



**8:00AM** Sunday Forum

**9:00AM** Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

**10:20AM** Opening for Sunday School  
(Sanctuary)

**10:30AM** Confirmation in the Fellowship Hall  
Sunday School, Club 5-6 in the Classrooms

*Holy Communion is celebrated each week*

**Church Website: [www.sharingchristслоve.org](http://www.sharingchristслоve.org)**

#### FUN STORIES:

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means. His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the bible means?" "That's easy, Daddy...."the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

There is a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments", answered the lady.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do you know about God? A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

Volume 9, Issue 1

Monthly

January, 2011



Annual  
Church  
Meeting

#### Important Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 30, 11am

Please mark January 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. The Council will be presenting the updated Constitution and Bylaws for your discussion and ratification. This is one of the steps that must be completed prior to calling a new Pastor. Copies are available for your review. If you have comments, questions, concerns, please talk to a Council Member as soon as possible. Thank you and see you on the 30<sup>th</sup>!

#### January Dates

Our church family is entering a time of transition as we head into 2011. Pastor Mona will be retiring as of January 15<sup>th</sup>. Her last Sunday with us will be January 9<sup>th</sup>. I want to personally take this opportunity to thank her for her partnership over the last 15 months. I especially want to thank her for her spiritual guidance to our Council and to me in particular as the President.

As announced on Christmas Eve, our new interim will be Pastor Jim Mericle. Many of you already know Pastor Jim. He was an Associate Pastor here for many years. His gifts include creativity, a heart for youth and children and valuable experience with the IRS. He knows many of us and will be able to provide some continuity for us as we look forward to completing the call process. Please make a note that Pastor Jim has commitments on Wednesdays at Hosanna Lutheran Church with their confirmation program.

#### **To provide a smooth transition, Pastor Mona, Pastor Jim and the Council want to make you aware of the following information:**

January 9<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Mona will lead worship. Pastor Jim will also be at this service. At this time we will bid farewell to Pastor Mona and welcome Pastor Jim. Pastor Mona will also lead confirmation and introduce Pastor Jim to the confirmation students.  
January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pastor Jim has commitments that we want him to honor, so we will have guest ministers for these weekends.

January 30<sup>th</sup> – Bishop Rogness will lead worship. He will also be available for our Annual Congregational Meeting to hear the presentation of our Congregational Profile by the Pre-call Committee. We have much important church work to do at this meeting, so I hope that all of you can attend. In addition to the finalization of the Congregational Profile (which is the next step to calling our permanent Pastor), we will be voting on Constitutional and Bylaw changes, electing new members to the Council and approving a budget for 2011.

I wish you all a blessed New Year.  
Shirley Zierke, Council President

#### YEAR-END REPORTS Due SUNDAY, January 9th, 2011

Ministry Teams and Committees of the Council must submit a year-end report to the office no later than Sunday, January 9th. In the reports we ask that you highlight the team's activities throughout the year and list special events/fundraisers, etc., in which the committee participated. Thank you!

5879 Wyoming Trail,  
PO Box 583  
Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone - 651.462.5212  
Fax - 651.462.8312  
[www.sharingchristслоve.org](http://www.sharingchristслоve.org)

#### Church Staff

Rev. Mona Anderson, Pastor  
Janet Nutter, Children's Ministry  
Kim Olson, Office Administrator

Parish Nurse: Karen Carlson,  
Custodians: Cindy Gruett,  
Bill Oswald, Jerry Nelson  
Music: Jeanne Richards,

# Upcoming Worship



**January 2—Christmas 2 / Pastor Jim Mericle**  
 8:00am Sunday Forum  
 9:00am ELW w/Communion  
 10:20am Sunday School Opening  
 10:30-11:20am Faith Development Hour

**January 9—Baptism of Our Lord**  
**A Service of Farewell to Pastor Mona**  
**And Welcome to Pastor Jim Mericle**  
 8:00am Sunday Forum  
 9:00am Celebration Service w/Communion  
 10:20am Sunday School Opening  
 10:30-11:20am Faith Development Hour

**January 16—Epiphany 2 / Guest, Pastor Tom Nielsen**  
 8:00am Sunday Forum  
 9:00am ELW w/Communion  
 10:20am Sunday School Opening  
 10:30-11:20am Faith Development Hour

