



THE EPISTLE

Volume 7 Issue 9

St Paul Lutheran Church

September 2008

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th AFTER THE 10:00 AM SERVICE

To Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church:

The Church Council has called a meeting to discuss finances of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The meeting is set for Sept. 14 after the 10:00 AM church service.

This is a “one topic” informational meeting, meaning that we will only be discussing finances. Over the past year, our finances have become more difficult to manage as our resources have become smaller. We, as council wish to share as clearly and comprehensively as possible with the congregation what is happening, and what is not happening. We continue to offer services and programs as usual, but we will need to reduce some of the spending. Keep in mind, during this period of economic decline in the U.S., a lack of finances has hit all congregations.

Therefore, we want to review with you what has happened and what we propose to do to be able to work within these financial constraints.

Try to attend this meeting, as everyone’s input is important. Verbal questions, as well as written questions are welcome. Please keep in mind, to keep your questions to the subject at hand.

Church Council

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Monday of Pentecost 15

August 25, 2008

Uncertainty and the Presence of God

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In our orders for both Morning and Evening Prayer in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, there is a prayer, which goes:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith, to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

I pray this prayer often, whether during morning prayer or not. This prayer is a classic and brings comfort to my being when faced with uncertainty. I find that as I pray this prayer, God reassures me that I am not alone. As I go through challenges and tasks for which I might feel less than qualified or prepared, I am reminded of Christ's promise to his Church, "Lo, I am with you til the end of the age."

As the Church goes about its ministry and mission, we face challenges and uncertainty always. Most recently we are faced with the challenge of our financial stewardship. Economic downturns, increased costs, and other factors have led us to be vigilant about our costs. This month we are planning a congregational meeting for information regarding our situation. Council is wise in setting up this meeting with the idea of laying out what is and is NOT happening. No one on council is ready to cry out, "The sky is falling!" But we know that we face a challenge, for the end of this year, as well as for setting our mission priorities for next year's spending plan.

To be honest, there is no magic bullet that will stop this financial beast, no panacea that will cure our ills. What I would like to do is to call us all to daily prayer for this congregation and our cooperation in God's mission in this world. Our goal is not simply survival, but to be vibrant witnesses to God's presence in this world. And let me say this, I heartily believe that we witness in many ways. Our Sunday School program is growing. VBS is exciting. We feed the hungry. We comfort those in need by providing quilts, school kits, and other projects. We support and provide hospitality for college students. We are a congregation that demonstrates its commitment to love others as Christ loved us, as we pour out our lives for the sake of others.

But I do ask everyone to pray for the ongoing mission of this congregation. In prayer we lay open our hearts, and ask God for grace and faith that we might see the divine presence in our midst, transforming us. Let us pray alone, or with any others in household, adult or child, at meals or in the morning or at bedtime. Let us set aside some time every day to pray for the work of this congregation and our life together.

To do this, we might simply say the brief prayer above as part of our regular prayers. Or we might be more involved with something like the following, which would be appropriate for evening or morning prayers.

Evening Prayer

L: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

R: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

R: **and the day is almost over.**

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

R: **and illumine your Church.**

Psalm 141

Lesson*

The Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

Prayer (*from above and/or other prayers*)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Let us bless the Lord

R: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

R: **Amen**

**--the LBW contains a daily lectionary on pages 179-192. For this particular lectionary, we are in Year Two. Pick a reading for the day following the appropriate Sunday*

These prayer forms are meant to be simple ways to incorporate prayer into our lives, and help us to discern where God is calling us. I pray that we as a congregation will use them or some other prayer time for St. Paul.

Morning Prayer

L: O Lord, open my lips,

R: **and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Psalm 95:1-7

Lesson*

The Benedictus (Song of Zechariah)

Luke 1:68-79

Prayer (*from above and/or other prayers*)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Let us bless the Lord

R: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord almighty bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in his peace.

C: **Amen**

A note about the L and R: They stand simply for Leader and Response. If done alone, you may read these either silently or aloud. If done within a group, let one person be L, and the others be R.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 7th

9:00 AM



*“Beginning in Baptism
Daily Discipleship”*

**Rally Day is for Everybody!!!
Classes from age 4 through adult**

Come join with your St. Paul family in celebration of another year of
Christian Education together.

Please invite friends and family to join us!!

