



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Parish Times February 2009



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

As I write this it is -6 outside, which may well be the high temperature for the day. One headline reads, "Schools close, cars crash in blistering cold." It is a good day to be inside wrapped in a blanket next to a crackling fire, while reading a book with a steaming hot cup of something delicious setting right next to you. Sound good? I have the book for you. It is a novel called, "The Shack," by William P. Young. It is on the New York Times best selling list. A friend of mine recommended it to me. It is about a man whose small daughter is brutally murdered. He then has an encounter with God in the shack where she was killed. This novel deals with good and evil, the Trinity, and a number of other themes. I thought the author did a good job. He obviously did some research and is a man of deep faith. I would like to suggest that you read it and that any who wishes to, get together on Tuesday, February 24 at 7 p.m. at church (or maybe some place with a good crackling fire) to talk about your impressions of the book, what surprised you, what was comforting, what was disturbing and anything else you would like to mention about the book and faith. Let's come together, sharing in the gospel and upholding one another in faith.

See you in worship,
Pr. Dave

Ministry of Caring

I would like to create an informal group of caregivers here at St. Luke. The main job description is that you are able to either telephone or visit someone to talk with them. The phone call could be something as simple as just checking in to see how the person is doing. It is to show care and concern, simply by the fact that you are taking the time to call the person (or visit them). You need not speak in deep theological terms, just show caring love for that person. If anyone is interested in this kind of ministry, please sign up at the kiosk or talk with Pr. Dave.





President's Blog
Sue McNeill
February 2009

Happy New Year to each of you!
May you continue to be open to God's unending love for you.

Blogs are often rambling thoughts, so here goes. I'm reading an interesting book "The Shack" by William Young. Without giving too much away, it is a fictional story of a man with a "great sadness" (caused by the murder of his child) who has an opportunity to meet God one weekend. Haven't finished reading it, but it has certainly got me thinking about my relationship with God. Pastor Dave has read the book and commented that the author seems to have done his research. I took that to mean that the conversations in the book aren't far from truth as perhaps taught in seminary. I recommend it if you'd like to be challenged (in a good way). I have found myself in the mind of the main character Mack on several pages. It's a thought provoking, opening, read for these subzero winter nights.

To clap or not to clap....that is the question. I do not think it is disrespectful to God or anyone else if someone claps after a particularly pleasing song during the service. As a musician, I get emotional on hearing certain songs. Anyone in choir will tell you that I've never sung "I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry" all the way through. I dissolve in tears as soon as I get to "with just one more surprise." (What a lovely thought at the end of it all, there will be that everlasting surprise.) I don't always clap at the end of a song during our church service. However, I have been known to clap at some of the extraordinary songs played by the bell choir or a guest musician. The LOF band plays some knee-slappers and I clap. If you are so moved by a song, clap. I will not be offended, but I may not join you. As a singer, it is my gift to sing a solo. A gift to God, to you, and to myself. It fills a need within me. No clapping is expected, and the lack of clapping does not disappoint me. Sometimes clapping embarrasses me because, hey, it's a gift. If you are not comfortable clapping during a church service, please don't think ill of me if I do clap. If you really liked the music and don't clap, take a moment and tell the choir director or the soloist after church. Everybody enjoys appreciation and sometimes you just gotta clap after the song.

Needed: one small enclosed, lockable trailer

The youth group will be traveling to a workcamp in Ashland, Montana in July to help fix up the homes of people who are unable to do it themselves. We will all be traveling together in a 15-passenger van, but need a trailer for our suitcases and tools. If you have a small, enclosed, lockable trailer we could use for 10 days in July, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Attention Parents: Early Communion Preparation Classes will be held in the next few weeks. St. Luke Church has a tradition that a child is eligible whenever the parents and the pastor believe that the child is ready. This is a 3-session Sunday morning program. First Communion will take place Easter Sunday. Children must have a communing adult accompany them for the sessions. Please contact the church office (651-698-9443) if you wish to participate so that materials can be obtained. Class dates to be announced.



