



THE EPISTLE

Volume 8 Issue 6

St Paul Lutheran Church

June 2009

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Tuesday after Easter 7

May 26, 2009

Cookouts and Picnics

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is nearly upon us, and nothing says Summer like a good cookout or picnic. Just like potlucks, where everyone brings something to share, we get to pick our way around those dishes of potato or macaroni salad, hot dogs, burgers, brats, deviled eggs, watermelon, fruit salad, and of course various deserts of jello-type salads, or ice cream sundaes, or freshly baked pies. We can feast upon spoonfuls of this and that, filling our bellies with tiny servings, until we undo a notch or two on our belts, or loosen the drawstring on our shorts. Take this newsletter article in that vein. Picnic offerings of various sorts, from my heart and mind for your perusal, enjoyment and nourishment.

The Shack

No, not the Neighborhood House out Rt. 19... but the book by William Young. In case you haven't heard of it, this novel came out a little over a year ago and received a great deal of press in Christian circles. The story revolves around Mack who is summoned by God for a weekend visit, years after a devastating family tragedy which has burdened Mack and which has been drawing him away from his relationship with God. Mack's encounter with God, the Triune God, is surprising, and problematic for some readers. Initially God the Father appears to Mack as a old African-American woman. Jesus appears as a Middle-Eastern man, and the Holy Spirit appears as an Asian woman. Much of the book is, I believe, an effort to avoid pithy and clichéd answers for why tragedies happen, helping us to live in trust that God is present even in ambiguous and unclear situations. At times, the book is a little overly sentimental, and there is a vein of anti-intellectualism that appears throughout. However, clearly the author has indeed studied some Trinitarian theology, for the interactions between the three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, seek to make

real the notion of *perichoresis*, the dynamic nature of the relationship between the three. *Perichoresis* literally means “to dance about” and in the book, this dancing about is made more concrete through the scenes where Father, Son and Holy Spirit share meals, and show the love each has for the other. This book also confronts us with the deep love that God has for each of us and the reality that God comes to us as we need him to, and that we cannot remain unchanged after such an encounter. While it is not my favorite book that deals with Christianity, if you are looking for a good summer read, then check out *The Shack*. You could certainly read worse... and this book just might speak to you.

2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Every other year, the ELCA gathers with voting members from every synod. At these Assemblies, a wide variety of things happen. This bi-annual assembly is the highest authority in the ELCA. Social statements are approved. Ecumenical agreements are ratified. Greetings are received from mission partners around the world. The schedule is always very packed. This year the Assembly meets in Minneapolis, MN from August 17-23, 2009, and the agenda is no different. Along with proposed regular changes to the ELCA constitution, there is a proposal for full communion with the United Methodist Church. Full Communion is the highest level of agreement with another denomination or judicatory. When we are in full communion with another body, we are saying that we agree on a common confession of the Christian faith, along with a mutual recognition of baptism and sharing of Holy Communion. Bodies in full communion can exchange clergy for the sake of mission. Full communion does not mean that the church bodies merge. Rather we deepen our relationship, respect remaining differences, and continue dialogue about our theology and mission. The proposed agreement with the UMC can be read at www.elca.org at the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Page.

The loudest buzz coming from the Assembly is the proposed social statement on human sexuality. Social statements are meant to be teaching documents to help guide the consciences of ELCA members. The 2001 Assembly initiated this statement believing that a statement on sexuality was needed. The full text of this statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” can also be found the ELCA’s website. Alongside this statement are particular resolutions that are focused on policies for ministry. The question that will likely take up the most time and debate is what to do with gays and lesbians in committed, monogamous relationships who wish to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. This line of proposals has many people very worried. There is a worry that no matter how the vote goes the ELCA will be not stay together. The

Assembly will be streamed over the internet, so if you are interested, you can watch almost everything going on as it happens.

National Youth Gathering

Another gathering will be happening this summer as six youth and three adults from St. Paul will be headed to New Orleans for the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering. The theme for this year's gathering is "Jesus, Justice, Jazz." Tens of thousands of young people from across the ELCA will be descending upon New Orleans to worship, to serve, to grow in their faith, and simply put to have a ton of fun. As we move through our time at the Youth Gathering, updates will be put on the congregation's blog so you can follow us and read about our experiences firsthand. Youth gatherings only happen once every three years, so for some of our youth it will be their only opportunity to take part, but almost everyone who attends one finds it transformational. We will be in New Orleans July 21-26. Please pray for us during that time.

