness

Lois Kleeb
 Ron Fortney
 Madge Hall
 Jill Park
 James Martin
 Elizabeth Martin
 Jen Nestor
 Bob Walters
 Bob Snyder
 Alana Mears
 Karen Ford
 Norma Gnegy
 Barbara Kervaski
 Linda & Kristen Kleeb
 Tom & Betty Kelso
 Laura Bender
 Philip Smith
 Ron Fortney
 Charlie Wodzinski
 Wil Gladfelter
 Ann Cloonan
 Ken Anderson
 June Ross
 Florence Merow

Home Bound

Rilla Tonon
 James Sharkey
 Virginia Sweitzer

Grief

The family of:
 Virginia Sweitzer

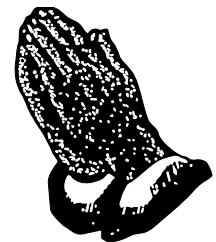
Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert	Rob Walters
	Brian Fox
	Jason Glass
	Jay Pratt

Wedding

Family Concerns

St. Mark's Lutheran
 Clarksburg, WV
 Grace Lutheran
 Fairmont, WV



St Paul Youth Group



To everyone who supported the Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner

\$ 393.00 will benefit the 2009 ELCA
Youth Gathering Trip



NO youth group meeting in April (Easter Sunday is the youth group meeting day)

NEXT youth activity is:



Sat., MAY 2nd - Service project and horseback riding at Glade Run Lutheran Services
Zelienople, PA

Permission forms and more details will be sent out.

WEDNESDAY VESPER 7:00 PM				
	LEADER			
APRIL 1	Steve Woodruff			
HOLY WEEK				
	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE CRUCIFER	USHER
MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 9th				
12:00 NOON	Debby Borrelli	Debby Borrelli		
7:00 PM	Mary Haas	Gary Grosso	Erica Graham John Borrelli	Sue Lynch Paul Smith
GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 10th				
7:30 PM		Brenda Stiles Dave Stiles Sally Leonard Sally Kirkpatrick Mike Kirkpatrick Geoff Groce	Ethan Stiles	MaryLee Cushing Sylvia McEwuen
EASTER VIGIL – APRIL 11th				
8:00 PM	Steve Woodruff Cantor—Pastor Brian	Bill Graham Geoff Groce John Borrelli Debby Borrelli Sally Leonard	John Borrelli	

SERVING ST. PAUL April 2009	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
5th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	B. Stiles	E. Stiles E. Stiles K. Smith A. Grosso	D & B Stiles L & L Paulson	K. Custer S. Hollar	K. Powell S. Gabbert
12th 7:00 AM 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli M. Haas	 M. Sampson	 P. Cushing K & E Custer E. Stiles	L. Springer LA Hartley L & L Paulson B. Graham S. Bartlett	 J. Graham R. Toffle	 S. Price T. Riegel
19th 10:00 AM	J. Lee	S. McEwuen	M. McCulla AJ Bartlett	G & K Kullman K. Powell E. Graham	M. Bott-Hansmann E. Sampson	D. Borrelli B. Graham
26th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Price	P. Cushing K. Smith	C. Henry D & C Custer S. Lynch	A. Grosso S. Rizzo	P. Cushing L. Springer

If you are unable to serve please find your own replacement. Thank you!

April 2009 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
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