

Spirit of St. Paul



St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

MARCH 2008

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

We are now in the middle of Lent, that season which has traditionally been a time of reflection on how our lives conform to that of our Lord Jesus. On Wednesdays we have been holding the Soup and Bread Suppers at 6:00 p.m., a good time to have food and fellowship with fellow Christians followed at 7:00 p.m. by our Readers Theater productions reflecting upon some aspect of our life with God and with others. Some are serious and others light-hearted. On Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. the Choir will do a Lenten cantata entitled, "Stations of the Cross," by Lani Smith. It focuses on the last week of our Lord Jesus' life here on earth. We hope you will join us for this musical presentation.

At this time of year I give special thanks for the blessings given to me by our Lord despite my failings as a husband, Christian, and pastor. That we have a Lord who goes beyond our limits imposed by sin and gives us a new life as is shared by Jesus with Nicodemus when he stopped by for a nighttime chat. This man who was seeking an understanding of who Jesus was (in John 3:1-17) made it possible for many people to find out God's purpose for his and their lives. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17 NRSV

A large number of people have no idea of their need for Jesus acting on their behalf, for the forgiveness of their sins. But we who do know of our sinfulness also know of our dependence upon Jesus' action on our behalf. There are many different religions and philosophies around us that claim knowledge of the truth about life. They may have different aspects of the truth within their teachings. But for me Jesus has captured the nature of who God is and then lived it out so that we can understand and see how

(Continued)

God loves us, all humanity, and creation. This love goes beyond a passive acceptance to an active effort to bring us safely into God's presence in what is called in biblical language, the kingdom of God. During this time of year I invite you to join me in reflecting upon both our need for Jesus and Jesus' loving action on our behalf. That is what Lent and Easter are all about. I hope you are able to take time to join us for these special services and if not that you can take the time to reflect personally upon the love God has for you and the price he paid to save you.

Pastor Rich Moore

An invitation from Bishop Schleicher

To all the baptized of this great synod,

Many of you will be unable to attend the Synod Assembly in May, but we hope that through your prayers, special offerings, ministry photos, and musical gifts you will celebrate the varied ways God's grace is joyfully and freely given to others.

With the theme "On Earth As in Heaven" we will glimpse how the will of God is being done through us "for the sake of the world." See your pastor or office administrator for information about ways to participate, or visit www.mittensynod.org and click on News and Events.

JESUS IN THE FIRST & TWENTY-FIRST CENTURIES

Seminar at People's Church of East Lansing
March 28-29

Speakers are Bernard Brandon Scott and Jarmo Tarkki

Topics to be covered include:
From Nazareth to Nicea, The Jesus of the First Century
The Ethics of Jesus
The Jesus of the Twenty-first Century

Additional info and registration forms available on the shelf in the narthex.



President's Notes by Chuck Nelson

As winter presses down upon us and we endure the challenges of cold, ice, snow and gray skies, let's keep thinking of the burst of spring that is on the horizon. Keeping this in mind, per instructions from the Church Council at the January 2008 meeting, I have been in contact with the City of East Lansing about selling the back two wetland acres of our 4 acre property on Lake Lansing Road to the City of East Lansing as an addition to East Lansing's White Park. This would provide a financial benefit for us, maintain the natural setting to our south and improve our access to the community asset of White Park. For the City of East Lansing, it would provide them with additional parkland, improving outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors as well as protecting the environment.

As a result of these discussions I will be talking to the East Lansing Park and Recreation Commission Wednesday February 20, 2008 at their regular monthly meeting at a little after 5 PM at the Hannah Center. In cooperation with the City of East Lansing and the Michigan DNR, we have identified a grant source to assist the City of East Lansing to acquire the property and I am requesting that the City conduct a formal appraisal of its value that would meet the requirements of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. In addition, the City has expressed interest in a narrow (likely 10 feet or less) non-motorized trail easement along the far East edge of our property to provide a bike/walking path to access the park from the East/West portion of Lake Lansing Road.

As you know, the sale of any real property by the church requires a vote of the congregation. My goal here is to give you a heads up that we are working to be good stewards of our resources and to look to the future as we seek to better serve the Lord, the congregation and community through our facility and property. I will be reporting back to the Council at the 2/21 meeting about my experiences with the City of East Lansing.

