



THE EPISTLE

Volume 6 Issue 10

St Paul Lutheran Church

October 2007

From the Pastor's Desk

Tuesday after Pentecost 17
Sep. 25, 2007

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past August, the ELCA met in Chicago for its biannual churchwide assembly. This assembly is the vehicle by which we try as a varied and diverse group of Christians who all claim the Lutheran identity to forge a common vision through policies, ministries, and other emphases, thereby living out our life of faith under one roof. Every churchwide assembly is a reminder that we believe that we are not simply isolated, autonomous congregations doing our own thing. Instead, we come face to face with the reality that we are all inter-connected, sometimes to our chagrin.

In 2007, the churchwide assembly debated and discussed a number of proposals, some of which made national news, many of which did not. In the wake of the assembly, major news outlets reported in a way that showed no regard for nuance a few things about the assembly's decisions around homosexuality. On Sunday August 12th, a couple of people came up to me after service, reporting that they had seen scrolling across CNN's headline ticker a brief statement that the ELCA had allowed people who are gay or lesbian and who have life partners to serve as pastors. The current policy of the ELCA is that people who are gay or lesbian may serve as pastors only if they promise to refrain from all sexual activity. And to be clear, absolutely no change in policy was decided. What the assembly did pass was what is known as a sense resolution that asked bishops to refrain from disciplining or exercise restraint in disciplining pastors who are in same gender, lifelong, committed relationship. Wait, you say, that sure sounds like a change in policy. In fact it is not. Bishops may still choose to exercise discipline, that is bring together a formal hearing where the pastor is tried, and possibly removed from the ELCA's roster. The assembly wanted to provide some space for conversation and dialogue around sexuality issues while the ELCA awaits the ELCA statement on sexuality which is being prepared for the 2009 churchwide assembly. If a bishop believes it is necessary to exercise discipline, then she or he may still call the hearing. Ultimately the news organizations that reported the stunning change in policy were just not all that careful in reporting. One other memorial regarding homosexuality was also brought forward; this one involving same sex unions. This memorial was referred (or sent to) the task force that is putting together the social statement on sexuality. Presumably the task force will take that memorial into consideration and would include some position on same sex unions, which currently pastors have been asked not to perform.

However, as said previously, there were a great deal of other issues that were discussed, but just did not garner as much media attention as the issue above. Some of these topics are pointed out here as Bishop Dunkin shared in his *Road Show* email following the assembly.

- the re-election of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson by a 86% majority;
- the election of a new secretary, Mr. David Swartling of Seattle, Washington;
- affirmation of the initiative, "Lutherans Read the Bible." This initiative has a far reaching emphasis on deepening this church's immersion in Scripture.
- adoption of a social statement on education;
- adopted a new resolve and commitment to battle against HIV and AIDS;
- concern for efforts for peace in the Middle East;
- celebrated the responses to the World Hunger Appeal and to disasters.

The ELCA strives to live together as one body. As with any institution that is made up of human beings, our striving can sometimes become struggling, which can often turn into out and out conflict. But sooner or later, a body must be able to make a definitive statement one way or another on topics that it believes are central to its identity. Let us continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to hold the ELCA faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, wherein lies our true hope and our only salvation.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Again this year we will be collecting items
to fill 20 Thanksgiving food baskets.

The baskets will be given to Scott's Run Settlement House &
Rock Forge Neighborhood House.

More information will follow in the weeks to come.

FROM THE CHAPEL:

REFORMATION SUNDAY PIPE ORGAN CONCERT — The Moller Opus 10278 Pipe Organ has been installed in the Chapel of Christ the King (a.k.a. The Lutheran Campus Chapel at WVU). We celebrate its installation with an organ concert on Reformation Sunday (October 28, 2007) at 4:00 PM. Principal organist Robert Zay will be joined by Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, Mr. James Rushin, and others for a musical event worthy of Reformation Sunday. Appropriate Reformation fare will be served after the concert. For those inclined to stick around, the 7:00 PM service will use the “Washington Service,” an American Lutheran liturgy premiered in 1869.