**January 23—Epiphany 3,**  
**Guest, Pastor Richard Baumann**  
 8:00am Sunday Forum  
 9:00am ELW w/Communion  
 10:20am Sunday School Opening  
 10:30-11:20am Faith Development Hour

**January 30—Epiphany 4 / Guest, Bishop Peter Rogness**  
 8:00am Sunday Forum  
 9:00am ELW w/Communion  
 10:20am Sunday School Opening  
 10:30-11:20am Faith Development Hour  
 11:30am POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING



## Sunday Forum

8:00am

Sunday *noun*: the first day of the week  
 Forum *noun*: a public meeting or lecture involving audience discussion

Youth and Adults of all ages are welcome  
 Relax, bring your coffee cup, and join us for informal discussion and learning in the Library at 8:00 am.

**January 2 Happy New Year!** No Sunday Forum  
**January 9 Pre-Call Committee Read-out**  
 Our discussion will be led by members of the Pre-Call Committee for our search for a new Pastor.

**January 16 Behind the scenes with the Altar Guild**  
 Just what does the Altar Guild do? Do those different colors used on the altar mean something? If time allows, we may even take a tour of the sacristy.

**January 23 Women of the Bible**  
 God has always sought women with these characteristics: a heart to change the world, passion to make a difference, and a purpose for life - no matter how great or small. The Bible is full of such women, A to Z, named and unnamed. Carole England will continue our discovery of a few of these women from the New Testament.

**January 30 Can you imagine your life without fear?**  
 Shirley Zierke will lead the final discussion based on Max Lucado's book, Fearless. Today's topic: **Getting God Out of Our Box**...Matthew 17:6-7

### PARTICIPANTS FOR NOVEMBER — 9:00AM SERVICES

Date	Assistants	Readers	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Jan 2	Zella, Arlie, Carissa	Valdie M	Casey D, Kaylee D, Megan K		Mick and Sheila Byl
Jan 9	Claudia, Jerry	Hiedi O	Michael J, Joel J, Sam L	Dale B Dave H	Steve & Carole England
Jan 16	Jan T, Jan B, Rod J	Deb R	Ben M, Miranda M, Jerrod L	Mark Johnson Family	Marshall & Michelle Ihfe
Jan 23	Kathie M, Zella, Shirley	Julie L	Shelby M, Sierra N, Sammy P	Andy N Jon Q	Ty and Joanna Kroschel
Jan 30	Arlie, Neil, Arne	Cindy G	Kaylee S, Hayley S, Ashly W	Edwards Family	Bill & Elly Coppersmith
Feb 6	Zella, Jan T, Dale B	Andy S	Brandon A, Lydia B, Katie B		Boy Scouts

For Community Information  
Please call the office, 651.462.5212  
Or check the Kiosk for Information

- ◆ **Older Adults...Household Chores Overwhelming YOU?** ESR East Suburban Resources a non-profit agency can help. They employ adults with disabilities for housekeeping, light home maintenance, yard work, etc. Call ESR 651.351.0190. There are no fees, but donations are welcome.
- ◆ **Seasons Cycle—So Do Marriages.** A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you new tools to weather the changes. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter is October 22-24 in Duluth, November 19-21 in Brooklyn Center. Please register in advance, Dick and Judy Dehnel, 952.432.3105 or Pete and Phyllis McMahon, 763.561.1575 or the website [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).
- ◆ **Walk, Run, Talk, Fun! Walkers Welcome at Wyoming Elementary.** Avoid snow, ice, rain and traffic. Walk in a safe environment. Register for a morning or evening session and you can walk am or pm throughout the school year. ID badges will be given and must be worn while walking. Cost is \$15 annually. See the flyer on the kiosk. Call 651.982.8110.
- ◆ **Haven Center in North Branch and Cambridge** offer counseling, therapy and coaching. For more information see the flyer on the Kiosk.

**MALIA PETERSON BENEFIT,**  
 Saturday, January 15th  
 from 1pm-6pm at Maranatha Assembly of God.

Malia, a 9 year old girl, went through treatments for stage 4 Wilm's (kidney) cancer. She passed away in early December after fighting this disease through chemotherapy and other treatments since October 2009.

Benefit Donation Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/kids. Your ticket includes dinner, silent auction, bake sale, door prizes, children's games, live music, and a live auction at 5pm.

To help make this benefit a success, donated items are requested for the auctions, door prizes and games. For more information contact Odette Zachrison, 651.214.7014 or Stacey Owens, 651.462.9176.

