

THE EPISTLE

The Newsletter of the People of St. Paul

September
2010

St. Paul Mission Statement

“As disciples in Christ’s Church, we gather to worship, to grow in faith, and to serve our community and our world.”

Worship is central to our congregation. But the question that needs to be asked: Why do we worship? What is it about worship that nurtures us? The act of making a commitment to worship and making it a regular discipline increases our awareness of God and lessens our focus on ourselves.

The focus groups that we are forming at St. Paul will be an attempt to engage our congregation in considering who we worship, how we focus and reflect on God’s word. Worship can be threatening because it is potentially transforming. Worship is when we encounter God and changes can take place. But many don’t want to be transformed. They want to remain the same, to find that place in life where no changes are required and they can feel safe. Of course, no one ever actually admits that they fear being changed. Instead, they complain that the music is boring, that they don’t like to sing, that they have to sit too long, that the service is too long or uninspiring, that communion isn’t necessary, that the nave is too cold, too formal, that some are too goody-two-shoes, or too many hypocrites. There is a lot to complain about, but I think most of these complaints miss the real issue. The real issue is that too few people – whether they attend worship or avoid it – truly want to be transformed.

As a church we need to make worship an opportunity where we encounter and experience God in a way that transforms us, even if just a little bit.

The ultimate end of worship is that it creates the condition in which Christ can live in us and us in Him, in a way that reflects Jesus’ call, “Abide in me, as I abide in you.” (John 15:4)

Think about why we do what we do in worship. Do we worship the way we do because it’s how we have always done it? Do we worship the way we do because it is what we are best at? Do we worship the way we do because it makes certain members of the church happy?

Worship must be a venue in which each of us can access the spiritual, experience God and set aside the pursuits and pleasures of the world if only for a brief time.

How do we communicate the Holy to a world that is so busy? How do we encounter the Holy in worship service? I do appreciate the chance to evaluate our worship and find ways for our worship to lead people to encounter God. Keep our worship focus groups in your prayers.

God bless,

Pastor Jim Gable

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope that you have experienced a wonderful summer filled with the many gifts that God provides us during this season of fresh fruits and vegetables, vacation from school and work, swimming, the beauty of creation in bloom and time visiting with family and friends.

As we head into the “normal” schedule that September brings our way, I want to invite you to pause and answer a question that I have been asking members of our congregational council. It comes from our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, the Rev. Mark Hanson. He posed it to those of us who attended the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly in June. He suggested that we begin our council meetings each month by asking this question:

“So, how’s the Holy Spirit been at work in your life since the last council meeting?” I will alter it a bit for you by asking, “So, how’s the Holy Spirit been at work in your life this summer?”

Have you taken the synod’s theme “God’s work. Our hands.” to heart, discerning new ways to offer your gifts to the glory of God in loving service to God and neighbor?

Have you spent more quiet time with God in prayer and Bible reading, inviting the Holy Spirit to enlighten you to new understandings regarding your relationship with God and neighbor?

Has the Holy Spirit given you a godly push to step out in faith to do something that you never thought in a million years you could or would do?

Have you even been aware of the Holy Spirit’s activity in your life this summer?

These are great questions to ask ourselves, as we get ready to dive into our fall schedule. And as we prepare to celebrate the 125th anniversary of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church here in Lititz, it is also a wonderfully important question for us to ponder as a congregation. We can and should ask ourselves, “How’s the Holy Spirit been at work in the life and ministry of St. Paul during these past 125 years?”

On September 12, we return to two services at 8:00a.m. and 10:45a.m. Sunday school for all ages also resumes that day.

As we move from summer to fall, may we become truly aware of the blessings and opportunities that God provides as we journey forward in faith.

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Pastor Linda Hanus

“Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace”

Vacation Bible School was full of energy and action. A total of 60+ children, adults, and Egyptian characters visited the marketplace each evening. The social hall was decorated like a prison, a palace and a marketplace. Each night our Egyptian families visited each area for songs, games, stories and crafts. We even had an animal courtyard with a horse, dog and chickens!