Sunday School classes will start the next Sunday, Sept. 14th.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL:

The regular Chapel worship schedule is:

Sundays, mass, 7:00 PM
 compline, 9:00 PM
Wednesdays, sext, 12:30 PM
Thursdays, compline, 9:45 PM

These services are not “for students only.” Non-students are welcome.

As always, more information about these and other events are posted on the website (<http://www.LutheranMountaineer.org>). You can contact the Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU by calling 304-296-5388 or e-mailing Chaplain@LutheranMountaineer.org.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

White Water Rafting: A white water rafting trip is being planned for Saturday, Sept. 13, in conjunction with our sister campus ministries in Pittsburgh and at IUP. To RSVP or seek more info, visit our website.

HSC Luncheon Update: Are you at HSC on Thursdays? The HSC Luncheon is an opportunity to gather informally for lunch in the HSC Cafeteria. We will meet every Thursday at 12:00 noon in the HSC Cafeteria. Look for us at a table in the far corner from the entrance. These luncheons are open to faculty, staff, and students.

Taize: Our friends at the Newman Center would like to hold a monthly Taize service as they did last year. They are recruiting singers and instrumentalists. If you would like to sing or play, contact us.

Reformation Sunday Evening Celebration: We will be having a celebration service using the Service Book and Hymnal (Old Red Book). Plan on attending.

Trek to Pitt: On Sunday, September 21st will be making our annual pilgrimage to Pittsburgh for the service at Heinz Chapel. On the way we will be stopping at Oktoberfest. For more information please contact Chaplain Riegel.

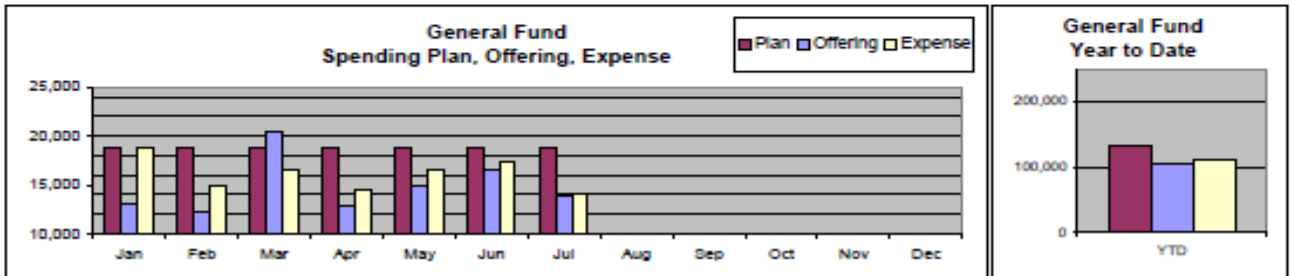
Chaplain Riegel is also looking for people interested in four part harmony. They will start practice the last Sunday of September at 6:00 PM. If interested please see Chaplain Riegel.

Treasurer's Report

St Paul Lutheran Church

Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

July 2008	July				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	13,788	18,823	(6,036)	73%	110,523	131,760	84%		110,523
Designated/Restricted	110				6,365			22,159	22,159
Total Assets	13,898	18,823	(4,926)	74%	116,888	131,760	89%	22,169	132,682
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted	1,500	205			4,124	0		23,811	27,935
Congregational Council	0	0			442	0		0	0
Benevolences	0	3,154	(3,164)	0%	18,624	23,078	81%	0	18,624
Church Mortgage	568	616	(48)	0%	4,001	4,312	93%	0	4,001
Committee - Christian Education	61	350	(289)	17%	1,350	3,700	36%	0	1,350
Committee - Fellowship	0	79	(79)	0%	308	859	36%	0	308
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	85	163	(78)	53%	1,636	1,538	106%	0	1,636
Committee - Property	0	325	(325)	0%	768	2,275	34%	0	768
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	424	485	(81)	87%	4,436	4,001	111%	0	4,436
Insurance	0	272	(272)	0%	1,979	2,402	82%	0	1,979
Building Operation	2,001	2,087	(87)	96%	11,925	15,711	76%	0	11,925
Office Operation	204	582	(378)	35%	3,676	4,074	90%	0	3,676
Parish Communications	56	185	(129)	30%	1,329	1,345	99%	0	1,329
Payroll	9,124	9,335	(210)	98%	62,254	65,343	95%	0	62,254
Total Expenses	14,024	17,838	(3,814)	78%	117,430	128,868	81%	23,811	140,788
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(126)	985	(1,111)		(542)	2,792		(1,652)	(8,117)