For the New Year:

### ***Soulful Living Retreat: A Morning Set Apart***

Join Sister LaDonna Olson for a morning of reflection on your spiritual journey. The morning will include Bible reading, meditation, sharing, prayer and journaling.

**Saturday January 15th**  
**at Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch.**  
**8:30-11:30am.**

\$15 suggested donation - continental breakfast included. Sign up in the church office 674-7047 or by contacting Sister LaDonna [ladolson@msn.com](mailto:ladolson@msn.com).



### **Need help with groceries?**

The next "FARE FOR ALL" food distribution is **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 4-6PM**

At Forest Lake VFW (near Target) [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org)  
 Or  
**RUBY'S PANTRY, Saturday, January at Forest Hills UMC beginning at 8:15am (doors open at 7am). A \$15.00 donation is suggested.**

### **ALLUMINUM RECYCLE BIN**



We now have a place for all your unwanted aluminum cans and misc. aluminum items. The "can cage" is down by the shed, at least for now. It will take time to fill it up...but let's start now. Thank you!



### **LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE MINNESOTA WILD**

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 7:00PM**

Discounted Tickets: \$20 upper level ends; \$44 upper level sides; \$66 lower level ends

Deadline to order is February 14th.

Do **YOU** want to get a group together to go? Call the office and arrangements can be made.

We remember in our prayers.....

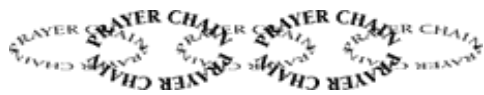


Our deepest sympathy to the Rieck families following the death of **Vera Rieck** on December 7th. She was given Christian burial with military honors on Friday, December 10th. Our sympathy is also with **Janet Nutter** and family whose grandmother passed away December 5th; the **Steve England family**, following the death of Steve's father; for Janelle Albee whose Uncle Jim passed away peacefully on December 31, and finally for Bonnie Syverson, who lost her brother Dick Kleespie, 71, following a heart attack. May these families feel God's comforting arms.

We remember those recovering: **Kelly Schuder's** aunt and uncle with serious health problems; **Darlene Petrey**; **Debbie Zaudtke's** daughter, Dana, as well as for Debbie following the death of husband, Royce; **Janelle Albee's** parents, and Aunt, **Kathie Marabella's** parents, Keith and Lucy Messer and sister, Lisa, **Pat Miska's** brothers Melvin and Ken Geisler; We continue prayers for **Tony Wicklander's** health issues related to Bechet's Disease. We are also grateful and praise God for the recovery **Pastor Mona** has made following several heart issues.

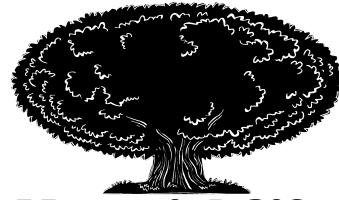
We pray for those with cancer, **Bill Coppersmith**, recently diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma and has begun chemotherapy; **Rod Jasmer's** Goddaughter, Caroline, just 7 years old, in treatment for brain cancer; **Dale Brainard's** niece, Cindy Jaworski, in Johnson City, NY; **Lois Rustad's** niece, Sharon Klein, with cancer of the lung, brain and bone; **Karen Rozeske's** cousin, Laurel Shannon, breast cancer and long time friend, Barb; **Jean Enrooth's** sister, Roxanne Ostendorf; **Leann McGowan's** sister, Karen Johnson; **Pat Miska's** aunt, Pat Brant and Pat Brant's daughter-in-law, Joanne Brant; **Kim Mix's** cousin's daughter, Holly, with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, **Neal Albee's** cousin, Mike Albee, diagnosed with lung cancer, Kim Olson's friend, Sheila Bichner of Lindstrom with a recurrence of ovarian cancer.

We remember those in health care facilities: **Gene Thompson** a resident in Parmly's Margaret's House Memory Care Facility in Chisago City.



If you would like a loved one added to the prayer chain, not only for an illness or death, but also for a wonderfully exciting event, like the birth of a child, please call Janelle Albee at 651.462.8084 or email her at njalbee@aol.com Requests are kept confidential unless otherwise stated by the person requesting the prayer.

If for some reason you cannot reach Janelle, by phone or email, please call the church office and we can handle any prayer chain request from here!!!



## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of Vera Rieck Gifts were given by:

Nikki Bailey  
Kenneth and Arliss Banta  
Dennis and Sue Berry  
Georgia Burg  
Lana Cornett  
Rich and Bev Gabrick  
Steven and Janet Grothuan  
Cindy Gruett  
Harriette Hanson  
John and Susan Hastings  
Doug and Pat Miska  
Dave and Fran Nordhausen  
Bill and Zella Oswald  
Peterson Family  
Lois Rustad  
Steven and Jill Sicheneder  
Pete and Ann Umland  
Jerry and Joyce Winnick  
Beatrice Zaruba

In Memory of Colleen Greene  
Given by Larry and Darlene Petrey

In Memory of Glenn Gruett  
Given by Greg Gruett

In Memory of Royce Zaudtke  
Given by Cindy Gruett

In Memory of Chuck Solem  
Given by Cindy Gruett

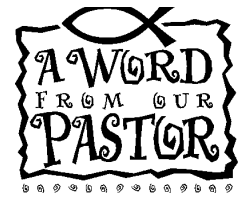
+ HONORARIUM +

In Honor of Chris Kuehn and Chris Zierke for being good neighbors  
Given by Georgia Burg

## THE PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

on

### "Saying Farewell for Now"



Farewells are never easy to say and yet we say them every day that we live. And now it is time for me to say farewell to you, the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church--not by choice but by necessity. As you all know, over the past three (3) months my heart health has been and continues to be challenging. I will have an additional cardiac procedure in mid-January followed by a significant period of time for recovery. And so it is time now for me to say a fond farewell to you and to release the spiritual leadership role that I have held amongst you since September 1, 2009, into the hands of The Reverend Jim Mericle, who, together with Synod staff will lead the congregation through the remaining steps of the Call process.

As I have pondered what needs to be said at this time, my thoughts have turned to spiritual maturity and so I want to share some of my thoughts and understandings with you now. These thoughts and understandings are not original to me but have been informed by a multitude of mentors along the way.

We begin the journey to spiritual maturity by wanting to grow and continue the journey by choosing a model or having a vision of who we want to be.

As we progress along the spiritual path, we take from the past and from others around us those elements that nourish and permeate within us the life of Spirit. We experience the freedom to appreciate the possibility to grow from other styles and ways.

Further along in the journey we begin to carve and shape our own individual and corporate spirituality. We learn to listen to and value our inner knowledge, that part of us that is informed by all we have experienced so far and by the still small voice within.

In this time of saying "farewell for now" I commend to and leave with you five (5) actions that lead to spiritual maturity which have been commended to and left with me by wise and learned mentors along the way:

- 1) Being willing to change and grow
- 2) Becoming intentional in all that we do
- 3) Integrating tradition into our daily lives
- 4) Becoming an individuated person
- 5) Becoming an agent for change.

And now, I pray that each of us will always remember "*Emmanuel, our God, is with us!*" and He will never leave us. This is the promise of the God whose promises can be trusted.

With much joy in His Service with you,

*Pastor Mona Anderson*

**PASTORAL CONCERNS: Since the inception of the Privacy Act, hospitals no longer call us to let us know when a member is admitted, so we are asking you to CALL AND LET US KNOW!!! Also, if you have concerns or wish to talk to Pastor Mona, please call the church office, 651.462.5212.**

# Sunday School News

## Children's Ministries

**Attention all Princesses and Warriors....  
God has made YOU special, come and find out more!!**

God's Little Princesses...God LOVES Little Girls!! Wednesday January 26, 6-8:00pm  
All Girls of St Paul Lutheran (P-3rd Grade) are invited to a very special girls-only evening....Wear your finest Princess Attire, and come for an evening of tea parties, and LOTS of pink...we will celebrate God making us GIRLS!! (\$3, invite your friends!!)

God's Little Warriors...God LOVES Little Boys!! Wednesday January 19, 6-8:00pm  
All Boys of St Paul Lutheran (P-3rd Grade) are invited to an awesome evening celebrating BOYS!! We are going to learn how we are God's Warriors, and do some very, very messy stuff!! (\$3, invite your friends!!)

Deadline for sign up for each of these fun evenings is the Sunday previous to the Gathering! Invite your friends and neighbors to share your faith and the fun that it can be!!

