



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Parish Times September 2008



All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

This year the confirmation students will be reading through the New Testament one chapter per day. They will begin with Matthew 1:1 on Wednesday, September 10 and end in May. I will be reading along too and invite all of you to join us. Set aside a time during the day to read the chapter, it will only take a few minutes. I also encourage you to take time to think about what you read, meditate on it, and offer a prayer to God. Let this be a daily quiet time for you to let God's Word fill and guide you. Let it be a time to anchor your day in the Creator of all. And if you have any questions about what you read, please ask me. I LIKE those questions! I will do my best to answer them. Let us join together in reading the Scripture and meditating on God's word of life.

See you in worship,
Pr. Dave

Summer 2009 Youth Group Workcamp Mission Trip to Montana



There will be a meeting on Sunday, September 14, right after worship, for all youth interested in going to Montana for a mission trip to fix up homes for people who cannot do it themselves. Sue and Garry Bost will give a presentation. Sue and Garry have been attending Group Workcamp mission trips since 1992. They know a lot and are a lot of fun too. I believe they will also have some youth along who have participated in these trips. Come, ask questions, learn and let's go to Ashland, Montana next July! Right now I have 10 spaces reserved (we can get more too if we apply early). In order to keep these spaces, we need to send in \$50.00 per person attending by September 31 (it has to be in their office by the 31st). As far as expenses are concerned, I would like each youth (or family) to pay the initial \$50.00, which will be non-fundable. I do this so that you will commit to the workcamp if you sign up. We will be doing fundraisers so that costs per individual will be kept as low as possible. If you have any questions before or after the meeting on September 14, please ask me! Let's go! --Pr. Dave

Confirmation starts soon! We will have orientation for confirmation on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm. Both students and parents are asked to attend. We will have a time with both students and parents together, then a time just for parents. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.



Wow! We had another fantastic week at Vacation Bible School this year. Sweltering heat notwithstanding, 30 kids enjoyed supper, crafts, songs, snacks, games and bible stories. And the daily skits—complete with rubber chicken throwing—were memorable, to say the least! We are enormously grateful to all who contributed their time and energies to VBS. It takes a lot of dedicated people to pull something like this together...thank you, thank you, VBS volunteers:

Skit Director: Alex Grzywinski
Curriculum and T-Shirts: Holly Schultz
Registration: Wendy Bjorklund
Publicity: Jo Klein
Teachers: Alex Grzywinski, Barb Jensen, Wanda Mathison, Nancy McGough, Pastor Dave, Shantel Steen, Lisa Vandrovec, Kyle Zvejinek
Skit: Wendy Bjorklund, Charlie Gaarder, Karl Gaarder, Alex Grzywinski, Abby Klein, Pastor Dave
Set Design: Jill Burchill, Christine Olson
Games: Doug Klein
Crafts: Julie Gaarder, Sue Grzywinski, Penney Kelly
Snacks: Jordan Brandt, MaryJo Brandt, Carol Vigdal
Music: Sol Holmly, Abby Klein, Jo Klein, Peter Klein, Kyle Zvejinek
Photos: Mike Hegdahl
Meals: Joyce Bluel, Gladys Byrnes, Roger and Dianne Diestler, Cathy Erickson, Shirley and Lee Johnson, Nancy McGough, Dorothy Paul, Holly and Kurt Schultz, Carol Vigdal, Margaret Vigdal, Dorothy Zitterow



President's Blog *Sue McNeill*

September, 2008

Stewardship opportunities abound at our church home. Here's is another one that may "speak" to you. Pastor Dave has a "Pastor's Fund" that is available to use at his discretion. While it is a budgeted item, there are times it needs to be replenished before the end of the year. You are always welcome to support the Pastor's Fund with a contribution. Just mark your check on the memo line Pastor's Fund and put it in the offering plate.

Put cash in an envelope clearly marked. Or give Pastor an envelope and he'll make sure it gets in the Fund. Thank you for caring.

