

Spirit of St. Paul



St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

February 2007

Pastor's Page **Rev. Richard A. Moe**

Thank you for the support in many activities of this time of year. First for those who shared their talents at the "Talent and Dessert Night." Thanks too to those who have shown an interest in being a part of a Health Care Ministry Team/Parish Nurse Project. If you are interested we will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30th. Come join us if this sounds interesting to you.

Also to those who will attend the "Lord to Whom Shall We Go?" event with Bishop Gary Hansen & Rev. Tom Pederson. This is at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 7th. This synodical appeal is the first one and it focuses on three areas of mission. 1) To raise funds for seminary students who desire to become pastors, 2) To help with new mission start congregations, and 3) To build a new Center for Mission building in conjunction with Christ United congregation in Dewitt. Mission and refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you can join us.

Thanks too for hosting the Saint Olaf Choir members here for their concert at the Wharton Center on February 8th at 7:30PM. Your generosity in sharing your homes is a blessing to those young people and I hope to you as well. If you get a chance to go I know there will be a special blessing in hearing the music they create. I hope you are able to attend.

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday Services on Feb. 21st at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. We hope you can join us for the Soup and Bread Suppers starting the following Wednesday the 28th at 6:00 p.m. (If you are interested in providing either soup or bread for these light evening meals please contact Pat Reynolds and sign-up.) Each Wednesday following we will have a Lenten Service with Holy Communion at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

(Continued)

The drawings from the ELCA Architect, Peter Norgren, have arrived. I was impressed that what he did was take many of our suggestions from the cottage meetings and open forums and weave them into a simple design which looks doable to me. We will have the drawing for you to see at the church. In the drawing there are three different views that show different aspects of the project. This is done without the need to acquire more property. And it even gives more parking.

On such a major undertaking I ask you to pray that we make the right decisions and place our trust in God to provide what we will need to accomplish our goal. I thank you for your support to the mission of St. Paul's. Whether in time, energy, or financial gifts I thank you for all you do to make this ministry possible.

Pastor Rick Moe

February Highlights

- 04 Super Bowl Party
- 07 "Lord to Whom Shall We Go?"
Presentation by Tom Pederson and Bishop Hansen
- 08 St. Olaf Choir at Wharton Center
- 11 Youth Group "Souper" Bowl
- 28 Soup Suppers Begin



Next Month is Lent!

Lenten Soup Suppers will begin
Wednesday, February 28.

Come join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for soup and fellowship before Wednesday evening worship. This year I am scheduling three "soup"ers per week, so I'll need some extra help. I also need one person per week to provide bread.

Please contact Pat Reynolds at 669-5518 if you are willing to help.

MABA EXPO 2007. On Saturday, March 10th, the Meridian Area Business Association will be having their Business Expo at Haslett High School. We are planning to have a booth again this year. If you would be interested in helping out there are many different things to do: Staff the booth for a two-hour stretch (adults and youth), make popcorn, help make a backdrop promoting St. Paul, blow up helium balloons, help the children with a Bible game, invite people to fill out a ticket for a drawing, (If you have any good ideas for a prize or would like to donate one let me know), set-up and knock-down. Last year over 6,000 people attended this event. This is a fun event and can help get the word out about the congregation.

FINANCE UPDATE _____

Financial Report 2006

	Dec. 2006	Year-to-Date
Budgeted Income	\$14,009.09	\$135,109.69
Budgeted Expenses	\$13,724.61	\$133,349.18
Difference \$	284.48	\$ 4,117.87

Thank you for a very good December! We finished the year with \$1,472.69 more in budgeted income than projected, while budgeted expenses were \$2,368.81 below projected.

Roof Replacement Loan

Total Paid	\$ 31,490.00
Repaid	\$ 18,562.32
Received this month	\$ 599.00
Still Owed	\$12,328.68

