



THE EPISTLE

Volume 7 Issue 7

St Paul Lutheran Church

July 2008

From the Pastor's Desk

Wednesday after Pentecost 6

June 25, 2008

Discipleship and Leisure

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is here and many of us have plans for vacations and relaxing, whether our plans keep us near to home or take us to far off places. Many of us have summer reading lists of books that we can take to the beach or camping. The weather helps us head outdoors and the school systems cooperate so that we have about twelve weeks when we need not worry about getting away only on the weekends.

But what does this mean for our following of Jesus? Isn't time away for ourselves selfish? Isn't it unfaithful? What about giving away our lives for the sake of others? What does our leisure time say about us? I think that these questions are important for us to ponder as we head out to our various arenas of respite and leisure. We all know that in everything we do, we cannot go, go, go without stopping. That approach surely leads to burnout. Constant leisure can lead to sloth, the deadly sin of laziness. There is no unequivocal answer that says either all our leisure is good or any leisure is bad. The question we must first wrestle with is what is the end or goal of our leisure time? When Jesus calls us to follow him, we are called into a life that is marked by its care and concern not for ourselves, but for God and our neighbor. However, there are many times in Scripture when we see the need for rest. Jesus teaches and feeds the multitudes, and then he and his disciples withdraw to a deserted place for a while in order to rest. At the creation of the world, God rests on the seventh day, so people may know of the need to setting time aside to worship and attend to God's Word. Mary and Martha are also instructive here. Mary is lauded for taking time out of the labors of the day to spend time with Jesus, despite Martha's objections about all of the work that remains.

Our lives of discipleship necessitate down time so that we might continue to our baptismal ministry that show our love for God and our neighbor. If we do not care for our bodies, minds, and souls, then we are really doing a disservice to our neighbor, for we will be unable to care for him or her in their time of need. We will be unable to reach out with words that bring life for we will be strangers to the peace which Christ brings. We must realize that our spiritual well-being is connected to our physical, mental and emotional well-being. We must, therefore, pay attention to the needs of our whole selves so that we might be faithful followers of Jesus.

We must be ever vigilant against the abuse of our leisure however. How quickly might we fall into forgetting that our leisure serves our discipleship? Our rationalizing of taking too much time for leisure can be a symptom of our broken relationship between us and other human beings, as well as between us and God. To help us work against this rationalizing, we are given the Christian community speaking words of law

and gospel, repentance and forgiveness, and the Word, made known in preaching and the Sacraments.

Throughout our entire lives, we are called to practices given to us by God that seek to bring us closer to him, as well as nurturing us in our lives so that we might provide a vibrant witness to our Lord wherever we are in the world. Let us enjoy and delight in our rest and leisure, so that we might be renewed to be faithful workers in God's harvest.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian



Tri-ing for CLP!

June 29, 2008

On Sunday June 29, 2008, Pastor Brian will compete in the MedExpress Spirit of Morgantown Triathlon. He will swim 1500 meters, bike 40 kilometers (almost 25 miles) and then run 6.55 miles. In an effort to encourage him to perform better, and at the same time do some good in the synod, he is seeking contributions to assist the social ministry organization, Community Lutheran Partners, on whose board he sits.

Contributions can be put in the offering plate, or sent directly to CLP, Inc. at PO Box 174 Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Make a note of any contribution with the note "Bennett CLP Board Challenge." If you are a Thrivent member please make use of the "GivingPlus" Program and increase your donation by 50%! Pick up a form in the narthex!

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Brian.

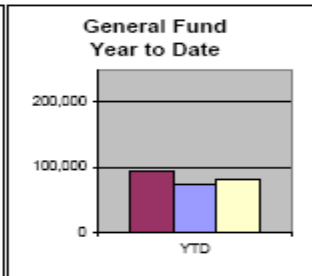
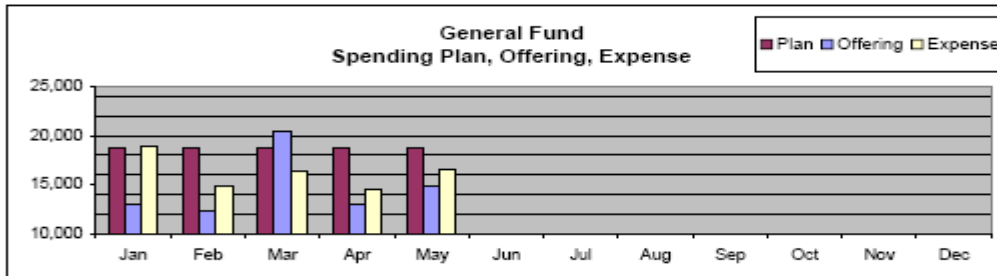


A NEW FACE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE: Hello my name is Jared Lee, and I am going to be working with Pastor Brian for the summer. Together we are working on the Immersion Grant from Project Connect. I am from Weston, West Virginia, and am currently a student at West Virginia University. I am majoring in Religious Studies with the hopes of entering the seminary. If you want to get a hold of me, my cell phone number is 304.626.0030. Thank you for welcoming me into your congregation for the summer.