Secondly, starting with the Sunday after Easter, we will be having congregational conversations during the Adult Forum regarding our building and other aspects of strengthening our ministry. I want to encourage you to attend, listen and participate so we can understand each other better and move forward together with confidence and in faith. I have asked Fred Hartwig, who has been working diligently on how to better meet our space needs while containing costs, to present some of his ideas at the first meeting. I would also like to hear your ideas, issues and thoughts on the future of St. Paul's. As some outdoor character once said, we're all in this together.

Financial Report for January 2008

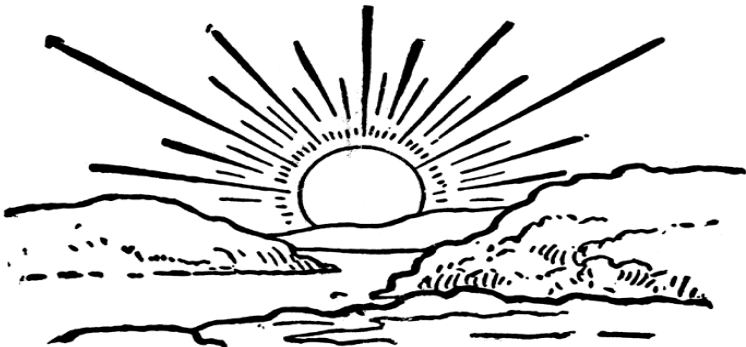
	1/31/08	Over/Under Budget Year-to-Date
Budgeted Income	\$10,490.50	(\$965.33)
Budgeted Expenses	\$14,894.13	(\$3,827.71)
Difference \$ (4,403.63)		

January was a horrible month for both income and expenses. Income was way down and expenses were high. So far, February has been even worse for income with two Sundays of bad weather and few people in church. Snowplowing and heating expenses have been very high. Payroll will be very hard to cover at the end of the month. Please stay current in your giving or give extra!

Roof Replacement Loan

Total Paid	\$ 31,490.00	
Repaid	\$ 22,689.04	
Received this month	\$75.00	
Still Owed	\$8,725.96	

Kay Meints



FEBRUARY 2008 COUNCIL NOTES

The March council meeting will be held on Mar. 13, instead of Mar. 20 due to Maundy Thursday.

Council approved implementing a Natural Church Development program at St. Paul. Craig Anderson will be leading this initiative.

Paul Collins will continue on and Steve Opp will join the Audit Committee for 2008.

Pianist Tim Schmidt has been invited to join us in May or June. He would perform at Sunday service(s) as well as give a recital in the afternoon. He is also interested in sharing about his mission trip and concerts in China and Hong Kong over the Christmas holidays.

Sunday School will be meeting in March to discuss the location of this summer's Vacation Bible School as well as potential Easter Sunday activities.

President Chuck Nelson will be organizing congregational discussion sessions in the coming weeks. These sessions will be for informal conversation regarding building plans as well as financial-related topics at St. Paul.

The East Lansing Park & Advisory Committee will be providing a recommendation to the East Lansing City Council to pursue purchasing the wetland property south of the church. Acquisition of the property would be made through a State grant.

The unified budget fund received \$10,490.50 income during January. Of the 40 giving units that pledge, 20 were at their pledged amount, 9 were over their pledged amount (+\$794.00), and 11 were under their pledged amount (-\$1,134.00). The net difference for January was \$540.00 under the amount pledged. Other unified budget giving included loose offering at \$624.50 and building use at \$50.00. January was a horrible month for both income and expenses. Income was way down and expenses were high with \$900.00 in Gas & Electricity and \$1,150.00 in snow plowing expenses, for example. We almost did not have enough money to meet payroll. We had four fundraisers in a row in a month that traditionally is a month where contributions are low.

