



THE EPISTLE

Volume 7 Issue 10

St Paul Lutheran Church

October 2008

Council Announcement

Council would like to thank those who participated in the Congregational meeting on Sunday the 14th of September. If you were unable to attend please take time to talk with a council member about the meeting. The leaders of St Paul realize how important it is for all members to understand the business of the church. Your church council is committed to informing the congregation.

Please remember that all Church council meetings are open to anyone in the congregation. If you as a member of St Paul have any suggestions or ideas related to the life of the church please feel free to come to a meeting to ask questions or share your suggestions and ideas with council.

Council meets at 7:00 pm the second Thursday of each month in the church Parlor.

Remember no question is a bad question and all ideas are worth investigating.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Thursday of Pentecost 19

September 25, 2008

Necessary or Lesser Evils

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A friend of mine recently sent me a manuscript of a book he wrote. In the first chapter he wrote about choosing options we consider to be “necessary evils.” We all have faced these options. We like neither possibility, but we are faced with the reality that we must choose one of however many options that leave us with bad tastes in our mouths. We then seek to ease our consciences by labeling the choice we make as a “necessary” or “lesser” evil.

We can hear this rationalization employed in many areas of our life. My friend was writing about war, particularly the just war tradition. I think we will hear talk of lesser evils also as we draw nearer and nearer to our election day. And as we do so, let me please encourage you all to stop this language. As disciples of Jesus, if we were truly forced to choose any type of evil, our only choice should be to abstain and face whatever consequences that would arise. As we enter into our election season, let us instead enter into process seeking to make a faithful choice, owning that no one candidate is perfect. The power of sin permeates our political process. For all the talk of religion in the candidates' lives, the eighth commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" is cast aside, and each side seeks to paint ugly and distorted pictures of the other.

At the same time, we seek to be faithful even as we enter into this broken process. When we step behind our voting machines to make our choices, we must do so as followers of Christ. Unfortunately this reality does not make our choice any easier, but we must consider who will seek to govern with justice and honor, so that we may lead a peaceable life of integrity.¹ Each candidate will make a case that he or she (we are not just electing our President after all, but a number of lawmakers and judges) is the better choice. We should vote based not on who is the best Christian, but who will govern the best. As Luther said, "I'd rather be ruled by a wise Turk, than a foolish Christian."

Let us enter into this election season with the knowledge that no candidate is perfect, but that God can work through imperfection nonetheless, even our imperfect choice in the messy arena of politics.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

¹ LBW, p. 52, "Prayers of the Church"



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:

There will be a blessing of the animals service on October 5th at 3:00 PM. Please plan to attend along with your 'best friends'. If you cannot bring your animal you are invited to bring a picture instead.

FROM THE CHAPEL:

Reformation Daze! 2008 is coming! The Chapel's celebration of the Lutheran Reformation begins with *SBH* (that's right, "Red Book") worship in all its harmonious glory and ends with All Souls' Day, giving us an octave of Reformation fun. The good folk at St. Paul are, as always, invited to join in the festivities.

Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26 — **"Red Book" mass, 7:00 PM:** The Reformation is ongoing, that means even 1958 was part of it. The Schola will be singing the *SBH* harmonies. If you would like to join the Schola for a limited run of practices, show up at the Chapel on Sunday nights in October at 6:00 PM. **Compline, 9:00 PM:** the fifteen minute night prayer office.

Monday — **John Osborne's *Luther*, 8:00 PM:** The rarely seen 1973 psychobiographical pic stars Stacy Keach as Martin Luther. It is unlike any Luther movie ever made.

Tuesday — **The Wurst Dinner on Campus, 6:00-7:30 PM:** "It's not bad food; its' wurst." If you can shove it inside an intestine and cook it, we're serving it.

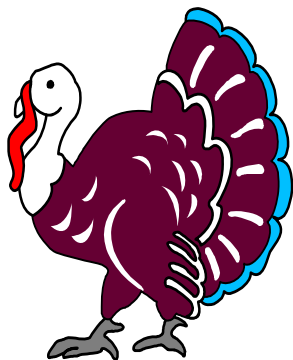
Wednesday — **Sext & Sausage, 12:30 PM:** 10 minute midday prayer followed by leftovers.

Thursday — **HSC Luncheon, 12:00 PM:** if you are on the medical campus, come join us in the far corner of the HSC Café for lunch between 12:00-1:00 PM. No agenda—just fellowship. **Compline, 9:45 PM.**

Saturday — **Paintball (tentative), 10:00 AM:** This is not definite, but we are looking at a panLutheran outing. More info to come. If you are interested, let Chaplain Riegel know. There is no WVU home game, so you need to do something.

