

# THE SEED



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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2010

REV. PAUL BALABAN, INTERIM PASTOR

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## ANNIVERSARY ALREADY?

I try to remember my wedding anniversary. For the most part I've done a pretty good job these 30+ years. I try to remember family birthdays, but as the family extends and expands, my ability contracts. I avoid high school, college and seminary reunions. Family is important. Classmates I haven't seen in decades, not so much.

Last summer was my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. At our synodical assemblies pastors are asked to come forward at memorable ministry milestones and are given a certificate. In Alaska, they didn't call me to come forward. My delegates wanted me recognized, but I did not. It wasn't my synod and had I been back here I would have avoided doing so. For my 25<sup>th</sup> our Bishop sent me the certificate and a pin in advance. He knew I wouldn't go forward. Maybe I feel differently when it's my 50<sup>th</sup> (I doubt it, but who knows?)

September marks my one year anniversary here at Christ Lutheran. I didn't expect to be here (and, of course, neither did you). Nothing wrong. This is a wonderful congregation and community. I thought - and we all hoped - that my interim tenure would not be long enough to have an anniversary. We did our paper work: research questionnaires, preliminary drafts and revisions, and our profile. So far, we have had no candidate to interview.

For several reasons (I believe), we have had no candidates:

1. Economy – if you don't need to move – especially if you own a house – you don't
2. Retirement – many pastors eligible to retire are not doing so (also related to above)
3. Unease – with some of our congregations unsure of their futures, pastors would rather stay where they know the folks and the situation
4. Qualifications – we requested a pastor with particular skills and abilities.

Only one of the above can change. While we may want to revisit/review our profile, there is little else we can affect.

There are many things we still need to do to get ready. First: **prayer**. We need to get as many members as possible praying for our congregation and its mission. Second: **finances**. We need to get our financial house in order. Regular giving and the "New Pastor Fund" are seriously underfunded. Can you imagine a new pastor looking at our books? Third: our **ministry teams** aren't. Let's not worry about what we can't affect - we can work on what God has called us to do and be in this place.

I look forward to that day when I am called forward because it will be my last worship with you. Not that I don't love it here, but that is the day I work towards as your interim. That is a celebration I will attend - and give prayerful and joyful thanks.

TBTG – Pastor Paul



## Council Highlights – August 10, 2010

**Council Members present:** Bruce Holderbaum, Joan Kammerlohr, Dick Tabb, Darrell Kruse, Sue McLennan, Reth Stolberg, Sue Reeder, Pam Schuering, and Pastor Balaban.  
**Absent:** Barbara Wilkerson, Tom Holte, Jim Bailey, and David Tooke

President Sue Reeder opened the meeting at 6:30. Pastor Balaban led us in opening prayer. Dick Tabb provided the opening devotions. Pam volunteered to do the September devotions. Minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as corrected. There were no announcements.

### Reports of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer:

The reports were discussed and approved subject to an audit. We are running about \$3000 short year to date.

### Interim Pastor's Report:

1. Pastor announced that Lana Anderson has consented to be our permanent keyboardist.
2. Thanks were given to Peggy Bailey and Mary Reeves for subbing.  
He also thanked Amy Stollberg and Trish Santos for doing the bulletins this Summer. Thanks also to Ashley Maas for taking on the volunteer secretarial duties. We need some more "general" office help. Speak to Pastor if interested. Ashley and Trish will continue to help. Char Tooke has been putting the bulletins together.
3. Motion was passed to accept Vicky Laack as a new member.
4. We discussed the pros and cons of continuing with two services on Sunday or having one service at 9:30. We need further thoughts and prayers on this topic. Time will be given to discuss this possible change with the congregation.
5. There has been no change of e-mail addresses for the church, Pastor or Seed.
6. We are passing around a Dave Ramsey video which would change the church Stewardship climate.
7. Pastor would like to meet with all Learning Teams during September.
8. There is a possibility of having a daycare or nursery school at church again. There is much to be done before going ahead with this idea.
9. Pastor would like to see more involvement in praying. We discussed some ideas for getting members to pray daily. motion was approved to accept Pastor's report.

### MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

**Stewardship:** None

**Service:** None

**Property:** Darrell reported that they cleaned gutters for Paul Hesse and did some work for Virgene Gilkerson. They were thanked for all the painting done at church

**Worship:** Bruce reported that hymns have been chosen through September 26<sup>th</sup> and they were using preferences from members. No meeting date has been set for September.

**Learning:** Pam reported on the Trivia Night and said that the Circus theme night for August has been cancelled. Pastor will meet with the confirmands for eleven times till the end of the year. Joan reported that the Sunday School kids were excited about their World Hunger project.

**Fellowship:** None

**Call Committee:** The committee needs to recommend someone to take Misty Coyle's place. The Council will vote to approve this choice. Pastor spoke of the progress made in calling a new pastor. The Ministry Team minutes were approved.

### Old Business:

1. Sue spoke with Mel Dillman about our financial reports. We need to find ways to increase revenue. Several ideas were mentioned.

### New Business:

1. The church book club will hold their annual book sale on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
2. Sue shared information from Central Southern Illinois Synod on a seminar called "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Mark 8:17  
The seminars will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Vernon and on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington from 10:00-2:00. Any member is invited to attend either of these two informational meetings. More information will be in the Seed.
3. Cincinnati Insurance says everything looks OK with the roof.
4. Pastor spoke to Bill Wolters about some questions we had with his report on our finances.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

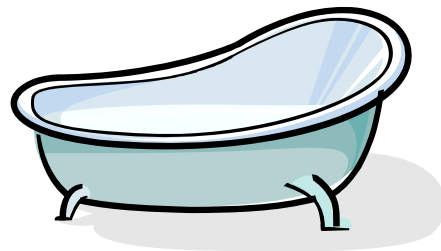
Respectfully submitted,

Joan Kammerlohr, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING—Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 6:30 PM**

## It's time to start thinking—**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION**

1. A tub has been placed in the narthex for new bars of soap. Our goal this year is 125 pounds of soap.
2. A jar has been placed in the narthex as well for donations to buy supplies for school kits, health kits, and sewing kits. Check (made out to Christ Lutheran Church, designated “LWR”, or cash will help buy supplies for these kits. Last year we did school kits, sewing kits, and health kits. We would like to increase all the kits.



3. Any size blanket will be accepted (or quilt) but twin and full size are best. Our goal this year is 30 quilts and/or blankets.
  4. Once again they are NOT ACCEPTING used clothing this year.
  5. We also have a jar sitting in Narthex to throw your loose change into.
- Thank you so much for your continued support of this worthy cause.

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### **CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN**



The new season for our choir begins with rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. For an enjoyable musical experience, it doesn't get much better than singing in the choir under the direction of Amy Stollberg. Come join our happy throng.

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### **BOOKS & BREW BOOK SALE**



We are having our bi-annual book sale on September 18th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. We need books of all kinds—cookbooks, novels, children's, etc. Please bring them to the church and leave them in the back hallway. We will take it from there. Thank you in advance. All proceeds will go towards the fund for calling the new pastor. If you have books to donate and need them picked up, please call Pat Bell at 593-7309. We are also hoping to have a bake sale. Also, the tentative book selection for October is “The Whole In Our Gospel” by Richard Stearns.

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### **DATE CHANGE FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



October 17th is the new date we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Plans just could not be completed to do the celebration as originally planned for September 26th. We still need people to volunteer for different duties. Please contact Barb Rhinberger, Bonnie Conover, Norma Tofall or Bonnie Scranton to serve. This is a special time in our church history. Other ways in which members can be of help is to provide names of past members who have moved away to the planning committee so they make sure to contact them with hopes of them wanting to attend. We hope to make this a very momentous occasion.

Please give of your time freely to celebrate this milestone in the history of our church. A lot of families of some charter members are still in our congregation and some of the charter members are still attending, which is a wonderful experience to share with others.



## SEPTEMBER THANKS

Office – Bulletins: Amy Stollberg and Trish Santos

Ashley Maas 2/day/week volunteer secretary, bulletin and powerpoints

Char Tooke folding, stapling, collating weekly bulletin and Seed

Seed editor Daune McCulloch (also writes and gathers many articles)

Property Party men and Weeding Women for fixing our property and environs, painting, weeding and trimming

David McCulloch for fixing our keyboard music stand

Peggy Bailey and Mary Reeve for being our keyboardists this summer

Bob Rhinberger weekly mowing our property

Barb Rhinberger weekly arranges the flowers for the altar and decorates the church

Char Tooke and Fellowship Team for hosting and cleaning weekly Coffee+ Fellowships this summer (and ordering/ checking supplies and cleaning up the kitchen weekly)

Also set up new system for Coffee+ Teams starting this month (all volunteers!)

