

“Epistle” February 2008

St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Our Clergy:

Pastor:

The Rev. Timothy Sadler

Visitation Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Seibold

Missionaries:

The Rev. Chad and Natalie Rimmer

Our Presiding Bishop:

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Our Synodical Bishop:

The Rev. Carol Hendrix

Our Companion Synod:

The Konde Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania

Our Mission Partner Congregation:

Redeemer Lutheran, Harrisburg

Holy Communion is celebrated:

Sundays at 8 & 10:45 a.m.

Saturday at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Contemporary in Stock Hall

Sunday Coffee Time at 9:15

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Our staff :

Director of Music / Organist:

G. Wm. Hemminger, III

Administrative Asst.:

Patti Schuettler

Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator:

Nicholas Fox

Building & Grounds:

Donald Eppley

Altar Flowers for 2008

It has been a number of years since the price of our altar flowers has gone up, but this year as you can imagine, the price of everything has increased. It's unavoidable. So has the price of altar flowers. As of now the price of altar flowers is \$44.00.

As always, altar flowers should be reordered "each year" to avoid any confusion. Order forms are available in the office and the parlor. Please fill out the order slip completely along with the date requested and drop it off in the office along with your payment.

Thank you.

Epistle Deadline each Month

The deadline for all Epistle information and articles is the 15th of the previous month. That means that all information that you would like included in the August Epistle should be in by August 15th.. You may email information and articles to either:

stpauls@pa.net or
thereighards@pa.net

or place it in the "Epistle" mailbox slot in the office where all the Council mailboxes are.

Thank you.

Hearing Devices

Our congregation provides wireless ear devices for those who need them. Please ask one of the ushers to help you if you need to use one of these devices.

Ushers: please familiarize yourself with the location and use of the hearing devices.

Assisting Ministers

Would you be interested in becoming an assisting minister? If so, please contact the church office and let us know or talk to Pastor Tim. Soon we will be having a training for new assisting ministers as well as a refresher for existing assistant ministers. Please prayerfully consider joining this important ministry for our church.

Worship News

- Can't hear the pastor? St. Paul's has a wireless system to boost the sound for those who need it. Individual earpieces fit in the ear. See an usher for one of these devices if you'd like to try one out during worship in the nave.

Worship Assistants

If you are interested in becoming one of our worship assistants please contact the church office at 243-2319.

Distribution assistants: pour the wine;

Lectors: read the lessons;

Greeters: help greet all those who attend worship and help hand out bulletins;

Communion helpers: wash the communion glasses after worship;

Ushers: hand out bulletins, collect the offerings, present the bread & wine, and clean up after the service.

Assisting Ministers: assist the pastor during the worship service; prayers of the church, distribute communion bread, etc.

There are many ways you can be an active assistant in our worship services and we can always use more help. Thank you for prayerfully considering being part of this important ministry.

Altar Guild

Help is always needed for Altar set up on Sunday mornings before the 8:00 and 10:45 services. If you would like to help out, please call Lisa Adams at 249-3282.

Study on Youth Development and Ministry

Dr. Holly Hoffman will present an adult Sunday School class titled "Adolescent Mental Development and Social Research about Youth: Implications for Christian Education" starting in January in Stock Hall during the regular 9:30 am Sunday School hour. A printed study guide with reading material will be provided. This course is primarily aimed at the parents of Catechism students, but is open to all those who deal with young people ... even grandparents! You are welcome to join us whenever you are able.

Dates will be:

Feb. 3, 10, and 24

Mar. 2, 16, and 13

Telephone System Notes

When you call the church office (243-2319) and you would like to talk specifically to the Pastor, please press ext. 23. If he is not in, you may leave a confidential message on his voice mail.

You can do the same thing for:

Nick at ext. 24 or Patti at ext. 21.

(Note: For those who have rotary phones, this will not work.)

*******Hospital Updates*******

It is very important that someone contacts the church if you or another St. Paul's member is hospitalized. Hospitals no longer notify the church of admissions of church members. So please remember to have a family member or friend notify the church as soon as possible.

****Bible Study Notes****

Pastor Tim's Bible Study

Pastor Tim's Bible Study class will continue to meet every Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the parlor, unless otherwise specified in the weekly Messenger or announcements.

Bell Ringers—

Mark Your Calendars:

St. Paul's Bells will play for the Easter season during both Sunday services on March 30, and *The Joyful Ringers* will play for both Sunday services on April 6.

Monday night rehearsals will resume on February 4th for both bell choirs. The last rehearsal will be Monday, March 24.

Please mark your calendars accordingly.