We spent an evening at the “linen marketplace” preparing and making blankets for the Operation Kid-to Kid program as a mission project. It is a division of World Vision. We will be sending them (with the help of our offering from VBS) to the organization to send to kids around the world that need a tangible touch of God’s love. We also spent many hours learning of Joseph and his journey from a prison to the Pharaoh’s palace to interpret his dreams and become a leader in Egypt.

We hope that even if you didn’t get a chance to participate this year, that you stopped by to see Egypt or checked out the pictures in the narthex. Perhaps next year, you will be able to join us on a new adventure.

A great big thanks to all of the participants, family members, staff and characters for their many hours of preparation and participation in our program. Thanks also to those who donated items in order to make it a success!!



We received a thank-you card and a gift contribution to the church, from the Lititz Women’s Club, thanking us for providing a meeting space for them. They have relocated for future meetings, but thank us for the time they were here.

We also received a heartfelt thank you from Phil Mummert and family to Pastor Jim for his comfort, assistance, and kind words of remembrance at his mother’s Celebration of Life service. He also expressed his appreciation to the staff for their warmth and responsive attention to their needs and wishes.

Youth Work Camp Report

The work camp in Indiana was a completely new experience for me. The park I worked at was hit very hard by the flood, but that didn't seem to discourage the people of Gary, Indiana. They just felt even better because people were starting to fix up an old park, and I think that gave them the idea of maybe doing something themselves. All the people we met were very thankful, and some of them told us stories about the park and how it was used, or things near the park.

One man that I will remember very well was the owner of the Gary Police Athletic League. On one of the workdays, he opened his doors to us to allow us a quick break from our work and tell us all about the building. It was used mostly for the police to train at first, but eventually they started welcoming all fighters. The trainer we talked to had even met some very famous boxers, such as Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson. The gym also trained a member of the secret service. He told us how the swampland behind the park had once been a golf course used by some of the boxers as a way to relax. He also told us that now the building isn't used as much for the police boxing, so they trained children to box so they have something to enjoy. The trainer was a very interesting man to talk to and learn from, and he was doing a lot for the children of Gary. This made me want to fix our park up more for those same children.

Another person that will stick in my mind was a member of the parks department in the city that came to visit our site. She thanked us, and then she went on to explain things about the park. We learned that even though the park was small, it was still very popular for younger children. Many people also enjoyed going down the path to the river and going fishing. She also told us there was another part of the park across the street. It was a small practice golf course and driving range used to teach children that want to learn to golf. Hearing these things about the park really made me want to finish fixing the park because I learned it appealed to all ages in the town, not just the children.

When we were back at the church in Lake Station, we would have a time for people to share a "God moment." A "God moment" is a time when someone saw God working through a person or an act. Many of the "God moments" shared were the way some of the local people reacted to the way we sacrificed our time to help people that were so far away from us. It's amazing how a small act of God through one person can mean the world to another.

Wyatt Wingenroth

St. Paul Tele-care Ministry

is coming soon!

We're very excited about this new ministry, and more details will follow in the weeks to come. Many times people are in need of a kind ear and we want to provide that as disciples in Christ. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as the details are worked out.



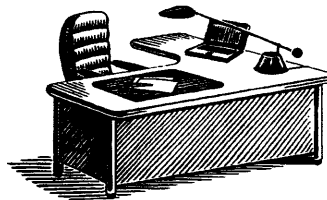
From the Office at St Paul.....

Fall is upon us as we begin the month of September. I shared with Pastor Jim that my son, Adam, has coined these next few weeks, the season of "Surfall". A little bit of both! We'll still enjoy the pool and the warm days of summer, but school, football and fall activities have begun. I like the way he thinks! (I'm a little partial!)

We are having a luncheon for the ladies that volunteer in the office, giving their time every month counting the offering, helping with the mailings, and coordinating our volunteers. By the time you read this, it will have already taken place, and I'm sure we had a wonderful time of fellowship. Speaking personally, I very much appreciate the time they give, willingly and cheerfully. They are a true blessing to me and all of us here at St. Paul.