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

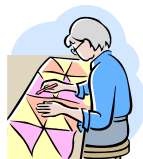
All registered parishioners will continue to receive envelopes, including envelopes for special collections for a variety of needs. Parish collections will be taken each week as usual. Participants in the Electronic Giving program are asked to mark their envelopes "EFT" and place them in the collection 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, August 14th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- Sunday School starts on September 7th with Rally Day. Teachers are needed. Please see Tamara Riegel if you are interested.
- The August social that was scheduled for August 20th was cancelled. The September social will be on September 17th.
- Giving is extremely low. A special meeting has been called by council for September 14, 2008, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service to discuss congregation finances.



FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: We had a very productive summer. The last of the quilts were delivered to the warehouse in New Windsor Maryland by Linda Ross. We had 35 quilts this time which makes us our promised pledge of 100 quilts for the year 2008. Now we are starting on some Christmas quilts plus more quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We are so blessed at St. Paul Lutheran Church to have so much support from our congregation and numerous supporters all over Morgantown. All we need now is some more hands to help to assemble and knot the quilts. Since the children are back in school maybe some of you parents or grandparents would have some extra time to come out on Fridays between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM to help us out. We would welcome you very much and we are sure you would enjoy the work. Thanks for all your support—The Piecemakers

p.s. Don't forget to bring your lunch

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS: WELCA is still meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 2:00 p.m. We are still trying to find a president and vice-president. Now would be a good time for new faces. We do have some very interesting discussions.

A copy of the Fall Retreat Registration Form is enclosed on the following page in this newsletter. For more information of this retreat please call Betty Kidd at 292-4027.

A report on the school kit project will be in the October newsletter.

Do you feel a call to care for others who are hurting? Learn more about Stephen Ministry, a new volunteer program to provide caring support to patients of Mon General Hospital and Morgantown Hospice. The Stephen Ministry program will train compassionate lay men and women to develop their gifts to help people in need, expanding the ministry of the hospital chaplain and/or hospice spiritual counselor. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, people learn everything from how to be an effective listener to specific techniques for ministering to grieving people. The 20 week training program will begin on September 9, with classes held every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Ed Horvat at 598-1952 or horvate@monhealthsys.org.

**BELOW IS THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE WELCA FALL
RETREAT—IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SEE
BETTY KIDD**

Fall Retreat Reservation Form
(Please return to Cluster Coordinator before Oct. 1st)

Name _____ Phone _____

Registration fee \$ 5.00 _____

Choose room & meals:

Single room \$61.00 _____

2 per room \$30.50 _____: Roommate if known _____

If a third party stays in a room there is an extra charge of \$10 for the room or $\$71 \div 3 =$
\$ 23.66 each. _____ . Roommates _____

Saturday dinner \$18.50 (pick one) Grilled chicken breast _____ or ham _____

Dinner includes: garden salad, choice of entrée (above), baked potato, green beans, apple
pie, beverage, tax and gratuity.

Breakfast Buffet (\$ 8.50) Your choice of fruit, scrambled eggs, bacon, breads. Cost
includes beverage, tax and gratuity.

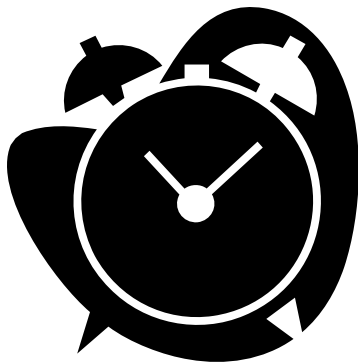
Lunch Buffet (\$ 14.50) Your choice of salad bar, 2 soups, and make your own sandwich.
Cost includes beverage, tax and gratuity.

Your total cost (for a great weekend) _____

Return payment with form. Make checks payable to West Virginia/ Western Maryland
Women of the ELCA. Return this form to your Cluster Coordinator:

Norma Bowyer
RR 1 Box 11
New Milton, WV 26411

If you have questions, I can be reached at (304) 873-1172 or midwayfarm@juno.com



There is still room for **YOU** in one of the fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends, but **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** Please register as quickly as possible, so that our facilities can be notified of our count. Weekends are designed for the enrichment of **ALL MARRIAGES!** 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. The weekends are: **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. Request your brochure with registration form today 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 or to register online.



