



# THE EPISTLE

Volume 8 Issue 9

St Paul Lutheran Church

September 2009

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Wednesday of Pentecost 12  
Aug. 26, 2009  
*ELCA Churchwide Assembly*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past Saturday morning as I lay in my hospital bed, I turned on the news and the first thing I saw was a short news item on the Churchwide Assembly's decision to open the doors to gays and lesbians in lifelong, committed, publicly accountable relationships for rostered ministry in the ELCA. What I have seen on the news of this issue has been minor, although it has impacted many people within the ELCA very deeply. While I wrote on our congregation's blog-- <http://stpaulmorgantown.blogspot.com> -- about other issues that were to be discussed (e.g. Full Communion with the United Methodists, the malaria initiative, HIV/AIDS funding), this was clearly the biggest news to come out of Churchwide Assembly.

When we went through one of the studies, *Journeying Together Faithfully Part 2*, the participants, no matter which side of the issue they were on, found the other side to care deeply for others and have good reasons for thinking the way they did. It is so here as well. People on both sides care deeply about the identity and character of the Church. Both sides are rooted in Scripture, although they clearly read and interpret Scripture through different lenses.

I believe it is important to note here, that the change is not about suddenly allowing gays and lesbians to serve. Gays and lesbians have been allowed to serve as pastors, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry if they had vowed to remain celibate, following the policy set forth in the document, *Vision and Expectations*, that unmarried leaders are not to have sex outside of marriage. What is now being worked on is a policy for those who desire to be lay or ordained ministers and are in same-gender relationships. It is a fine albeit important distinction.

What has not changed either is that no congregation will be forced to accept any candidate that a congregation does not want. Despite having several decades of women clergy, some congregations still exist who would deny a candidate simply because she is a woman. Congregations retain their authority in calling or declining to call any candidate who might serve them.

I imagine our congregation is fairly typical, mirroring the ELCA, some are against such a decision, some are for it, and some dwell in some middle ground. I had intended to revive the Tuesday night Bible Study in September. I will set aside those evenings in September, rather than for bible study per se, for conversation and dialogue regarding the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I feel conversation and dialogue are better than just a sermon on it, or a brief announcement on it. So please mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings 7 p.m. Come and let us discuss the what you think about this and other decisions coming out of our recent assembly.

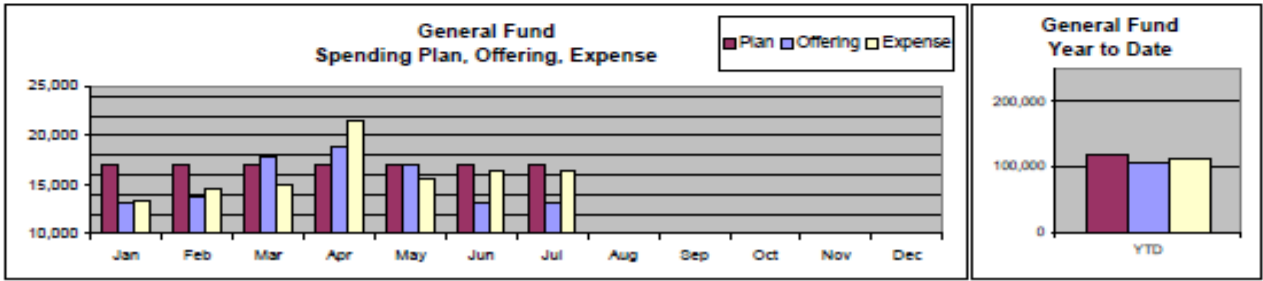
Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

# Treasurer's Report

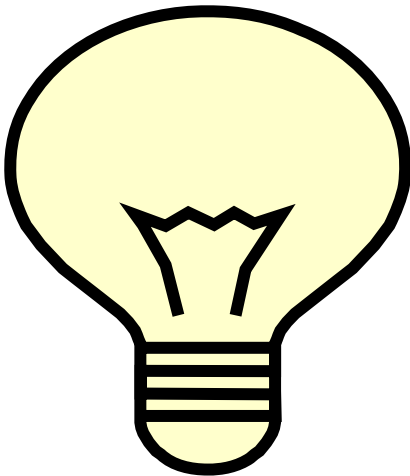
## St Paul Lutheran Church Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