-Submitted by Blake Nyquist, Secretary

Mark your calendar!
Education Committee Meeting
Sunday, March 2
6:30-8:00 pm

youth Update

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

**Youth Advisors: Mike Feldpausch, Megan Nyquist, and
Lynne Fortune**

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Sun, March 9 | Fellowship Event: Winter Jam at Breslin Center
5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Meet in Narthex for carpool |
| Sat, March 15 | Service Event: Assist with packing and delivery of
Easter Food and Personal Needs Baskets. 11:00
a.m.-to approximately noon. |
| Sun, March 23 | Service Event: Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast;
Donations to benefit Youth Group Fund
Thrivent Care in Congregations Funds up to \$150.00 |
| Thurs, May 1 | Service Event: National Day of Prayer w/ YPAL &
Youth for Unity Service to be held at St. Paul
Lutheran Church – SPYg hosting! |
-



**Don't like dealing with those pesky
refundable cans and bottles?
Bring 'em on in.**

**We'll take care of them for you!
Proceeds go to the Youth Group Fund**

Social Outreach & Ministry

LSSM COLLECTION FOR MARCH



The foster care program at Lutheran Social Services is in need of adult size t-shirts. They should be new or like new.

Please place them in the blue bin in the coat area. If you have any questions please contact Betty Velat or Julie Anderson.

IMAGE UPDATE

In January we had a guest speaker from Michigan Works who presented information on interviewing and etiquette in the work place. We continue to work on budgeting and are looking forward to a guest speaker from Michigan Extension on cooking healthy food for families on a budget.

You can get involved in this worthwhile ministry by spreading the word about the program, volunteering, donating diapers (sizes 4 and 6) and healthy snacks (juice boxes, goldfish, cheese, fresh fruit, etc.). We can also use coupons.

To learn more about this ministry program, feel free to contact one of the members of the volunteer team: Melissa Bloomfield, Julie Anderson, Kay Meints, Craig Anderson, Kelly Anderson and Blake Nyquist

Easter Food/Personal Needs Baskets



Food Collection

Watch for the sign-up sheet for the Easter food and personal needs items and volunteers. Baskets will be packed and delivered Saturday, March 15. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Claucherty at 339-4366.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. PAUL AT MABA EXPO 2008

Saturday, March 8th, 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 (adults and youth) make popcorn, make a backdrop promoting St. Paul, 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. Please contact Pastor if you can help.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18th
12:30 PM - 6:15 PM**

It's not too early, so please mark your calendars. You have the power through your donation and about an hour of time, to prevent serious blood shortages and save lives (up to 3 lives per donation). We will also need workers during the drive, so if you can, please call me at 517-339-8784. Let's make St. Paul's a regular donor location. Thank you in advance.

Terry & Char Smith, Blood Drive Coordinators

Thrivent Builds 2008



Thrivent is doing it again—pairing up with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Lansing. This year we will be partnering with a family of 10 to construct a home in north Lansing. The home will be fairly close to St. Paul, on Ballard Street near Lake Lansing and Cedar/Larch (US 27).

Construction will begin on May 8, and volunteer crews will work on Thursday evenings, Fridays, and Saturdays until the house is completed around the end of July. There will be no Sunday crews. St. Paul has agreed to provide help in the following areas:

- Pray for the family, the volunteers, and the process of building the home
- Host a Habitat orientation session (February 19)
- Lead worship at the groundbreaking or closing service
- Prepare and serve lunch for the Saturday crews on the dates shown below
- Volunteer labor: construction, landscaping, collecting recyclables, final cleaning of the house

New this year: volunteers will be asked to sign up through St. Paul rather than directly with Habitat. Thrivent is asking us to help cover Thursdays and Saturdays on these specific dates:

Thursday, May 15 & July 17

Saturday, May 17 & July 19

We are being asked to try to recruit at least 10 volunteers to fill these work dates. This is quite a challenge for a small congregation, but we can try! If you plan to participate, recruit a friend to bring with you. If you would like to help this mission but can't actively participate, recruit a friend. Volunteers don't necessarily have to be a member or even a Lutheran to count as part of the St. Paul crew. Volunteers may also serve on Fridays and/or other weekends during the build.

