

Dear Friends,

Special Gifts polled our annual meeting attendees about a request to give money for items to the PI Senior Center. This is the first ever request for funds to a group outside Saint Paul. In deciding how to respond, outgoing chair Stuart Weis referenced our revised Constitution; Bylaw 7.5.3: The purpose of the Special Gifts Fund is to enhance the work + mission of Saint Paul Luth. Church apart from the congregation's general budget fund expenses. 7.5.3.12.2 says funds can be given outside Saint Paul consistent with that work and mission. A long discussion raised an idea: add a 5th fund. 1) Capitol

2) Undesignated 3) Music 4) Camperships and 5) Out-Reach. A vote supported the Special Gifts decision to give PISC \$1,000 of the request. An Out-Reach Fund will be recommended to clarify our mission in handling Special Gifts.

For me, that discussion raised the whole issue of our need to grow in giving outside the congregation. In 1991 Saint Paul revised our constitution to include a Mission Committee because many felt our mission should **grow in benevolence giving**. They created the **Responson Fund** as a vehicle for that giving. Why? Because all baptized are called to give to those in need outside the congregation as well as for our own needs. Growing in our benevolence gifts has been slow. Why? The answer lies within each of us. When more of us catch that Spirit, our giving will grow by leaps and bounds instead of so slowly. The joy of giving to help others has to grow within us.

We direct members to do as much benevolence giving as possible through our Lutheran Church. Why? We can trust them to spend monies on projects and program and not on administration. How? The worldwide Lutheran family network is a long established pipeline to give to those in need.

Congregations learn as giving increases to help others, giving to meet operating needs is done too.

On a personal note, Mary's recently engaged niece invited me to participate in the wedding. As I listen to couples plan, I've seen more couples allow wedding party to choose individual outfits that can be worn to many occasions. Brides can still wear the outfit they want. All look good and it's a wise stewardship of resources. I've also mentioned to family that at the end I'd prefer cremation. I've come to that decision while here. Much of that for me is stewardship of resources at life journeys end. Stewardship of life is best talked about all along and not just left until there is no choice. **God bless your 2010 stewardship of resources. May you continue to grow in generosity.**



Dear Friends,

Lent begins on February 17. Our Lenten drama series this year will be a sequel to the series we did two years ago. This year our Lenten drama series is entitled "Whose Cross Is It Anyway?" The series will focus on the excuses we make in order to avoid carrying our own crosses or taking on the responsibilities that God has entrusted us with. A JPS delivery person will attempt to deliver a cross to an unknown addressee throughout the Wednesdays of Lent only to find difficulties every week. Come and see what happens! I think you will find this to be a meaningful and enjoyable series, designed for the whole family. **Sign up on the clipboards to take a roll.**

We also will begin **our new Lenten book study on February 17 at 6 pm.** This year we will spend six weeks studying **"The Shack"** a novel about one man's encounter with God and his attempt to struggle with his own personal pain. "The Shack" has been a much read and discussed book. Copies are available for \$10 at the church or you can probably find one at any Walmart or Barnes & Noble. Thanks to Joe Jackson who will be leading our discussions.

On Sunday, January 31, Lynn Rigg, who served for a year at a Lutheran school in Palestine in 2003, will offer a **presentation on the current situation in Palestine**, including a perspective on what Christians are experiencing there. I invite you to get an interesting view on the situation there.

Roy Larson will be leading a workshop on ushering on February 7 in between services. I invite both those who would like to learn and those who have ushered, but could use a refresher. Roy will go over the duties of our ushers as well as offer some updates for those who have ushered before. The group will meet at 9:40 in the sanctuary. Please come if you plan to serve as an usher.

"Supernight" is an event sponsored by Youth For Christ that allows youth access to a number of **recreation facilities in Rochester overnight on February 26.** Tickets cost \$25 and the event is open to students grades 7-12. I am planning on picking up around 20 tickets for this event. Those who are interested should pay me to reserve a spot.

Sunday, February 7 is "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday. . Our youth will be holding soup pots following worship and collecting your spare change to help feed the hungry. Please be generous in your support of our local food shelf, our ministerial association, and our ELCA world hunger appeal.

Saturday, February 13 will be "Pizza and games" night. We'll start around 6:30 pm. Feel free to bring whatever games you would like to play. Our youth will see if they can get a "Kames Card" tournament going.

Pastor Kip



Upcoming Events

Sun., Feb. 7 "Souper Bowl of Caring"

Sat., Feb. 13 "Pizza and Games Night" 6:30

Sun., Feb. 21 "Youth rollerskating" at Belle Creek

ADULT FORUM

(Forums meet on Sunday during coffee time)

Jan 31 Israel and Palestine – an Inside View

Feb. 7 "Ushering Instructions"

Feb. 14 "What is Lent?"



*February Circle meetings:

Elizabeth Circle: Tuesday, Feb. 2 – 1:30pm at City Centre (former Halter Center)

Lydia Circle: Wednesday, Feb. 3 – 1:30pm

Kitchen Cleaning: Each month's service group leaders should *check kitchen for used towels to wash periodically*; **please clean kitchen end of month.**

Service groups for:

January – Group VI – Barb VanDeWalker & Lori Weis

February – Group V – Karel Titus & Diane DeBoer

Our next **WELCA meeting** is February 9th at 1:30pm. We will plan our Pine Haven Birthday party and discuss and plan the rest of our yearly meetings and events.

