



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Parish Times *January 2009*



And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel. Matthew 2:6

We have entered the season of Epiphany, a time when we celebrate God made manifest, God made known to the world. It is the time of Simeon, who was promised by God that he would see the Messiah before his death. Simeon held the baby Jesus in his arms and sang his hymn of thanks and praise to God saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” I love that hymn of faith and praise. Simeon saw the Messiah, held him in his arms and now he could die in peace. Epiphany is also the time of the wise men who came from the east following a star. When they found Jesus, they gave him gifts and “knelt down and paid him homage” (Matthew 2:11). Epiphany is the time when the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus at his baptism and we hear God the Father say, “This is my Son, the beloved in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). In all of these stories, we see God revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus continues to be revealed today in many and varied ways. I pray that you will experience and see him through the workings of the Holy Spirit, both in church and in your everyday life, for he is Immanuel, God with us. Have a very blessed Epiphany! See you in worship.

Pastor Dave

Attention Parents:

- ▶ Our ever-popular Sunday School Retreat is scheduled for February 20-22. Families should receive a mailing outlining the specifics shortly. Please sign up on the kiosk as soon as possible!
- ▶ An organizational meeting to plan the Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser will be Sunday, January 11 at 11:15. Families, remember, this is a fundraiser for our Camp Onomia retreat...we really need your support to make this happen! Specifics regarding matching funds from Thrivent to follow.
- ▶ Set-up for the Sunday School Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, January 17 at 1:00. Please plan on participating!
- ▶ We will be having a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, February 1 at 11:15 to make plans for the upcoming retreat. What traditions do we want to keep? What new traditions do we want to develop? We want to hear from YOU!



Blessings to all from your Church Council!



President's Blog
Sue McNeill
January 2009



Notes from Conie:

- I discovered recently that carols were songs meant to be danced to, not just sung. Boy, was I thrilled! Most Christmas songs always seemed to have a lilt to it. *Away in the Manger* leads me through a smooth waltz and *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* entices me to skip. (It may be January, but the Christmas season continues for two Sundays after December 25. Grant me some grace here...!) A friend and I were playing an impromptu game of "Guess When That Hymn Was Written." As I was paging through our new hymnal and humming tunes I was noticing others that stimulated my feet. The original jaunty rhythm of *A Mighty Fortress* and the grand processional of *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*, as well as the ethnic tunes of *Halle, Halle, Halle* and *Let us Talents and Tongues Employ* call us to move in different ways. What about you? What music in your faith experience arouse you to move and interact with the community? (Dancing is best as a joint activity.) Can we move more meaningfully in worship, expressing the sorrows we bear and the relief we have when we turn it over to God? How can we, as the Shakers wrote, "*Dance, Then, Wherever You May Be?*" I look forward to the conversations (and demonstrations?).
- Songs of thankfulness and praise go to SoUPER chef Nancy McGough for serving soup December 3. Those who come to the table are always satisfied!
- The first down beat for 2009 adult choir and bell choir rehearsals is on Wednesday, January 7. Join us for soup and fellowship starting at 6, followed by choir at 6:45 and bells at 8 p.m.
- The Worship and Music Committee will meet Sunday, Jan. 25 after the service to choose hymns. Congregational input and help are always welcome!

--In Joyfulness, Conie



Our heartfelt appreciation
to our Bun Run Volunteers
for December: Nancy
Hegdahl, Mark McGough,
Jeff Kingsley and Ken
McGrew.



January Readers:

Jan. 4 - Katy Eggert
Jan. 11 - Mike Hegdahl
Jan. 18 - Al Baird
Jan. 25 - Wendy Bjorklund

January Acolytes:

4 – Sam Elliott
11 – Sam Lipscomb
18 – Riley Miller
25 – Eddie McGrew





We would like to thank the following for delivering meals on wheels in November:

Al Baird and Ann Verschoyle
 Lee and Shirley Johnson
 Eva Mac Niven
 Bruce Magnuson
 Audrey Rongstad
 Larry and Carol Vigdal
 David Elliott
 Jane McGrew

Souper Bowl Sunday!

No, that is not a typo. Sunday, February 1 is SOUPER Bowl Sunday. That Sunday the confirmation students will be selling delicious homemade SOUP as a fundraiser for needy children. All the money raised will be donated by our confirmation students to a charity. So come to church on February 1 ready for some soup, or bring it home for a ready-made meal. It will help make it a super day for both you and some beautiful children.



Come to another of our fantastically popular Ladies Night Out events on Tuesday, January 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Buca in St. Paul. Meet at church at 5:00 if you wish to carpool. If interested, please contact Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) as soon as possible. It should be a great evening, as usual...don't miss it!

Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for December: Eva Mac Niven, Max Elliott, Carl Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert
Our ushers for January will be: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Peter Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Al Baird



January Birthdays:

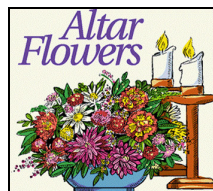


- 1 - DUSTY JENSEN,
LINDA FUNKHOUSER
- 9 - MENTWAB BELETE
- 10 - JACKIE SALABA, NOAH FABIE
- 12 - HAMLIN JOHNSON,
SUE NODLER
- 13 - MATTHEW BRUMMUND,
JUDY JOHNSON
- 16 - NANCY HEGDAHL
- 17 - KATHY SPRAY,
RUTH LINDGREN
- 21 - LOUIS BILLMEYER
- 26 - JACOB LUND
- 27 - KEVIN ARNDT
- 29 - NORMA ALEXANDER
- 30 - SUE MCNEILL

144 Hungry people were served at St. Matthew's Church on Monday November 25 for the Loaves and Fishes program. They even ate the bread crusts. A big thank you to our workers: Helen Bye, Sandy Berger, Ann Verschoyle, Dwight Paulson, Larry Litzkow, Pastor Dave and Eva Mac Niven.

Irene Berger was there to see we didn't goof around too much.

Thanks also to Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson for baking cookies.



The 2009 altar flower schedule is now posted on the kiosk. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two. It is a wonderful way to celebrate a special event or to honor a loved one, and to beautify our church. Home. Sign up as soon as possible! You may use any florist of your choice, or make your own arrangement. For ease and convenience, though, you might consider using Nedved's Florist on West 7th Street, (651-690-5474) as they have a key to the church, and will deliver the flowers for you.



Spotlight on... Kyle Zvejnieks

*[Ed. note: Interesting story behind this photo...
be sure to ask Kyle about it. And no, it is not a mug shot!]*

I was born in Laramie, Wyoming, on October 23, 1985. I lived there for about 5 years, and then my family moved to Rapid City, SD.

My parents met in Wyoming after finishing their undergrad. They actually met because Shantel's mom set up my parents on a blind date, so that's a fun story. People joke that the marriage between Shan and I is actually an arranged marriage! Funny, but not true! Another interesting piece about my family is that my grandparents (my dad's parents) are from Latvia, hence the fun last name. There's also a fun story about what my name means in Latvian, so ask me sometime if you want to know. My father works as a civil engineer, and my mother works as a medical technician. I also have two siblings, a younger brother and a younger sister. My sister is currently finishing her senior year in college, focusing on languages, and my brother is finishing his senior year in high school. My fiancé, Shantel, has been a close friend since high school. We started playing tennis together and seeing each other when our families met. It grew into a deep friendship, and we then both came out here to the cities for school. We had been dating for about 2-3 years, and were engaged on Feb. 7th, and we'll be married on Dec. 28th!

I went to Stevens High School in Rapid City. For college, I first began at a science and engineering college in Rapid City, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (or SDSM&T). I started there to major in Physics, but comparing myself amongst my peers, I realized this was not my place, and by the second semester of my freshman year, I had moved out to the Twin Cities to be at Augsburg College, focusing on Youth and Family Ministry. I have just finished up there and look to attend Luther Seminary this next fall.

I grew up at a Lutheran church known as Calvary Lutheran in Rapid City. It was a great congregation, and they gave me a lot of verbal support in my pursuit of ministry. They are currently relocating to a new sight where the church is being anew, and I am curious to see how it will shape them. One thing I will always remember about my pastor there, Dwight Stensgaard, was his jokes. He was of Norwegian descent, so every sermon he always managed to tell us a new Ole and Lena joke.

Right now, my major occupation is study and my further pursuit of doing work in ministry. Part of that includes my help here at St. Luke. In the meantime, between schooling, I am working at a YMCA down in Eagan, helping to teach swimming lessons and other areas in the Aquatics program.

My hobbies consist of music, including guitar, piano, trumpet, and a little bit of djembe. I enjoy water sports, such as water skiing, wakeboarding, and kneeboarding. Some of my favorite books include *Dangerous Wonder* by Mike Yaconelli, *Let God be God* by Philip Watson, and pretty much any book by Martin Luther or Gerhard Forde. When I have time, I also like to do video editing. Almost anything that involves creativity always sparks my interest.

I joined St. Luke about December of 2008, but I have been at St. Luke for about a year and a half before that. St. Luke first drew Shan and I in because of the welcome that bombarded us when we first came. We appreciated the worship, I appreciated the preaching, and we enjoyed the fellowship that exists well amongst the congregation. The community drew us in, and we couldn't help but stay!

I have been a part of the vacation bible school, and now currently I am helping Pastor Dave with the confirmation group and other youth activities. I joined the boys on the trip to the boundary waters, and I plan to be a part of the trip next summer to the Group Work Camp.

The community and the fellowship: these things have been the best for me at St. Luke, and that includes the welcoming atmosphere the congregation holds. There's a genuine community that cares for each other at St. Luke. In some sense, I would say there exists that "family" feeling that we all can share as Christian brothers and sisters.

As far as areas of improvement are concerned, I wonder how we might reach out to more to the high schoolers and college goers, or basically those who are post-confirmation yet pre-adult. By societies definition of "adolescence" extending until 25, even I technically fit into this category!

I hope that St. Luke continues to be the "family" that it shows to be. I understand that probably not everyone feels this, and even families have their problems, but I think it is a beautiful blessing to St. Luke that I feel larger congregations can sometimes lack. I also hope that we do not lose sight of the Gospel, that we would not compromise the good news to be trendy or be more socially acceptable, simply that we would continue to stand on God's Word!

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee." -Numbers 6:24