**Attention all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts:**

**Please sign up with Janet to be Greeters at church on 2/6 Boy Scout Sunday or 3/6 Girl Scout Sunday.**

**SOUPer Bowl Sunday/ Bible Trivia Bowl:**

February 6th- It's time again for SOUPer Bowl Sunday, when we collect SOUP and other canned goods for Family Pathways, and it's also the day of the Bible Trivia Bowl....wear your football gear and get ready for a fun morning of Bible Knowledge Competition...Janet is looking for "Coaches" and "Referees"...You do NOT need to be a Sunday School Parent to participate!! Come join the fun!

A



**BIG THANK YOU** to the Children for the **WONDERFUL** job they did at the Sunday School Christmas Program. It was a **LOT** of work, and your message was heard loud and clear... "Jesus, Oh! What a Wonderful Child!"..."Go Tell it on the Mountain"!! I got so many compliments on the amazing children of St Paul Lutheran...

**AND a BIG THANK YOU** to the amazing parents who helped in so many ways- From Lisa Landherr playing piano, Jenny Gilbert and Heidi Klecker for vocal assistance, Mitch Umland and Steve Lundgren for sound assistance...to everyone who helped in every way, our children are lucky to have you!!

**No Sunday School on January 30th.**  
**Please attend the Annual Meeting**



To all at St. Paul Lutheran Church, "May this express, at least in part, sincere and warmest thanks for your thoughtfulness." Vera considered St. Paul members to be her extended family.

She enjoyed many years of worship, crafting and working in the Kitchen with you. Thank you for your support and prayers for us and Vera, especially during these past years when Vera was in failing health. Thank you also for the lovely flowers we received after her death. While Vera is now at peace we will miss her dearly.

The family of Vera Rieck

In memory of Vera, we'd like to give this gift to the church she supported and the church that supported her. May God continue to bless your mission of "Sharing Christ's Love with Joy" to her surviving family and others who worship in your midst.

The Peterson Family

To the generosity of all involved in putting together such a wonderful Christmas package for our family, we offer you our sincere "thank you". The kids especially enjoyed all of the treats and fruit. We feel very blessed to have such a supportive church family and would like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

The Solomonson Family

Thank you for the Christmas cookies, candy and fruit. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Byron Olson



### **MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS NEEDED**

ONCE A MONTH FROM 11AM-12PM  
Meals are picked-up at Parmly Lakeview apartments.  
Can YOU help? Call the Church Office, 651.462..5212

**Help us grow the Tree of Life that is St. Paul Lutheran**

The tree on the wall in narthex represents the church with God as the soil, water, air, and sunshine. The sap that flows through the tree represents the Holy Spirit. The limbs, branches and leaves represent the people of the congregation. We are all connected as one in the body of Christ, in many ways and are all dependent on one another.



The branches on the tree are labeled with the current teams now serving the congregation, if you have an interest or passion that is not represented on the tree; this may be God's way of nudging you to add another branch; bring your ideas forward and let's grow the tree together as we continue to walk the way of Christ.

All you need to do to help our tree thrive is to choose a branch you would like to be a part of, take a leaf put your name on it and attach it to the tree, (assistance will be provided to those who are vertically challenged) No one is limited to one leaf chose as many as you like. Your leaf is also your voice so please don't be afraid to speak out. This also lets you know who is doing what if you have question, ideas or concerns.



**VISITATION  
TEAM**

Have you been unable to make it to church and communion or would you simply like a personal visit from someone in the St. Paul Lutheran family? A member of the SPL Visitation Team would be happy to visit you and give you communion, if you desire. We use elements that have been consecrated at the previous Sunday service and a short liturgy. We will also pray with you. Please call the church office, 651.462.5212, if you would like a visit.

### Did you know?

Christians have used symbols throughout history as a way to identify with each other. They tell a story of how people throughout history have stood by their beliefs and pointed others to God.


I have often wondered about the symbol of the fish. I've seen it used on literature, in churches, and even worn as necklaces and on bracelets. The fish obviously denotes Christianity, but what does it mean? So I Googled.

I learned that *Ichthus*, or the fish symbol, is one of the most popular symbols used in Christianity. It was first introduced as a way for people to know that you were a Christian.

Say you lived a long time ago and saw someone walking around a marketplace. If you went up to that person and said, "Ichthus," they would either point you to a fish merchant or they would say "Ichthus!" back to you. If they said the word back to you, you then knew it was safe to have a conversation pertaining to Christian matters. The fish symbol was also used to let Christians know about a Bible study that was going to happen, if they saw the symbol above a household entrance.