So as we gear up for all of the activities of the season, the start up of two services, Sunday school, and groups meeting again, let's take time to breathe in the last few precious days of summer. The leaves will soon sport color as we once again marvel at God's handiwork..

Susan



August Council Minutes

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS UPDATES:

Communication: Steps that were taken include: contacts were established with the local news media, options are being explored for the webpage, congregants' email addresses are being compiled, the publicity form has been updated, and several members have volunteered to be on the communications committee.

Worship: A discussion session with the congregation was held on July 18 and attended by approximately 50 people. Suggestions from the meeting were categorized and four focus groups were formed to address the issues: worship scheduling, broaden worship opportunities, contemporary worship, and children and worship. Volunteers are being sought for these focus groups to begin in September.

Discipleship: A meeting will be held to discuss goals/measurements. The fall stewardship program, *Live a God Pleasing Life*, will begin on September 26 and end on October 10 with Commitment Sunday. Sermons and Bible Studies will focus on this topic. Commitments received will be compared to those for 2010.

Programs: Vacation Bible School was presented as an intergenerational program this year with very positive success. Future goals/measurements will be discussed at the August Ministry Team meeting.

Connections: Mentoring alternatives will be considered.

Administrative Teams:

Finance: Financial report highlights:

- * Offerings are down \$11,000 YTD
- * Pledged giving is down \$4,000
- * Utilities are down \$3,800 from 2009
- * Parish Administration is down \$16,000 from 2009 due in majority to the wage reduction and the change of a FT secretary to 2 PT positions
- * Cemetery is \$4,200 over due in majority to the cost of the fence

Tom Trayer will review the budget process procedures at the August Ministry Team meeting.

The Audit Report is complete and copies are in the office for review. The report reviews the church, WELCA, CCCC, and Nursery School. Information will be shared with these groups. Based on recommendations from the audit, the Finance Committee has approved the creation of an Internal Audit Committee and will have Kim's position cross-trained.

Cemetery: The money in the perpetual care fund is not sufficient for the long-term care of the cemetery. This is an issue that will need to be addressed in the near future.

Personnel: Will meet August 13 to finish staff reviews.

Council: The Fall Council Retreat will be held on October at the Snavely Cottage.

Nominating: Casey Stetler will serve as a Youth Council member beginning with the September Council meeting.

Property: Jim Hovan has created a wish list. The Keycard Security Procedures and Guidelines document has been completed. There will no longer be permission given to high school students to park at the church during school hours due to safety and security issues. Council would like to thank all of the volunteers for their help with the storm clean-up and the building of the new wall around the sign.

Mission Life Team: Anne Millhouse will be serving as the new team leader. The youth work trip to Indiana was a success with 175 youth and adults working at 3 parks and several homes. Jaime Weachter is making CDs for the attendees of pictures taken on the trip. The youth will be meeting to discuss their experience this year in comparison to past years and to plan for which organization they will work in conjunction with in the future.

Family Life Team: An intergenerational VBS was held in July. Positive reviews were received about the curriculum and music. The youth group had a pool party and has plans to see the Reading Rocks in September and Jason's Woods in October. Six children and 4 adults attended the LCO Wittel Farm day this summer. The Family in Faith SS class is going camping. Forty tickets were sold for the LCO Barnstormers game.

The pictorial directory proof was received and there are many typing errors in the members' contact information that need to be corrected before the directory is printed.

Through more research, it has been determined that St. Paul's 125th anniversary of its charter is in April 2011. Therefore, there will be a Heritage Day Celebration on September 26 including a special coffee hour and a potluck dinner with a history presentation. The anniversary will be celebrated in April 2011.

OTHER COMMUNICATION:

* The constitution has been updated and will be taken to the congregation for a vote when the budget is voted on in the fall.

* The Holiday Bazaar will be on November 20.