September Birthdays:



4 - KELLY JOHNSON
 6 - AUDREY RONGSTAD
 7 - DEBBIE JOHNSON
 9 - KEN MCGREW
 10 - MICHAELA MCGOUGH, LUE ROTH
 11 - JANE MCGREW, GENE SPRAY
 12 - MIKE WALTER
 17 - CONNOR BURCHILL-RILEY,
 CORRIN BURCHILL-RILEY
 22 - JACK NODLER, CAROL VIGDAL
 25 - NAHOKO PERSON
 26 - SAMANTHA BRUMMUND
 27 - GWEN BRUMMUND
 29 - JORDAN BRANDT, ERIC ELLINGSON

“I Can Do” Booklets

In the very near future you will be seeing a little booklet called the “I Can Do” book. It is a list of the various tasks, opportunities for fellowship and service that take place here at St. Luke. You will be asked to check off the various tasks, as well as, opportunities for fellowship which you “can do.” Not everyone has the same talents or interests, but together, with everyone doing what they “can do,” we find the work of the church is done. So take a look at this little booklet, and check off all that you can do for the work of Christ’s church.



Come to another of our fantastically popular Ladies Night Out events on Monday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at Champps in the Sibley Plaza. If you wish to attend, please contact Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) as soon as possible. It should be a great evening, as usual...don't miss it!



September Readers:

7 - Alex Grzywinski
14 - Katy Eggert
21 - Cathy and Maggie Erickson
28 - Sandi Gordon

We would like to thank the following volunteers for delivering Meals on Wheels in the month of July:

Alan Baird, Ann Verschoyle, Lee and Shirley Johnson, Eva Mac Niven, Bruce Magnuson
Audrey Rongstad, Jane, Ken, Eddie and Emma McGrew, Lori Nakamura, and Sam and Lucy Lipscomb.

We are still looking for someone to be a regular! Someone has offered to be a driver for a route but is not able to do the walking and carrying of the food bags. If there is anyone who would like to be the runner on a route with someone else doing the driving, please contact Jane McGrew: 651-698-4569, km1908@comcast.net



Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for August: Lee Johnson, Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder Our ushers for September will be: Eva Mac Niven, Carl Elliott, Max Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert

Hey, Youth! Sunday, September 21 we will join St. Mark's Lutheran youth in their "Adopt a Highway" project. We will join them in picking up some trash along the road after worship (from about 11 a.m. on or so. It should take a little more than an hour). We do this to take care of God's beautiful creation. Be there!



Ages 50 or better are invited to join this ecumenical senior group for activities and fellowship. The group meets every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church beginning September 3 through the first Wednesday in June. The Highland Leisure Age group was founded in 1971. The social needs of seniors are met by joining others in similar circumstances. Lunch is served for \$4.00 (tickets are sold in advance). If you are interested in lunch only, you are asked to call 699-1378 and ask for the kitchen on Wednesdays by 11a.m. and let them know you are coming. Menus include entree, coffee and dessert. Members of the churches belong to the Highland Leisure Age group take turns in setting up and cleaning up after lunch. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located at Snelling and Highland Parkway. If you have further questions, please contact Gladys Byrnes or Margaret Vigdal.



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



The new church photo directories are here, and look fantastic! Come and pick up your copy today. (One directory per family.) Many, many thanks Nancy and Mike Hegdahl for organizing the directory project...it was a BIG undertaking; we are most grateful!

Micro-Lending Group

I would like to suggest that those interested in being part of the micro-lending group meet together for the first time on Tuesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. I will put up a sign up sheet on the kiosk in fellowship hall. Please sign up if you are interested and can be there. Also, if you are interested but cannot attend that night, please sign up with a note saying you cannot be there that night. We will not have a dinner together this night, but make plans for the next meeting and how we will organize it. Let's get this rolling! --Pastor Dave



Lord Teach Us to Pray



Interest has been expressed in a "class" on prayer. There are many ways to pray. In this "class" we will look at some of those ways of praying. Maybe you will discover a new way that is an answer to your prayers! In the end, however, it is not so important HOW you pray, but rather doing it. We are setting aside Tuesdays, October 21 and 28 at 7 p.m. for this. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in fellowship hall. Come one, come all!



