



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
April, 2009 'Newsletter'

Imagine that God told you to go and preach in Nineveh, but you boarded a ship headed in the opposite direction. You were caught in a storm and confessed your sin. You told the sailors to throw you overboard so the sea would calm down. They did. You sank like a stone until a huge fish swallowed you like live bait. You're inside that great fish; its belly has become your grave. That's what Jesus compared his own grave to when he said, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matt. 12:40)

So you're entombed in the belly of a great fish; what do you do now? You pray. But what do you say? "Let me out of here, Lord"? That's not what Jonah said. He prayed from within the fish, but he didn't ask to get out. He knew that God had every right to let him drown in the depths of the sea for his sin. From inside the fish, Jonah praised God, saying, "Salvation comes from the Lord." Jonah saw that God in his mercy had used that grave to save him.

God used a grave to save us too. On Good Friday the body of Jesus, who suffered and died for our sins on the cross, was laid to rest in a grave. But today (Easter) is the third day, and Jesus' grave is empty. God's angel tells us why: "**He is not here; he has risen.**"

Like Jonah, we disobey and go our own way. We deserve death. Like Jonah, our salvation comes through a grave---the grave of Jesus, who died, and the empty grave of Jesus, who rose to life again.

(Meditations)

Minister's Message

Creating a Vision for our Future at St. Paul's

Strong, active congregations have a collective sense of what God is doing in the congregations, what their strengths are, and what goals they need to establish for the future. As discussed at our Annual Meeting in January, we will soon be launching our missional planning process for St. Paul's.

In the process of planning and visioning for the future lots of people need to be involved, because we value everyone's opinion. We began the process with Bible studies in January and February, seeking Biblical insights to the questions: What is God's mission for us? Where can we improve? How can we get more people, adults and youth, actively involved in the life of the church?

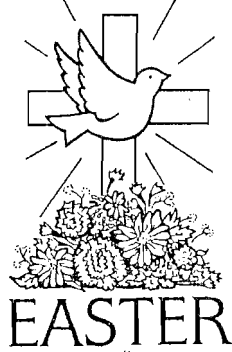
Throughout this process we will do lots of listening to each other, and lots of praying and listening to God for His guidance. We are blessed with many people who care deeply about this special church called St. Paul's. Let us look forward to working closely together to forge a vibrant future for our important part of God's kingdom.

Pastor Bill

Who washed the dishes at the Lord's Supper??????

March Worship Attendance

Mar. 1	36
8	48
15	64
22	43
29	at Trinity
11	36 Lent
25	57 Lent



Thank you to all who have supported the Lenten Soup Suppers. We hope you enjoyed your meals and the fellowship while helping to support the Youth. The money will be used for those who are attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. To date, there is \$272.00 in the money market account for this trip. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund, it would be appreciated.

!DID IT!

“My grandma would be proud to know that her story is living on,” says Ann Zemke. The Church Women of Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon are happy to invite you to a presentation by Ann Zemke on April 19. She has a heart warming story to share. She has stitched more than 150 quilts, but one changed her life because it tells the story of her grandmother, who at age 8, was sent away on an orphan train to become another family’s servant. If you love quilts and quilting you will want to attend this presentation. See poster on bulletin board.

The 5th Annual Uplifting Celebration served 240 people. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped in any way and thank you to everyone who attended. Full details will be in the May 3rd newsletter because not all of the income and billings are in yet.



Furnace Fund Information

Owe \$19,433.52, plus interest.

Lutherans in Congress

Seven new U.S. Congressional members sworn into office January 6 are Lutheran, bringing the overall total of Lutherans serving on Capitol Hill to 24. 15 are Democrats and 9 are Republicans. 4 are senators and 20 are House of Representatives. 30 percent are Catholics, 12 percent are Baptists, 11 percent are Methodists, 8 percent are Presbyterians, 7 percent are Episcopalians and 4 percent are Lutherans.

The new LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES have arrived...

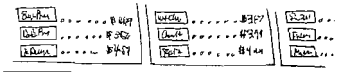
Joint Outing

On Saturday, May 16, at 3:00 pm, you can have an opportunity to see a very funny and true-to-life play called the Church Basement Ladies at the Plymouth Playhouse, Plymouth, MN. This is a joint outing for members of St. Paul’s and Trinity and friends. Cost: \$30.00 for 12 or more or \$29.00 for 30 or more. No cost for bus transportation. The bus will depart from St. Paul’s. Final day to sign up is May 1st. There is a sign up board in the narthex.

GA Convention

The 22nd annual convention of the GA College Ass’n of Congregations will be held Sat., April 25. GA will host pastors and delegates from the 539 ELCA congregations from the state and across the country. Dr. Terence Fretheim, professor of Old Testament will deliver the message. Bonnie Meyer and Laura Reid are St. Paul’s delegates.

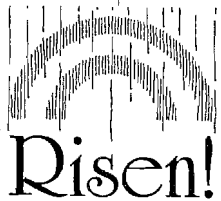
After many weeks of skilled workmanship by Robert Schulz, St. Paul’s is getting a new baptismal font.



“Would you like your arteries clogged here or to go?”

At the Sibley 4-H’ers ‘Share the Fun’ event, March 13 at GFW high school, Reserve Champion in the Performing Arts project was **Sonja Sprandel**. She played a piano solo titled, “Canon in D.”

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1. 6:00 pm supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service at Trinity	2	3	4 Cindy Telthoester- Adam Larson wedding
5 9:30 am Palm Sunday/Communion Uplifting Celebration Turkey Dinner	6	7	8	9 1:30 pm Communion @ OT 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service @ Trinity	10 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. Paul's	11
12 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 8:30 am Easter Worship/Communion 10:30 OT worship	13 9:00 am Naomi Circle	14 5:30 pm MN Valley Conference Spring Gathering at Swedlanda, Hector	15 Taxes Due	16	17 11:00 am Salad Luncheon @ Immanuel Lutheran	18
19 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am SS 9:30 am Altar Guild mtg. 6:30 pm C. Council	20 Thrivent Mtg.	21 9:00 am Pastor's Conference at Zion's Buffalo Lake	22	23	24 12 noon Luncheon for all Volunteers @ Oak Terrace Health Center	25 9:00 am GA College annual mtg. Youth Rally at GA College
26 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am SS	27	28	29	30 7:00 am Joint Council at St. Paul's		
						

2009

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
April, 2009**

Deacon: Meredith Frauendienst

Ushers: Robert Schulz, George Hahn

Altar Guild: Cindy Gerholz and Elsie Gerholz

Housekeepers: George and Ruth Hahn

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Oak Terrace

Elmer Franke
Myrtle Franke
Clarence Senske
Bernice Bierstedt
Evangeline Kramer
Alvina Woehler

Irene Senske

Golden Hearts
602 Marion Drive
Arlington, MN 55307

Home

Kathy Scholla
Shirley Johnson
Esther Franke

Linda Tiegs

Durham Apts.
621 South 2nd St.
Mankato, MN 56001