Craft Night

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in the lounge with no instructor scheduled. If you are interested in joining us, all you need to do is show up with something to work on. If you have a craft that you are willing to teach or are interested in learning a specific craft, let us know and we will try our best to accommodate your request. Questions? Please contact Joyce at 627-1901, or email her at je_groff@msn.com

Artisans of St. Paul Holiday Craft Show Update

Attention Crafters of St. Paul!! St. Paul will be holding its first annual Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, November 20, 2010. The Artisans of St. Paul are looking for members who have an interest in selling handmade crafts, paintings, furniture, etc. at this event. Crafters will be able to rent 8 ft. tables for \$25 a piece, with proceeds being donated to the Lutheran Camping Fund. Registration forms are available in the narthex.

If you are interested in being involved in the craft show, but do not have enough items for an entire table, there will be an opportunity to donate handmade items to be sold at a silent auction that will take place on the 20th as well. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit St. Paul.

This is an exciting new adventure for the Artisans of St. Paul and we look forward to seeing all of the talent our congregation has to offer! Please contact Hilary Hoffman with any questions at hilary.hoffman@verizon.net or 581-6540.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do, than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

A Brokxn Kxy

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcpt for onx of the kxys. I havx many timxs wishxd that it workxd pxrfectly.

It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our church is somxthing likx my typxwritxr —not all thx kxy pxoplx arx working propxrlly.

As onx of thxm, you may say to yoursxlf, “Wxll, I am only onx pxrson, I don’t makx or brxak thx church.”

But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx, bxausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx your xfforts arx not nxxdxd vxry much, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, “I am a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation and I am nxxdxd vxry much.”

This is what happxns to thx wholx church, and multiply this by many timxs—thx wholx thing just doxs not makx sxnsx!

So don’t be a broken key—be a useful one.

-Author Unknown

Supper Club

As fall is quickly approaching, it is again time to sign up for Supper Club. Supper Club is couples/singles who are grouped together into groups of 4 couples/singles. Your group will then meet 4 times during the next year, once at each of the couples/singles home for dinner and socializing. Each group can decide how to organize the dinners for their group. This is a GREAT way to socialize and get to know others here at St. Paul!

Look for the sign-up sheet on one of the kiosks in the narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, September 18th. If you are a couple in need of babysitting, please indicate when you sign up. We can give you a list of youth from our church whom you may call for babysitting for supper club.

We will then randomly select the groups, and inform each couple/single of your group so you can get started. Any questions, please contact Deb or Al Rothermel (627-2107)



Homecoming Pot Luck Sunday

All members of St. Paul are encouraged to participate in a Pot Luck Supper scheduled for **Homecoming Sunday** Sept., 26 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

September 26 will be Pastor Linda's last Sunday here at St. Paul. The Pot Luck Supper will also serve as an opportunity to bid a heartfelt farewell to her as she continues her calling to serve the Lord in the state of Wisconsin. Please plan to attend and enjoy fellowship with her and each other.

This Sunday commemorates the creation of our congregation, the laying of the first cornerstone for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lititz and the first service held in our present church sanctuary.

In celebration we encourage you to invite past members to join us in celebration and fellowship. A sign up will be in the Narthex on the Kiosk. Please indicate the type of dish you will bring, number of family and guests attending. Also list former members you are inviting, indicate if help is needed locating them, or who you would like to see invited.

On a separate note, 2011 will mark our 125th year as a congregation; special dates will be acknowledged as we move into the New Year. If you are interested in helping to make our history alive in the coming year please contact Kathy Ross 627-0670 or Donna Graybill 627-0864

St. Paul Time Line

Aug. 4, 1885 a meeting was held to discuss the building of a Lutheran Church in Lititz.

Sept. 13, 1885 a cornerstone was laid on our first church building on South Spruce St., Lititz PA. The cornerstone is part of this structure seen from our Nave.

On Feb. 14, 1886 the Spruce St. church was dedicated.

April 11, 1886 fifty two persons led by Rev. Jacob Peter who previously were attending worship at Salem Lutheran Church then know as New Haven met and recorded resolutions forming the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Lititz. This created a church where members and children can attend services and Sunday school with regularity throughout all seasons. This has become our actual anniversary in 2011 we will have been in existence for 125 years.

The construction of the Modern St. Paul Lutheran Church was completed in Sept. 1969 when a dedication service was organized for the last Sunday of the month. This date has been established as Homecoming Sunday. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of worship in this sanctuary.

