

## **PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

It is a simple act, really. In the midst of summer picnics, graduation parties, family reunions, there is a great opportunity to benefit one of the important ministries related to our congregation. It all starts with that aluminum pop can so many of us drink out of in the course of the summer.

Many people often will recycle those cans and redeem them for money that may be used for a variety of things. I have known people to tuck such money away for eating out, saving up for a vacation, or toward a child's education. But did you know that here at St. Paul, those cans benefit our youth and youth from across the Southwestern PA Synod.

For many years Paul Miller has taken thousands of pounds of aluminum cans to be recycled. The money from those cans is forwarded to Camp Lutherlyn. These funds are used by the camp to provide experiences in a Christian environment that will deepen the faith of children throughout their teenage and young adult years. However, there is another element of this ministry that is just as important. That element of ministry is stewardship.

One of the things Mandy Newill from the Stewardship Committee highlighted in her article from last month's Sentinel is the role each of us has as stewards or caretakers of what is entrusted to us by God. Consider what you do by recycling just aluminum cans.

It takes 80-100 years for an aluminum can to decompose (break down) in a landfill. Aluminum cans are recycled into: soda cans, pie plates, license plates, thumbtacks, aluminum foil, and many other items. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for up to three hours.

These recycling facts from [www.recyclingfacts.org](http://www.recyclingfacts.org) draw home the ease of preserving for our children and future generations, the beauty of the earth and its rich resources that God has provided. This is but one way of how we live out our responsibility to God as told in Genesis 2:15 "God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it."

We no longer live in the Garden of Eden, but we do live as part of God's creation, gifted with responsibility and ability to do simple things that require very little time. The rewards are great for our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and those who follow. It is a reward of a good environment and through the recycling of aluminum cans at the church, benefits the faith development of campers.

Hospitals:

With concern for privacy please remember that the hospitals may not notify us if you become a patient. Should you desire a pastoral visit please notify or have a family notify the church. In the event of an emergency and you need to reach Pastor Mark, you may call him at his home number 724-424-8998.

Office Hours:

I have reprinted my office hours for your convenience. They are printed here so that you may know when I'm in the office in the event you wish to drop by or phone to speak with me. I do also make home visits, hospital calls, nursing home visits at other times not noted on the below listed hours. While I make every effort to be in the office during these times, emergencies or meetings do come up from time to time.

Office Hours:

Mondays 9 – noon

Tuesdays 9 – 10:30 am

Wednesdays 10 – 3

Thur. 10 – noon

Friday 9 – noon

Saturdays are usually my day off, except for weddings, funerals and emergencies.

God bless,

*Pastor Mark*

## **DISASTER RESPONSE**

As of May 12, 2010, ELCA Disaster Response has received \$10.5 million in gifts, helping them provide food, water, medical supplies, shelter and much more for the people of Haiti. Such generosity speaks to the work that Lutherans can do together.

Did you know that every dollar donated for Disaster Response goes directly to the people in need? The ELCA is able to do this because administrative costs are covered through regular mission support dollars from congregations and synods.

## **SERMON TITLES**

June 6, 2010 – Celebrating God's grace

June 13, 2010 – A gracious host

June 20, 2010 – Where does salvation get us?

June 27, 2010 – Undying devotion

July 4, 2010 – The Persistent Do Gooder

July 11, 2010 – Chris Nicely, guest preacher

July 18, 2010 – Zero Tolerance Policy

July 25, 2010 – The Secret Service

## **MAY COUNCIL MINUTES**

## Pastor's Report

- Memorial Service – Thomas Lamoreux – April 17, 2010
- Funeral – John “Jack” T. Bash, Sr. – April 30, 2010

This summer Emilie Dneaster will travel to our companion synod in Madagascar with Bishop Kurt and Pam Kusserow. As the Bishop noted in his letter the financial commitment for Emilie to go on this trip is a concern. The congregation's response from a recent salad bar, raised \$520.00 toward her trip. Additionally there is a Chinese auction being planned for May 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, contributions are being received from neighboring Conference 4 congregations. With all this said, please keep Emilie in your prayers as she still has a way to go to reach the \$3,000 target.

