

Dear Friends,

Lent begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday, as does **7-9 grade**

Confirmants Service to Community through Pine Haven visits (8th) and other community visits (7th + 9th). See specifics in this newsletter. **Pray** our younger ones are blessed by these experiences.

My mother's father's brother and his wife died young with a teenager, Martin who then was raised with my mother and her brother Arnold. Martin lived in Chicago and then Lake Geneva, WI. His wife and daughter Barb Petersen, still live there. Martin didn't know his grandparents, so neither did we.

Last week Martin's cousin called Barb in the middle of the night from Norway to introduce himself. Other Norway relatives via Facebook affirm that this is a relative of ours. He even looks like my uncle. I met a cousin in Norway in 1966. She found me via email in Pine Island days before 9-11. Technology continually closes the distance between us and others and family.

We have seen how it aided the generous outpouring of **monies to help in Haiti**. Texting money flowed faster and larger than in history. We live in a fast food world. Everyone wants good to be done in an instant.

Because of technology, we also see and hear quite immediately what's happening on site. We see how slow and difficult the delivery is. That is not because of the influx of money. Well know people from the US seem to makes trips easily to Haiti, even bringing water and food. But once it's off the planes it's not clear if and how it gets to help whom. Not even the US military seems to be able to do better. Why? Roads made impassible by earthquake and a broken social service and infrastructure delivery system.

The largest numbers we see are about \$625million from all sources. That's not enough but it's a start. The issue for all of us who give is the ability of those we give through to deliver care and aid to those we hope to help. The \$ outpouring indicates how many people are moved to want to help. The problem is the unevenness and expense of the delivery systems.

We know some credit card companies serving cell phone companies took a cut of the texted gifts, some did not. We know from Katrina that even the Red Cross did not send money where people assumed they were giving it. The outrage was as quick as giving.

We quickly invite gifts during disaster. ASAP we get matching fund info. We're as fast as texting. We use one of the finest delivery systems in the world the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief that we've come to trust to send all monies directly to aid. You've seen pictures at worship. Ben Larson died on a Lutheran Church + Orphanage Campus in Haiti. Thank you for giving through LDR.

God bless your generous giving. Pastor John



Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the "**Souper Bowl of Caring**." Our youth collected \$421 to be divided between our local food shelf and the ELCA world hunger appeal. We appreciate your generosity.

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 postal 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. **We still need a few people to fill out the rosters of our drama teams. Please consider signing up on the clipboards to help out.**

During Lent we are also looking forward to our book study. We begin studying the novel "The Shack" on February 17 at 6 pm. "The Shack" is a novel about one man's encounter with God and his attempt to struggle with his own personal pain. This book, which began with an advertising budget of only a couple of hundred dollars, has swept the nation and has been a #1 bestseller. I hope you will consider joining us. We still have a couple of copies available for \$10, but you can also find the book at any store that carries books. Thanks to Joe Jackson who will be leading our discussions.

Please also keep in mind **our Lenten offering**. Every Wednesday we will collect items for our local food shelf. We are also encouraging our young people to collect quarters for the **"Global Barnyard"**. This ELCA program helps the poor in third world countries to get established as self-sufficient farmers. The quarters we collect will help purchase pigs, cows, even fish. Film canisters are available to collect your quarters. For example, four canisters will help to buy a pair of rabbits in Kenya. Please support this project.

"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 are open to students in grades 7-12. I have only a few tickets left for those who would like to go. If you are interested, talk to me ASAP.

We are taking the youth roller skating on Sun. Feb. 21 at Belle Creek. We leave the church at 1 pm and will return by 4 pm. Skating is open to grades 6-12 and the cost is \$6. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Pastor Kip



Upcoming Events

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

Sun., Feb. 14 - 7th Grade Retreat

Sun., Feb. 21, 1-4 pm - "Youth roller skating" at Belle Creek

Fri., Feb. 26 - "Supernight" youth event in Roch.

ADULT FORUM

(Forums meet on Sunday during coffee time)

Feb. 14 What is Lent?

Feb. 21 Introducing our new Senior Center

Feb. 28 Funeral Planning: It's a Good Idea



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:

February – Group V – Karel Titus & Diane DeBoer

Quilting Items Needed

The Tuesday morning quilters are in need of clean, used blankets or mattress pads to use for fillers in their quilts. If you have any, please bring them to the church and leave them in the store room at the end of the fellowship hall, marked for Tuesday Quilting.

IHN Thanks You

Dear Friends and partners of Interfaith Hospitality Network; we want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your care, support and continuing work with our IHN families. We are so blessed to have all of you involved in our network and making a difference in the lives of the families we work with. Here are a few of the things we are thankful for every day . . . volunteers to serve our guests; in-kind donations to fill our garages and closets to help furnish homes when families leave; help at the day center in service and work; help with fund raising; participation in events; willingness to take training classes; space provided by host communities; and of course the generous financial donations. All of these things help us to make a difference in a family and a child's life. We pray for another good year of participation and service.