So next time you see this symbol, perhaps it will speak to you as a mark of Christianity. And if you display it, or use the symbol, it will speak to others.

It will symbolize that you are a Christian. And what a wonderful thing to proclaim!

 Carol Bisek


*Confirmation Class* 

January 9 10:30 Sunday Workshop

January 14/15 6:30p Overnight and all day Saturday retreat with "Daybreak" from Luther Point

January 19 6:30 Small Groups

January 26 6:30 Small Groups

 **DEADLINE:**  
Newsletter Articles

NOON,  
Thursday,  
January 20th


Newsletter Mailed Wednesday,  
January 26, 2011 at 10am

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE**

*Need Coffee? Need Chocolate?*


Buy these products in the narthex each Sunday and know you'll be helping poor farmers around the world at the same time.

In addition, 5% of all sales goes back to Lutheran World Relief for their development products.



**Coffee is \$5.25/\$6  
Chocolate bars \$1.75**

Hot Cocoa Mix and Baking Cocoa may be ordered, contact Mary Haselbauer, 433.3413.

  
Mission of the Month

**MISSION OF THE MONTH  
for JANUARY**

### SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD AND WORLD MISSION

#### Synod and World Wide Mission

Please consider a special donation in addition to your regular giving to support this important area of ministry.


 **Puppet Ministry**

**CPR PUPPETS**

**Always looking for new faces**

Need more info? Have questions?  
Call Frank Edwards 462.5374 or  
Neal Albee at 462.8084.

Also, check out Facebook: Go to home page and then to  
Wyomng-MN/CPR-Puppets

 **Endowment Fund**


**MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND**

The St. Paul Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund is used to support ministries of all shapes, sizes and locations. Your support is appreciated and we encourage congregation members to remember the fund while writing their Last Will and Testaments. In addition, the fund does accept donations throughout the year from interested givers. If you have any questions, please ask Chris Kuehn or Jerry Nelson for more information.



**2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The offering envelopes for the new year beginning January 1, 2011 will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 12. Please stop and pick up your box of envelopes. Thank you!




**Winter Coat Drive**

**YES...WE ARE COLLECTING WINTER COATS**

60.6 pounds have already be delivered

Again this year, as in the past several years, we are collecting winter coats and outerwear to donate to the Union Gospel Mission. Clean, usable coats for men, women and children are needed, as well as hats, mittens, boots or any other warm winter outerwear.

You may drop coats in the office and Mary Haselbauer will deliver them to the Mission. *Thank you for your help!*



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursday  
December 9th**

Women's Bible Study


All women are invited to join the Bible Study which meets the second and the fourth Thursday of the month in the church library from 6:30-8pm. The group is studying "*The People of God: Unity in the Midst Diversity*" from the LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY magazine, a publication of the ELCA.

Call Fran at 426-2398 or Claudia at 674-6275 for more information.

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Pastor Jim:**  
Monday, Tuesday 10am-2pm  
Friday, 9am-Noon

**Kim:**  
Tuesday-Thursday 8am-4pm



**HOWEVER, I will not be in on Tuesdays, January 18th, and February 1st and 15th.**

In case of an emergency and you need to reach someone immediately, you may call Pastor Jim at 651.982.9900 or Kim, 651.257.2049. You may also leave a message at the church, 462.5212 and someone will return your call as soon as possible.



Come join us for a great night and Hunter's Dinner January 29th.

This dinner is going to be "Potluck". The intention is for those that have gathered game, to prepare their favorite dish and share it with everyone. Prepared items could possibly be fish, venison of many varieties, elk, possibly buffalo, upland birds and waterfowl, turkey, and other items you may be interested in sharing... This will allow our group to sample different game, maybe prepared in a new way. I am not a hunter, but I look forward to seeing all these "Mighty Hunters" swapping recipes. Please dig into your freezer and prepare and bring your dish of choice.

As I was thinking of items we may see that evening, I did not want to exclude anyone that had hunted for strawberries and rhubarb in their garden, and happened to make a pie, or the person who loves making bread, or other home baked goods.

Some families will be out of town that weekend. If you would like to share your item with this dinner group, please contact me and I can prepare your items per your directions, and deliver to the dinner.