Troy Kernicky has fulfilled his requirement for confirmation and will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council has directed Dale Rolla, our treasurer, to investigate, a credit line, not to exceed \$50,000, as a feasible alternative to an actual loan, to cover our capital expenditures for the building needs.

## Property and Grounds

The proposal from Omalacy Roof Service has been accepted. The cost of the roof repair is \$7465.00. Upon completion of the roof, Pitcarin Elevator Company will be contacted to return service to the handicap lift.

Council extends their thanks to Larry Yanetsky for repairing the parsonage mailbox.

## Worship and Music

Council extends their thanks to Ray Hamill for compiling the results from the worship survey. A full report will appear in the August newsletter.

Beginning June 6, 2010, we will sing the first and last verse of the hymns. The verses of the communion hymns will continue through the distribution of Holy Communion.

## Human Resource

The job description for Bell Choir Director is posted in the Sunday School office. After June 7, 2010, we will begin to advertise for the position outside of the congregation.

## Old Business

Dick and Ellen Briggs will be attending the Synod Assembly.

## New Business

Council approved combining our June and July newsletter.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

Our fundraising continues with a Chinese auction for Emilie Dneaster's trip to Madagascar. Tickets are available from Robbin Yothers, 10 for \$5.00 or 25 for \$10.00. The baskets are on display in the room next door to the New Beginnings classroom. On Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> following the second service we'll draw names to see who's won the baskets.

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Beginning Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, during the Sunday School hour, Pastor Mark will present "Understanding the Bible" in relationship to the recent matters concerning the ELCA's decision to change ministry policy. The outlines will also be posted on our website, [www.splchurch.com](http://www.splchurch.com) if you are not able to attend.

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The job description for the position of the Bell Choir Director is posted on the Sunday School bulletin board. If you are interested, please contact Candy Bungard, chair of the Human Resource Committee at 724-423-3428. The deadline to submit an application is June 7, 2010.

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The 61<sup>st</sup> annual Men's Communion breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at Legion Keener Park, Latrobe. Worship begins at 7:00 a.m. under the large pavilion, followed by a home-cooked breakfast. Tickets are available from Andy Dohey or Walter Long or by contacting the church office. Cost per ticket is \$4.00.

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A second acolyte training date is Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. Students entering into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade are asked to make an intentional effort to attend. A postcard will be sent out later this month as a reminder. If you cannot make this training date, please contact Traci Wood (724-547-3589) and make special arrangements to meet with her. Thank you.

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Pastor Mark will be on vacation beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will welcome Diane Bertsch as our lay person on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have an emergency during the pastor's absence, please contact the church office.

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The Synod Assembly will be held at Thiel College June 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Our thanks to Dick and Ellen Briggs and Glenn and Lisa Yothers for serving as voting members and representing our congregation.

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Have you registered for this year's Vacation Bible School yet? This year's Vacation Bible School will be held beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Volunteers are still needed with storytelling, crafts and games. Monetary donations are appreciated; to date we've received \$23.80. VBS is open to children 3 years of age through sixth grade. For registration information please contact Marty Fearer at 724-423-5118 or Linda Rath at 724-547-3832; or visit our website at [www.splchurch.com](http://www.splchurch.com) for a registration form.

### **SHORT TAKES**

Bill Fligger expresses his thanks for the many cards, prayers and calls he received following his recent hospital stay.

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George Reiner offers thanks for the cards and prayers. His recent surgery has gone well and gives thanks to God for your support.

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Jean Wiley extends her thanks and deep appreciation for the prayers, cards, and calls following her accident. Jean has returned home and is recovering well.

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The following is an impressive look at our youth and their accomplishments:

- Brandon Bruner graduated from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College with a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He graduated with distinction and is a member of the Tau Beta Nu Engineering Honor Society. He will be working for Westinghouse in Cranberry. Congratulations Brandon, we're proud of you!
- Ken Kernicky graduated from Cal-U May 8, 2010 Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Criminology. He is pursuing career starting as a police officer. His brother, Tim, will graduate from PALCS-PA Leadership Charter School on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Way to go fellas'.
- Joey Fearer will graduate from Mt Pleasant on June 13<sup>th</sup>. He is going to Westminster College and will study math and play baseball. Congratulation Joe, (you've noticed, I've referred to you as Joe, you're college material now), best of luck to you!
- Alex McClain will be attending Delaware Valley College in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in Zoo Science. The Zoo Science program is limited to 20 students each year. What a grand accomplishment Alex, congrats!
- Emily Yothers is going to Valparaiso University for music education. Emily you'll be sorely missed here, you're voice is a true gift from God. Best of luck!