Sunday, November 2 — **All Souls' Requiem Mass, 7:00 PM:** a second chance at the *SBH* with a special focus on remembering the faithful departed. **Compline, 9:00 PM.**

For more information, visit www.LutheranMountaineer.org or call 304-296-5388.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Once again this year we will be collecting donations for Thanksgiving baskets that will be given to Scott's Run Settlement House and Rock Forge Neighborhood House. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project please call the church office or see Dave Stiles. We will be asking for donations of food along with monetary donations. If you would like to donate money please specify that your donation be used for the Thanksgiving baskets only. We appreciate your continuing support of this outreach to families in our community that need our help

Community Service Project for October

WE *HOWL*
FOR TOWELS

Please Help Us

Collect New Bath Towels
for the Residents of
Bartlett House

Place your donations in the box provided in
the narthex or the
stage in the fellowship hall
(bath towels only please)

Youth Group News

Regular Meeting: Sunday, Oct. 12 5:00-7:30 pm

We want ALL youth at the meeting even if you are not going to the Gathering!!



The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 22-26, 2009

Registration Meeting

For Parent(s) and Teen (entering 8th - 12th grade in Aug. 2008)

(Bring registration Worksheet and down payment)

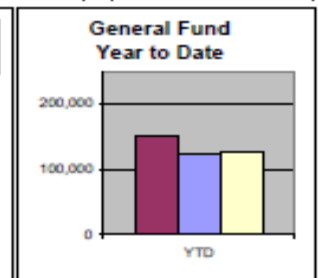
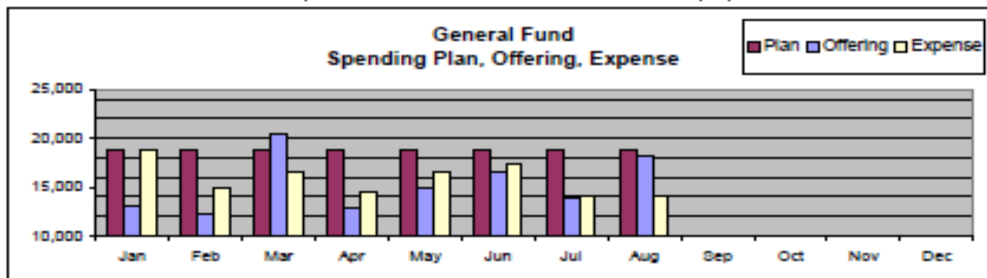
St. Paul Fellowship Hall

PLEASE, PLEASE contact Pastor Brian, Kris or Debby if you are planning to go to New Orleans, but will not be at this meeting!! We need to finalize registration information!

Treasurer's Report

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

August 2008	August				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	18,194	18,823	(629)	97%	122,012	131,760	93%	21,575	122,012
Designated/Restricted								21,575	21,575
Total Assets	18,194	18,823	(629)	97%	122,012	131,760	93%	21,676	143,687
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted						320		29,225	29,225
Congregational Council	0	40			442	0		0	0
Benevolence	700	3,254	(2,554)	22%	19,324	26,332	73%	0	19,324
Church Mortgage	568	616	(48)	0%	4,568	4,928	93%	0	4,568
Committee - Christian Education	0	500	(500)	0%	1,350	4,200	32%	0	1,350
Committee - Fellowship	103	79	24	131%	453	938	48%	0	453
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	48	163	(115)	29%	1,684	1,700	99%	0	1,684
Committee - Property	23	325	(302)	7%	790	2,600	30%	0	790
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	195	485	(290)	40%	4,631	4,496	103%	0	4,631
Insurance	750	272	488	280%	2,739	2,673	102%	0	2,739
Building Operation	2,148	2,087	81	103%	14,073	17,799	79%	0	14,073
Office Operation	390	582	(192)	67%	3,950	4,656	85%	0	3,950
Parish Communications	190	185	6	103%	1,519	1,530	99%	0	1,519
Payroll	8,938	9,709	(770)	92%	71,193	77,670	92%	0	71,193
Total Expenses	14,083	18,287	(4,204)	77%	127,294	160,183	86%	28,226	168,077
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	4,131	526	3,606		(5,282)	(18,403)		(7,650)	(12,490)



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.

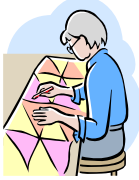
If you do not currently use envelopes, please consider participating in either our envelope program or the Electronic Giving program. Our parish needs your consistent support.

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, September 11th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- Congregational Meeting followed the September 14th service.
- Upcoming socials have been cancelled until further notice.
- Budget meeting is scheduled for November 9th after the 10:00 AM service

FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: Our quilting sessions are moving right along. We welcomed a new experienced quilter to our group, but we are also still looking for more help. We were informed by email that there is a bigger demand for more quilts all the time. We as a small group are doing all we can to help. Some of the quilts are being shipped to Georgia and the Philippines right now. Someone told me if we can get them to Georgia we are very lucky indeed but Lutheran World Relief has ways to get them there. As far as I can understand they are partnering with international Orthodox Christian Charities to get the quilts to where they are needed the most. So again we would like to express our thanks to everyone supporting us in this congregation to accomplish our mission. We have plenty of supplies right now.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS: At the time of writing, The Women of the Lutheran Church at St. Paul, have collected 60 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. They will be delivered to the warehouse in New Windsor, MD, in the near future. Thank you to everyone who donated time, money or supplies for the project.