Women of the ELCA Convention

Hope...in the Midst of Hopelessness

The last Friday and Saturday of June are always special days because this is the time that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women of the ELCA has its annual convention.

This year Joyce Groff and Nancy Weiss attended the convention on Saturday to represent St. Paul Women of the ELCA. It was held at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Chambersburg and the article title listed above was the theme of the convention.

After registering, we selected our workshop choices and then put the 12 children's blankets from St. Paul on display with the other ones which made an eye-catching display for all to see. The total number of blankets contributed was 36.

We officially started the day with worship. The service was led by convention chaplain Rev. Tara Magoon. Bishop Penrose Hoover had an inspiring sermon and also assisted with communion. The service was very meaningful in song, word and praise to God. Next we heard from church-wide representative JoAnn Fuchs. She was inspiring, hopeful and humorous.

On to the a.m. workshop--I (Nancy) attended Sue Groff's presentation on Bridge of Hope which had basically 2 aspects to it: What the overall program is and how it is run; and second, If God is calling you, be bold and respond to it.

Joyce's first workshop was Jazzercise--an extremely invigorating and fun way to exercise along with other women that she was fortunate to meet at the convention.

After a delicious light lunch, we each attended a workshop in the afternoon. I (Nancy) chose to hear Pastor Emeritus William Harter concerning the Agony and Hope of the Middle East situation. Because of the 40+ trips to this region of the world, Pastor Harter was quite informative and knowledgeable about all the different sects and their viewpoints. Again I found 2 areas to highlight: 80% of the people in the Middle East really want to live in peace; and second, Our hope is that God is in control and will see that His promises will be kept.

Joyce's second workshop was "What's New With W/ELCA" by JoAnn Fuchs, the church-wide representative. It was very interesting to listen to women who have been involved with W/ELCA for many years since I am fairly new to the Lutheran faith and W/ELCA.

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We spent most of the workshop discussing how it is becoming more and more difficult to involve young and new members to W/ELCA. It is a major concern. Many of the women stated that their church has lost many members and really need to be very creative when trying to recruit the younger generation. Many of the women felt that one of the main reasons for this is the fact that women are currently fighting to make a way for themselves in a man's world in the workforce and socially. They are fighting to be included in what was traditionally an all male environment and find it difficult to join a group that is comprised of all women. This could be conceived as being hypocritical since they are fighting to be noticed as an equal.

Here are some new resources for W/ELCA that I (Joyce) found interesting:

1. CAFE--a mini Lutheran Woman Today. This is a web-based magazine that incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of faith or any woman interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today.
2. 7 Lessons for Today's Disciples--a 23-page resource to help us on our journey of discipleship.
3. Bold Connections--a free monthly e-newsletter of W/ELCA offering news and information on W/ELCA's programs and activities.
4. Shared Wisdom--a 3-page resource that offers a way to address issues that trouble a group, a way to move in a new direction and to meet the needs of all who are affected by the group's decision.

At the final business session, it was reported that \$2,346 was collected for the Ingathering offering and \$2,216 was collected for the Convention offering. The goal for each offering was \$2,500, but more money always comes in after the convention. So the final amount will be shown in the convention minutes which are forthcoming.

We both felt blessed to have attended to represent St. Paul Women of the ELCA. In addition, we made some memories that we will always remember. Finally, we found hope...in the midst of hopelessness.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Groff and Nancy Weiss

Live a God-Pleasing Life!

THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IS HERE!

Stewards **living a God-pleasing life** are managers of all of God's creation. As owner, God has called us to be responsible as we fulfill the role for which we have been created, to do his will as long as we remain on earth. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10).

We are not given these responsibilities because of our great talents and abilities. On the contrary, we often feel inadequate and unprepared for the tasks God places before us. Our strength is in the Lord. The Apostle Paul made that point very clear as he gave praise to God for his power within us: *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him glory I the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"* (Ephesians 3:20-21). As stewards **living a God pleasing life**, we welcome our opportunities for stewardship and give all the glory to God.