Join the Senior Choir for Lent & Easter

Now is a great time to join the Senior Choir for the Lent & Easter seasons. This choir sings at the 8:00 a.m.

Sunday service and rehearses every Wednesday evening from 7:15—8:30. There are no auditions—just show up and sing. Please contact any choir member or our choir director, Bill Hemminger, if you would like to join us for the 2008 winter/spring season.



Mission Trip—Postponed

Due to an apparent lack of interest at this time, the Mission trip to Camp Restore in New Orleans, LA has been cancelled for now. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule for another time later this year.

Council Retreat
February 9, 2008

If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendars now.

All Council members are reminded that we have a Congregation Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 9th beginning at 8:00 a. m. at the Seminary in Gettysburg. Details will be discussed at the January council meeting.

Please make sure that you have read the book, "Reclaiming the "C" Word Daring to be Church Again " prior to the retreat. If you do not have a copy of this book to read, please see Pastor Tim.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Paul's on Monday, February 11th to do screenings for the following:

Stroke/carotid artery;
abdominal aortic aneurysm; peripheral arterial disease & osteoporosis.

Pre-registration is required. Please call 1-800-324-1851 to make an appointment.

ST. PAUL'S 2008
STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

St. Paul's Stewardship Committee will be conducting our 2nd annual Stewardship Drive during the 2008 Lenten Season. The Drive is scheduled to run four weeks beginning the weekend of February 16 – 17 through the weekend of March 8 – 9.

The 2007 Stewardship Drive was a huge success, and the Committee hopes that the 2008 Drive will be just as successful. The Drive will include several Stewardship Temple Talks, a commitment of giving for 2008 through estimate of giving cards and other activities to be announced.

The Committee invites everyone to participate in this year's Drive. We encourage everyone to remain open to the Holy Spirit's call to commit our time, talents and treasures to God's work. Our congregation's commitment to the Spirit was truly inspiring last year. Let's continue to commit to the call during this Drive and throughout 2008.

Peace be with you.

John Brenner, on behalf of
The Stewardship Committee

2008 Envelopes

In case you haven't already done so, please remember to pick up your new 2008 offering envelopes from your mailbox today.

Just a note regarding the use of the new envelopes:

If you could please resist the urge to use tape on the envelopes it would be helpful to us. With the large flap on these new envelopes it's unlikely that anything would fall out of it.

Peanut Butter Egg Work Days**January:**

Tues., 29, Thurs., 31.

February:

Tues., 5, Sat., 9

Tues., 12, Thurs., 14

Tues., 19, Sat., 23

Tues., 26, Thurs., 28

March:

Tues., 4, Sat., 8

Tues., 11, Thurs., 13 and

Sat., 15 the last day.

Tuesdays we begin at 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays and Saturdays we begin at 8:00 a.m.

Please come any time that you are able to help.

Christ Lutheran Church
Allison Hills Harrisburg

Please continue supporting the church with your contributions of money or items they need. There is a list of needed items and a box to place them in which you will find in the parlor and the narthex. Their church service takes place at 10:30 on Sunday mornings if you would like to attend. They also have work parties the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Thank you for your continued support.

Project SHARE News

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Distribution *
- Clothing Room
- Warehouse
- Work cardboard baler
- Office work
- Drive truck to pick up food
- Work in kitchen

* (2008 distribution schedule is on the Stewardship board in the parlor.)

Call Pam Bream 249-7773 for more information.

Electronic Giving !

Open your heart without opening your checkbook

Electronic giving is an easier, more secure way to make your regular contributions to our church through automated giving.

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? If you travel this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings, and it will keep you from having to make up the difference later.

Participants in the Electronic Giving Program can place Electronic Offering Cards in the offering basket if they would like, since the symbolic act of giving is an important part of stewardship in the church. (See sample below)

Reasons to sign up for Electronic Giving:

- No need to write checks or bring cash to church
- Peace-of-mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend.
- More secure than checks
- All contributions are recorded for you on your statement with date of settlement
- It costs you nothing!

SIGN UP TODAY

Authorization forms are available in the church office.

I Give Electronically

Direct Payment

Simple, Safe, Secure

“Souper” Bowl Sunday

On February 3rd we will participate in “Souper” Bowl Sunday once again. The youth of our congregation will join youth in churches all across the country to collect money, in “soup” pots, for those who are hungry. All of the money stays in our community. Our church will donate the money to Project SHARE, our local food bank. Just last year, Project SHARE received over \$12,000. from Souper Bowl Sunday, making this the biggest fundraiser of the year. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollars in the soup pots on “Souper” Bowl Sunday!