The organ concert is on the beginning of “Reformation Daze! 2007.” Be sure to check www.LutheranMountaineer.org or 304-296-5388 for the latest updates on Luther Colloquium in Gettysburg. The Wurst Dinner on Campus, Visitation of the Graves and more.

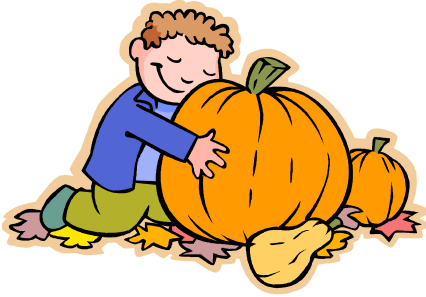


SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

 Our Sunday School will be sponsoring a food drive from now through November 18th. The food that is collected will be given to food pantries in the area. Food can be given to anyone in Sunday School or placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions please see either Brenda or Dave Stiles.

 A big THANK YOU to all the teachers and anyone else that helped to get Sunday School up and running for this year.

GREAT JOB!!!!



PUMPKIN SOCIAL

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 7:00 PM

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

COME AND ENJOY ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS MADE FROM PUMPKINS!!

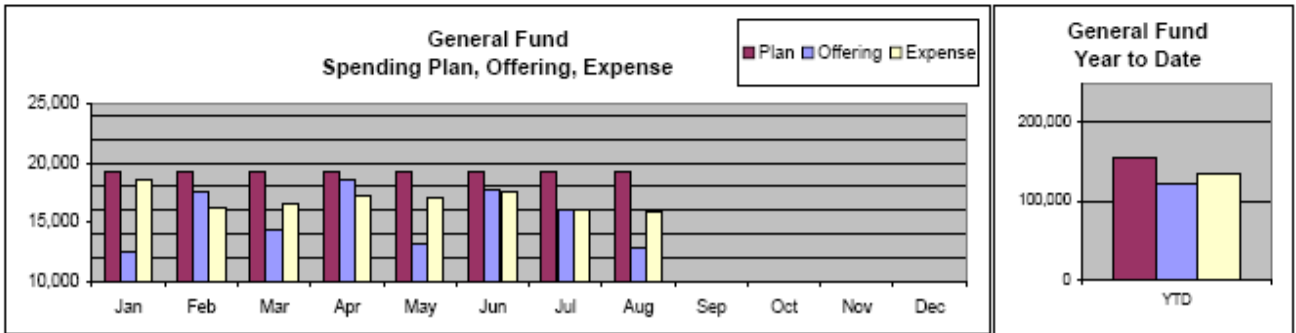
Treasurer's Report


St Paul Lutheran Church

Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

August 2007

	August				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	12,730	19,291	(6,561)	66%	115,054	135,039	85%	115,054	115,054
Designated/Restricted	327	0			4,616			23,254	23,254
Total Assets	13,057	19,291	(6,234)	68%	119,670	135,039	89%	23,254	138,308
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted	0	0				0		24,123	24,123
Congregational Council	0	0			1,353	0		0	0
Benevolences	3,043	3,413	(370)	89%	24,344	23,991	101%	0	24,344
Church Mortgage	617	400	217	0%	4,934	2,800	176%	0	4,934
Committee - Christian Education	74	645	(571)	11%	1,442	4,916	29%	0	1,442
Committee - Fellowship	24	142	(118)	17%	748	1,177	64%	0	748
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	0	260	(260)	0%	1,618	2,220	73%	0	1,618
Committee - Property	60	325	(265)	18%	947	2,275	42%	0	947
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	102	455	(353)	22%	3,119	4,301	73%	0	3,119
Insurance	0	280	(280)	0%	2,912	2,460	118%	0	2,912
Building Operation	2,876	2,831	45	102%	18,054	18,787	96%	0	18,054
Office Operation	285	582	(297)	49%	3,080	4,074	76%	0	3,080
Parish Communications	101	160	(59)	63%	1,156	1,170	99%	0	1,156
Payroll	8,767	9,602	(835)	91%	71,014	67,213	106%	0	71,014
Total Expenses	15,949	19,095	(3,146)	84%	134,721	136,014	99%	24,123	157,491
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(2,892)	196	(3,088)		(15,051)	(975)		(869)	(19,183)