Come one, come all to our first Game Day of the season on Friday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at church. Bring a snack to share, and your favorite game, and settle down to an afternoon of fun and games...join us!



Softball

Thank you to all the softball players for making this another fun and exciting year on the field. It was a fun season playing against five other churches: Immanuel, Pilgrim, St. Mark's, St. Peders and Macalester Plymouth Congregational. Next year we will work harder to beat St. Mark's and St. Peders! Thank you to the fans for your unique cheering and for being there to show your support; we couldn't have won those games without you!



Fall Bazaar Update – Joyce Bluel, Committee Chair

Just a reminder, the Fall Bazaar is just 6 weeks away; mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11th. Bring all of those gently used or unneeded items you cleaned out this summer to the White Elephant Sale. You may bring them to church, starting on September 7th and place in the corner of the Social Hall labeled "White Elephant" on the North West side of church.

Anyone willing to bake pies or other baked goods for the Bazaar, please contact Audrey McNamara at 698-4993. It's a *delicious* way to support our bazaar!

Do you sew, knit, crochet or like to make handmade gifts? We have quite a large quantity of craft supplies on hand from previous years. Before purchasing supplies for your projects, check with either Margaret or Joyce to see if we have what you need. If you are planning on making crafts for the Bazaar, we would like to know in advance, please contact Margaret Vigdal at 683-0917 or Joyce Bluel at 690-4614.

Back by popular demand, there will be several craft nights in September, watch the bulletin for details. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome, little or no experience is needed.

The raffle tickets will be ready for distribution on Rally Day. A **hand-crafted quilt** will once again be one of the top prizes, in addition to many others. If you are making an afghan or any prize for the raffle, please notify Julia Gaarder at 690-0117. The Raffle Committee could use help with mailings, phone calls, and collecting donations. If you can help in any way, please contact Julia.

The proceeds from this event have been used to make some substantial changes both to our church building and to people's lives through donations to charities. This is also a way for us to reach out and give our neighbors a chance to get to know us better. There is something for everyone to get involved with, just contact one of the following chairs:

White Elephant Co-chairs: Jo Klein & David Elliott
Bake Sale Chair: Audrey McNamara
Publicity Chair: Carol Vigdal
Kitchen Chair: Sandi Gordon
Kiddie Room Co-chairs: Barb Jensen & Alex Grzywinski
Raffle Chair: Julie Gaarder
Crafts Co-chairs: Margaret Vigdal & Joyce Bluel

Consecration Sunday is Coming



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and church council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

St. Luke Church Council President
Sue McNeill



Who Are The Dragon Divas?

Says Nick Coleman of the Minneapolis Tribune: "Breast cancer survivors from the Twin Cities, the Dragon Divas are 30 of the toughest and spunkiest women you'll ever find with paddles in their hands." Our own Julie Ellingson is a member of this prestigious dragon boat rowing team. She and her fellow Divas were recently featured in a great article in the Strib, complete with group photo. We encourage you to check it out, either online:

http://www.startribune.com/local/east/26013919.html?location_refer=Bios

or on the kiosk in the Social Hall. Kudos, Julie!



Sunday School Families: The Sunday School Staff warmly welcomes you to Rally Day, Sept. 7! We have lots of fun things planned for the day, which is scheduled as follows:

9:00 to 10:00:	Alternative Worship
10:00 to 10:15:	Student Photos
10:15 to 10:30:	Music in the sanctuary
10:30 to 11:00:	Classroom time
11:00 to 11:30:	Fun and games
11:30 on	Church picnic

Also, for your information, below you will find a schedule for the entire 08-09 Sunday School year. Please keep this schedule handy so you may readily refer to it.