Fall Fruits Social

September 17th 7:00 PM

Council will provide the goodies but you are welcome to bring anything that you would like to add. Come out and try all wonderful things that can be made from various fall fruits!!! See you there!!!!





We have several openings available to put flowers on the altar for the remaining months of the year. If you would like to donate flowers for a special occasion, in memory, or just to the Glory of God, please put your name beside the appropriate date. The cost is \$40.00 and come from Coombs Florist. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 599-0620.

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
Phyllis Johnson
Phyllis Henry
Jessica Rowan
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

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
James Sharkey
Virginia Sweitzer
Rilla Tonon

Grief

The family of:

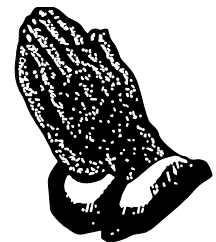
Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert
Rob Walters
Brian Fox
Jason Glass

Wedding

Family Concerns

Gene Makela
The Maurer Family



THE GREEN CORNER

Environmental Health—Who Cares?

Waste — A movement by As You Sow, an environmental group pressing for corporate accountability, succeeded in convincing Best Buy to recycle their electronics—obsolete TVs, computers, cameras, etc.—even when purchased elsewhere. Germany had insisted that manufacturers recycle their products years ago.

Carbon Emissions — San Francisco Bay area is the first region in the U.S. to charge for every ton of carbon dioxide emitted by business and oil refineries. The Bay Area Air Quality Management will use the fees to track greenhouse gas pollution.

Coffee — By next spring, Australia's entire McDonald's outlets will have their coffee certified by the N.Y. nonprofit, Rainforest Alliance, as sustainably grown beans, raised on Central America's plantations that minimize chemicals and fights deforestation. It's frog-logo also appears in the United Kingdom, but not in the U.S.

Energy Relief — Scandinavian Airlines has reduced jet cruising speed by 10% to eliminate carbon emissions.

—Dept. of Energy report reveals that U.S. could get 20% energy from windmills by 2030—what the current nuclear plants produce—and the wind supply could decrease coal consumption by 18%, natural gas, 11%.

Oil baron T. Boone Pickens, investing in wind says, "I've been an oil man all my life, but this is one emergency we can't drill out way out of." (pickensplan.com)

—Pesticides — DDT contaminated ice melts in Antarctic are now entering the food chain since their restriction in 1970. Penguins now have the same DDT levels in their bodies as 30 years ago.

Religious Concerns?

The Southern Baptists — Their Religious Liberty Commission supports Sen. Jim Inhofe's lead to oppose climate change legislation, calling it speculative. Limiting carbon emissions will increase cost of food and fuel. It will "wreck our economy, destroy jobs, and harm the poor." Their campaign, named We Get It, claims biblical fact-based approach to global warming.

Some Evangelical Christian — They are lobbying Congress to support climate change legislation, arguing that the world's poor will suffer from global warming, the people that God cares about. The Evangelical Climate Initiative, founded in 2006, criticizes denominations for being too timid in response to global warming.

(All the above information taken from the Sierra magazine, Sept./Oct. issue '08.)



SERVING ST. PAUL September 2008	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
7th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	B. Stiles	M. Bott-Hansmann M. McCulla	E & C Melby L & L Paulson	A. Grosso Ford/Werntz Family	P. Cushing B. Graham
14th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Kirkpatrick	L. Price E. Graham	B & J Schreiman T & F Potter	J. Graham Huber Family	S. Price M. Bartlett
21st 10:00 AM	J. Lee	G. Groce	E. Stiles E. Stiles	S. Armstrong LA Hartley D & C Custer	M. Bott-Hansmann McCulla Family	C. Henry S. Gabbert
28th 10:0 AM	M. Haas	S. Price	K. Smith A. Grosso	L. Springer K. Powell G & K Kullman	K. Custer S. Hollar	K. Powell R. Zay

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

September 2008

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
1	Office Closed	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java (Panera's)	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Staff Support	4	5 10:00 AM Piece makers	6																																																																																											
7 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Service RALLY DAY	8 7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee 7:30 PM Service League	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Jesus Over Java (Panera's)	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 PM Council Meeting	12 10:00 AM Piece makers	13																																																																																											
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ST PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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