



THE EPISTLE

Volume 7 Issue 1

St Paul Lutheran Church

January 2008

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 27TH — 12:30 PM

FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM SERVICE

There will be potluck luncheon prior to the meeting. Please plan on attending this special meeting as we will hear the final 2007 Committee Reports and will be electing new council members!

From the Pastor's Desk

Dec. 18, 2007

Tuesday of Advent 3

Be Thou Our Vision

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With the close of the calendar year, one generally takes stock of what happened and waits expectantly for the new year to come upon him or her. Think of all of the news channels that will show retrospectives of the events and people who have made news. All of the highlights that make up the sports channels' offerings – the biggest hits, the greatest plays, the scandals, the winners and the losers. But those programs all stop with what happened. The talking heads might make some predictions about who will win and who will lose but few of them can predict the truly big stories. The best they can do is to sit back and say, "We'll have to see what happens in this new year."

In 2008, we at St. Paul will be embarking on our own retrospective. We will be looking back, but not just for the sake of recapping the past. Looking back is the first step for us to look forward. We will be looking forward to 2008 as a year to plan and vision, focusing on our Evangelism efforts. Don't worry, that word is not really a dirty word, but too often we do treat it so. But as we enter our planning, we will look back at our history as a congregation and as Lutherans, look around at our context and the community in which we

find ourselves, and most importantly look to God for our guidance and our vision, praying that our vision is a faithful reflection of God's vision for the world.

As we plan and vision, we will also look at our current organizational structure. At the December council meeting, I very enthusiastically, and probably prematurely, challenged the congregational council to jettison committees for 2008. Of course I did not have a well enough thought out plan to start out, so we are entering a visioning process that might allow us to stop committees in the church. "Why?!?!?" you may ask. "Who will do the work that needs to be done?" The heart of the matter is that we barely have enough people doing what needs to be done right now. As with most churches, only a small handful of people are pitching in. One of the reasons for that, Council posited, was that we are a very young congregation, when discussing the average age. Most of our members are working hard all day, caring for their families, and the daily tasks associated with them. Well, what a great challenge! So, we know people's lives are full and the last thing they want to do is wolf down dinner, and then rush to the church so they can sit in a room for an hour and a half where little seems to get accomplished.

But we also know that St. Paul is a generous congregation. We look at something like Circle of Friends, or our holiday dinner basket projects. Here a distinct project is announced, something with a start, an end, and a clear objective and mission. People step up and accomplish that task post haste. This structure might be more of our future, where what we now call committees become something more like clearinghouses for mission and tasks that need done around the church. The things we call committees will still exist, but will do more of planning and prioritizing, helping us to live into our calling of following Jesus here at the church, but also in our daily lives.

This new tack of visioning and planning will need everyone's input, and we will need to make sure everyone knows about it. So to that end, we will also be engaging our email addresses even more, please keep an eye out for messages from St. Paul in your inbox. To increase our communication and visibility, I am also beginning a blog for the congregation. There will be little posted there until after Christmas, and it will have no schedule as to posting, but postings will be hopefully frequent. The blog will include reflections, goings on, and various and sundry items that are of interest. You can access the blog by going to <http://stpaulmorgantown.blogspot.com> .

All of these steps are taken in hope that we may continue to live out our identity as children of God. Please keep an eye and ear out for what is happening in and around our congregation. Where you see something that is needed, please let us know, and then join in our efforts to help make that happen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

FROM THE CHAPEL: (www.LutheranMountaineer.org)

The Chapel will resume services on January 13th at 7:00 PM with a Mass of Baptism of Our Lord. After that we will return to our normal service times.

All college students regardless of school are invited to attend Camp Melanchton, January 8-11. If you need more information, go to our website mentioned above.

If you have any questions about services or any happenings coming up in the next semester, please contact Chaplain Riegel.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume its normal schedule on January 6th at 9:45 PM. As of press time, there are no upcoming events planned. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for announcements about events and family projects.

If you have any questions please contact Dave or Brenda Stiles.



A big Thank You to the following:

- To everyone who helped with the decorating of the sanctuary and the tree on Dec. 9th and for all the goodies provided.
- To those who braved the weather to pick out a gorgeous tree.
- To Cece Melby for the donation of the white candles for the candlelight service pew holders.
- To Paul Smith for getting the beautiful door wreaths.
- To Edna Dillon for the garland above the altar.