The local group is continuing its fellowship and bible study while looking for new members. If you are available on Wednesday, October 8th from 2 PM to 4 PM come to the church lounge. There is not better way to get acquainted with others whom you might see every Sunday morning in the sanctuary.



Attention Married Couples: The September Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend filled; however, there is still room for **YOU** in the October 24-26 Weekend at the all newly-renovated Quality Inn & Suites just off Hwy 90 in Erie, PA, but **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** Please register as soon as possible. Weekends are designed for the enrichment of **ALL MARRIAGES**, and 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. If you have questions or would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact 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 or to register online.

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
Kathy Marrow
Madge Hall
Jared Schreiman
Phyllis Henry
Jill Park
Rebecca Donaldson
Sarah Bishop
Bob Snyder
Liliane Johnson
Barbara Kervaski
Rachel Sheets
Norma Linton
Linda & Kristen Kleeb
Tom & Betty Kelso
Karen Starkey
Philip Smith
Ron Fortney
Charlie Wodzinski
Wil Gladfelter
Sherry Fox
Gretchen Brown
Nina Brand
Alice McEwuen
Fred Striner

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
James Sharkey
Virginia Sweitzer
Rilla Tonon

Grief

The family of:
Phyllis Johnson
Bob Daniels

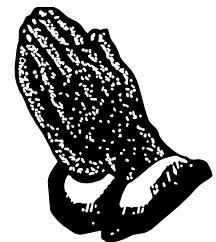
Family Concerns

Gene Makela
The Maurer Family

Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert
Rob Walters
Brian Fox
Jason Glass

Wedding



THE GREEN CORNER

Earth Policy Institute

(www.earthpolicy.org)



We already know that our planet is under stress and in need of a comprehensive global plan to stabilize world population and resources. Such an overwhelming mission will require of society—from local ministries and neighborhoods to nation capitals to international treaties. Each person can, in many different ways, assume that mantle of stewardship, and help sustain God’s Creation by 1. becoming informed and 2. taking action.

“We find what we look for” is a frequently quoted truism, but then, if we’re truly concerned about what we’re leaving to our children and future generations, we’ll decide to take action, individually, communally, or both. What action to take? For starters, why not learn what scientists, economists, civic groups, and even faith ministries from The Lutheran to Tikkun (Hebrew for ‘mending, repairing, transform the world). You need not go far to share their ideas. Our Green Bulletin Board will feature pictures and scheduled events, and right under the bulletin board is a file of various articles and magazines for your taking and sharing.

This month you will find two books there, by Lester R. Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute. The first entitled Plan B2.0, Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble, and the second is Plan B3.0, Mobilizing to Save Civilization. Both published by W.W. Norton. Earth Policy Institute is a nonprofit environmental research organization providing a vision of an eco-economy and provides road maps to sustainability. Plan 3.0 has been praised by former President Bill Clinton, Ted Turner, Klaus Schwab of The World Economic Forum; The Ecologist, Clare Short, British Parliament, and U.S. News and World Report. Lester Brown has been awarded countless awards from United Nations Environment Prize to Japan’s Blue Planet Prize to Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. Selected in Who’s Who as one of 50 Great Americans and awarded the Presidential Medal of Italy. Appointed Honorary Professor of the Chinese Academy of Science.

Sign out for the books from the church office or check bulletin board for ordering copies. For free downloading, log onto website below the title of this article.

Sunscreen Guide: To check out the safety of the sunscreen that you might be using—look for the card posted on the Green Bulletin Board.

SERVING ST. PAUL October 2008	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
5th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	T. Potter	J. Borrelli P. Cushing	P. Smith ML Cushing L & L Paulson	A. Grosso S. Rizzo	P. Cushing C. Toffle
12th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Rizzo	AJ Bartlett M. McCulla	S. Lynch S. McEwuen E. Dillon E. Graham	J. Graham M. L. Bennett	S. Price L. Springer
19th 10:00 AM	J. Lee	G. Groce	K. Custer E. Custer	C. Henry S. Bartlett J & S McCulla	M. Bott-Hansmann Ford-Werntz Family	C. Henry LA Hartley
26th 10:0 AM	M. Haas	G. Makela	L. Price E. Graham E. Stiles E. Stiles	E & C Melby B & J Schreiman	K. Custer Huber Family	K. Powell T. Riegel

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

October 2008

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> September S M T W T F S 1 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 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> November S M T W T F S 1 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 </div>	1 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Staff Support Meeting	2	3 10:00 AM Piecemakers	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service 11:45 AM Confirmation Class	6	7 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java	8 2:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 PM Council Meeting	10 10:00 AM Piecemakers	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service	13	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java	15 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 PM Outreach Meeting	17 10:00 AM Piecemakers	18 9:00 AM Synod Lay Leaders Training
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service 11:45 AM Confirmation Class Circle of Friends	20	21 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java	22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10:00 AM Piecemakers	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service	27 8:00 AM LMM (Shoney's)	28 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java	29 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 8:00 AM Suncrest Middle School	31 8:00 AM Suncrest Middle School	

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CHURCH

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Morgantown WV 26505



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