



Messenger

AUGUST 2009

Pastor's Logos [word]

Column by Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

This August 17-23, the ELCA will hold its National Assembly in Minneapolis, MN. A number of important topics will be presented, discussed, and voted upon. Many in attendance at this important gathering of the Church will find the ELCA a much more diverse and Missional denomination than they previously thought. Having had the privilege of attending the 2007 Assembly, I speak from experience.

Despite all the important information that will be shared, the inspiring worships, excellent fellowship and the work to empower the mission of the ELCA, the focus of many, both in and outside, of the church will be whether to ordain gay and lesbian pastors who are in committed relationships or not. In many ways, this will turn into a perceived battle of who is faithful and who is not. There will be a vote and one way or another the ELCA will be split into greater or lesser parts. This, us versus them, mentality has been thrust upon the Church by an impatient culture that wants easy answers to complex issues.

I believe that God wants us to struggle with these difficult issues that face us. I believe God guides us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. I believe God's Word in all its forms (written, spoken and the Word in flesh) can light the way for the path that the ELCA should go. But to those who insist on using God's Word literally in confronting these challenges are picking up a two edged sword with no handle; blood will be spilled and no healing will take place.

I would ask all of us to pray for those attending the National Gathering of the ELCA, pray that they may be wise, compassionate and courageous. Pray that whatever the outcome of the vote that we do not see others as less, or that one side is more faithful than the other. I would encourage all of us to check out the ELCA Web site and the daily news releases that come out of the National Assembly. Be careful when you read the Lincoln or Omaha papers, or hear television news reports about the ELCA Assembly, the media does have a tendency to sensationalize rather than give the facts. Please check in with me about what is taking place in Minneapolis as our fellow Lutherans, brothers and sisters in Christ work hard at helping the church be the light of Christ in the world.



The Messenger is a monthly publication. To provide feedback, please contact us.

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Visit us online at: www.luthermemorialchurch.org

Golfing to Fight Hunger Golf Tournament

The 3rd annual "Golfing to Fight Hunger" tournament will be held Saturday morning, October 3rd. There will be a shotgun start at 9 am and it is a 4-person scramble and is limited to 15 teams. The cost is \$30 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, lunch and prizes, with proceeds going to fight hunger at the Syracuse Food Pantry and Lutheran World Relief. Play golf, help the hungry and have a really good time – does it get any better than this???? For more information contact Bill Schulte at 269-2980 or Luther Memorial Church at 269-2360.



Want to Change the World? Want to change the world? Help one child at a time? The Court Appointed Special Advocate program, better known as CASA is looking for volunteers to help abused and neglected children whose lives are being impacted by the legal system. Court is scary enough for many adults, but for a child it is both frightening and confusing. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens appointed by the judge to speak in court on behalf of the abused or neglected child. They are also there to help explain, reassure, as well as advocate for the child. You do not have to have legal skills, but a willingness to learn about how to speak for children's safety and well being in the judicial setting. For more information go to their web site: www.nebraskacasa.org.

Praise Band Director.

After over 10 years, LuRae Hallstrom is stepping down as the director of the Luther Memorial Praise Band. She has done a fantastic job and we give thanks for her gifts as a musician and leader of the band. She will continue to help accompany the Praise Band.

So, we are in search of a new Praise Band Director. This person will be responsible to work with the pastors in selection of music for the 10:15 am contemporary service, as well as recruitment of singers and musicians, directing practice and Sunday morning worship music. In addition to these responsibilities, we are also looking for this person to help in the development and leading of a Youth Choir (grades 3-5) to sing once a month for worship.

This, approximate 5 hours per week position, would begin this Fall. Compensation would be commensurate with the position responsibilities and skills of the applicant. For more information contact Rhae Werner, Chairperson of Worship or the church office, 269-2360.

faith
WORKS

Remember in Prayer...

At Home

Kathy Shimek Nancy Rohrs
Don Stubbendick

Out of Town

Rosalyn Bruns - Tecumseh Mildred Carey - Madonna
Betty Timblin - Unadilla Maxine Gelleman - * Omaha. 68116

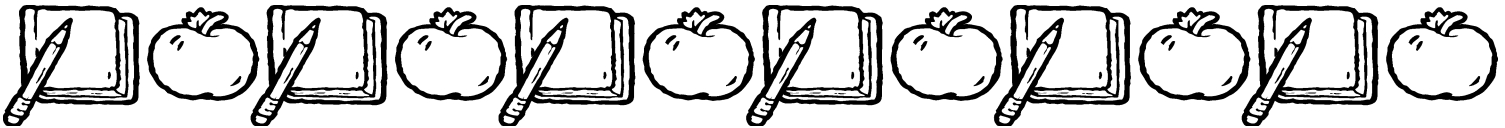
At Good Samaritan

Dorothy Antes LaVerna Davis
Elmer Dettmer Emma Bartels
Esther Wessel Ruby Keim
Irene Reimer Opal Jaspring
Hazel Steinhoff Willard Mohlman
Mabel Steinhoff
Margaret Genthe

*New Address: Maple Ridge, 3525 N. 167th Circle, PO Box 215.