Kay Meints

JANUARY 2007 COUNCIL NOTES

- The "**Lord to Whom Shall We Go?**" **Presentation** by Bishop Gary Hansen and Rev. Tom Pederson is Wednesday, Feb.7 at 7:30pm. The presentation is intended for Council and any other congregation members wishing to attend. A host or hostess is still needed for the evening.
- The **Covenant Players** will be at St. Paul for both services on Feb. 4.
- The **MABA Business Expo** is Saturday, March 10 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed to setup and staff the booth.
- The unified budget fund received \$13,968.09 income during December, which was \$2,794.67 above the amount needed to meet the estimate of giving. The unified budget for 2006 needs to receive \$11,173.42 each month to meet the estimated giving. We are \$987.65 above the amount needed through December to meet the estimate of giving. Pledged contributions were \$1, 120.09 under the amount pledged for the year. The total of all funds received in December was \$17,750.88. The total of all funds received in 2006 was \$171,167.23. December was a very good month for income and expenses stayed at 98% so we cleared \$1, 788.31 for the year. Income was \$1,425.49 more than budget. Expenses for the year were \$2,343.81 less than budget.
- **Anne Smith** has been appointed **St. Paul's Financial Secretary** for a two-year term from 2007 to 2008.
- There has already been some initial feedback on the **new offering envelopes**. Stewardship is taking note of any comments for possible improvements to the envelopes for next year.
- The **IMAGE program** is still looking for at least one more participant, but is already moving ahead. Julie Anderson and Melissa Bloomfield will be attending a training session on Jan. 24.
- Bob Reynolds has spoken with the Boy Scouts about possible use of **Bremer's Grove**. They are rather interested in making use of the property. They will need a description of the property before making a formal decision.
- The **new hymnals** have arrived. Dedication ceremonies for the hymnals and other items purchased through the memorial fund will likely take place in late spring. Congregation members may still make a \$17.50 donation to dedicate a hymnal to someone of their choosing.

Submitted by Blake Nyquist, Secretary

YOUR 2007 CHURCH COUNCIL _____

Melissa Bloomfield

*Vice President
Stewardship Committee Rep*

Paul Collins

Personnel Committee Rep

Bev Johnson

Education and Youth Group Rep

Buck Kuisel

President

Kay Meints

Treasurer

Blake Nyquist

Secretary

Steve Opp

Worship Committee Rep

Bob Reynolds

*Social Outreach Committee Rep
Property Committee Rep*

Anne Smith

Financial Secretary

EDUCATION & YOUTH _____

**Sunday School Teachers Meeting
Sunday, February 11, 2007
6:30 PM**



youth Update

WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR 7-12 Grades

Youth Advisors: Mark & Cindy Martin

Please let Cindy know if you will be attending prior to events by email, home or cell phone. This is important so that any arrangements needed for the event can be made, especially if we need drivers. Thanks!

- February 4, 2007 Men's Ministry extends an invitation to the youth group to attend annual Super Bowl Party --- for details/times contact: Craig Anderson
- February 8, 2007 St. Olaf Choir Event - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center
Those who signed up, if you need a ride meet Cindy at 6:15 pm at St. Paul; otherwise we will meet you at front doors of Wharton Center; please inform Martin's of your plans
- February 10, 2007 10:00-11:30 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser
Assemble soup mixes for Sunday's event
YG will be donating a gift of soup baskets for Quality Image Families through Christian Services & Youth for Unity
- February 11, 2007 Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser – we will be selling soup mixes between and after 2nd service; ½ proceeds to Christian Services; ½ to Youth Group Fund to pay for Youth Quake/Construction Zone expenses
- March 3, 2007 *Younker's Community Days – Meridian Mall
Details forthcoming; Selling coupon booklets to raise funds for YG
- March 11, 2007 After 2nd Worship Service; bring a sack lunch
Pre-event Bible Study and Covenant Signing
Youth attending Construction Zone are required to attend
- March 16-18, 2007 High School Youth Grades 9-12
Construction Zone; Chicago, Illinois (details in packets)

March 31, 2007

Easter Baskets with Social Ministry Team
11:00 am assembly and delivery

April 8, 2007

Easter Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser*
Funds raised to complete costs of Quake/Construction
Zone (if necessary) and other youth activities
8:00 set up and cooking preparation
Breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m.

*Upon Approval from St. Paul Council



SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP

Join the Meijer Community Rewards Program!

The Meijer Community Rewards Program does not cost you anything! Just fill out the form and mail it in, or register online @ meijer.com/rewards/. Forms can be found in the literature stand in the Narthex, or if registering online just enter **St. Paul 606113** as your organization of choice. When you receive your cards, just make sure you or the cashier swipe the card each time you make a purchase! A percentage of all purchases (1-4%) over \$100 each month will go to the youth group. Meijer often runs special promotions where they don't require a \$100 purchase before they start crediting your account. So remember, every little bit counts! If you have any questions please contact Julie Anderson in the office or at 332-5816.