(If you want to receive credit on your 2008 contribution statement for your donation for this, you will need to use a check, or cash put in an envelope marked with your name and address or envelope # on it. Thank you.)

Senior Saints News

The Senior Saints will meet Thursday, February 21 at noon. Since we had to cancel our January meeting, we will follow the same plan this month. Meet at the Community Building at Pine Manor for a pot-luck lunch and play Yankee Swap! Call Gladys Cashman, 249-3439 to make reservations. Please bring a dish to share and a gift that you no longer want for the swap. We will also have a representative from the Visiting Angels Program.

Youth & Family Ministry
Fox’s News Flash Corner**This weekend: TODAY!****Sun., Jan. 27:** 6—9 p.m.

Family & Youth Snow-Tubing at Ski Roundtop!

Next Weekend: GODSPY Lock-In

(6th—12 graders)

Sign up by TODAY!

Friday, Feb. 1 beginning at 6:00 p.m. until **Saturday, Feb. 2nd** at 10:00 a.m.

Location: St. Paul’s

Bring: Sleeping bag,
pillow & \$5.00**Sunday, Feb. 10: 5—8 p.m**

GODSPY meeting with all the faith, fun, friends & food!

Sunday, Feb. 17: 1-3:30 pmYouth & Family Bowling Party at Midway. We will provide lunch, snacks & drinks too! This is also a Mini & Middle SPY Event ! So come out and bowl with us!! Sign up on Nick’s bulletin board !!**Sunday, Feb. 24: 5-8 p.m.**

GODSPY mtg. w/ all the faith, fun, friends, food!

A Note from the Pastor

A few weeks ago one of the members of my *Lutheran Identity* class quoted from Martin Luther citing the following rather famous quote;

“Sin boldly.”

I always find it interesting that we tend to forget or not know that there is more to the quote. The entire statement goes like this;

“Sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly.”

(Luther Works, volume 48, pp 281-)

Martin Luther wrote this quote in a letter to a friend as he tried to show encouragement. After all but five hundred years, we now can look to this statement as way of seeing God’s grace working in our lives. How do we share the Good News of Jesus Christ and how do we boldly rejoice in what God has done for us in our 2008 daily lives?

You know it really isn’t all that difficult—we have the stories of the Bible we can lean on, passages that tell of the teachings and life of Jesus. We have the testimony of the disciples.

We can, if we’re able, even talk basic Christian theology. We can use sound, human reasoning to try to convince others that they should believe in Christ.

Did you ever hear the argument that it makes sense to believe in Jesus? It goes something like this. You have these four choices:

you can reject Jesus and if it’s all not true, you haven’t lost anything.

you can reject Jesus, and if it’s true, you lose everything.

you can believe in Jesus, and if it’s not true, you haven’t lost anything and you’ll probably live a better life; and finally

you can believe in Jesus, and if it’s true, you gain everything.

So—according to this argument it makes sense to believe in Jesus. Sort of warms your heart, doesn’t it? Nothing like a good, sound logical argument to stir the imagination and get people to think about what’s important in life and what they might be missing.

There's only one thing lacking in this approach, and that is, it has no depth, it has no Spirit—nothing in it to touch the hearts and longings of people—and if Jesus is anything, He is certainly the answer to our life's deepest needs and longings.

We cannot point other people to something or someone we don't know ourselves. We may be able to talk about Jesus, but unless our lives are wrapped around Him, we're simply carrying on an intellectual conversation we hope will convince others...even if it hasn't had a life-changing affect on us. We will be trying to use human effort to get people's lives turned around, and that is almost impossible. And it's hard! And do you know why?

Because you can't be a vessel that turns another's life around if you haven't allowed Jesus to turn your own life upside-down and inside-out. You can't talk of Jesus as the answer to longings and hope and dreams and hurts...if you haven't experienced the passion of Christ to answer those exact same things in your own life.

Sisters and brothers, it is the presence of Jesus, and only Jesus, that has the power to get us turned around and headed in the right direction. Everything we have and work for only has meaning because Jesus lives.

Everything we plan for and hope for only has meaning because Jesus has given us life. Without our personal encounter with Jesus, everything is simply empty dreams and unfilled expectations. We must be willing to give up the illusion that our reasoning and intellect is greater than His power to transform and renew us.