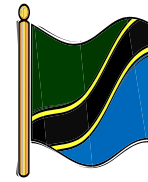
We will start serving at 6pm that evening, and the kitchen will be available prior to that for any necessary preparations.

This is great opportunity for us as a Congregation to celebrate nature as God has provided. Please contact a friend or family member you have not seen in awhile, bring your neighbor, call your Ol' Fishin' buddies. Invite somebody new. Let's come together as a community, and celebrate a fine dinner with friends and talk about the things and memories that have made us what we are today. If you would like to attend and do not have dish to prepare, please come anyway. It is for all to enjoy.

Bring pictures to show of that whopper crappie, or your first deer. We would all love to see and hear all about it.

There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up if interested, that way we can get a rough idea of attendants. If you do not signup on the sheet, you can still come, the last Saturday in January, the 29th. We would love to see you.

Spread The Word, and God Bless.  
Thanks for the interest, Chris Kuehn 651-408-0608



## Tanzanian Ministry: Christmas Traditions

As holiday celebrations wind down, many of us pause to reflect upon cherished memories made with family and friends throughout the year past. The season of Advent is an especially memorable time of year in our church, and can be marked by our cultural traditions including bedecked fir trees, Santa Claus, and presents wrapped in ribbons and bows. But how do the people of our sister church in Tanzania, Mtera Lutheran, and others like them celebrate during the holiday season? I spoke with Emma Kasiga, a woman who spent her childhood in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, who now resides in Minnesota, to find out. There are many traditions Emma marks as most important in Christian denominations residing in Tanzania.

Christmas is a time for new clothes, and shoes, if your family could afford them. Children dress up in their new outfits and show them off at the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Sunday church services. The Christmas Eve service usually takes place from 7pm to 10pm, or 10pm to 12pm. Popular at these services are plays and skits; you are very fortunate if you get to participate in a skit AND wear your new clothes! In America we usually give and receive a wider variety of items as gifts, but clothing is the main gift given by parents and received by children in many Tanzanian cities and villages. Santa Claus is also not recognized. While some children were aware of whom Santa was by reading books, it has never really been a practiced cultural tradition.

A task that goes hand in hand with Christmas is confirmation. A child's confirmation is more important to parents than their birthday. Christ's day of birth, therefore, seems a very fitting time to celebrate a child's official acceptance of Jesus Christ. To balance confirmation with Advent activities, local churches coordinate and take turns presenting Advent teachings and confirmed children. Another custom that Emma mentions, which might be the most important, is the breaking down of barriers between Christians and Muslims in Tanzania. In Dar Es Salaam and other Tanzanian locales, the Christian to Muslim ratio is half and half. In families like Emma's, a special meal would be prepared with meat (mainly Chicken) along with the normal vegetables at Christmas time. Neighbors would be invited from all around, Muslim and Christian alike, to share the meal; such a feast brings families together. This, Emma says, was her favorite part about growing up in Tanzania; extending helping hands to Christians and non-Christians alike.

There are many parallels as well as differences among Christian traditions in the United States and Tanzania. If you would like to experience a church service similar to one practiced in Tanzania, visit Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. The Lutheran worship service in the Swahili language meets at Holy Trinity on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Pastor Andrea Mwalilino, originally from Tanzania, now serves as the worship leader and mission director for the Swahili congregation. Check it out!

May God bless your New Year and bring peace and understanding to all!

Amy Taylor



## December 21, 2010 Council Meeting Highlights

Guest: Noreen Stevens

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Shirley Zierke

Devotions: Shirley Zierke

### Review of Minutes:

*Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the November 16, 2010 minutes.*

Shirley read a letter of resignation that Pastor Mona submitted dated for December 13, 2010. Pastor Mona is retiring due to her doctor's advice. Her last day with St. Paul Lutheran will be January 9, 2011. Council determined that we should let the congregation know about this immediately so Shirley will present to them on Christmas Eve – both 3:00 and 11:00 service. A letter will also be mailed on Wednesday, December 22.

*Motion was made to accept Mona's resignation. Motion was seconded and approved.*

### Review of Reports:

#### Pastor's Report:

Accomplishments: Major steps to solve the IRS debt; team approach to ministry; volunteerism is at high level which will require assessment of as the congregation moves forward with the Call process.