Women's Retreat

There are very limited spots left for the One Day Women's Retreat on Sat., **March 20 from 8am to 8pm**, which includes a Fun Day to Wisconsin looking at our *Roots & Wings*. Morning break & lunch included; dinner extra. **Register A.S.A.P.** Forms available in narthex and on church website at www.saintpaulpi.org. Cost is \$45. Scholarships are available.

Haiti Relief Funds

We are currently taking donations to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake. You may give a check made out to the *church*, and it will be sent by us to the ELCA, or you may give a check made out to *ELCA-Thrivent*, and it will be matched up to \$250/check, up to one million dollars. If you have any questions, please call the church at 356-8925. Thank you all for your giving thus far!

Education

The Education committee is looking for new members. Some of the responsibilities are:

- Organization of Sunday school classes.
- Recruitment of teachers for those classes
- Ordering of curriculum.
- Planning the Christmas program
- Vacation Bible School
- Rally Day activities.
- Seder Meal and Confirmation Dinner.

The committee also aids in coordinating mission projects for the Sunday school youth, Third grade Bible presentation, teacher appreciation activities, and a variety of other things.

Some of these things may sound unfamiliar to you. Maybe, you would like to know more? We invite any of you who enjoy seeing children learn new things, to join the Education committee. Perhaps, you may learn something new, too! This is a great opportunity to share your time and talents with the youth of Saint Paul's.

Please join us on the First Wednesday of each month at 6 pm in the church library. If you are interested please contact Jody, 356-8063 or jody.saintpaul@yahoo.com, or Laura, 288-5560.

Fifth Graders will begin First Communion classes on Thursday, February 18 at 6:30pm. You should have received a letter from the Church with the information. Please note that the Seder Meal will be held at the last class, the Thursday before Maundy Thursday for the student and their parent(s). All students and family members are invited to join the congregation for a chicken and biscuits dinner on April 1st at 6pm prior to our 7pm Maundy Thursday worship service.

2009 Christmas Program DVD's will be available soon for purchase. Thank you to Eric Barsness and Jennifer Kujath for video-taping the Christmas Program and Chris Podratz for producing the DVD's. Laura and I will be selling them in the Fellowship Hall when they are ready.

Jody Titus

Earthquake Victim

Many of you have heard that former area man, Ben Larson, is presumed dead in the earthquake in Haiti, while there on mission work. Some of you will remember him and his family, as his father, Pastor Judd, served as an interim pastor here in 1989-90. His wife, Pastor April, was assistant to our SE MN Synod Bishop. If you would like to send the family your condolences, cards may be sent c/o Pastor April Larson's church: First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior Street, Duluth MN 55802.

NEWSLETTER

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
214 Third Street SW, PO Box 708
Pine Island, MN 55963

E-mail: saintpaulpi@yahoo.com 507-356-8925

Website: saintpaulpi.org

Address Service Requested

Staff - John Torris Lohre, Senior Pastor
Kip Groettum, Associate Pastor

Worship Schedule

Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

Potluck 1st Saturday of month following worship

Sunday worship at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee hour at 9:30 a.m.

Communion Served on 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks

Sunday School – Grades 1-9 - 9:30am

3-year-olds–Kindergarten - 10:30am

January 26, 2010 - God's work. Our hands.

2011 Baja Mission Trip

Plans are underway for our mid-October, 2011 Mission Trip to Baja, California, Mexico. Our goal is to bring 50 – build 4 homes. Registration forms and brochures are available in the fellowship hall, or e-mail Pastor John at torlyn300@yahoo.com for an electronic copy.

Registration form and \$50 deposit per person is due by February 15. Questions can be directed to Pastor John.

Lenten Adult Study

"THE SHACK is the most absorbing work of fiction I've read in many years. My wife and I laughed, cried, and repented of our own lack of faith along the way. THE SHACK will leave you craving the presence of God." - Michael w. Smith, recording artist

Joe Jackson will lead us in discussion on THE SHACK during Lent on Wednesdays from 6-7pm in room A for 6 weeks, starting Feb. 17. Sign-up at church. You may purchase your own book, or have us purchase it for \$10. Please read the book before the first class, so we won't spoil the plot for you.

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pine Island, MN 55963
Permit # 17

Usher Training

On Sunday, Feb. 7 the Adult Forum during coffee hour will be "Usher Training". This will be led by Roy Larson, and we ask all members who usher, new or "experienced" to come and get the current information, so everyone will be on the same "page". This forum will be held in the sanctuary.

Lent 2010

Lent is fast approaching! Please note that Ash Wednesday is February 17.

Worship will be at 7:00pm. *We are thinking about discontinuing our AM service on Ash Wednesday, due to low attendance, and would like your feedback. Please call or e-mail the church office.*

We are in need of cast members for our Lenten drama, "Whose Cross is It Anyway", a sequel to a drama two years ago. Sue Flemke will take over the roll as the JPS carrier, but we need several more adult cast members. Please sign up on the clipboards.

Once again, our youth will be serving meals each week during Lent at 6:00pm. The schedule is: **Feb. 17** – hot dishes, **Feb. 24** – Tacos, **March 3** – Lasagna, **March 10** – Subs/salad, **March 17** – Potato Bar/ Soup, and **March 24** – Sloppy Joe's. Adult Ed will meet during the supper hour.