Youth Group: Don't forget about our
commitment to our adopted child.



Don't like dealing with those pesky refundable cans and bottles? **Bring'em on in.** We'll take care of them for you! Proceeds benefit the Youth Group.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Finance

Financial Thoughts About 2007

	Actual 2006	Budget 2007
Income		
Envelop Giving	\$130,165.61	\$131,432.00
Loose Offering	\$3,216.91	\$4,000.00
Other	<u>\$1,727.37</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
Unified Budget	\$135,109.89	\$135,632.00

Envelop Giving for 2007 is \$1,266.39 above 2006, but **Total Income** for 2006 is \$9,665.67 more than budgeted expenses for 2007. (See arrow)

Revolving Income	\$15,279.23	NonBudget Income
Designated Funds Income	<u>\$20,819.31</u>	

Total Income **\$171,167.23** 

	2006	2007
Expenses		
Unified Budget Expenses	\$133,349.18	\$161,501.56
Revolving Expenses	\$9,270.33	NonBudget Expenses
Designated Fund Expenses	<u>\$22,951.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$165,570.51	

If we cut back on fundraisers for nonbudget expenses and we give at the same rate, we can make the 2007 budget easily. If we give generously, we can do both.

Kay Meints

Stewardship

Faith and Action

(This article is adapted from materials provided by the ELCA Ventures stewardship program. In other words, I can't take full credit for writing it. E. Witt)

Do you sometimes find it hard to put your faith into action? How often do your actions truly reflect your faith? The best of God's people have shared this frustration. The apostle Paul says:

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. (Romans 7:15, 18, 19)

And King David, who was so loved by God, says:

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. (Ps 51:3-4) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. (Psalm 51:3)

There are times when everyone struggles with what to do. Sometimes we are tempted or led astray by that which we do not want to do. At times like these we should step back and ask three questions.

What is our purpose? Life's blessings and challenges are both gifts from God. We can look at each as an opportunity to manage God's gifts. Your gifts may differ from mine; God's purpose may differ from person to person and from time to time. We are all the body of Christ, and each of us is a part of it (*1 Cor. 12:27*). God's purpose may not be evident at first, but by exploring the uses and outcomes of these gifts, we will understand His purpose.

Where is our faith? God is always ready to guide and support us. Jesus tells us:

Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation

(Continued)

upon rock; and when the flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. (Luke 6: 47-48)

From our early Sunday school lessons to the time we spend in worship and Bible study today, we establish a foundation for our faith. By continuing to build and maintain this faith foundation, we have a relationship with God that will provide the answers, help us to make the right choices, and give us the strength to use our faith in daily life.

What is the right action? God is always ready to listen to our questions, and to help us find an answer. Jesus tells us, *“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)*

Finding the right action may mean re-setting our priorities or stepping out of our daily routine. It may mean reaching out to someone for help. It may mean reaching out to someone *with* help. Our faith and the Holy Spirit will guide us to the right action and provide the strength to fulfill it.

As God’s stewards, we are called to manage our resources and God’s challenges. The stewardship of our gifts is a spiritual matter. How we manage them is a reflection of our faith. May we work together to put our faith into action as good stewards of God’s grace!

Elizabeth Witt

Social Outreach



LSSM COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

We are collecting socks and underwear for boys for the foster care program at Lutheran Social Services. Please place the items in the blue box in the narthex.

If you have any questions please contact Betty Velat or Julie Anderson.

Quilting Groups

***Prayer is the lock to close the evening
And the key to open the morning.***

Gandhi

For many people a prayer is a warm and tangible gift in the form of a quilt. Prayer quilts are available for someone you may know right now. It may be a family member, a friend here at St. Pauls, - it may even be yourself. Complete a referral form or call me, 517.468.2317, or e-mail me,

wilsonbw@tds.net. I will be pleased to provide a quilt. Quilts are ready to be tied with prayers. This is a loving and caring ministry. The quilts are gifts of love that cannot be bought or sold. The Prayer Quilt Ministry is an international organization. We are Chapter 369.