Work remaining: personnel manual requires council approval and implementation as staffing pattern is reviewed and redeveloped – Financial management procedures and policies need to be adopted – an office manual should be assembled with results of these two tasks – Membership Roster should be reviewed and updated – The eight ministry teams are in various stages of development – Children, Youth and Family faith is in need of redevelopment.

Three important Developments: 1) Revitalized relationship with St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA 2) Lay participation in worship 3) Establishment of Finance Ministry Team

Looking ahead: Using accrued vacation time December 26 to January 4.

Recommendations: Pastor Mona gave recommendation for Nominees for Call Committee and Council.

Action Requested: Council accept my resignation from the position of International Interim Senior Pastor as outlined in attached letter.

#### Finance Report:

No written report – Checkbook balance on November 30 is \$32,426.84. This includes the money for IRS \$48,000.00 has been promised or we have in hand for the IRS debt. Currently \$14,000.00 in savings for IRS debt. \$828.00 of the craft/bake sale went to a family from St. Paul Lutheran. We need to get final dollar amount from this sale.

Question was brought up as to whether we are going to give any of this money to the St. Paul Area Synod.

Patti signed the Board of Pension form giving permission to no longer provide.

Carissa needs \$600.00 for down payment to Youth Works for the mission trip. Total down payment is 1080.00 for 18 spots. She has until February 18 to get everyone signed up that is going.

Council discusses youth account. All agree youth should be self-sufficient and funds should be kept separate from general.

Kim has canceled the credit card.

*Motion made to open a youth checking account. Motion was seconded and approved.*

#### Faith Development Report:

**Pre-school** - Patti wants two week paid Christmas break. Pre-school petty cash is balanced. Shirley mentioned there is a Preschool Education Activities and Services Expo January 25. She thought this might be a good thing for Patti to attend

**Children's Ministry** – Christmas Program was on December 19. Impressed with parental involvement in this. Sunday school unit was “Elizabeth and Mary's First Christmas”. Had special appearances by both Mary and Elizabeth. January unit is “Baptism”. There will be two large group classes for grades K-3 (“God's Little Princesses” and “God's Little Warriors”) – T-shirt deadline is January 9.

**Youth** - Tubing event on January 2. Confirmation Workshops to reconvene on January 9.

**Sunday Forum** – Pre-Call Committee will lead on January 9, 2011

#### Global Missions Report:

St. Paul partners is looking to hire an administrator in TZ

Fran sent letter to Pastor Lufyigila regarding our student support. The letter was copied in e-mail to Pastor Msigwa of the Diocese and Nelia.

Team signed and sent a Christmas card

We put in request for the 2011 Photo Exhibit for next October

We viewed the Benjamin Ngede Memorial Service video

#### Property, Building and Grounds Report:

No report

#### Congregational Life Team Report:

Care Packages to be distributed on December 12.

Food Drive for Family Pathways extended to December 12.

Chili Feed before Mary Hall concert (it turned out that only 5 people showed up due to bad weather).

Met with Andi Armstrong and Steve Bartch about collaborating with United Methodist when they host homeless families December 26 to January 2 thru the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Cambridge.

#### Worship, Art and Music Ministry Report:

No report

#### Administrative and Communication Team – no report

#### SPPRT

Cindy Gustafson joined the team. Current members are Cheryl Glassel, Jan Brainerd, Chris Kuehn, Kathie Marabella and Cindy Gustafson.

#### Old Business:

Pre-call Committee Update. Jerry will serve on the Call committee and will contact the following members to find out if they are interested in serving: Rod Jasmer, Michele Ihfe, Tyler and Joanna Kroschel, Lois Rustad, Amy Taylor, Becky Zierke, Andy Stoyke

January Recognition – John Peterson

Discussion on the upcoming Town-Hall meeting

#### New Business

Preliminary budget was submitted to council for review.

Elly will contact our Nominating Committee (Zella Oswald and Pat Miska). We will recommend they contact Dean Greseth to also be on the nominating committee. Names of members to contact to be on council are: Judy Gatzow, Jan Taylor, Dave Schuder, Tom Miller, Cheryl Glassel, Paul Meyer, Mike Temte, and Zella Oswald. We are looking for a Secretary, Treasurer and 4 members at large.

Jerry will purchase three gift certificates to Applebees for the Synod representatives who looked at our finances: Paul Tiedeman, Tom Bulger and Carol Hood.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Elly Coppersmith

**Next regularly scheduled Council meeting is on January 18, 2011.**