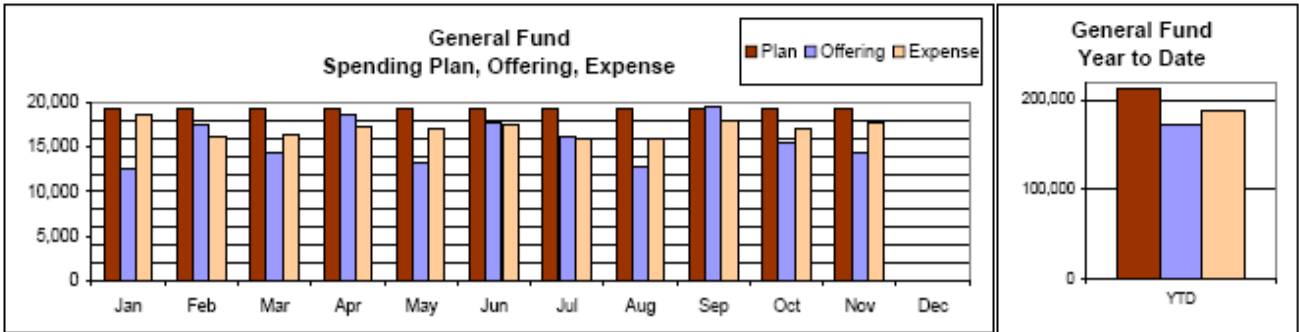
Treasurer's Report

St Paul Lutheran Church

Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

November 2007

	November				Year to Date			Year to Date	
	General Fund	Spending Plan	+/- of Plan Rec'd-Spent	% of Plan Rec'd-Spent	General Fund to Date	Total Plan to Date	% of Plan Rec'd-Spent	Restricted Fund	Total Funds to Date
Support and Revenue									
Contributions	14,497	19,291	(4,794)	75%	164,589	212,205	78%		164,589
Designated/Restricted	382				5,230			40,104	40,104
Total Assets	14,879	19,291	(4,412)	77%	169,819	212,205	80%	40,104	204,693
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted								29,556	29,556
Congregational Council	250				1,589			0	0
Benevolences	3,043	3,913	(870)	78%	34,173	37,743	91%	0	34,173
Church Mortgage	631	400	231	0%	6,787	4,400	154%	0	6,787
Committee - Christian Education	171	445	(274)	38%	2,659	6,747	39%	0	2,659
Committee - Fellowship	99	142	(43)	70%	991	1,743	57%	0	991
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	507	260	247	195%	2,162	3,260	66%	0	2,162
Committee - Property	0	325	(325)	0%	1,111	3,575	31%	0	1,111
Committee - Resource	0	0	0	0%	0	500	0%	0	0
Committee - Stewardship	0	0	0	0%	0	100	0%	0	0
Committee - Worship & Music	611	455	156	134%	4,200	6,122	69%	0	4,200
Insurance	760	280	480	271%	3,672	3,580	103%	0	3,672
Building Operation	2,029	2,121	(92)	96%	24,004	27,981	86%	0	24,004
Office Operation	628	582	46	108%	4,707	6,402	74%	0	4,707
Parish Communications	60	160	(100)	38%	1,523	1,810	84%	0	1,523
Payroll	8,948	9,602	(654)	93%	101,818	105,619	96%	0	101,818
Total Expenses	17,737	18,685	(948)	95%	189,396	209,612	90%	29,556	217,363
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(2,858)	606	(3,464)		(19,577)	2,593		10,548	(12,670)



COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED!!!

We need members of the congregation to volunteer to serve on the upcoming council. There are 4 council seats to be filled, 1 for a 2-year term and 3 for a 3-year term. If you are interested in submitting your name for the upcoming election to be held January 27th, please see a member of council or contact the church office.

A Big THANK YOU to everyone in the congregation that helped to make the Christmas Baskets for Scott's Run Settlement House & Rock Forge Neighborhood House such a success!! With help from Thrivent and our local congregation we were able to deliver 28 baskets to help the families of Monongalia County. It goes to show that Lutheran's are fantastic people!!!!