- Brett Yanok has enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and will be leaving August 16, 2010 to Paris Island to begin basic training. May God bless you Brett and keep you safe!
- Congratulations to Miranda (Linden) Jones who passed her entrance exam for a two year nursing program at Westmoreland Community College. Out of the 400 students that tested only 150 were accepted. Miranda is currently working at Westmoreland Manor.

### **WOMEN'S NEWS**

Six hundred and still counting...thank you to all who have made the multitude of beautiful lap robes. Betty Itterly, who is a member of the Women of the ELCA, board packed two vans full with them following the women's convention. Plans are to distribute them in May when the Veterans will enjoy an outing on the Majestic and Gateway Clipper.

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Donations may be deposited in the box in the Sunday School office for our school and health kits. The list of items needed is posted on the ladies bulletin board outside the general meeting room. If you have questions concerning the kits, please contact Judy Long at 724-423-5862.

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Look ahead and consider attending the women's fall retreat at Camp Lutherlyn, September 17 – 19. We will be joining the ladies from the Northwest Synod again this year and will be studying Moses, Deborah, and Caleb from the Old Testament. There will also be a wine/cheese reception on Friday night along with workshops, a service of affirmation, a campfire and a luau. Registration forms are available in the Sunday School office.

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I want to say thank you to all that have helped to keep our women's group active. Contact me at 724-423-5283; if you think you'd be interested in attending a circle, you're always welcome. Have a blessed summer and remember to keep in touch. Your sister in Christ – Janet Hawkins

### **YOUTH NEWS**

Last call for summer camp at Lutherlyn, our deadline for registration is June 1<sup>st</sup>. We've received a campership for the traditional camping program again this year from our Synod for a first-time camper. Interested?? Please contact the church office at 724-423-2590.

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In 2009, more than 44,000 lbs. of fresh produce was harvested by volunteers at the Hunger Garden for the benefit of the Westmoreland County Food Bank/Fresh Express. Thrivent for Lutherans Chapter #30723 will once again be sponsoring dates and

locations with gloves, water, tools and lots of encouragement. Our youth group and their friends are asked to mark their calendars for June 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and plan to be part of this important community event.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

St. Paul United Church of Christ is asking for volunteers to lend a hand with spaghetti and chicken and biscuit dinner benefiting Dennis Yamber. Dennis is the gentleman who fell from their church roof this past winter and currently undergoing recovery. The dinner will be held at the Pleasant Unity VFD on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, from noon – 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults (includes your drinks and dessert), kids 5 – 10 years old, \$5.00. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter #30723 is sponsoring the event. Please contact Susie Saxton at 724-423-8039 or Vicki Beuten at 724-539-2767 for more details.

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Thanks to all of you who continue to recycle used ink jet cartridges. We just received a refund for \$70.00 and will be directing this towards Emilie's trip to Madagascar. Keep them coming.

### **SYNOD NEWS**

Keep the receipts coming from Shop and Save. We've mailed our first large envelope toward free 45 minute programs presented by the Carnegie Science Center and the Pittsburgh Zoo, at no cost, for the St. Afterschool children at the various sites throughout Allegheny and Westmorland Counties. Your receipts can be deposited in the box provided in the Sunday School office.

### **ACOLYTES**

**June 6** – Mandy Newill

**June 13** – Jason Geary

**June 20** – Josh Clevenger

**June 27** - Madison Miller

*Acolytes will be scheduled for the second service throughout the summer. Please make every effort to come on the Sunday that you are assigned. If your scheduled Sunday conflicts with your summer plans, exchange days with another youth then contact the church office. Our goal is not to place the responsibility on the same students for the summer months. Thank you.*