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



February Readers:
1--Jill Burchill
8--Shantel Zvejnieks
15--Cathy and Maggie Erickson
22--Al Baird





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

Al Baird and Ann Verschoyle
 Eva Mac Niven
 Bruce Magnuson
 Audrey Rongstad
 Larry and Carol Vigdal
 Lori Nakamura
 Holly Margl



Souper Bowl Sunday!

Sunday, February 1 is Souper Bowl Sunday! The confirmation students will be selling soup (freewill donation) to make money for "Feed My Starving Children." Feed My Starving Children puts together packets of a nutritional food mix for starving children, and gives it away! We want to help them out by raising some money for them. The confirmation students will also work as volunteers putting together those food packs on Thursday, Feb. 19. So come, enjoy some soup while helping feed some beautiful children.



Come to another of our fantastically popular Ladies Night Out events on Tuesday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Bennett's Chophouse on West 7th at Victoria. Meet at church at 5:00 if you wish to carpool. 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!



February Birthdays:

- 1-ELLEN SCHULTZ
- 4-MAGGIE ERICKSON
- 5-KURT SCHULTZ
- 7-SAMANTHA SMITH
- 8-DOUG LUND
- 9-KIRBY PETERSON,
BIZUNEH BELETE
- 10-JUNELLA LITZKOW
- 11-SUE GRZYWINSKI,
AKILILLE DIMORE
- 12-ALEC SCHULTZ
- 14-DIANNE DIESTLER
- 16-SAM NODLER, ANN VERSCHOYLE
- 23-WAYNE SILTBERG,
MARY DYBVIK, LORRENE CHLIAN
- 24-JEFF KINGLSEY
- 26-KAREN WASKO



84 Hungry people braved the cold on Monday, December 22nd to participate in the Loaves and Fishes program. Many thanks to our workers: Dwight Paulson, Pastor Dave, Larry Litzkow, Helen Bye, Jean Gilland, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven. Thanks also to Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson for baking cookies.



Donating a dish for a funeral or church function? Please be sure to **label your dish** so these may be returned in an efficient manner. Thank you.



There will be a meeting after worship on Sunday, February 8th in the church office to discuss the results of the 2008 Fall Bazaar and decide how to spend the proceeds. Do keep in mind that 2009 is our **SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 25 years of Fall Bazaars at St. Luke Church** - and it is never too early to start planning. Please join us if you are interested.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25 with the Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m. During this worship we will receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads using ashes mixed with olive oil while hearing the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” That is not something people necessarily like to hear, yet it is undoubtedly true. We will all die. We also remember that there is olive oil mixed in with those ashes on our forehead. Olive oil is used for blessings, one of which is at our baptisms. When we receive that cross of ashes mixed with olive oil on our forehead, we remember the cross of promise we received at our baptism. It is the cross of Christ that has conquered death. And so while remembering our mortality on Ash Wednesday, we also remember the promise we have in Christ, who leads us through death, through the ashes, to new life.



Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for January: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Peter Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Al Baird
Our ushers for February will be: Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser and Tom Gaarder.



The 2008 Giving Statements are now available in the Social Hall. Please pick up your statements today to help us defray postage expenses. Thank you.

4th Quarter - Giving Totals:

Adopted Budget	\$160,597.00
Pledges	\$111,839.00
Received (Envs. and Loose)	\$129,821.00



Girl Scouts. Our **St. Luke Girl Scouts** will be selling cookies through February 5th in the Social Hall. Please support Abby Klein, Michaela McGough, Maggie Erickson, Emma McGrew and Corinn and Teagan Burchill...it's great cookies for a great cause! Cookies will be delivered in late February. You may pay now or when the cookies are delivered. Thank you so much!