This month we will be studying the series: **"Live a God-Pleasing Life!"** in our worship services and Bible study hours. We will discuss **faith** as the foundation for stewardship, for it is only through faith that we can please God. We will delve into the important role that **discipleship** holds in our lives as obedient stewards. We will study the Scriptures to learn how **generosity** is the hallmark of grateful stewards. We will study the Scriptures to learn how generosity is the hallmark of grateful stewards responding to the love and generosity of God. Our stewardship program emphasizes the grace of God who has called us to faith and continues to sustain us. Let the words of the writer to the Hebrews be our prayer:

"May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20, 21)

Please make every effort to attend both the worship services and the Bible studies during these three Sundays. May god give you the grace to continue the faithful stewardship of the many blessings that he has entrusted to your care.

Pastor James R. Gable

Stewardship for the 21st Century

From Sermon, "Give in Proportion to What God has Given You", by Pastor Obed Nelson, Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

Earlier this fall Susanne and I were invited over to Maggie and Todd's home for a morning brunch. It was a delight to be seated at the table and to feast on all sorts of good things on Maggie's beautiful pottery dishes. We had muffins, egg dishes, a variety of fruits, breakfast sausages, ham...it was brunch to rival the finest Sunday Buffet.

It certainly would have been a very different experience if we had been invited over to their house, seated at the table to have Maggie say to Todd, "Well, what do you think? Do we have anything for them to eat?" It would have been strange to hear Todd say, "Well, Maggie, maybe we have some leftovers in the fridge." Can you imagine Todd and Maggie pulling out various dishes of cold food in plastic containers? Perhaps a smidgeon of rice left over from a week earlier or some left-over scrambled eggs from two days ago? That would be unheard of, wouldn't it? We were given a wonderful brunch., as Todd and Maggie were generous in sharing with us.

God did not give us leftovers. To bring us back into his family, God gave us his very best; his only Son. We have been invited into a relationship where we are offered forgiveness when we have not deserved it. All of us, in this sanctuary, have riches that would dazzle people in third world countries.

God invites us to share of our best. Not just leftovers. He invites us to give some of our prime time, not just spare minutes.

First Aid Tip

If you're like most of us, trying to remove a splinter is usually a two step process. We start with getting the tweezers in an effort to pluck that tiny piece of wood from under the skin. But if that fails, out comes the pin or needle, a little heat for sanitizing and then...well, you know the rest. The American Heart Association strongly suggests that you NOT use a pin or needle in an effort to "surgically" remove a splinter. Instead, take a small piece of duct tape (yep, you *can* use it for almost anything) and place it over the area where the splinter entered the skin. With your thumb or finger, hold the tape in place for one full minute. While you're applying light pressure over the tape, your body temperature breaks down the adhesive, allowing it to come into contact with the wood pulp. When you've held the tape in place for a minute, slowly peel it off in the direction the splinter was pointing out. This should remove the splinter or at least pull it out enough to use the tweezers. If you are unsuccessful with this effort, you should consider contacting a trained medical provider to remove the splinter.

Marriage Tune Up

Could your relationship use a tune up? The final PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend for 2010 is set for **October 22-24 at the Radisson Hotel Sharon in Sharon, PA**, an hour north of Pittsburgh. Weekends are for ALL marriages, and offer a time to escape daily pressures and responsibilities to search out and discover a warmer, closer, more joyful relationship with each other. Weekends run from Friday night at 8 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. All costs for 2 nights lodging, meals and supplies are covered by a \$45.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of your choice toward the end of the weekend. The Radisson in Sharon is a very popular location as the hotel boasts a lovely tropical atrium, and each room has a king bed and an in-room hot tub; so don't delay, sign up today to avoid ending up on a waiting list. To register, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and sign up; or for questions or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred and Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net

Publicity/Marketing Team Update

In the July issue of The Epistle, information was shared with you about the formation of a volunteer publicity/marketing team for our church. The purpose of this volunteer group is to better communicate with our congregation and the community around us, who we are, and what we do.