Trish Santos for the prep work on Circus Night. Even though we had to cancel (because a lack of sign-ups), we thank Trish for her advance work.

Bruce Holderbaum weekly changes our message sign on 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

Barbara Holderbaum updates and publishes the prayer pages for our Prayer Warriors.



## IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Welcome to Lana Anderson who began duties as our “main” keyboardist in August. What a talented joy she is to our Worship team.

### Confirmands and Parents – September 12<sup>th</sup>

Remember our meeting following the Coffee+ fellowship on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will give an overview of this year’s beginning Confirmation program. Classes will have lunch together and class sessions following the late worship. Presently we expect three 7<sup>th</sup> graders and one returning 8<sup>th</sup> grader in our class. One of the first projects of our Confirmands will be history/info/stories gathering of the first decade of Christ Lutheran. Confirmation classes will begin on September 26th.

### Team Meetings

We are looking to have all Ministry Teams meet this month. Our Teams include: Worship, Learning, Witness, Service, Fellowship, Stewardship, Property. Periodically it is good to reflect and review the responsibilities of each team. Also, when the new pastor comes, we will be better prepared and engaged in our mission and ministries

**You May Have Heard!** At the last 2 summer Council meetings I (Pastor Paul) have brought up the issue of having 1 or 2 worships on Sunday morning. I wanted us to discuss it and talk about the positive and negative effects of each. I did not want nor did I ask for a decision. I did not recommend a particular course of action. I did say that if we were to decide on a new action that the congregation should be involved and informed and that it would take several months.

If you were here during the summer, you would have witnessed times when our early worship had under a dozen people. There were also many times when our late worship was under fifty. Our sanctuary is designed and chaired to seat 200. In the 4 Sundays of July only once did we have people stay for the Adult Forum.

**Please talk and pray about what is the right way for our congregation to proceed.**



**READERS & ASSISTANTS BULLETIN**

Starting this month, the Reader will read all three lessons (1st Lesson, Responsive Psalm and 2nd Lesson). This should be easier and create less confusion than the current practice of the Reader getting up and reading the 1st Lesson, then the AM getting up and leading the Responsive Psalm, the Reader coming back and reading the 2nd lesson.

**Worship Assistant Training - Sept. 1st or 8th @ 7 PM**

Our ongoing training opportunities continue again next month. Training for anyone wishing to learn to be a Reader, Usher, Greeter, Deacon, Assisting Minister, or Communion Preparer. Please use the weekly bulletin sign-up sheets to indicate which day and training you desire. Specific training (or refresher) will be provided as you indicate. If no one signs up in advance, then the training will be cancelled.



**LEARNING MINISTRY TEAM NEEDS YOU**

If you enjoy sharing your faith with children or enjoy teaching others please consider becoming a Sunday School teacher. Sunday School meets during the second service for about 20 minutes each Sunday. We have a curriculum for you to use that is user friendly and faith enriching. We like to schedule teachers for only one Sunday a month.

The lesson plans are printed out for you and give plenty of suggested activities. Please see me or one of the Learning Ministry Team members if you are willing to serve Christ as a Sunday School teacher.

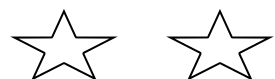
We would like to thank those who have faithfully served the past year: Pat Bell, Joan Kammerlohr, Kim Glasgow, Jennifer Fantz, Patty Kruse, Summer Santos, Trish Santos, Pam Schuering and Kara Wolf.

Our Nursery also needs caring folks to volunteer to man the nursery during the second service. Please contact one of the Learning Ministry Team if you would consider serving as a nursery helper once a month.