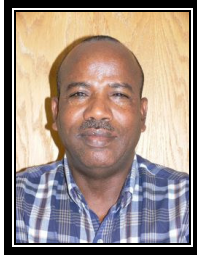
We are looking forward to another enriching and enjoyable Sunday School year! If you have any questions or concerns regarding Sunday School, feel free to contact Wendy Bjorklund at 651-690-9309 or Jo Klein at 651-343-9317.

September 7:	Rally Day
November 2:	Congregational Meeting: NO classes
November 30:	NO classes: Thanksgiving break
December 7:	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:15 to 12:00
December 14:	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:15 to 12:00
December 21:	Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:15 to 12:00
December 21:	Christmas Program, 4:00 p.m.
December 28:	NO classes; Christmas Break
January 4:	NO classes; New Year's Break
January 18:	Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
February 20--22:	Sunday School Retreat at Camp Onomia
April 12:	Easter: Egg hunt...NO classes
May 3:	Congregational Meeting: NO classes
May 17:	Sunday School End of Year party
July 27--31:	Vacation Bible School

You are invited!

Each fall, the Stewardship Commission gives the congregation an opportunity to renew it's support to the health and welfare of our church family with a pledge of future support in time, talent, and tithes. This year, the council is hosting a Stewardship Fair on September 14. Right after service, a table for each commission on your council will be available to let you know what part it plays in keeping St. Luke alive and well. The council hopes you'll find your place on a commission to which you're willing to invest time and talent. You might just find a surprise or two at each table...come and see!





Spotlight on...Bekele Sankiko

My name is Bekele Dimore Sankiko. I was born in October 25, 1960 at Hossanna, Ethiopia. My mother was a housewife and my father was a farmer. I have four brothers. I am married to my wife Muluwork Haile Sedoru and we have four children, two sons and two daughters.

I attended Wachamo High School in Hossanna, Ethiopia and I graduated from Tobor Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary. After graduation I went to Hermannsburg, Germany Lutheran Mission Seminary to upgrade my training. I studied for one and a half years there. I have been a member of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia for my whole life.

I worked in the Ethiopia Evangelical Lutheran Church for twenty-five years in different positions as follows: in congregation, parish, district and synod. I was a pastor and leader in the church.

I moved with my family to the United States on April 2, 2005 to St. Paul. My family and I have been members of St. Luke since June 1, 2008. I first came to St. Luke to visit. The pastor and church members were very welcoming and friendly, that's the reason I decided to stay in this church.

My hobbies are swimming, listening to gospel songs, and reading spiritual books. My favorite book is the Bible. The Bible shows me the difference between right and wrong. It guides me through difficult times. That is why I love it.

I wish for St. Luke to reach out to immigrants by the gospel and to get more involved with youth. I hope that the church can grow more in the future and walk with Almighty God.



Notes from Conie:

All types of music makers are welcome! Wednesday, September 10 is the beginning of the rehearsal season for choir and bells. There's always food at 6 p.m.! The first rehearsal of the year is potluck -- so bring edibles to share! All other Wednesdays we are treated by the culinary delights of volunteers. Anybody can be chef -- no experience to feed 5,000 necessary. Rehearsal for choir begins at 6:45 p.m. Bells begin to ring at 8 p.m.

Special Music Ovations: Please give a round of applause to...

- Deb Vigdal and Wendy Bjorklund for leading us in song on July 20. They truly "brought forth the kingdom of God!"
- Dan Grzywinski and Jo Klein for lending hand drum and guitar stylings on July 27. He "listened" to God's calling and they enthusiastically "sent us forth with hands to serve and give!"
- All the members of the Worship Band who lead worship on Aug 3: Wendy Bjorklund, Conie Borchardt, Dan Grzywinski, Barb Jensen, Jo Klein, Kim Miller, Deb Vigdal, Mike Wobig and Kyle Zvejniek. Their songs were beacons lighting a way for hungry folks searching for the compassionate ways of God.

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