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, December 13th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- The report has come back from the engineering firm, and no structural changes are required to the steeple in order to install the bell. We have gotten quotes on a crane, and the bell should be installed by early in the new year.
- The congregational meeting in November asked council to make a decision regarding the sexton position. Jim Leonard wishes to work on a volunteer basis beginning in January 2008, and he asked that the money that would have been paid him as salary be put in a fund to be used by the sexton for projects around the church. Council voted to move the sexton's salary funds to a line entitled "Project Fund/Sexton", which will be listed in the spending plan with other salaries.
- There will be a congregational meeting on January 27th. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck luncheon at 12:30 PM, following the late service. Reports of committees are due in the office by January 15th.
- Sandy Price has stepped forward to accept the position of Financial Secretary for 2008. Council would like to thank her for agreeing to this task and would also like to thank Eric Hansmann for the fantastic job he did as Financial Secretary in 2007!

FROM THE PIECEMAKERS:



The regular meeting of Piecemakers will resume on January 4th at 10:00 AM. We are still in need of people to help with this wonderful project. No experience is necessary—we will be glad to show you how to perform the various jobs and the best news it is open to members of both sexes!!!!

The Piecemakers would like to thank all those that supported the Christmas Quilt Raffle with their donations!!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

After a busy holiday we will have a quiet meeting for January on the 9th with the 5th lesson in our series for this year. All women of the church are invited, or you could start up your own group that would meet at another time that might be more convenient to the working women of our church.

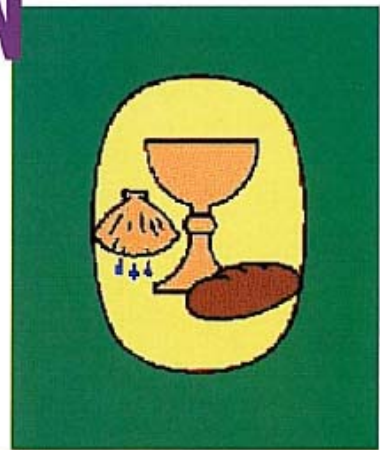
We hope to see you at our meeting on January 9th at 2:00 p.m. If you have any questions please call Betty Kidd.

YOU ARE INVITED



an historic CELEBRATION

of **UNITY** in the
BODY OF CHRIST



SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 2008

at Wesley Chapel

West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, West Virginia

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WORSHIP

HOLY COMMUNION

LUNCH

FELLOWSHIP

Our three Bishops will lead a Lunch-time discussion about our unity in purpose, fellowship, and mission. Lunch is provided on campus, at a subsidized reduced cost of \$5⁰⁰ per person

You are invited to join in this historic celebration by our Episcopal Leaders:

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

The Most Rev. Ralph Dunkin, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, West Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

Youth Group:

January, 2008

Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 13 5-7 pm

Bring a Brown Bag dinner & drink; homemade cookies made during meeting for
dessert

February 2008

2008 LYO WINTER WEEKEND

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod LYO

•
www.wv-wmdlyo.com

Friday – Sunday

February 15-17, 2008

•
The February 2008 LYO Weekend will be held at Camp Hickory in Garrett County, Maryland and St. Mark Lutheran Church, Oakland MD. You and your LYO friends who have **completed grades 7 through 12** are encouraged to attend.

\$35.00 + and winter sports activity fees at Wisp

** Youth group funds will pay \$17.50 of registration fee**

FORMS AND PAYMENT DUE TO Kris OR Debby BY JAN. 27TH

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
Rachael Sheets
Jason Coley
Anna Folkemer
Charlie Wodzinski
Gary DeMoss
Sierra Gabbert
Sarah Bishop
Bob Snyder
Sondra Frownfelter
Barbara Kervaski
Jane Zay
Norma Linton
Henry Hess
Betty Kelso
Mary Swigert
Philip Smith
Gloria Steyers
Tom Kelso
Sierra Gabbert
Robert Strakal
Phyllis Johnson
Ron Fortney
Margaret Mauer

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
James Sharley
Virginia Sweitzer
Rilla Tonon