July 2009	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
<b>Support and Revenue</b>									
Contributions	13,107	17,113	(4,006)	77%	106,554	119,790	89%	15,455	106,554
Designated/Restricted									15,455
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,107</b>	<b>17,113</b>	<b>(4,006)</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>106,554</b>	<b>119,790</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>15,455</b>	<b>122,009</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>									
Designated/Restricted		0				0		23,901	23,901
Congregational Council		0			884	0		0	0
Benevolences	2,500	2,600	(100)	96%	17,500	18,900	93%	0	17,500
Church Mortgage	568	580	(12)	0%	3,964	4,060	98%	0	3,964
Committee - Christian Education	0	137	(137)	0%	1,817	2,813	65%	0	1,817
Committee - Fellowship	62	79	(17)	78%	584	859	68%	0	584
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	101	146	(45)	69%	923	1,581	58%	0	923
Committee - Property	140	167	(27)	84%	340	1,167	29%	0	340
Committee - Recourse	0	0	0	0%	0	600	0%	0	0
Committee - Stewardship	0	0	0	0%	0	100	0%	0	0
Committee - Worship & Music	416	308	108	135%	1,806	2,893	62%	0	1,806
Insurance	851	301	550	283%	3,062	2,608	117%	0	3,062
Building Operation	2,225	1,841	384	121%	14,212	13,814	103%	0	14,212
Office Operation	411	384	27	107%	3,028	2,687	113%	0	3,028
Parish Communications	110	185	(75)	59%	1,312	1,345	98%	0	1,312
Payroll	9,119	9,102	17	100%	63,200	63,718	99%	0	63,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,683</b>	<b>16,839</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>104%</b>	<b>112,639</b>	<b>117,173</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>23,901</b>	<b>136,847</b>
<b>Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>(3,396)</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>(4,878)</b>		<b>(6,076)</b>	<b>2,617</b>		<b>(8,446)</b>	<b>(13,638)</b>



### St. Paul Youth Group –

**Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – 5-7 pm**



Please bring: **Ideas/suggestions**  
for -

- > **2** service projects
- > **1** fun activity
- > Dates you can work football



**FROM THE PIECEMAKERS:** Summer is almost over and it was a very successful one for the Piecemakers Quilting Group. We had three young ladies give us a hand making over a dozen lap robes. We did not take much time off but kept right on working through the summer months. We have quilts hanging all over and were able to deliver about a dozen quilts to our shut-ins, homebounds and nursing home residents. Please let us know if you have a relative or someone in your family in a nursing home. We have a lot more lap robes to give them. The lucky recipient of the beautiful purple passion quilt was Cece Melby. After expenses we realized \$221. It helps us out a lot because there are some special quilting tools we would like to buy. Many thanks to everyone who supported this project and quilters who worked so cheerfully making this special quilt.

Hopefully we will have our quota of 100 quilts done soon and delivered to the warehouse in New Windsor Maryland. We could use another office chair, we love our chairs as they help us get around so much easier. Everyone we have asked to do special assignments for us, delivering quilts have gladly accepted. Thank you everyone.

**WELCA NEWS:** We will meet on September 8 in the church lounge. We meet from 2 to 4 p.m. We have fellowship and Bible study but no refreshments. All women are welcome. This month's study is 'St. Paul's letter to the Romans—To God's Beloved'. It was written by Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrichs, a professor at a Lutheran Seminary.

Our school kit mission project is moving along. We hope to have 92 of our school bags filled and shipped by mid-September. Any bags that are now left to be filled can be found on the narthex table along with a sign-out sheet and directions. Cash donations help pay for shipping. Any questions, please see Betty Kidd, 304-292-4027.