Notes from Conie:

- In January, Pastor Dave and I had an opportunity to attend a conference on liturgy in Minneapolis. The theme for the day was hospitality. I walked away with a greater understanding of hospitality, it being welcoming another in your home for shelter, to share food and drink for sustenance and to engage in conversation about the passions and pains of each other. In sharing this experience a community of care for one another is formed. Our worship experience is another way for us to experience hospitality. We gather in a warm and safe building, to share some communion bread and wine, and raise our prayers of hope and healing for ourselves, our families, our church, and our world. In opening ourselves to this experience, we open ourselves to the loving blessings of God. Abraham and Sarah opened their home to three strangers and were blessed with the news that old Abraham would have an heir by Sarah. Jesus often was welcome in the homes of strangers and blessed the hosts with wonderful unexpected healings. What will happen if we, the people of St. Luke, open our hearts and homes to visitors? With *Blessed Assurance*, we'll see that *Love Has Come* and brought *Joy to the World*.
- Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving we sing to our special musicians for the month of January: **Abby Winecke**, piano, for creating a holy space for our worship on Sun, Jan. 11; for **the choir** and their dedication to sharing their faith in song nearly every Sunday of the academic year; to the **Worship Band** who led our worship on Sunday, Jan. 18: Patty Stadem, Deb Vigdal, Barb Jensen, and Kim Miller- singers, Jo Klein-guitar, Dan Grzywinski-hand percussion, Mike Wobig-bass, Andrew Stadem-trumpet; to **the bell choir** that continues to astound us with its dulcet tones and amazing arrangements: Diane May-director, Mike Hegdahl, Mark McGough Wendy Bjorklund, Abby Winecke, Carol Vigdal, Peter Klein, Jo Klein, Alex Grzywinski, Susan Lorenz.
- January's hospitable SoUPER sustenance soup chefs are Christine Olson, Pastor Dave, and Nancy McGough, with special hats off to Al Baird, our dedicated weekly sustenance server. Thank you for creating an opportunity for folks to gather around a meal to share their cares with others who care.
- I am volunteering with a choir who is making themselves available to sing for people in hospice. If you know of someone who would like to be visited by a small group of 4-5 singers offering songs of healing and comfort for 15-20 minutes, please call 612-721-1914 (option #2) and leave a message for the Morning Star Singers.

Spotlight on...Jean Gilland

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. I went to a small country grade school and graduated from Osceola High School. I was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in East Farmington, Wisconsin.

I retired from a title insurance company after working there 30 years. I have a daughter, son-in-law and two great grandchildren. I like to read and have been volunteering for various things.

St. Luke is a wonderful church. It reminds me of the church I grew up with. I felt very welcome from the first time I attended. I look forward to eventually meeting everyone.

St. Luke Church will again be hosting a caregiver training, sponsored by Right at Home, on Saturday morning, February 28th. The topic will be "Who Am I Now? Coping with Age Related Losses". Speaker will be Linda Debner from Hospice of the Twin Cities. Members of St. Luke are welcome to attend, but will need to RSVP to Owen at 952-854-6122. More details to follow.



Attention Parents: We will be having a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 11:15 to make plans for the upcoming retreat. We need YOUR support!



WANTED: one foldable ping pong table

Do you have a foldable ping-pong table just sitting around taking up space? St. Luke could become it's new home! We would like to get a foldable table, so we can easily fold it up and wheel it next to a wall for storage. It would be great to have a ping-pong table for both young and old to enjoy at St. Luke. If you have one, please let Pr. Dave know.

Our Share/Care Communication Chain was established to impart important information to the congregation in a timely and efficient manner. We are now planning to use email for these communications whenever possible, and telephoning the remainder. So please notify the church office if:

- ▶ you wish to be added to our church email notification list
- ▶ you wish to be notified by email rather than by telephone, or vice versa
- ▶ your email address has changed

You may call the church office with your updates/preferences at 651-698-9443, or email Jo Klein at jojoklein@gmail.com. Thank you.



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