Grief

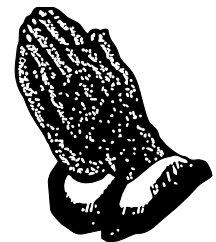
Family Concerns

The Hartley family

Recuperation Active Duty

Cliff Bishop
Jeff Meadows
Dorothy Hess
Patrick Cushing
Rob Walters
Brian Fox
Jason Glass

PLEASE NOTE: Each month we will be creating a new list of names on the prayer list. If you have someone that you want to keep on the list, please either notify the church office, offer the name at the Sunday service or put a message in the secretary's box outside of the office. We will be purging the prayer list on a monthly basis, so it will be necessary for you to notify the office every month.



The Green Corner

Hundreds of people appeared at four hearings in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee to testify and object to a new ruling on Stream Buffer Zones. The majority of speakers opposed the rule change proposed by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) in a Federal Register Notice.

Residents of southwestern Virginia, the mid-western states, the northern plains, and as far away as Alaska are also being impacted by mining within 100 feet of streams but were not granted the opportunity to comment at public hearings in their states. They were, however, acknowledged in the testimony of people who testified in the four states that did allow commentary.

Over 3000 comments have been submitted online at the government documents website (www.wvhighlands.org) This proposal to change rules is not new. In 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers repealed a 25 year-old prohibition on dumping waste material in streams. In 2003, the Office of Surface Mining proposed to weaken its oversight of state mining programs by making federal take-over for state violations of federal law discretionary rather than automatic. In 2005, the Administration released its final Programmatic Environmental Impact statement on Mountaintop Mining/Valley Fills in Appalachia (PEIS), which proposed no meaningful mining reforms or limitations on valley fills.

Now OSM proposes to get the stream buffer zone (SBZ) rule, the most important safeguard under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) for protecting streams. To date Mountaintop Removal has already destroyed 1200 miles of Appalachia's streams and over 400,000 acres of its forests. The size and extent of mining was limited by the stream buffer rule zone, if enforced properly, would allow only the uppermost reaches of any stream to be filled by waste rock, thus mitigating adverse effects on water quantity, water quality, aquatic diversity, and degradation to valley communities.

A federal judge, last October 07, blocked a coal operator from starting a new valley fill in Boone County. "Money can be earned, lost, and earned again," he said, "a valley once filled, is gone."

Readers interested in learning about the present controversy between environmentalists and coal companies, will find the stories by Dave Elkinton interesting, illuminating, balanced, comprehensive. Published by Pocahontas Press, Elkinton's "fighting to Protect the Highlands: The First Forty Years of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy" can be ordered on website wvhighlands.org or by mail to WVHC, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. \$24.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. The book was also endorsed by business writer George Hohmann of the Charleston Daily Mail.

SERVING ST. PAUL January 2008	LAY ASSIS- TANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE- CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
6th 8:30 AM	S. Woodruff	E. Melby	M. Bott- Hansmann	E & C Melby	The Kullman Family	
11:00 AM	D. Borrelli	G. Groce	N. Price L. Price	S. Armstrong L & L Paulson	The McCulla Family	Sue Lynch LA Hartley
13th 8:30 AM	L. Stiller	L. Stiller	J. Borrelli	G & K Kullman	M. L. Bennett	
11:00 AM	M. Haas	S. Woodruff	E. Graham Emily Stiles	S. Bartlett J & S McCulla	A. Grosso S. Rizzo	P. Johnson T. Riegel
20th 8:30 AM	S. McEwuen	S. McEwuen	P. Cushing	L. Hartley P. Smith	M. Bott- Hansmann ML Cushing	
11:00 AM	D. Borrelli	B. Schreiman	Ethan Stiles M. McCulla	R. Strakal B & J Schreiman	K. Custer S. Armstrong	C. Henry C. Toffle
27th 8:30 AM	L. Stiller	L. Stiller	K. Smith	S McEwuen S. Lynch	Huber Family	
11:00 AM	M. Haas	M. Kirkpatrick	A. Grosso K. Custer	C. Henry D & C Custer	J. Graham The Ford- Werntz Family	P. Cushing B. Graham

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

January 2008 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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Vice President: Leland Paulson
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Treasurer: Dave Stiles
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