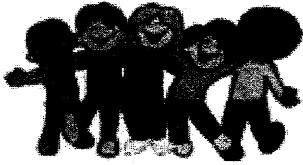
During the summer months initial steps were taken to begin the improvement of communication here at St. Paul. The following steps have been completed or are in the process of being completed:

1. Contacts were established with the local news media
2. Updates are being explored for our website page
3. Email addresses of congregation members are being sought
4. The form to be used for publicity has been updated
5. Several congregation members have volunteered to be on the committee

We are seeking additional members for our committee. If you have the skills/expertise in the following areas and you would be willing to offer some time whether it be short or long term we would like to hear from you:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Website coordination | e. Brochure/publications coordination |
| b. Email coordination | f. Proofreading experience |
| c. Bulletin board/Kiosk coordination | g. Youth intern coordination |
| d. Photography coordination | |

Will you prayerfully consider sharing your talents with us? Please contact the Pastor, or Dick Mearig at rlmjrm@windstream.net or 626-5154



**DUST OFF YOUR
TONSILS!**

Choirs begin on Sunday September 19

**Joyful Noise
Grades 7 through Senior High
8:45-9:10am**

**King's Kids
3 year-olds through grade 6
9:10-9:30am**

God's waiting to hear from you!

Stephen Ministry



Prayers for Stephen Ministry for 2010-2011

Prayer is such a simple way to allow God's love to be shared in the world. As a family, a couple, or an individual, you can be an integral part of Stephen Ministry at St. Paul.

During the next twelve months, one prayer for Stephen Ministry will be included in the Epistle. As a disciple of St. Paul church, will you pray this prayer during that month when it is the most convenient time for you—once a day, once a week, etc.?

The September prayer is:

Gracious God, we lift up our Stephen Ministry in prayer today. Grant wisdom and discernment to our Stephen Leaders as they guide others in this ministry. Grant patience and compassion to our Stephen Ministers as they faithfully meet with their care receivers each week. Grant healing and peace to the care receivers as they courageously confront the turmoil in their lives. Grant open hearts to all others who are facing struggles so that they have the courage to seek and accept the help they need. And open the eyes and ears of all of us so that we might recognize those who are hurting in our midst and reach out to them in love. Help us to make St. Paul the caring and loving community you have called us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

St. Paul Member Update

Deaths:

July 3, 2010——Ronald Hill entered the Church Triumphant

July 3, 2010-----Kenneth Grove entered the Church Triumphant

July 17, 2010——Lilian “Dolly” Brye entered the Church Triumphant

Health Tips

Brew your cup of tea up to 5 minutes. The longer the steep time, the greater the quantity of health boosting flavonoids, explains Jeffrey Blumberg, PhD, professor of nutrition at Tufts University. Drink tea with a squeeze of lemon juice and you'll increase antioxidant levels by up to 80%. (*Prevention*, August 2010, pg 37)

Did you know that Medicare does not provide health coverage outside the US, but certain Medigap plans do offer partial coverage. If you have a private health insurance plan, check to see what the policy includes for international travel. You can purchase short-term health insurance from \$20-\$30; actual cost is based on age, gender, and any medical conditions. For more information on travel-health insurance, contact a travel agent

Women of the ELCA

“If These Walls Could Talk”. What? Talking walls?? Join us on Saturday morning, September 11, from 10 a.m. to noon to hear Evelyn Schreiber share some of her stories she’s experienced as a Sunday school teacher at St. Paul. There will also be a covered dish brunch, the service of remembrance and a short overview of what St. Paul Women of the ELCA has in store for the next year. (Drinks and place settings will be provided.) A special offering will be taken to defray shipping costs to send Lutheran World Relief items such as blankets and health kits.

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The Christian Service Box for September is the Homeless Student Project of the City of Lancaster. The project helped 900 students last year. Including purchasing bus passes for a temporary period to facilitate the attendance of “sheltered” students, purchasing school uniforms and supplies and providing a study center at Carter MacCrea School so homeless students have an appropriate place to study after school. This is a Women of the ELCA Building Blocks of Hope outreach.

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Blanket making will be held September 18th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the social hall. Instructions will be given. All are welcome to come and help with this worthwhile mission.

