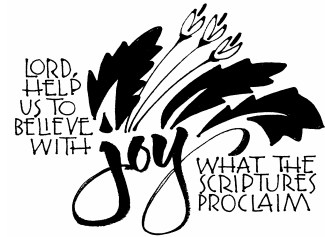


THE SEED

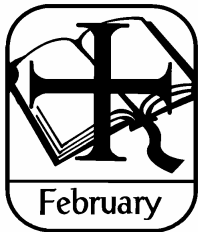


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NO. 2

February 2008

REV. DR. PAUL K. SCHWARTZKOPF, PASTOR



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I read the Annual Report for 2007, I was overwhelmed by the ministry that God has accomplished among us. We initiated some new activities and enlarged and improved some on-going activities.

We've gone high tech for Sunday School with Akaloo, the new Augsburg Fortress educational materials which have on-line activities for home study to reinforce the Sunday lessons. Likewise for confirmation instruction, we've begun to use Here I Stand, Augsburg Fortress' new confirmation materials which are so high tech that I've had to ask my resident techy, Ann, to co-teach confirmation with me. We've made the transition—without difficulty—to the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship materials.

We have conducted two series of the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University and all participants have improved their financial standing and strengthened their spiritual lives through the Biblical stewardship taught in the course. The basic principle is that all our stuff is not ours, but it all belongs to God. For the first time, we have participated in the Habitat for Humanity project by Lutherans in Adams County.

On going activities have become bigger and better. We had more people from our neighborhood participate in our Dogwood Festival Block Party. The Ploughman's Lunch served more meals and raised more money for a local service agency than any previous year.

Our offerings for 2007 were about \$4,000 more than our expenses. We did not have to withdraw any funds from savings. Our financial pledges for 2008 are the highest ever in the history of the congregation.

Our worship attendance in 2007 averaged 96 per Sunday, up from 92 in 2006. In 1999, we averaged 63 per Sunday. Only 30% of ELCA congregations have had an increase in average Sunday worship attendance.

For all of this and more—especially the love and care we provide for one another and for others—we give God thanks and praise. Amen!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul K. Schwartzkopf

Come Get the Message

from Pastor Schwartzkopf



Enhance your worship by reading the theme for the day and the Biblical word on which it is based. Then come to worship round the Word of God.

February 3, Transfiguration of Our Lord **“IN AWE BEFORE GOD”**

Jesus is an awesome God whether he is ours or not. In worship—as on the mount of transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-9—Jesus reveals his glory to us.

February 10, 1st Sunday in Lent **“UNIQUE TEMPTATIONS”**

In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus faces three unique temptations and overcomes them with the help of holy scripture. By his victory, Jesus wins ultimate control of this world.

February 17, 2nd Sunday in Lent **“TRUSTING THE PROMISE”**

In today's gospel, John 3:1-17, and John 19:38-42, we see the difference in the life of Nicodemus as he came to trust the promise of God. The difference was like night and day.

February 24, 3rd Sunday in Lent **“THE PRESENCE OF GOD”**

God shows up in the strangest places and times, ready to give us what we need to be saved. Read Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, and John 4:5-42.



AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

50 Weeks 2007	96
53 Weeks 2006	92

USE 2007 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please throw away or re-cycle your left over 2007 offering envelopes or use them for note paper; and use your 2008 offering envelopes. If you do not have your 2008 envelopes, they are on the table next to the weekly bulletins. The money counters and our financial secretary will appreciate your using only 2008 offering envelopes in 2008.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
Beginning at 7:00 P.M.

February 6 Opening Statements in Christ on Trial

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing for the five Wednesday Soup Suppers in Lent, the theme of our meditations will be Christ on Trial. Hear the opening arguments on Ash Wednesday and the testimonies of five Biblical witnesses on each of the following Wednesdays in Lent.

MID—WEEK LENT

Soup Suppers and Worship
Wednesdays, beginning at 6:00 P.M.

February 13 First Witness: Matthew

February 20 Second Witness: A Woman Healed

February 27 Third Witness: Nicodemus

March 5 Fourth Witness: An Adulterous Woman

March 12 Fifth Witness: John

ADULT DIABETES GROUP

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

“Heart Attack and Stroke”

James Kase, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon,
Quincy Cardiothoracic Specialists

1—2 p.m., Patient Registration Waiting Area, Blessing at 14th Street

OR

7—8 p.m., Auditorium, Blessing Hospital at 11th Street



Council Highlights – January 8, 2008

Present at the January 8 meeting of the Council were: Stu Bell, Bonnie Conover, Mel Dillman, Stuart Peters, Bob Rhinberger, Bonnie Scranton, Pastor Schwartzkopf, Mary Shank, Dick Tabb and Kathy Wolters. Excused: Trish Santos

President Bonnie Scranton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Opening devotion was given by Bob Rhinberger. Bonnie asked Stuart Peters to have opening devotions for the month of February.

Minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting were approved after spelling corrections were made.

Reports of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer The reports were given by Mel Dillman. Dick Tabb moved to accept the reports, seconded by Kathy Wolters, approved by the council. It was decided to appoint an audit committee at the February meeting to audit the books.

President's Report: Bonnie Scranton thanked the council for all the help throughout the year. She was pleased with the growth and financial improvements made through the year.

Pastor's Report: Printed report on file.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

It was brought to our attention that the Shackelford's are away and that they were the visiting team appointed to visit new people coming to church. We were informed that they have appointed Norma Tofall and Jeff and Dawn Van Camp to visit anyone that returns a visitor's card.

Stewardship: No report.

Service: Stuart Peters reported that the Reverse Offering for the food baskets went very well. He also reported that the preview night for Financial Peace was successful.

Property: No report.

Worship: Bruce Holderbaum reported that the hymns are selected thru the first week of February.

Witness: Bonnie Conover reported that the open house for the Habitat House in Mendon went very well. She also reported that they are looking for another family to build a Habitat House for in the county. If anyone knows of someone worthy, they should bring the name to someone from their committee. Also she gave a thank you to Tony Haubrich for all his effort spent working on the house.

Learning/Youth: We have a new Sunday School Teacher, Pam Schuering.

Fellowship: No report. Bob Rhinberger pointed out that he will not be on the council next year, but that he would continue to mow the yard. Also told us that he and Tony will do the meat next year for the Dogwood Block Party that we hold at the church each May.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING—Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Council Highlights – January 8, 2008, continued

OLD BUSINESS:

- A report of the Executive Committee Meeting was placed on file. A complete report will be given at the Annual Meeting later this month.
- Mel Dillman submitted a budget for year 2008, and a few suggestions were made for additions. Kathy Wolters made the motion to accept the budget as revised by Mel Dillman, seconded by Bonnie Conover and approved by council.
- Bonnie Scranton again thanked the Ministry Team for the skit and the Christmas entertainment. A thank you was given to Bonnie Scranton for the luminaries, adding a nice atmosphere to our Christmas Eve Service.
- The council also thanked Bruce Holderbaum for the crosses he has made during the year. Not only were the crosses appreciated, they added a great deal to the finances of the church. Was suggested it would be a nice gesture to give one to new members. It was also brought up for discussion that it might be a nice thing to do if we were to give all newly weds a gift to Financial Peace.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Preparations are being made for the Annual Meeting. We will need a sign in sheet, Bill Wolters, has volunteered to be counter, Mel Dillman and Bonnie Scranton are to explain the budget and Mary Shank is to take the minutes.
- Bonnie Scranton asked that the council members provide her with the people who helped them with their Ministry Teams. She would like to thank them and doesn't want to miss anyone.
- Pastor was approached by several Lutheran Churches to see if our church would like to join them in Lenten Services. They want to have a traveling pastors to the five churches, Carthage, Liberty, Coatsburg, and Nauvoo. Bob Rhinberger moved that we not participate, seconded by Stuart Bell, and approved by council.
- Bonnie Scranton reported that she had been approached about having a Thanksgiving Eve Service. We will take this under advisement.
- It was also reported that we now pay \$660 for the subscriptions to The Lutheran. It can be subscribed to via the Internet at a cost of \$250. This would be a nice savings for the church if the congregation agreed to this.
- I was also discussed that all public buildings, including churches, should post NO SMOKING signs. No action was taken at this time.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shank, Secretary

A PSALM FOR LENT

While hanging on the cross, Jesus spoke the opening words of Psalm 22. All who hear his cry of dereliction should also know the never ending conclusion of the psalm. Here it is in its entirety.

My God, my God,
why have you for-¹saken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the
words¹ of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day,
but you¹ do not answer;
by night, but I¹ find no rest.

³Yet you are the¹ Holy One,
enthroned on the prais-¹es of Israel.

⁴Our ancestors put their¹ trust in you,
they trusted, and you¹ rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and¹ were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not¹ put to
shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm¹ and not human,
scorned by all and despised¹ by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh¹ me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they¹ shake their heads.

⁸"Trust in the LORD; let the¹ LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de-¹lights in
him."

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth¹ from the
womb, and kept me safe on my¹ mother's
breast.

¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since¹ I was
born; you were my God when I was still in my¹
mother's womb.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trou-¹ble is near,
and there is no¹ one to help.

¹²Many young bulls en-¹circle me;
strong bulls of Ba-¹shan surround me.

¹³They open wide their¹ jaws at me,
like a slashing and¹ roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are¹ out
of joint; my heart within my breast is¹ melting
wax.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my
tongue sticks to the roof¹ of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the¹ dust of death.

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers¹
circles round me;
they pierce my hands¹ and my feet.

¹⁷I can count¹ all my bones
while they stare at¹ me and gloat.