As our Congregational Council and other interested Lay Leaders come together for retreat keep us in your prayers. May we all boldly experience the passion that shatters our world in order to re-create it anew, in order to give us the abundance of life that can only be experienced by His presence.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Tim

The Rev. Timothy W. Sadler

Worship Opportunities
February 2008

Saturday—February 2nd, 2008—(white)

The Presentation of Our Lord
5:15 p.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday—February 3rd, 2008—(white)

The Transfiguration
8:00 a.m.—Holy Communion & 10:45 a.m.—Holy Communion
Please read Matthew 17: 1-9

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 (purple)

Ash Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
12 noon—Lenten luncheon and devotion
6:00 p.m.—Contemporary worship with imposition of ashes
7:30 p.m.—Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

February 9th & 10th, 2008 (purple)

First Sunday in Lent

Saturday

5:15 p.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday

8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.—Holy Communion
Please read Matthew 4: 1-11

Wednesday, February 13th, 2008

7:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
12 noon Lenten Luncheon and devotion
6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

February 16th & 17th, 2008 (purple)

Second Sunday in Lent

Saturday

5:15 p.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday

8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.—Holy Communion
Please read John 3: 1-17

Wednesday, February 20th 2008

7:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
12 noon Lenten luncheon with devotion
6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

February 23rd & 24th, 2008—(purple)

Third Sunday in Lent

Saturday

5:15 p.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday

8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.— Holy Communion
Please read John 4: 5-42

Wednesday, February 27th 2008

7:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
12 noon Lenten Lunch with devotion
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion

W / ELCA - Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

February Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet on Monday morning, February 4, at 9:30 am in the parlor with Mary Lou Secrist leading the study. Circle 2 will meet Thursday, February 7, at 2 pm at Pine Manor Community Center with Gladys Cashman as the hostess. Circle 3 will meet on Thursday evening, February 7, at 7 pm in the parlor with Lissy Weirich as study leader. Each circle is continuing the study on the Beatitudes. If you do not presently attend circle meetings, please join us at any of these times. Call or talk to Pat Boyne at 486-3832 if interested.

Lenten Luncheons Planned

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America here at St. Paul will again sponsor the Lenten Luncheons beginning Ash Wednesday, February 6, at 12 noon in Stock Hall. The ladies will provide a light lunch followed by a Lenten dialogue presented by Pastor Tim. These luncheons are enjoyed by all who have attended and continue each Wednesday for six weeks ending March 12. Everyone is welcome! Plan to invite your friends and attend.

Day of Renewal

Plans have been made for the annual Day of Renewal sponsored by the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization - a rewarding Spring day spent with other women enjoying speakers and workshops and culminating with a worship service. This year the event is to be held Saturday, April 19, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon and the cost is \$10, which includes the program and a lunch. The title of the program is "Prepare...Do We Dare?", and the presenter is Rev. Sharon Vak Hoover. The offering will be given to the Agape House, which is a shelter for abused women and children. Let's have a group from St. Paul's attend this springtime day of renewal. Last year, Gladys Cashman, Miriam Kelly, and Pat Boyne attended a similar program and found it very rewarding. So mark April 19 on your calendar now! Circle leaders will have forms for you.

Café

Café is an electronic magazine for young women who want to build
Community, participate in
Advocacy, strengthen
Faith and strive toward
Enlightenment (**CAFÉ**)

It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of the Christian faith or simply any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today.

W/ELCA (con't)

Visit :

www.womenoftheelca.org

Click on Resources and the café e-zine

Scheduled Upcoming Events

Circle 1 - Monday, February 4 at 9:30 am in the parlor

Circle 2 - Thursday, February 7 at 2 pm at Pine Manor Community Center

Circle 3 - Thursday, February 7 at 7 pm in the parlor

Lenten Luncheons - Wednesday, February 6 at noon in Stock Hall and each Wednesday at noon thru March 12 - all are welcome

Day of Renewal - Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lebanon for all women in Lower Susquehanna Synod

21st Annual Convention - June 27 and 28 at St. Paul Lutheran, Hanover for all women in Lower Susquehanna Synod

7th Triennial Gathering - July 10-13, 2008 in Salt Lake City for all Lutheran women

Fall Retreat - October 31, November 1 and 2 at Camp Hebron for all women in Lower Susquehanna Synod

Card Shower for Lois Hutchinson's 80th Birthday

On February 6th, 2008 Lois Hutchinson will celebrate her 80th birthday.
We would like to have a card shower for her.

Please mail her birthday cards to:

Lois Hutchinson
357 N. Hanover St.
Carlisle, PA 17013

Summary of Minutes

Committee Night
January 14, 2008

The following information was discussed at the Congregational Council meeting after Committee Night on January 14, 2008.

Mary Ann Ernst was appointed to lead the Mission and Outreach Committee. The purchase of a new refrigerator and freezer and completion of new wiring to be financed by the Peanut Butter Egg Committee was approved.