At LindenView Assisted Living

Ruby Copenhaver Erma Meyer
Adeline Kehlenbeck Rev. R. Beckman
Louise Beers Bill Kehlbeck
Don VanHousen



The new Sunday School year will be starting soon. Rally Sunday is **September 13th**. We will need teachers for all classes to start this new year. Please contact Tricia Lyon, Lori Rohlfs or the church office if you would be interested in teaching. There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

Thank You for Making a Difference!

A special "Thank You" to all of you who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School one of the best ever! The evenings of July 15th, 16th and 17th you were there to help teach children about God's love for them, the faith and life of the early church, and that adults in this congregation care about them. The theme for this year's VBS, "Roman Marketplace, the Underground Church of the Apostle Paul" was led well, taught well and you all played parts well! To testify to this, I quote the words of one boy who on leaving after the last night said, "This is great, I wish they could do this every week!" I know this is not possible, but the memories that you created will last long in the hearts of those children who attended VBS 2009. This year's team was:

Pastor Mike, Cindy Post, Linda Liesemeyer & Tammie Mead

Carol Wallman	Ellen Kuenning	Erin Hallstrom
Cecelia Dilley	Terri Janssen	Cheryl Leefers
Kerri Meyer	Ann Hoppe	Bev Sporhase
Susan Thies	Jenny Panko	Shirley Conradi
Deana Reichmuth	Fred Bredehoeft	Leslie Cameron
Andrea Stubbendick	Louise Wellensiek	Mary Ann Wenninghoff
Judy Hespen	Alan Maier	Chris Wallman
Moriah Husen	Ethan Wallman	Jeanette Wellsandt
Roger & Laurie Kuenning	Jeff & Cheryl Panko	Jim & Pam Pfeiffer
Arlyn & Julie Werner	Alan & Kelly Rippe	Casey & Melinda Ortiz

Thank you and God bless you all!

Your Servant In Christ,

Pastor Paul

JULY CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Highlights of July 15th Council Meeting:

- The next Benevolence payment will be paid.
- Will be getting bids for cleaning and/or replacement of carpeting for the sanctuary and social hall.
- A new cabinet has been purchased for the south sacristy but has not been delivered to date.
- Summer attendance is the lowest ever recorded. Brent Harsin, Council President will be putting together a letter to members stressing important points about attendance.
- To date budget actual is below projected needs. This is a major concern. Pastor Paul stated that the Church has a unique problem, we have grown with younger members; however with younger members giving is not a priority. Discussion was on how to better inform members of responsibilities of the church.
- A CD maturing in August will be cashed out to pay for future monthly budget flow needs.
- Finding volunteers to read/usher/assist with communion for summer worship has been extremely difficult. Those making phone calls have been getting turned down over and over again, resulting in having to contact the same people. If you would like to help and have not been contacted, please call the church office.
- Council brainstormed different ways/methods of reaching out to more people in and outside of the church.
- Concerns were discussed regarding Galaxy Cable Channel 55. Apparently this service has not been available. Galaxy has been contacted; however there has been no improvement. Council discussed looking into Streaming Video. Additional ideas include making additional copies of DVD's to be delivered to members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ann Watermeier, Council Secretary

What Is Happening at Midweek Worships in August???

In August we will be featuring the following themes and scenes from movies:

AUGUST 5th: "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" - stories by C.S. Lewis from the mythical land of Narnia.

AUGUST 12th: "The Lord of the Rings" Trilogy - stories by J.R.R. Tolkein from the mythical land of Middle Earth.

AUGUST 19th: "The Back to the Future" Trilogy - stories from the 1850s, 1950s and 2050s.

AUGUST 26th: Baseball Movies: "The Natural", "Field of Dreams" and "A League of Their Own" - stories from the baseball diamond.

SEPTEMBER 2nd: Football Movies: "Leatherheads" and "The Express" - stories from the gridiron.

If you are looking for something special to do on a Wednesday night, come and be a part of our 7 pm midweek worship. This could just be the best 30 minutes of your week!!!

MOVIE, TV & BOOK REVIEWS

By Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

"The Proposal" **Rated PG - 13**
currently in theaters. **** 1/2**

This romantic comedy is about family, commitment, marriage and ultimately learning to love. Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds are both fine actors and do a good job of balancing the comedic with the romantic, as well as the breaking up of some stereotyping that too often happens in movies today. This isn't a deep movie, but the truth that it takes courage and love to get married and be a family, are virtues valued in this movie.