Treasurer's Report

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

May 2008	May				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	14,872	18,823	(3,950)	79%	73,507	94,114	78%		73,507
Designated/Restricted	300				6,030			10,948	10,948
Total Assets	15,172	18,823	(3,650)	81%	79,537	94,114	85%	10,948	84,455
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted	304	205			2,624			23,922	26,546
Congregational Council	416	0			442	0		0	0
Benevolences	3,104	3,154	(50)	98%	15,520	16,670	93%	0	15,520
Church Mortgage	568	616	(48)	0%	2,865	3,080	93%	0	2,865
Committee - Christian Education	66	600	(534)	11%	424	2,250	19%	0	424
Committee - Fellowship	46	79	(33)	58%	119	701	17%	0	119
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	48	163	(115)	29%	1,502	1,213	124%	0	1,502
Committee - Property	109	325	(216)	34%	740	1,625	46%	0	740
Committee - Resource	0	0	0	0%	578	200	289%	0	578
Committee - Stewardship	0	0	0	0%	0	100	0%	0	0
Committee - Worship & Music	315	465	(170)	65%	3,695	3,031	122%	0	3,695
Insurance	760	272	488	280%	1,520	1,858	82%	0	1,520
Building Operation	2,499	2,067	412	120%	8,740	11,537	76%	0	8,740
Office Operation	909	582	327	156%	2,540	2,910	87%	0	2,540
Parish Communications	105	165	(80)	57%	1,048	975	108%	0	1,048
Payroll	7,252	9,335	(2,082)	78%	41,174	46,674	88%	0	41,174
Total Expenses	16,500	18,088	(1,587)	91%	83,530	92,853	90%	23,922	107,010
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(1,328)	735	(2,063)		(3,993)	1,261		(12,974)	(22,555)



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

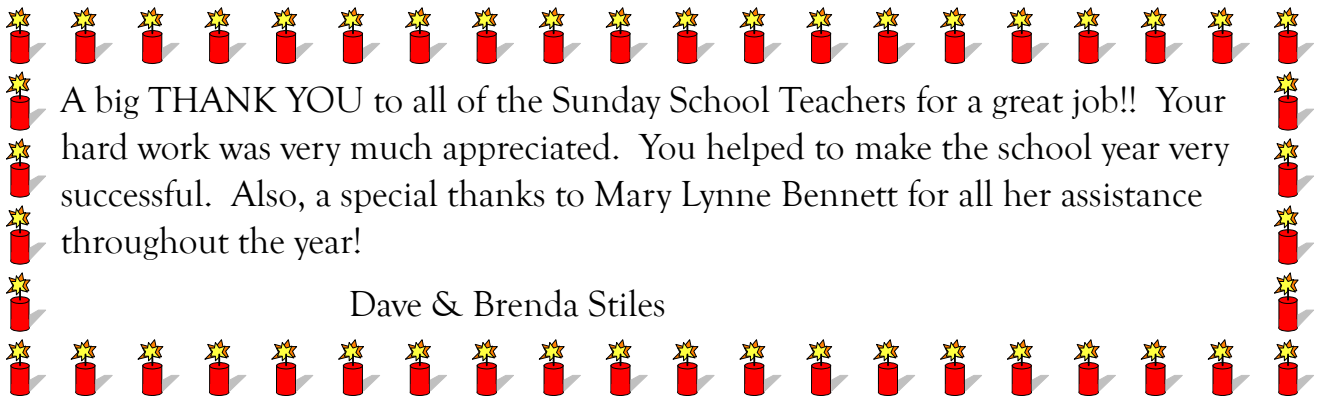
All registered parishioners will continue to receive envelopes, including envelopes for special collections for a variety of needs. Parish collections will be taken each week as usual. Participants in the Electronic Giving program are asked to mark their envelopes "EFT" and place them in the collection 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, June 12th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- Much of the meeting was spent in discussion on church finances, which will be addressed elsewhere from this report.
- Several items from Property Committee report are of interest. The committee was asked to consider an alarm system for the church. After discussion, the idea was rejected because the committee could foresee many false alarms being set off by members who did not know the system, which would lead the police to think eventually that all our alarms were false. Further, there would be the difficulty of teaching people to arm the system. If the systems were not armed properly, the system would be useless.
- Property also discussed the vacant parsonage lot and the idea that it might be used as a community garden. Any crop would have to be out before the fall football season (parking season) began. The committee recommends leaving the area as green space, with the possible future additions of a pavilion and storage shed.
- Finally, the committee is concerned about the carpet in the sanctuary, which has become a tripping hazard. Cost to replace would be at least \$8000. Council tabled the matter because of the financial difficulties the congregation is experiencing.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS: School kits will be collected during the month of August. We will be distributing the school bags to fill. They will be in the narthex each Sunday. Buy the required things for them when you buy your children’s supplies. We will be giving you more information in the upcoming bulletins and also the August newsletter. We will also be asking for monetary donations to help pay for the shipping cost.