**Learning Ministry Team Member - Kathy Wolters - 223-1563**



**TRIVIA NIGHT SEPTEMBER 19TH**



*We hope all will come out and enjoy a great meal, and a night of Trivia with friends and family. Just ask anyone about the last one.....IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE ENJOYED BY ALL. We will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and afterward, the fun begins. We're hoping for a big turnout.*

## HOW TO HANDLE MONEY WOES



Stu Peters has agreed to start a Financial Peace University (aka Dave Ramsey) class on Tuesday evenings, starting on 9/21 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The class meets weekly until 12/14.

### What Does The Bible Say About Money?

Almost everyone agrees that the Bible contains great advice about life, from improving your marriage to getting along with your boss at work. But does the Bible really say much about money? Does it really give us advice that we can apply to our own life in today's world? The Good News is Yes! Absolutely! We believe the Bible is as relevant and helpful today as when it was written, and God has a lot to say about money. *Did you know money is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times?* God must be pretty serious about this subject to talk about it that much.

In fact, Jesus says in Luke 16:11, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" It appears from this verse that God uses money as a test of our management and stewardship skills before entrusting us with spiritual things.

If money is this important to God, why are there so few Sunday school classes on this topic? Why don't we see lots of small group studies on "Managing Your Finances" or "Getting Out of Debt"? Why aren't there more sermons in this area?

There are many reasons, but the top reason is that most people don't realize how much of a problem managing money is for the average family. Look at the statistics below:  
Financial Statistics

- 1. Marital Problems** - 37 percent (the highest rate) of marital problems derive from financial situations.
- 2. Cash Flow** - 70 percent of all consumers live paycheck to paycheck, meaning they run out of money before the end of the month.
- 3. Savings** - The average family would have to use a credit card to pay a \$1,500 unexpected expense (ex: home or car repair).
- 4. Retirement** - Nearly half of all Americans (46%) have less than \$10,000 saved for their retirement..

It is a problem that affects everyone, inside and outside of the church. In fact George Barna says that the fastest growing churches are teaching about marriage, child rearing, finances, and careers. Money is a serious subject, and God is serious about money, which is why we should study closely what he has to tell us.

Finally, there is something to guide us! A study to take God's wisdom about money and help us apply it to our own lives. It is called [Financial Peace University](#). Classes, led by Stu Peters, will begin here at Christ Lutheran in late September.



### CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Please continue to pray for our work and for the right candidate to come forward. Bishop Frieheit asks us to continue to pray for a candidate. He has been actively recruiting individuals that fit our profile and asks for us to pray for a candidate to show an interest. In the meantime, please continue to worship with us and be patient as this is a process that takes time and the Lord works in mysterious ways.



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SEPTEMBER

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Pat Bell Jerri Klusmeyer	Joan Larner Mary Reeve	Tom Holte Crystal Bennett	Sue Reeder Jim Bailey
<b>USHER</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stu Bell Bruce Holderbaum	Bonnie Scranton Darrell Kruse	Virgene Gilkerson Cheryl Brinkman	Jerry Shackelford Ashley Maas
<b>READERS</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel Dillman Richard Klusmeyer	Ron Larner Daune McCulloch	Dick Tabb Sue McLennan	Marilyn Shackelford Judy Kaufmann
<b>GREETERS</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel & Linda Dillman Trish Santos	Jerry & Marilyn Shackelford Reth & Jennifer Stollberg	Joanne Brubaker Wayne & Sue McLennan	Virgene Gilkerson Dave & Wendy Maas
<b>DEACON</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bonnie Scranton Barb Rhinberger	Ron Larner Jim Bailey	Bruce Holderbaum Wayne McLennan	Bonnie Scranton Mary Reeve
<b>SOUND SYSTEM</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Kathy Wolters Andrew Maas	Bill Wolters Stuart Peters	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Bruce Holderbaum Stuart Peters
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4

*If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and call the office as soon as possible with any changes. Many Thanks!*



If you have a birthday in September 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.