Also new this year: there is a need for volunteers to go around and pick up water bottles and pop bottles, collect cardboard and other recyclable materials, and remove them from the site. Money received can be donated to Thrivent Builds, or the volunteers may opt to use the money in support of their own ministry. There is also a need for volunteers to do the final cleaning to prepare the house for the family to move in. This means sweeping, dusting, wiping down the cupboards, removing stickers from the windows, and generally making the house ready to become a home.

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Thrivent asks that half of the volunteer slots be filled by April 8, one month before construction begins. This can include those who serve lunch, collect recyclables, and clean. Youth are welcome! Construction volunteers should plan to attend a Habitat for Humanity orientation if they have not attended one in the past. The next orientation is scheduled for **8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25 at the MSU College of Law, Room 368, East Lansing**. The orientation is informative for anyone interested in the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

To sign up as a volunteer, express your interest, or ask for further information, please contact Julie Anderson or Elizabeth Witt (witthouse@aol.com, 517-651-6949).

Don't throw those ink jet cartridges away!
Bring them in and we will recycle them for you.
The proceeds from this program go to support
programs at Lutheran Social Services Ministries.
In 2006 we were able to donate nearly \$700.00
to LSSM with something that most people throw away.



Stewardship

Doing Good

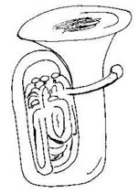
And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Heb 13:16

Anyone who thinks stewardship is something we emphasize in the fall must have missed the annual St. Paul talent show on February 2. People with gifts in music, comedy, magic, auctioneering, entertainment, painting, photography, crafts, and baking all used their talents to bring joy to others as well as to raise money for the purchase of a new soundboard, which will enhance our worship and our radio ministry. These were just the most visible talents. Many other people contributed to the planning and publicizing of the show, the auction, the presentation of the desserts, the set up and clean up, the counting of donations, and more.

But the most amazing example of stewardship that night came from someone who is not a member of St. Paul. He was a friend of Pastor Rich and a member of the visiting German band. It seems that Pastor Rich recently set aside his tuba, as it was becoming physically difficult for him to play. His friend, who retired from the engineering department at MSU, had a little knowledge about

how things work. He also had connections at MSU. He made use of his knowledge and connections to obtain a funding sponsor and get four graduate students working on a project that would give our pastor his tuba back. With a little electronic assistance, Pastor Rich blessed us all with a solo that night as well as playing with the band.

That's stewardship: taking what God has given you—knowledge and connections, or talents, or money, or spiritual gifts, or whatever you have—and using it to bring blessing to someone else. Good stewardship is motivated by gratitude toward God and love for one another. Pastor Rich is once again able to use his gifts of musical expression via the tuba, and all who hear are blessed as he does so. But the value of his friend's action does not stop there. Whenever we step forward in service, God finds ways to extend the blessing in all directions. Four graduate students gained valuable engineering experience and may go on to develop even more beneficial tools in the future. Others at MSU were undoubtedly affected as well. And those who hear this story will, I hope, see how this man showed love for his friend and put to use what God had given him to do a good thing. And then, I hope, they will go and do likewise.



Elizabeth Witt

THANK YOU

The Thrivent Committee wishes to thank all that were involved in this year's Worship Committee Talent Show Fundraiser - those who shared their talents, served and donated desserts, the auctioneer, master of ceremonies, the clean-up crew, those who donated auction items, for those who provided monetary gifts and those who attended the event. We give thanks to God for His ministry. In His Glory we raised a total of \$1,492.05 with an additional gift from Thrivent of \$500 for a total of \$1,992.05. With the previous total of \$575.00 from the sub sale, we have a total of \$2,517.05 for the sound board equipment. This gift will enhance our worship services to our members, the community and the radio ministry.

In His Service,
Rick Klingensmith, Lynne Fortune, Cindy Martin
St. Paul Thrivent Chapter Leaders

Monthly message from your Green Team...

1 - "Mark Reisner, author of *Cadillac Desert* says this: 'In California, the single biggest consumer of water is not Los Angeles, it's not the oil and chemicals or defense industries. Nor is it the fields of grapes and tomatoes. It's irrigated pasture: grass grown in a near-desert climate for cows... The West's water crisis – and many of its environmental problems as well – can be summed up, implausible, as this may seem, in a single word: livestock.'"