 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** There will be a blessing of the animals service on October 4th at 6:30 PM. Please plan to attend and if you cannot bring your animal you are invited to bring a picture instead.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED!!!

There will be an All Committee Night on October 15th at 7:00 PM. Our committees are in dire need of members to help with the activities of the church. If you can volunteer for any of the committees, please call the church office and we will get you in touch with the committee chairperson. In order to keep the many activities of the church going **WE NEED COMMITTEE MEMBERS!!!**

News from Council

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

- Council voted to separate the annual congregational meeting on the spending plan from the regular annual meeting. The congregational meeting on the spending plan will be held Sunday, November 11th after the late service. The regular congregational meeting will be held in January. Committees are asked to submit their budget requests by October 15th.
- We have received a new low bid of \$11,000 for taking down the old parsonage and restoring the lawn. The parking committee has suggested that parking money be used for this purpose. If we gather sufficient funds, demolition could take place in December. Anyone wishing to take bricks or other items as souvenirs should contact a member of the council.
- The position of choir director has been vacant since the departure of Jonathan Neiderhiser. Council voted to offer the position to Beth Dameier and she has accepted.
- The October social will be Wednesday, October 17th at 7:00 PM, with the theme of pumpkin foods.



FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: Now that summer is almost over and your garden chores are dwindling down, perhaps you are looking for a new way to use your talents. The Quilting Group is looking for a few good hands (male or female) to help with the construction of quilts. If you think this is not what you can do—you might be pleasantly surprised and the only thanks you need is knowing that your work is keeping someone warm and comfy. So come and join us on Fridays between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the church and perhaps you can bring along a friend. We would like to see you there. — The Piecemakers

WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

The final count for the school kits was 76 bags and \$95 for shipping. Thank you to everyone that donated to this worthwhile project.

The Fall Cluster Retreat will be November 3 & 4 at Tygart Lake State Park. Women of the ELCA and all women of the congregation are invited. There are charges for meals and lodging. Reservations are due by October 15th. Please call Betty Kidd by October 15th at 292-4027.

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
 Dax Brecht
 Mary Armstrong
 Sally Schwing
 Ron Fortney
 James Riordan
 Kelly VandenBosche
 Ralph Church
 Jane Zay
 Norma Linton
 Henry Hess
 Betty Kelso
 Mary Swigert
 Philip Smith
 Sarah Bishop
 Jason Coley
 Paul Brecht
 Jackson Bowling
 Sandy Jones

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
 James Sharley
 Virginia Sweitzer
 Rilla Tonon

Grief

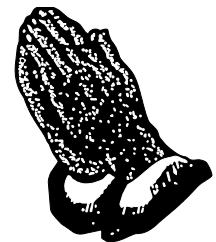
The family of:
 Vina Boring
 Charles Queen

Family Concerns

The Hartley family
 Jeff & Lisa Kleeb

Recuperation Active Duty

Cliff Bishop	Rob Walters
Helen Goryance	Brian Fox
Dorothy Hess	Jason Glass
Jeff Meadows	



The Green Corner

This month's "Lutheran Women Today" (Oct/2007) featured interesting articles that touch upon our spiritual relationship with our environment, both inside and outside our homes. The Reverend Patricia Lull, dean of students at Luther Seminary, reminds us that when we see our world from the eyes of those who have gone before us and those whose world is yet to come, we will see the connection between the environment and change the way we live in our daily decisions and actions; thus our stewardship, emanated from God's generosity to us is recycled by our generosity to the poorest members of God's community. "As we have received, so we offer to others.:

The second interesting article "A Poor Man's Wealth" highlights the way Francis of Assisi is celebrated among Christians of many denominations. Evangelical Lutheran Worship commemorates St. Francis on October 4. The text hymn "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" (ELW 835) is based on the Canticle of the Sun, written by Francis. The prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace" is attributed to Francis (ELW p. 87).

