

Pastor Gable's Annual Report – 2009 to the Congregation

We have been on a journey this past year that has been challenging, not only as individuals, but as a nation and as a congregation. Economically we have been shaken and it caused us to look even more deeply to where we should be financially, checking our personal finances and asking God how we use our gifts of abundance. The very core of our values has been called into question, and this congregation has stepped up and made a commitment to budget wisely and give abundantly.

We have continued to develop a mission/discipleship model for this congregation. We are continuing our support of our refugee family, the Lians and they have made positive strides in our community this past year. We sent a large group of youth to the ELCA Gathering in New Orleans in July. It was a positive, faith-filled experience for all who attended. We continue to support Habitat for Humanity locally by sending workers to volunteer and giving monetary support. Our Women of the ELCA continue to support missions making blankets, putting together health kits and prayer shawls; supporting a Bridge of Hope family and continuing bible study throughout the year.

The marks of discipleship have not changed for each of us. We are still called to pray regularly, study scripture, attend worship faithfully, serve others, share our gifts and talents and tell the Good News of God's grace to those in our community. Our goal is to be disciples of our Lord and encourage others to be disciples. Discipleship is so much more than membership, but most importantly it is being in a relationship with our Lord Jesus and with each other. Our hope is that each of us will these marks of discipleship and continue the journey of faith with our God-given talents whether it is teaching, worship leadership, singing, caring for others, building houses, loving, listening and sharing.

This congregation can and will move forward when we allow God and the Holy Spirit to lead us. We need to listen to the voices that guide us. And now the questions: Where should St. Paul's mission be centered? Where is our ministry needs and where should it be focused in the future? I surely don't have all the answers, but as your pastor I look forward to the journey in the years to come. May God continue to bless us.

Your committed disciple,

Pastor Jim Gable