Liturgical Matters

Many of you know that the ELCA has come out with a new hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (or ELW for short). Since being published several years ago, a number of Lutheran congregations in the synod have bought the ELW. Some of you might be asking why St. Paul isn't using the new hymnal. The reality is Music and Worship have talked about it, and have communicated with council that it seems unnecessary to buy a new hymnal when the new hymnal contains about 85-90% of the hymns in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and *With One Voice* (WOV). In addition, since we use printed worship books, and own several different copyright licenses, we are able to print just about everything that we need. In fact, during this Easter season, we used the Thanksgiving for Baptism rite at the beginning of every service and that came directly out of the ELW. When planning worship, we consult the new hymnal for resources, and we copy and distribute them as needed. But purchasing the actual hymnals for congregational use has not seemed to be necessary.

Learning Opportunities

Every summer the people of this congregation work hard to put forward the Vacation Bible School for the children of this congregation and community. This year's VBS will focus on early Christians in Rome. I have no doubt that this year will be no different and we will be doing However, our educational ministry is not just for the young. There will be several opportunities for adults to engage in some discussion and

learning as well. One of these opportunities will be during late July and August during worship where we will be talking about the Eucharist. The lectionary leaves Mark's gospel for a while to focus on the Bread of Life discourse in John's gospel. During those weeks, we will focus on the Eucharist and what it means for us. Additionally, there has been some discussion around a Vacation Bible School for adults, where we can gather and discuss a particular topic or book that seems of interest to folks. If you have interest in it, please see me and let me know what interests you.

Final Word: Vacations and Stewardship

The summer is a time for many of us to recharge our batteries, to go on vacations, to find some rest from a busy and hectic life. The summer is a good time to care for the self, so that we might continue to care for others, reaching out to them with the love given to us by God. Our vacations can be a very important time of personal stewardship. However, please remember two things. One, Luther reminds us that the commandment to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy is primarily about taking time to attend to God's Word in worship and devotion. When you are on vacation, take advantage of being in a different place and seek out Lutheran congregations in that area where you could attend worship. Two, if you go on vacation, please remember that St. Paul is still here serving others. Please do not forget your offering. You could mail in your offering before you go, or use the Simply Giving program for an automatic offering from your back account.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brian

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

June 7th will be Celebration Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on this day, but students are asked to arrive half an hour before the service to practice their songs. The children will sing during the offering, and awards for the year will be presented. Following the service, we will share a light lunch, and then go to the Golden Living Center to sing at 1:30 PM. (This is the facility where Wil Galdfelter is currently residing.)

CONGRAUTLATIONS!

To all of the Sunday School students who completed their Learn by Heart catechism and Bible verses! May what you have learned be a bulwark for your faith and comfort to your hearts in years to come.

Coray Bennett	Samantha Rizzo	Logan Cushing	Rachel Sampson
Shannon Ford-Werntz	Noah Sampson	Jessica Huber	Kyle Smith
Grace Riegel			



Summer is just around the corner, and so is Vacation Bible School! This year we are planning a trip to ancient Rome, where we will discover what it was like to live in Rome during New Testament times.

At Rome VBS we will explore the Marketplace, visit the Apostle Paul where he is being held under house arrest, sneak to the cave where the Underground Church meets, taste the food and join games and songs of Roman times.

Rome VBS is for everyone between the ages of three and those who have completed fifth grade. The adventure begins Sunday, July 12th and continues through Thursday, July 16th. Sessions run from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM each day. On Monday through Thursday nights, a light supper will be provided for kids and families at 5:30. Please be sure to dress in play clothes and safe shoes.

This year, adults are invited to come along, visit for an hour or stay through the evening. Come one night or every night.

To register, pick up a form in the narthex after church and bring to the church office, or place in the Sunday offering plate. You may also call the church office for forms.

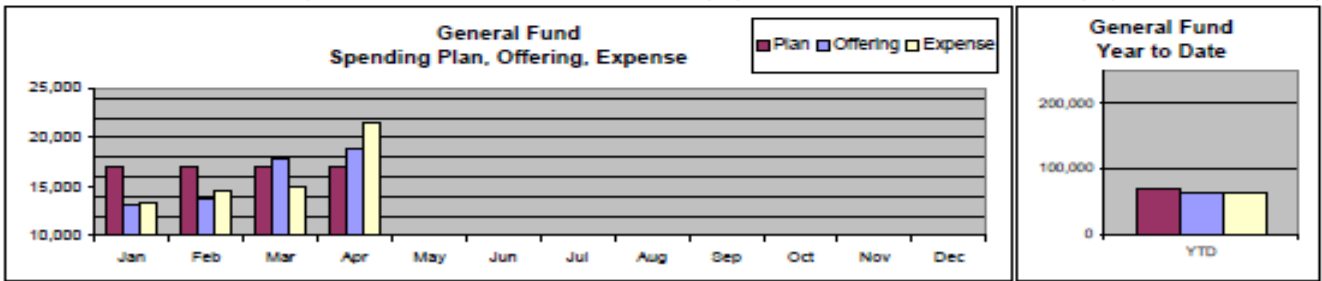
For more information, contact Tamara Riegel at 296-1915 or teriegel@verizon.net