2 - "Water required to produce 1 pound of U.S. beef, according to the Cattlemen's Association: 441 gallons (most sources estimate the number considerably higher – the Water Education Foundation puts the number around 2,464 gallons)."

Source for 1 and 2: <http://www.animalconnectiontx.org/home/ecological.htm>

3 - "Fred Pearce points out in his book *When the Rivers Run Dry* that 'agriculture is the biggest user of water and the biggest cause of water shortages.' The foods we've come to expect at the grocery store rely on intensive watering. American households use about 40 gallons of water a day for drinking, washing and cleaning. But it takes 130 gallons to grow a pound of wheat and 800 gallons to produce a hamburger."

Source: *Christian Century*, Dec. 11, 2007



St. Paul's
Earthkeeping Ministry

Tip of the Month: Don't believe everything you read or hear. Always question the source and the methodology for statistics, and read the details carefully!

It takes a lot less water to produce fruits and vegetables. According to the U.C. Agricultural Extension, it takes only 23 gallons of water to produce a pound of lettuce – and only 49 gallons to produce a pound of apples.

The Green Team would love to hear from you.
Contact Lindsay Cramer, Susan Kendall, Barb Paff or Dave Szymanski.

MARCH READINGS

Sunday, March 2
Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 9
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

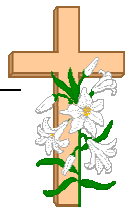
Sunday, March 16
Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14–27:66

Sunday, March 23
Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, March 30
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you would be interested in helping out and spending a fun hour with the children, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex or see Bev Johnson.



March Celebrations

Birthdays

02	Donna Grooms	14	Zachary Kowalski
03	Al Moore	17	Beth Roberts
04	Jack Claucherty	23	Emily Mullin
07	Julie Stratton	28	Jerry Gray
09	Angela Sevrey	30	Kathy Klingensmith
10	Kirsten Grooms		Mark Buzzita
13	Inga Opp	31	Alec Womboldt



Anniversaries

08	Jerry & Jamie Gray
27	Jim & Lynne Fortune

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.

Fellowship & Fun



Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for soup and fellowship before the 7:00 p.m. worship service.

MARCH FOURTH FRIDAY FRIENDS

Fourth Friday Friends will meet at University Lutheran Church on Harrison Road on Friday, March 28. This is a fellowship event with Friendship House. ULC was kind enough to allow us to use their fellowship hall, as it was very crowded at last year's event and transportation might have been a problem for the students if we had it here at St. Paul. Please bring a dish to share (dessert, salad, etc.) A collection will be taken for the pizza. Feel free to bring games as well. Any questions contact Julie Anderson.

A complete list of Fourth Friday Friends events for 2008 is on the counter in the narthex.

Action for LSSM	Make assorted items for the needy. If you can tie a knot, cut soup labels and cards, we'd like to hear from you. We meet every 3 rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 p.m.	Betty Velat 321-4926
Fourth Friday Friends	Meets monthly for games/movies/meals/other Social events. Singles and couples welcome! Give it a try!	Char Smith 339-8784
Marriage Encounter	Special time for you and your spouse. Develop a meaningful and God-centered relationship.	Terry/ Char Smith 339-8784
Men's Group	Conversation, Bible Study and Fellowship Open to all men. Meets 2 nd and 4 th Sunday at 7:30 p.m.	Craig Anderson 332-5816
Prayer Quilt Ministry	Work on prayer quilts. Enjoy fellowship with ULC women, increase a variety of skills and Enjoy a potluck lunch. No sewing skills Required.	Betty Wilson 468-2317
Quilting Groups	Work on your quilting projects with friends.	Betty Wilson 468-2317
Scrapbooking Club	Take time to work on your scrapbook projects Even if you have never scrap-booked before. Meets the 4 th Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Vicki Pline 669-8849
Women's Bible Study	A monthly Bible study and fellowship opportunity the 2 nd Thursday of the month from Sept. through May, 9:30-11:30 a.m..	Ethel Moore 482-6926

(All contacts have a 517 area code.)

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: *The deadline for the April Newsletter is noon, Monday, March 24.* 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