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LSS Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat:

When: October 29, 30, 31 (can attend just Saturday if preferred)

Where: Camp Hebron

Theme: “Soaked with Christ”

Presenter: Janet Haack

Cost: Total weekend package & meals—& \$145.00 Sat Only \$40.00

Contact: Phyllis Frankhouser 626-4200

Reservations must be in by September 15, 2010. Forms are available in the narthex.

Women of the ELCA, continued

Women of the ELCA Book Club: New this year is a small group opportunity for the women of the congregation. The first meeting will be November 4, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the lounge. The selection is Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat, Pray, Love". Aaron's Bookstore has offered us a discount if we order at least 5 books. A sign-up sheet for attendance and book purchase will be in the narthex September 1st thru the 15th. Please join us for a time of fellowship and discussion.

Women of the ELCA is sponsoring a night of fellowship for women at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater to see the popular production, "Church Basement Ladies" on October 28, 2010. The buffet begins at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$47. Reservations with payment (make checks out to St. Paul Women of the ELCA), must be sent to Phyllis Frankhouser, 26 Longenecker Rd., Lititz, PA 17543 by October 3rd. We have 24 spaces reserved so send your reservations in as soon as possible. If you need transportation, please indicate this on your reservation.

Health Kits Information: Lutheran World relief is making a special plea for health kits. We are asking for your help to contribute t this worthwhile cause. Families, groups and individuals can purchase, assemble and donate a kit. The Women of the ELCA bulletin board in the narthex contains the list of items needed for one health kit. Please take one. There is also a complete health kit on display in the narthex. An assembled kit can be put in one of the plastic containers in the narthex marked "Health Kits" from now until the end of September. These kits will be blessed along with the blankets and knitted items during the church services on October 3, Ingathering Sunday. Thank you for your generous help with this worthwhile project.

Lutheran World Relief: Project Comfort Fund-We will be collecting funds to help pay for shipping costs of quilts and other materials to be distributed to people in need by Lutheran World Relief. Each year LWR spends nearly 1.7 million to operate its quilts and kits to people in need worldwide. Please support the LWR Comfort Fund. Envelopes can be found in the narthex. Thank you for helping with this worthwhile project.

Sunday School News

It's almost time to begin a new year of Sunday School! Beginning Sunday, Sept. 12, Sunday school will kick off with a short program in the **narthex** at **9:30 a.m.** Join us for some goodies, a few songs and meet your teachers. We will dismiss from there to your classrooms for the remainder of the hour.

Sunday, Sept. 12 — “Blessing of Sunday School Teachers and Students”
at both 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

Also

Bring your school backpacks to the church services that day for a “Blessing of Backpacks”

Sunday, Sept. 19— All 5th grade Sunday school students will be receiving their Bibles for the new Sunday school year at both services. Please let us know if you will not be able to attend. Contact Lori at lnikoloff@stpaulinitz.org

Endowment Grants

The endowment committee is accepting requests for consideration from the congregation, clergy, staff, council and ministry team leaders for funds from the 2010 endowment interest. Requests should follow guidelines in the endowment policy. Request must be in writing and should include the following: the name and address of the group or organization making the request, the contact person's name and phone number, the purpose of the request, the amount requested. All applications must be received by Monday, October 18, 2010. Requests can be placed in the endowment mailbox. Grant selection will take place in early November. Disbursement occurs after the funds are received in January. For further information, contact Phyllis Frankhouser, 626-4200.

Sunday School...

AUGSBURG

**Join us beginning September
5th for the series**

“The Inescapable God”

Sept. 12—”God’s Law, a Covenantal
Agreement” Dave Althouse

Sept. 19—” God vs. god’s” Marsha Campbell

Sept. 26—”God Promises an Awesome Thing”
Tom Herrmann

Oct. 3— “God’s Majesty and Human Dignity”
Don Shaub



Ministers The People of St. Paul

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Rev. James R. Gable, Jr. - jgable@stpaulnitz.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Linda Hanus- lhanus@stpaulnitz.org

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Ken Krause – KMKrause@aol.com

Director of Contemporary Church Music
Melodie Fair – fairs@ptd.net

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