We have also put a questionnaire regarding WELCA in the narthex. We would like to have the congregation’s input and ask that if you are interested you would take a moment to fill out the form. You can place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Thanks for all your support of WELCA activities—it is greatly appreciated! Betty Kidd



Have you signed up for your fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend? Weekends are designed to enrich ALL marriages. On a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend, married couples of all ages are guided through a special and beautiful weekend by a Lutheran pastor and spouse and 3 other Lutheran couples. All costs are covered by a \$45.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you choose that you are given the opportunity to make at the end of the weekend. **Now is the time to register for the fall weekend of your choice: September 26-28** at the Lutheran Camp Sequanota motel-syle retreat center in Jennerstown situated on 400 beautiful wooded acres in the Laurel Highlands, or **October 24-26** at the all newly-renovated Quality Inn & Suites just off Hwy 90 in Erie, PA. Please make time for this most important relationship in your life!

Registrations are limited, so please request your brochure with registration form by contacting Fred & Julie Schamber, Western PA Chair-couple at: fjschamber@comcast.net or phone 724-325-3166, or you may go to the website: www.ilmeone.org for more information and to register online.


Hot Dogs & Ice Cream


Social

July 16TH 6:00 PM

Council will provide the goodies but you are welcome to bring anything that you would like to add. What could be a better way to celebrate July than with a Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social????? See you there!!!!



Remember to come to Power Lab Vacation Bible School, July 20-24, 6:00-8:00 PM. If you haven't registered, just come a little early the first night. Power Lab is for three-year-olds through 5th graders. See you there!



ST PAUL YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, JULY 13

5:00-7:00 PM

ACTIVITY: CONSTRUCT A
BIBLICAL VILLAGE FOR VBS



Birthright of Morgantown, Inc.: Looking for something to do with your spare time? Birthright has an opening for three volunteers once every two weeks for a 4-hour shift. If you are a people-person and can work with others in a confidential manner, we look forward to training you to work in a quiet and discreet atmosphere. You would be providing a service to young women who desperately need to learn about the alternatives to abortion. Please consider becoming a Birthright Volunteer. To learn more, contact the Birthright office between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at 296-0277. May God bless your cheerful donation of time and talent.



ALTAR FLOWERS: There are several openings on the flower chart in the narthex for the second half of 2008. If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor of someone or a special occasion, in memory of someone, or just to the Glory of God, please select your special date on the chart. Flowers are \$40 plus tax/delivery and are from Coombs Florist. You will receive a bill from Coombs at the end of the month for the charge. Flowers are ordered by the church office but if you want something special please call Coombs and they will work with you as to what you want. It is a wonderful way to remember someone or something!

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
 Richard Gibson
 Madge Hall
 Pastor Jim Huffman
 Phyllis Henry
 Gary DeMoss
 Rebecca Donaldson
 Sarah Bishop
 Bob Snyder
 Liliane Johnson
 Barbara Kervaski
 Rachel Sheets
 Norma Linton
 Linda & Kristen Kleeb
 Tom & Betty Kelso
 Karen Starkey
 Philip Smith
 Woody O'Hara
 Margaret Laughlin
 Jesse Duwall
 Pauline Harger
 Phyllis Johnson
 Cece Melby
 Sherry Fox
 Wil Gladfelter
 Scottie Sneckenberger

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
 James Sharkey
 Virginia Sweitzer
 Rilla Tonon

Grief

The family of:
 Gladys Hellyer

Family Concerns

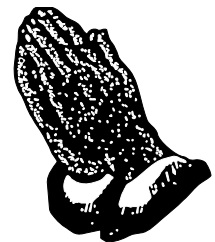
Gene Makela

Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert	Rob Walters
	Brian Fox
	Jason Glass

Wedding

Don Herko & Becky Homchenko



SERVING ST. PAUL July 2008	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
6th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	S. Rizzo	M. Bott-Hansmann J. Borrelli	P. Smith S. Lynch L & L Paulson	A. Grosso S. Hollar	K. Powell C. Toffle
13th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	M. Kirkpatrick	P. Cushing AJ Bartlett	E. Graham S. Bartlett B & J Schreiman	J. Graham S. Rizzo	P. Cushing B. Graham
20th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	G. Groce	K. Custer E. Custer	ML Cushing S. McEwuen J & S McCulla	M. Bott-Hansmann M L Bennett	C. Henry S. Gabbert
27th 10:0 AM	L. Stiller	G. Makela	M. McCulla E. Graham	E & C Melby T & F Potter	K. Custer The Ford-Werntz Family	K. Powell R. Zay

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

July 2008 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																		
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