**RALLY DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 13TH**  
**9:00 AM**

Sunday School will begin for the year with Rally Day on September 13th. Students of ALL AGES are invited to attend and bring a friend. You will meet your teachers and get ready for a new year. Regular Sunday School will begin September 20th at 9:00 AM.

## News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, August 13h and would like to share the following highlights with you:

- Council approved the Property Committee's request to use parking and yard sale funds to purchase 2 new grills and to hire someone to fill in where the ground has settled over the site of the parsonage. All uneven places in the ground will be filled and grass will be seeded.
- A date has not been set for the carpeting of the church, but we are hoping to do it in October.
- We have received our first check from the Kroger Cares program, in the amount of \$265. Thanks everyone!

To: The members of St Paul Lutheran Church

From: Thankful Adults and Youth that attended Jesus, Justice, Jazz

First and foremost Abram, Kristen, Emily, A.J., Jen, John, Candy, Pastor Brian and Dave want to express great thankfulness for all of the prayers and support from the members of St Paul during our trip to New Orleans. Our trip was very successful in many different ways and we as a group want to make sure all members of St Paul understand how grateful we are for the opportunity to be part of an amazing gathering.

Over 37,000 Lutherans in New Orleans created an awesome Faith community that lifted and moved both residents and attendees to new heights. The community service our Lutheran youth and adults provided during the three days while in New Orleans normally would have taken three years. The impact of our work could be seen throughout the city. On Saturday we spent time helping to clean and restore Joe Brown City Park, located about 15 minutes from the center of the center of the city. Others helped with repairing houses, with book fairs, painting schools, etc... the list is very long. More info can be found on the ELCA Youth Gathering website (see the website address below).

The residents of New Orleans were openly thankful for the time and effort that we had dedicated to helping the hurricane ravaged area. During our walk back to the hotel after our service day a police officer stopped his police car, exited and walked to the beginning of our group of about 50 teens and adults. That police officer made it a point to shake the hands of each person in the group and to say "Thank-You, Thank you for coming to help". That sincerity was witnessed many times while we were in New Orleans. That sincerity reinforced our belief that we were making a difference. The ELCA website has many stories related to the impact of the gathering, one of the better stories can be found at this website: <http://bestofneworleans.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid:59426>

All of the gathering attendees were challenged by Bishop Hanson to make Community Service a Way of Life. Our kids have taken the challenge to heart and want to continue serving the both our local community in Morgantown and the state community. Please keep all of the leaders and teens in your prayers as we continue to look for ways to serve.

Please go to the ELCA Youth Gathering website <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering.aspx>. You will find many more stories about the gathering, the work performed and the impact of the church on the city of New Orleans. The teens and adults that traveled to the gathering will be presenting a slide and showing video clips from our trip on August 30<sup>th</sup> during the service and after the service during the congregational picnic. Please take the time to ask any of us questions about our experience, we are all anxious

**IF YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT THE FORM BELOW  
PLEASE DO SO AND RETURN IT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE  
WE NEED THIS FORM EVEN IF YOU DO NOT WANT  
AN EMAIL VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER  
BUT WANT TO RECEIVE IT IN A HARD COPY!!!**

**St Paul Member Information Form**

Names of adults in household:

---

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Children's names and birthdates:

---

---

Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: St Paul Lutheran Church

309 Baldwin St.

Morgantown, WV 26505

**OR PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE**

## THE GREEN CORNER

### ‘Keep Hope Alive’

Years ago the clarion call of Martin Luther King, Jr., founder of the Southern Christian Leadership movement to ensure racial justice, was heard as high as the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, we have another leader with the vision of tackling the problem of global warming head-on with positive, common-sense solutions that strengthen our economy, take control of our energy future, protect our environment, and create a more just and sustainable world for everyone. Van Jones and his Green For All grass roots initiative to standing-room-only crowds with his vision ‘We have an opportunity to connect the people who most need work with the work that most needs to be done, and fight pollution and poverty at the same time, and be one country about it.’ He is now President Obama’s green-jobs advisor.

But while the U.S. continues to subsidize the carbon dioxide industry to ‘save our economy’, the carbon giants pass on their multibillion-dollar annual production costs to society. If they had to account for pollution costs, they could not compete with green energy producers.