University Lutheran Prayer Quilt Chapter 169 is hosting a Prayer Quilt Tea at ULC from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Any one who has helped the ministry in any way is invited to attend this function. Groups from as far as Owosso will be attending. It will be interesting and fun to share ideas with each other. Let me know if you would like to attend. I look forward to spending an afternoon with you.

Crazy Quilters meet the second Monday of every month in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. We share ideas and quilting techniques. We work on Lutheran World Relief quilts, prayer quilts and personal quilt projects. If you are able to sew a straight line -- you can piece a quilt together. We will share patterns and other quilting tid-bits with you. Everyone who likes to sew is welcome.

The Capital City Quilt Guild presents the bi-annual quilt show *Going to Pieces 2007* at Haslett High School March 31 - April 1. 10-5 on Sat., and 10-4 on Sunday. 400 quilts will be displayed, 30 vendors, silent auction and more. Friendship Star members will be displaying several quilts.

"Our world is a quilt top waiting to happen!"

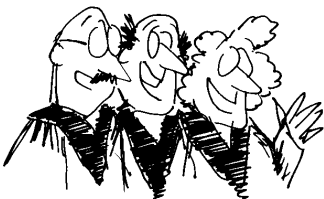
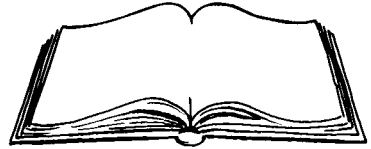
Betty Wilson and quilters!

Worship



Wednesday Worship During Lent
Beginning February 21, Ash
Wednesday, we will have a service
at 12 noon and at 7:00 p.m.

It's not too late! You can still purchase a new hymnal in honor or in memory of someone. Just write your name on an envelope and indicate that it is for a hymnal and if you wish it to be in honor or in memory of someone. The hymnals are still \$17.50 each. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Choir Practice

Practice for the Easter season begins Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Please see Susan Jacobs if you have any questions

FEBRUARY READINGS

Sunday, February 4

(Fifth Sunday after Epiphany)

Isaiah 6:1–8 [9–13]

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

Sunday, February 11

(Sixth Sunday after Epiphany)

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26



Sunday, February 18

(Transfiguration of Our Lord)

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28–36 [37–43a]

Sunday, February 25

(First Sunday in Lent)

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

Romans 10:8b–13

Luke 4:1–13

CELEBRATIONS FOR FEBRUARY _____

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Betty Wilson
- 04 Chuck Schneider
- 07 Grant D'Lamater
- 10 Pam Bertilrud
- 16 Susan Kendall
- 18 Lynne Fortune
- 22 Barb Paff



ANNIVERSARIES

Stanley & Judy Strieter 02/22/58

(Please note: If your birthday or anniversary is NOT listed and it should be, it is because we do not have it on file. If you would like to have your day recognized in the future, please let the office know.)

MEMBER INFO UPDATE _____

Please note the following change of address in your directory:

**Kim Cramer
6067 In the Pines Dr.
Kentwood, MI 49548**

FELLOWSHIP & FUN



THE MEN'S GROUP IS SPONSORING A SUPER BOWL PARTY! Sunday, February 4, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

All are welcome. The men's group will be providing the main dish and drinks. Feel free to bring a dish to share or some munchies. If you are not a big football fan, you can bring a game to play.

INTERESTED IN SCRAPBOOKING?: The Scrapbook Club meets the fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00-4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Vicki Pline @ 669-8849 for more info.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS! If you enjoy quilting, you might be interested in the Prayers & Squares Ministry or the Crazy Quilters Group! The Prayer Quilt Ministry meets the second Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at University Lutheran. The Crazy Quilters meet at St. Paul on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Betty Wilson at 517-468-2317 for more details.

FOURTH FRIDAY FRIENDS: Is an informal group that gets together on the fourth Friday (usually) for food and fellowship. See the schedule of events posted in the narthex or contact Terry and Char Smith at 339-8784.

MISCELLANEOUS

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: *The deadline for the March Newsletter is noon, Monday, February 19.* Submissions should be in written format, preferably electronic. They may be mailed to the church, emailed to officemanager@stpaul-el.org or placed in my mailbox. Due to time issues, I am unable to accept verbal requests unless there are extenuating circumstances. If you are not sure what information is needed, a form is available in the office. They are located on the wall to the left of the bulletin board. Some editing may be necessary due to space and layout, but if significant changes need to be made, you will be contacted. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Julie Anderson