¹⁸They divide my gar-¹ments among them;
for my clothing,¹ they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not¹ far away;
O my help, hasten¹ to my aid.

²⁰Deliver me¹ from the sword,
my life from the power¹ of the dog.

²¹Save me from the¹ lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have¹
rescued me.

²²I will declare your name¹ to my people;
in the midst of the assembly¹ I will praise
you.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of
Jacob's¹ line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-¹spring
of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the
poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's
face¹ hidden from them; but when they cry
out,¹ the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the¹ great
assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight
of those who¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts¹ live forever!

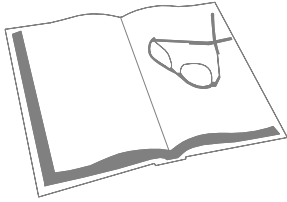
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and
turn¹ to the LORD; all the families of nations
shall bow¹ before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs¹ to the LORD,
who rules o-¹ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow¹
down in worship; all who go down to the
dust, though they be dead, shall kneel
be-¹fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall¹ serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera-¹tions
to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a
people¹ yet unborn, saying to them, "The¹
LORD has acted!"



BOOKS 'N BREW

“Those Who Save Us” by Jenna Blum will be our February selection. We’ll meet at 6:00 p.m. on February 28 at Lakeview. Hope to see you there.

THANK YOU

The Service Ministry Team would like to thank everyone for contributing to the Christmas Food Baskets and the Angel Tree gifts.

A big thank you to Bonnie Conover and Linda Dillman for delivering all the baskets!

Sincerely,
Wendy Maas

I would like to thank the entire congregation for the Gift that was presented to me at Christmas time. My family and I are truly grateful for the wonderful gift and everyone at Christ Lutheran Church.

Robin Lentz

Habitat for Humanity

Quincy Area Habitat for Humanity/Rural Adams County Chapter is once again seeking applicants to apply for a new home through the Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds program. Are you, or someone you know, in need of simple, decent housing and have the ability to pay an interest free no profit mortgage and a \$500.00 down payment? Applicants must also be willing to work the required “sweat equity” hours. The affiliate’s family selection committee chooses homeowners based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program and their ability to repay the loan. Quincy Area Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religious preference is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses. The family selected does have input into sight selection and housing design. We anticipate a new house will be built for the accepted applicant during 2008. For additional information ask Pastor or call: Dan Wilson, 217-696-2516 or Roger Flesner, 217-696-4254, or Jim Albert, 217-228-0044 or 217-653-4992 (cell).

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24	ASH WEDNESDAY February 6 at 7 PM
ASSISTING MINISTER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joan Lerner Sue Reeder	Pat Bell Bonnie Scranton	Sue Reeder Jerry Shank	Ann Schwartzkopf Barb Wilkinson	Bonnie Scranton
USHER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dick Tabb Cheryl Brinkman	Bill Wolters Nona Miller	Bonnie Scranton David Maas	Stu Bell Ashey Stollberg	Joan Lerner
READER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Sue Tabb Bill Shuler	Stu Bell Samantha Stollberg	Ann Schwartzkopf Sue McLennan	Pat Bell Bruce Holderbaum	Ron Lerner
NURSERY	Ashley Stollberg	Ashley Van Camp	Elisabeth Jones	Sunshine Santosw	
ACOLYTE 10:30 AM	Dylan Probert	Emily Stollberg	Tyler Turnbaugh	Alec Rettenmeier	
GREETERS 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Kathy Wolters Reth, Jennifer & Samantha Stollberg	Mel & Linda Dillman Joe & Cheryl Brinkman	Dick & Sue Tabb Stuart & Kris Peters	Ron & Joan Lerner Dave & Charlotte Tooke	Jerry & Mary Shank
DEACON 10:30AM	Missy Kuras	Jim Bailey	Wayne McLennan	Cheryl Brinkman	
SOUND SYSTEM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Kathy Wolters Stuart Peters	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Ann Schwartzkopf Stuart Peters	Bonnie Scranton Bonnie Scranton	Bruce Holderbaum
COFFEE HOUR	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	

If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and make a change on the appropriate sheet on the office bulletin board. Many Thanks!



If you have a birthday in February and your name does not appear on the following list, we would appreciate it if you would notify us so that we can complete our records.

February	2 Arif Tayyab	12 Joe Brinkman
	3 Dylan Probert	14 Peggy Bailey
	4 Jerry Shackelford	Randy Osterbur
	5 Ethan Wolf	20 Amanda Bolte
	David Tooke	Hila Leenerts
	7 Paul Schwartzkopf II	23 Hayley Simpson
	9 Anne Conover Alford	26 Taylor Kruse
	Alison Osterbur	27 Bill Wolters
11 Joanne Brubaker		28 Michelle Conover



If you have a wedding anniversary in February and it does not appear below, please notify the church office.

February	5 Bob and Esther Hufendick
	12 Jerry and Mary Shank
	19 Jim and Mindy Wolf