Sponsor A Child: Ten dollars will purchase most of the supplies we need for one child to attend VBS. If you would like to sponsor a child, or even two or three, put an extra \$10 in the offering plate with a note on the memo line of the check, or on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

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

April 2008	April				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	18,756	17,113	1,643	110%	63,340	68,452	93%	3,514	63,340
Designated/Restricted									3,514
Total Assets	18,756	17,113	1,643	110%	63,340	68,452	93%	3,614	68,864
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted		0				0		14,880	14,880
Congregational Council	877	0			888	0		0	0
Benevolences	5,100	3,300	1,800	155%	10,300	11,100	93%	0	10,300
Church Mortgage	568	580	(12)	0%	2,261	2,320	97%	0	2,261
Committee - Christian Education	157	137	20	114%	758	900	84%	0	758
Committee - Fellowship	142	179	(37)	79%	314	622	51%	0	314
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	112	146	(34)	77%	732	1,143	64%	0	732
Committee - Property	0	167	(167)	0%	41	667	6%	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	224	308	(84)	73%	630	1,970	32%	0	630
Insurance	851	301	550	283%	1,728	1,704	101%	0	1,728
Building Operation	3,736	1,841	1,896	203%	8,656	8,290	104%	0	8,656
Office Operation	391	384	7	102%	1,777	1,535	116%	0	1,777
Parish Communications	340	185	166	184%	856	790	108%	0	856
Payroll	8,987	9,102	(116)	99%	35,409	36,410	97%	0	35,409
Total Expenses	21,486	18,830	4,664	128%	84,360	88,182	84%	14,880	78,342
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(2,729)	483	(3,212)		(1,010)	270		(11,367)	(11,489)





HOT DOG SOCIAL

JUNE 17TH 6:00 PM

We will be resuming our summer socials in June. Council will provide the goodies but you are welcome to bring anything that you would like to add. Come out and enjoy the hot dogs and all the good things that go with hot dogs!!!!

See you there!

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, May 14th. Minutes from this meeting can be found in the council notebook in the narthex.

FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: It is truly amazing how quickly another month has passed. We had a rather short month as far as our quilting sessions are concerned. Since we share the space with other activities at St. Paul we have to cancel our Friday sessions sometimes and it is too difficult to pick another day to work.



We are working on a special project, we will reveal it at a later date. The new sewing machine was certainly a hit, the girls are loving it. We have some quilts ready to go to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. Let us know if someone happens to go that way. We will be making some lap robes for a local nursing home again this summer. Perhaps some of our young people will have time to help us when school is out. Our partner "Joan Failing from Wisconsin" has sent us more quilt tops. We really just need help with assembly and knotting of the quilts right now. If you are interested please come out on Friday's between the hours of 10 and 2. We would love to have you join us. Many thanks for all the sheets so many of you have donated. We are in good shape as far as materials to work with.

On Friday, May 15, we sent new sheets, blankets, towels and 10 of our quilts to the flood ravaged areas in southern West Virginia.....The Piecemakers

WELCA NEWS: WOMEN!! What Do the Letters WELCA Really Mean?

WELCA is the anachronism for 'Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America'. But for those of us who meet regularly under those initials, the REAL meaning is fellowship, Bible study, a short business report, and contact with the other women of our Synod and the nation. It is service projects locally and for the world. At present we are a small group (about 10-12 ladies) who share concern for each other and for our congregation. We welcome any women who would like to be part of the group. We meet the second Wednesday of every month (except for snow days) in the church lounge from 2 to 4 p.m. It's just an informal meeting, usually without any refreshments. For the summer months there are 3 Bible lessons. This year's series is titled 'A Woman For All Seasons' and will start on June 10.

Several of us share the production of our service projects and at our recent meeting the reports were as follows: 1. Donna Ford-Werntz keeps the Cradle Roll and says spring is the busy season for our church babies, 11 of 14 infants have birthdays or were baptized in April or May! Congratulations to our 4 'graduates' (3rd birthday in May), Jeremiah Bennett, Cameron Gillen, Chandler Rowan, & Arnel Udani. 2. Betty Kidd organizes the school kits for children Africa and other 3rd world countries and says now is the time to start thinking about sewing the tote bags for September delivery. The contents for the kits can be purchased in August when the store have their school sales. We all help with the process of seeing that each bag has the correct items and then someone drives the 50-70 kits to New Windsor, MD, to Lutheran World Relief (if you can help in any way, please see Betty Kidd). 3. Welma Pierce is our current treasurer and recently sent \$255 to our ELCA Synod in memory of Margaret Maurer to be used by the Synod Scholarship Fund for female seminary students. She also sent \$75 to the WELCA Synod treasurer as our annual donation for their general fund. 4. The recent project for the Alzheimer's Walk, organized by Kay VandenBosche, has been sponsored by this group for about 13 years and this year we donated \$2675 as a designated fund for the respite and support of local Alzheimer's caregivers. 5. We also sometimes give help to ecumenical projects locally, such as supplies for neighborhood houses, etc.