"Pale Horse at Plum Creek" book
written by Brian Leehan, published in
2004. *******

This true story and history of a regiment of young men from the Midwest who join the Union Army and go off to fight in the Civil War is about heroism, self sacrifice and true courage. The story of this company of farmers, store clerks and factory workers who go off to war is better than any fiction. These citizen soldiers are called upon twice to stop the Confederates from overrunning the Union forces fighting at Gettysburg. Even after incredible sacrifices during the first part of the battle, those who remain are called upon again to turn back Picket's charge, the high water mark of the South's War with the North. This is a good read and I highly recommend it.

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"
currently in theaters. **PG-13**

Well, the long awaited 6th movie of the Harry Potter series is now on the big screen and it was worth the wait. This film is the darkest and most violent of the books and films so far and the more mature content is reflected in the young actors who have grown up before our eyes on the movie screen. The battle between good and evil rages, as usual, and friendship, hope and love are all tested by the turn of events in this powerful book, turned movie event. The true magic of this film is how the characters have become a part of people's lives and we want to know what happens next. I do not recommend this movie for young children. In fact trust the PG-13 rating for what it means. I enjoyed this film hugely and I hope you do too!



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

AUGUST 2009

		1 st	2 nd
		<u>Service – 8:00 am</u>	<u>Service – 10:15 am</u>
<u>READERS</u>	August 2 & 9	Greg Huskey	Rick Kreifels
	August 16 & 23	Arlis Steinhoff	Jean Ann Watermeier
	August 30	Ginny Bartels	Lisa Lintner
<u>ACOLYTES</u>	August 2	Rachel Helton Peyton Harsin	Randi Lynn Clabo Moriah Dilley
	August 9	Brittney Roecker Isabeau Lamblin	Josh Post Haley Harsin
	August 16	Britton Lyon Tanner Harsin	Emmilie Kosiba Allison Mead
	August 23	Shae Frederick Quinn Shannon	Aaron Halvorsen Weston Ellerbrake
	August 30	Baylee Hughes Paige Kapperman	Harrison Agena Tyler Berner
<u>VISITATION</u>	AUGUST	Patty Engelbrecht & Carlene Keim	
<u>VIDEO & AUDIO COORDINATOR</u>	August 2	Jerry & Rhae Werner	Steve & Tyler Wellman
	August 9	Eric Lamblin & Dale Maier	Ron & Diane Hawkins
	August 16	Ron & Mary Ann Wenninghoff Arlin Rohlfs	Dan Watermeier & Eric Lamblin
	August 23	Andy Brace & Jim Pfeiffer	Dan Watermeier & Ole Schavland
	August 30	Jerry & Rhae Werner	Ole Schavland & Dale Maier

AUGUST 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
a						1
2 COMMUNION 8 & 10:15 Communion Worship	3	4 6:30 am Bible Study @ TC's	5 COMMUNION Bible Study: 10:30 - Good Sam 2 PM-LindenView 7 PM - Worship	6	7	8
9 8:00 Worship 10:15 Worship	10	11	12 7:00 pm Worship	13	14 NEWS LETTER DEADLINE	15
16 COMMUNION 8:00 Worship 10:15 Worship	17 School Starts	18 6:30 am Bible Study @ TC's 9:00 Staff	19 COMMUNION 7:00 Worship 7:45 Church Council	20 11 am Comm. @ Good Sam	21 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal 5:30 Luther League	22 4:30 Huskey/ Styskal wedding
23 8:00 Worship 9:15 Acolyte Training 10:15 Worship	24	25 6:30 am Bible Study @ TC's 9 am Staff Bloodmobile	26 9 am Assemble Newsletter 7:00 pm Worship	27	28	29
30 8:00 Worship 10:15 Worship	31	SEP 1 9:00 Staff	SEP 2 COMMUNION 9:00 WELCA Bible Study: 10:30 -Good Sam 2:00 - LindenView LindenView	SEP 3 6:30 Bible Study @ TC's		



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Syracuse, NE 68446-0259

Luther Memorial COUNCIL

President - Brent Harsin
Treasurer - Cheryl Halvorsen
Education - Laurel Kreifels
Lay Ministry - Dan Watermeier
Stewardship - Bob Engelbrecht
Worship & Music - Rhae Werner
Property (Inside) - Rick Block

Vice President - Jane Green
Secretary - Jean Ann Watermeier
Evangelism - Bev Sporhase
Parish Ministry - Shirley Siefken/Barb Hughes
Property (Outside) - Jim Pfeiffer
Youth Representatives - Cassi Rippe
Louise Wellensiek

Luther Memorial STAFF

Senior Pastor - Paul Coen
Parish Administrator - Mary Blacker
Organist & Pianist - Ninajean Rohlf
Director of Worship Media - Alan Maier
Cleaning Crew - Ruth Lamb

Associate Pastor - Mike Widner
Head Organist / Bell Choir Director - Cindy Post
Pianist - Ginny Bartels, Heidi Widner &
Penny Oestmann
Cont. Worship Band Leader - LuRae Hallstrom