Over 50 years ago theologian Joseph Sittler wrote that the church needs a theology, for nature, not of nature, or from nature but for nature—for restoring Earth and being restored to Earth. A Christian restorative ethic for empowering persons and communities to heal and restore their earthen habitats (whether in mountains, plains, or streams and oceans) can be healed in the process; for creating democratic spaces where decisions about nature’s use are equitably debated among all citizens. We cannot continue destroying the sacred divine earth, toxifying waters rain and land. The church is in desperate need of a forward-thinking alternative to the current global capitalist growth agenda. Human living does not have to be so destructive and unjust, whether it be the polar bears, the Inuit Alaskan Tribes, Indian or Mexican children garbage diggers.

As long ago as 1975 economist Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen exposed the environmental costs of economic activity and invalidated perpetual growth and today Lester R. Brown’s ‘Plan B 3.0 Mobilizing to Save Civilization’ is a wake-up call for those concerned with present day health challenges such as SARS, West Nile Virus, Avian Flu, Malaria, Cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s—all on the rise, especially in failing states, ‘blessed’ with oil or metals needed to Western industrial industries to manufacture more cell phones globally. As Brown quotes from an Earth Council Study, ‘Subsidizing Unustainable Development’ there’s something unbelievable about the world spending hundreds of billions annually to subsidize its own destruction.

The past Green Corner issue noted citizen action groups concerned with environmental enforcement. And the West Virginia Council of Churches advocates environmental stewardship, but how can local religious community of all faiths address the problem? Have you any suggestions? Would you be interested in learning about advocacy? Our Interfaith Global Climate Change group, chaired by Steve Woodruff, meets the second Monday of the month. We need your questions, suggestions for the next Earth Day celebration. Just call the office and leave your name and number for further information. [Help us to Keep Hope Alive.](#)



## 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  
 Nancy Hartley  
 Bob  
 James Martin  
 Elizabeth Martin  
 Vernon Dalton  
 Caron Gladfelter  
 Bob Snyder  
 Bonnie Olson  
 Jerry Hartley  
 Wil Gladfelter  
 Barbara Kervaski  
 Ray Sickles  
 Tom & Betty Kelso  
 Laura Bender  
 Alana Mears  
 Florence Merow  
 June Ross  
 Ann Cloonan  
 Rick Thomason  
 Sherry Belldina  
 Skip McCulla  
 John O'Neal  
 Scottie Sneckenberger

### Home Bound

Rilla Tonon  
 James Sharkey

### Grief

The family of:  
 Donald O'Neal

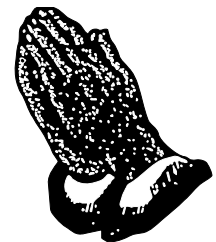
### Recuperation Active Duty

Sierra Gabbert  
 Rob Walters  
 Brian Fox  
 Jason Glass  
 Jay Pratt  
 Jason Sampson  
 Matt Burmeister

### Wedding

### Family Concerns

St. Mark's Lutheran  
 Grace Lutheran  
 Gladfelter Family



SERVING ST. PAUL September 2009	LAY ASSISTANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE-CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
6th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	S. Armstrong	E. Stiles E. Stiles	S. Armstrong S. McEwuen L & L Paulson	J. Graham E. Sampson	K. Powell R. Zay
13th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Price	M. McCulla AJ Bartlett	ML Cushing S. Bartlett J & S McCulla	M. L. Bennett A. Grosso	S. Price LA Hartley
20th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	M. Kirkpatrick	K. Smith J. Borrelli	E & C Melby E. Graham C. Henry	McCulla Family	P. Cushing M. Bartlett
27th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	S. Woodruff	E. Graham A. Grosso	T & F Potter G & K Kullman	Ford-Wernitz Family	D. Borrelli T. Riegel

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

# September 2009

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <table style="font-size: 8px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">August</td></tr> <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>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	August							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	31							1	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM All Committee Night 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4	5
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