- |           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| September | 1 Matt Clark<br>Erik Kruse<br>3 Laura Brinkman<br>4 Buford Ward<br>6 David Clark<br>10 Floyd Leenerts<br>12 Jon Wahlmann | 18 Bernice Colgrove<br>Esther Hufendick<br>20 Jaiden Mathes<br>James Wagy<br>21 Danielle Sill<br>22 Karly Leenerts<br>27 Joyce Alford<br>Kolette Alford |
|-----------|--|---|



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

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| September | 1 David and Daune McCulloch<br>14 Darrell and Patty Kruse<br>18 Kent and Joyce Alford<br>28 Bill and Pat Glore |
|-----------|--|

## NICE PICTURES FROM LUTHERFEST



*Pretty smiling faces.*



*This is the pro volleyball team. Pretty sharp huh!!!!*



*Everyone lined up for chow!!*

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### **Prices Rolled Back for Autumn Tai Chi Classes**

QUINCY, ILLINOIS (August 12, 2010) – Those wanting a low-impact, stress-reducing exercise have an opportunity to take Tai Chi for Health classes beginning the week of August 30. People wanting an exercise incorporating slow, flowing movements which improve overall health, flexibility, strength, cardiovascular fitness, and balance will find Tai Chi an enjoyable practice. Tai chi also reduces knee pain, moderates depression, and exercises the mind. The Arthritis Foundation promotes Tai Chi for arthritis. Both the Mayo Clinic and Harvard Medical School recommend tai chi as a general health practice and as a way to improve various chronic conditions.

Day time and evening classes are taught by Jessica Myers and Dixie Kindred, certified instructors who are also listed in the regional Multiple Sclerosis data base as providing suitable tai chi classes for people living with multiple sclerosis.

Eight week classes can be paid for in two installments, prepaid in full for an early-bird discount, or paid the first day of class. Discounted classes are \$68. To register or for more information, call (217) 222-8965 or (217) 223-0802, or e-mail [taichi@adams.net](mailto:taichi@adams.net) or [taichidk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taichidk@sbcglobal.net).

If you want to sign up, but might miss the first class that would be manageable, and please do so if you are interested

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*AVERAGE SUNDAY  
ATTENDANCE  
January through August—82*



## INVITATION TO SERVE

The Adams County Board of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is actively seeking individuals who are willing to serve as a Congregational Advocate for (Christ Lutheran Church). These individuals must have:

- A commitment and advocacy for the missions of the congregation and Thrivent Financial.
- A willingness to be a vocal advocate for Thrivent Financial and the Adams County Board of Thrivent Financial.
- Leadership, organizational, relationship-building and creative thinking skills.
- Good listening and communicating skills.
- Access to and comfortable with the Internet and email. (The lead congregational advocate is required to have internet and email access.)

The time commitment is approximately five (5) hours per month. There can be up to four (4) Congregational Advocates, one of whom is designated as the Lead Advocate. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please speak with Pastor Saeger (228-2121 or 577-1221). His email address is: [lsaeger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsaeger@sbcglobal.net).

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The Adams County Board of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is actively recruiting someone who would be willing to serve on the Adams County Board as the Director of Congregational Advocates. ~The Director of Congregational Advocates will:

- "Have a passion for and commitment to both the missions of Thrivent Financial and the Adams County Chapter.
- Have energy and enthusiasm for Thrivent Financial's mission to support congregations through charitable, social and educational solutions.
- Desire to engage more Thrivent Financial members in meaningful ways.
- Have leadership, creative thinking, organizational and relationship-building skills.
- Have a willingness to work with all church bodies. .
- Be a good listener and communicator.
- Have internet access and be familiar with email

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please speak with Pastor Saeger (228-2121 or 577-1221). His e-mail address is: [lsaeger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsaeger@sbcglobal.net). The time commitment is approximately 8 to 10 hours per month (largely dependent on the number of congregations in the chapter).

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## **"Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread?"** **Ministry and Mission in the making!!!**

Mark 8:17

**Saturday, October 9, 2010**  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**3205 Broadway**  
**Mt. Vernon, IL**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**RSVP by October 1,, 2010**

**Saturday, October 30, 2010**  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**1617 E. Emerson**  
**Bloomington, IL**  
**10:00 AM—2:00 PM**  
**RSVP by October 22, 2010**

There's much evidence that we're in a "time of big change". The vision of *every person a missionary, every pastor a mission director, and every congregation a mission station/or the sake of the world* can be elusive. Any and all interested leaders and members of congregations are cordially invited to attend either of two informational meetings. The main resources to be presented and discussed include:

- Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) • Congregation "re-rooting"
- Churches planting churches • Stewardship education and mission support resources
- Congregation revival-ELCA style '

**Please contact your pastor, or council president or council vice-president to express your interest in attending. NO registration fee.**