-Joanne Markee, Executive Director of IHN, and IHN Board of Directors

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 me at jody.saintpaul@yahoo.com, or call 356-8063 or call Laura at 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

Women's Retreat

There are only a couple of 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*. **Register A.S.A.P.** Forms available in narthex and on church website at www.saintpaulpi.org. Cost is \$45. Scholarships are available. Please have total registration paid by end of February.

Confirmation Classes during Lent

There will be a change to the regular Confirmation class schedule during Lent. From Feb. 17 – March 10, **8th graders** will go to Pine Haven after school with Pastor John. There will be NO 7th/8th grade class on Sundays, for the weeks of Feb. 21, 28, March 7, & 14.

The **7th graders and the 9th graders** will visit a variety of locations during those first 4 weeks of Lent, all at 3:30pm. Feb. 17 meet at the United Methodist Church, Feb. 24 meet at St. Michael's Catholic Church, March 3 meet at Mahn's (Mahler) Chapel by the Methodist Church, and on March 10, meet here for Food Shelf class. **On March 17 & 24, ALL** grades will meet for regular classes at 3:30pm, and the Sunday classes will resume. On March 31 (Holy Week), grade 9 will go back to their 7am/7pm class schedule, but the 7th & 8th grades **WILL NOT** meet Holy Week or Easter Sunday.



Earthquake Victim

As a follow-up to the previous article on Ben Larson, son of Pastors Judd & April Larson, his body was recovered by ELCA workers amidst the Haiti earthquake rubble, and flown back to the states. A funeral service and burial was held on Saturday, February 6 in Decorah, IA.

An interview with Ben's widow and cousin is available on <http://minnesota.publicradio.org>. Click on "News" link on left side, and then scroll down to "Featured Audio" and click on "Loved ones recall Ben Larson's last day in Haiti". It is about a 12 ½ minute interview, with a written summary also. We do not know how long it will be available on the website.

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.

Dedication to Kevin Harms

On Monday, January 25, Olmsted County Public Works dedicated their new Service Center at 5004 St. Bridget Road SE in Rochester, to the late Kevin Harms. Kevin was a Professional Engineer with Olmsted County, and was instrumental in the design and construction of this Service Center. Pastor John attended the ceremony, along with Kevin's family. It was a very proud day for Kevin's family, and we celebrate this event with them.

Cannon River Conference Assembly

Nine members of Saint Paul Lutheran will represent our church at the Annual Conference Assembly on Sunday, Feb. 14 in Northfield. Please pray for our delegates Mark Murray, Roy Larson, Mark Vahlsing, Dick & Jan Navratil, Carolyn Blankenship, Gary Wees, and Mike & Nadeen Lunde, and alternates Becky Wees and Julie Baska.

Memorials Received

The following memorials were received in the months of October, November and December:

Building Fund - \$240

Christmas Decorations - \$200

Missions - \$20

Music - \$305

Undesignated - \$120

These gifts were all given in memory of Dan & Tom Pralle, John & Leila Ruegg, James Senjem Sr. (Mark's father), and Sue Taallerud.

Communion Helpers

Thank you to all who help with communion set-up and clean-up. Many of you have done these jobs for many, many years and your willingness to help is greatly appreciated. We are in dire need of new people to learn the process. Finding new volunteers is becoming harder all the time. We will train you with experienced people until you feel comfortable doing it on your own. We encourage families with younger children and teens (confirmation age for service to Saint Paul) to get involved. What better way to teach our children to give of their time. Plant the seed and encourage our younger generation to step up and do their part while doing a family project together. Please consider doing God's work. **WE NEED YOU!** Thank you again to all who have helped. **For set-up details, contact Terri Exe at 356-4688, and for clean-up details (after second service) contact Karel Titus at 356-4831.**



Thank you Brian Hale, for faithfully opening our building early every weekday, and for plowing our sidewalks long before staff appears. Thank you to Stuart Weis and Pastor John for all of your shoveling during this snowy time. And thank you to Travis Dose for keeping our lot clean. This has been a most "trying" year with Minnesota weather, but many individuals help to make it liveable. ☺

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

February 11, 2010 - God's work. Our hands.

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



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

Lent 2010

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

Worship will be at 7:00pm.

We are still in need of cast members for our Lenten dramas, “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 supporting adult cast members. Please sign up on the clipboards at church.

Once again, our youth will be serving meals each week during Lent at 6:00pm. The schedule is: **Feb. 17** – hot dishes (10th grade), **Feb. 24** – Tacos (11th grade), **March 3** – Lasagna (9th grade), **March 10** – Subs/salad (7th grade), **March 17** – Potato Bar/ Soup (12th grade), and **March 24** – Sloppy Joe's (8th grade). Adult Ed will meet during the supper hour.



Lenten Adult Study

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. We have 2 books left to purchase at \$10, or you may purchase or borrow your own. Please read the book before the first class, so we won't spoil the plot for you.



Newsletters by E-mail

If you are currently receiving a paper church newsletter via the postal service, and would rather receive it by e-mail, please notify the church office by sending an e-mail to saintpaulpi@yahoo.com, or calling 356-8925.