THE GREEN CORNER

The Organic Market

As people become more aware of the ecological and health costs of chemical-dependent agriculture, the market for organic food is booming. Small-scale farmers are watching the form of agriculture they craft around simple living and local economics take on a different appearance. A growing number of nations draft organic standards, setting organic acreage goals. Denmark has set 50 percent organic target by 2012 and the United Kingdom would require (Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill) not less than 30 percent of agricultural land in England, Wales, Northern Ireland be certified organic by 2010. In the year 2000, the U.S. farmland under organic management was 0.2 percent (statistics compiled by World Watch).

The U.S. industrial, chemical dependent industry says organic farming cannot help feed the hungry in the developing world, but organic farming has great relevance for alleviating poverty and hunger according to Peter Rosset (Institute for Food and Development Policy, Food First), “Organic farming methods place emphasis on the local resources and knowledge that the farmer already has, and puts ecological processes at the service of the farmer.” For example, when the U.S. Embargo and the collapse of the Soviet Bloc eliminated Cuba’s primary source of food, petroleum, and agrichemicals, this island nation was forced to use ecosystem resources and farmer know-how to live. The nation shifted to 30,000 urban gardens, the principal source of fresh produce for Cuba’s cities. “In Cuba, organic farming techniques have been used massively to guarantee the food security....especially the poor” says Rosset, “in contrast to the U.S. and Europe where the better-off derive the most benefit.”

The fertility of the soil is enhanced by checking erosion, integration of livestock and crop production, composting manures, planting trees and native plants—all which insure that crops can withstand droughts.

The public is beginning to ask questions about their food. Where was it grown? Who owned the land? What crops were rotated with it? Why should corn be subsidized for energy fuel? How much was spent on chemical, water usage? Where was waste disposed? Was livestock injected with hormones? Is our government protecting factory farming at the expense of its population’s health? Parents want the most healthful food especially for their babies, even if organic is expensive. Concern about pesticide residues on foods, the greater sensitivity of infants to residue damage propels the organic baby food market. A German-based company, Sunval, sells BioBambini organic baby food worldwide and has been selling since 1950 to Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia. Can we buy their product at Kroger’s or Wal-Mart?



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
Bob Walters
Becky Sias
James Martin
Elizabeth Martin
PJ Harmon
Steve Woodruff
Bob Snyder
Bobbi Elliot
David Hartley
Wil Gladfelter
Barbara Kervaski
Linda & Kristen Kleeb
Tom & Betty Kelso
Laura Bender
Julia Brecht
Jennifer Roberts
June Ross
Ann Cloonan

Home Bound

Rilla Tonon
James Sharkey

Grief

The family of:
Karen Boyle
Philip Smith

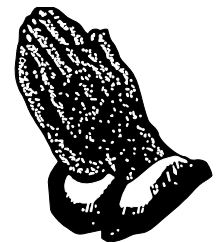
Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert
Jim Leonard
Rob Walters
Brian Fox
Jason Glass
Jay Pratt

Wedding

Family Concerns

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



SERVING ST. PAUL June 2009	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
7th 10:00 AM	J. Lee	S. Armstrong	J. Borrelli K. Smith	K. Powell E. Graham L & L Paulson	J. Graham E. Sampson	P. Cushing B. Graham
14th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	M. Kirkpatrick	A. Grosso E. Graham	S. McEwuen C. Henry D & C Custer	K. Custer S. Rizzo	C. Henry L. Springer
21st 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	G. Groce	K. Custer E. Custer	J & S McCulla E & C Melby	A. Grosso M L Bennett	L. Paulson T. Riegel
28th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Leonard	E. Stiles E. Stiles	ML Cushing .E. Dillon T & F Potter	McCulla Family	K. Powell C. Toffle

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

June 2009

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
	1	2 10:00 AM Bible Study	3	4	5 10:00 AM Piecemakers Synod Assembly	6 Synod Assembly																																																																													
7 10:00 AM Service Celebration Sunday Graduation Sunday	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study	10 2:00 PM WELCA	11 7:00 PM Council Meeting	12 10:00 AM Piecemakers	13																																																																													
14 10:00 AM Service	15	16 10:00 AM Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Hot Dog Social	18	19 10:00 AM Piecemakers	20																																																																													
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28 10:00 AM Service Circle of Friends	29 8:00 AM LMM (Shoney's)	30 10:00 AM Bible Study	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>May</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>July</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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