The article author, Bryan M. Cones reminds us that even more than freedom, poverty brought Francis humility, and by living in utter dependence on God, he found oneness not only with the poor of humanity but with the whole natural world of God's creation. His love and dependence on the natural world is poetically and humbly revealed in The Canticle of the Sun.

"We don't have to wonder what the man who thanked God for all the weather would say about climate change, or how he might lament the pollution of precious Sister Water or the degradation of Mother Earth. Francis is called the Patron Saint of ecology for good reason, and he would no doubt weep over the destruction of the environment as he mourned the death of his human sisters and brothers." (p. 34 "Lutheran Women Today)

How many have attributed the Katrina destruction of poor people and animals to "an Act of God"? The latest analysis reveals the cause of flooding to faulty engineering of the latest canal to the Gulf and total disregard for mangrove wetlands, costal forest that thwart wave-driven erosion and capture riverborne sediments as they meet the sea, building new land.

Guess what? A prime location for shrimp ponds happens to be the shore zone occupied by mangrove forests—a million and half acres—in the past 50 years to aquaculture operations that feed the increasing global appetite for seafood. The island of Bali experienced the deadly 2004 tsunami, Indonesia is now planting thousands of trees (National Geographic, Feb/2007)

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! October 19-21 is the final 2007 Western PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Sign up now for this special and beautiful weekend at The Avalon Hotel in



Erie, PA. Weekends are designed for the enrichment of ALL MARRIAGES. Housing, meals, and all costs are covered by a \$45.00 per couple registration fee plus whatever contribution you choose to make at the end of the weekend. Contact Western PA Chair Couple Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net to confirm space available, and sign up today!

SERVING ST. PAUL October 2007	LAY ASSIS- TANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE- CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
7th 8:30 AM	M. Haas	M. Haas	M. Bott- Hansmann	B. Bonnett S. Lynch	The Huber Family	
11:00 AM	L. Stiller	S. Price	N. Price L. Price	E. Graham L & L Paulson	J. Graham S. Armstrong	S. Price P. Johnson C. Toffle
14th 8:30 AM	D. Borrelli	D. Borrelli	P. Cushing	K. Powell S. Lynch	The Kullman Family	
11:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Bartlett	AJ Bartlett M. McCulla	C. Henry T & F Potter	K. Custer S. Rizzo	C. Henry B. Bonnett
21st 8:30 AM	S. McEwuen	S. McEwuen	J. Borrelli	E. Dillon ML Cushing	M. Bott- Hansmann M L Bennett	
11:00 AM	L. Stiller	S. Rizzo	E. Stiles E. Graham	S. Armstrong B & J Schreiman	A. Grosso The McCulla Family	K. Powell S. Gabbert
28th 8:30 AM	D. Borrelli	E. Melby	P. Cushing	E. & C. Melby	ML Cushing	
11:00 AM	M. Haas	M. Kirkpatrick	K. Custer E. Custer	R. Strakal T & J DeVault	The Ford- Werntz Family	E. Hansmann LA Hartley

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

October 2007

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
1	7:30 PM Service League	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Study	3 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4 6:30 PM Blessing of the Animals	5 10:00 AM Piece makers	6																																																																													
7 8:30 AM Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Service 12:45 PM Confirmation	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Study	10 2:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Choir Practice	11 7:00 PM Council	12 10:00 AM Piece makers	13																																																																													
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28 8:30 AM Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Service	29 8:00 AM LMM (Shoney's)	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Study	31 8:30 AM Suncrest Middle School 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></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> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		2	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						S	M	T	W	T	F	S		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
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ST PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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