Blain and Sons Paving will take over snow removal, including clearing walks and parking lots no matter what snow accumulation occurs.

The church's HVAC system will be reviewed for necessary repairs. The Christmas Eve offering which totaled \$5641 will be given to Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg.

An audit committee was formed to audit the church's books for 2007. The cost of altar flowers has increased from \$32 to \$44. The increase is effective immediately.

The council will discuss the use of the excess funds in the benevolent account at the regular meeting.

Tentative dates were suggested for the stewardship drive to begin the weekend of February 16 and 17.

Pastor Sadler requested some input on purchasing a blackberry for his use. This issue will also be discussed further at the regular council meeting.

OUR COUNCIL

Congregation Council Meeting 2007

- Pastor: Timothy Sadler
- President: Gary Nicholson
- Vice-President: Barry Parks
- Secretary: Carol Woods
- Current Acct.: Mark Ritter
- Benevolent Acct.: Brian Nelson
- B/M & Organ: Joe Keller
- Christian Ed. Comm.: Rachel Rhine
- Fellowship Comm.: Mary Jane Keller
- Finance Comm.: Bill Suchocki
- Property Comm.: Dwight West
- Social Ministry: Margie Thumma
- Stewardship Comm.: John Brenner
- Witness & Outreach: Mary Ann Ernst
- Worship & Music: Michael Kulikoksy

Committee Meetings are held:

The second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (Unless it's a Monday holiday then it is Tuesday.) We begin in Stock Hall with devotions and announcements and then break out into individual Committee meetings. Everyone is welcome to come to committee night to visit and participate with the committee of your choice.

Council Meetings are held:

The first Monday after the last Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

(Unless it's a Monday holiday, then it is Tuesday.)

Hospitalization and Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one are in the hospital, please contact Pastor Tim or the church office with hospital/room information. The hospitals do not always contact us even though you may request it.

Important Note for Acolytes & Crucifers !

Please remember that you need to be in the sacristy 20 minutes before the beginning of the worship service !

If you are scheduled for the 8:00 worship, please be there by 7:40 a.m.

If you are scheduled for the 10:45 worship, please be here by 10:25 a.m.

This will eliminate any scrambling at the last minute to find someone because we don't know if you are going to show up or not.

Also, please remember to find a substitute ahead of time if you are unable to serve on a day that you are scheduled. Thank you.

February Congregation Council

Council Retreat

Saturday, February 9—8:00 a.m. at the Seminary in Gettysburg.

Committee Meetings

Monday, February 11— 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting

Monday, February 25— 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Ministry Training

Give the very best!

People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care and support we can offer. That's why our congregation has Stephen Ministers. Their training, commitment and service make them the best at providing care for people who need it. Do you want to give your best to God and others? Your best move is to call Rachel Rhine at 243-3482 for more information. Training classes for new Stephen Ministers will begin soon.

Mission Trip—Postponed

Due to an apparent lack of interest at this time, the Mission trip to Camp Restore in New Orleans, LA has been cancelled for now. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule for another time later this year.

C.A.R.E.S. Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed

Volunteers for the CARES Shelter are needed! Each night, we need a female and male to stay overnight at the shelter. Please prayerfully consider giving up one or two nights each month to help chaperone at the local churches that sponsor the Homeless shelter. Training is provided! With winter here, there is a serious need to keep the homeless out of the bad weather. For more information on volunteering, please call Shari Bellish (CARES Executive Director) at 249-1009 or Sheila Thesen at 249-9690. Thank you.!

Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the C.A.R.E.S. program this year. From our fabulous hosts, meal preparers, food, toiletry and monetary donors, overnight volunteers, etc. We are so proud of St. Paul's hospitality and we feel very blessed by your overwhelming responses to our ministry! As we approach the Christmas season, let us not forget those still in need. Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. is in the process of opening a Daycenter, hopefully, in April 2008.

The Daycenter will be able to give the homeless a safe, structured environment where they could pursue resources and build self-esteem. Although C.A.R.E.S. will be getting Grants to help with construction, the program still need to raise \$26,000 on top of the Grants they will receive.

C.A.R.E.S. can still use donations of toiletry items, food items (cheese and crackers pkg., granola bars, juice boxes, instant coffee, coffee cups, etc.,) men's and woman's warm socks; gloves; long underwear, sweatpants and sweatshirts (men's – lg., x-lg. and xx-lg., women's – m, lg., x-lg.) We average 20 –25 people a night with 7 being women and the rest men. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! Donations may be dropped off in the marked box in the Church office.

Sheila and Mark Thesen
Pat Shearer