

# ST. PAUL'S MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Pastor William Nelsen  
September, 2010

Gaylord, MN.

## *'PROCLAIMING CHRIST, UPLIFTING PEOPLE AT THE CROSSROADS'*

When Mary was a little girl, her grandfather, a Cherokee Indian, spent hours telling stories to his grandchildren. One story has stayed with Mary all these years, tucked away in her heart as a valuable jewel is locked in a safe. On an autumn day, Mary and her cousin were sitting with Grandfather under a big oak tree. Grandfather began breaking twigs and laying them in a circle on the ground. On top of this he placed shredded leaves. In the center of the circle he placed a tiny caterpillar, and then he lit the circle of leaves with a match. The helpless caterpillar began to slither from side to side, trying to find a way out, finally curling into a small fuzzy ball. Grandfather asked, "What do you see?" Mary's cousin spoke up first, "It's cruel, Grandfather. The little caterpillar is scared, and he can't get out of the fire." Grandfather reached into the fiery circle. The caterpillar crawled unto Grandfather's large, worn hand. He lovingly stroked the little creature and gently moved it away from the fire. Then Grandfather said, "Life is cruel, full of fiery trials. You don't understand this now, but you will walk through many fires. You can walk alone or with the Lord. If you trust in Jesus, there is no need to be afraid, because his strong hands will hold you."

### **Bible Time For Everyone**

St. Paul's has made a commitment to being an active Book of Faith Congregation. This means that we want everyone to be engaged in reading the Bible regularly. Why? Because reading and studying the Bible makes a real, ongoing, and lasting difference in your life. And beginning this fall we will be offering special opportunities for everyone to be engaged with the word of the Lord in their lives. Recognizing that the Bible can reach people in different ways at different times and stages of life, we are creating new opportunities on a monthly basis, using the following schedule:

First Wednesday, 7:15 pm: Open Bible Study for All (from St. Paul's and Trinity)

Second Wednesday, 7:15 pm: St. Paul's Men's Fellowship and Bible Study (a new venture for all men at St. Paul's)

Third Wednesday, 7:15 pm: Young couples and Singles (with focus on Lutheran understandings of scripture and faith, as they have requested; child care will be provided by the Lutheran Youth Organization.

Fourth Wednesday, 7:15 pm: Trinity Men's Fellowship and Bible Study

Second Wednesday: 10:00 am Circle Bible Study at St. Paul's. and 1:30 pm WELCA at Trinity

These Wednesday evening sessions will last just one hour, from 7:15-8:15 pm. We are using Wednesday evenings, so people should ordinarily have no conflicts.

Come and engage yourself with God's lessons and spiritual enrichment for your lives. You will be glad you did!  
Pastor Bill

### **June Worship Attendance**

June 6	<u>47</u>	June 7	<u>27</u>
13	<u>29</u>	14	<u>28</u>
20	(service-Trinity)	21	<u>28</u>
27	<u>28</u>	28	38

**July Worship Attendance**

July 4	<u>28</u>	July 5	<u>15</u>
11	<u>33</u>	12	<u>37</u>
18	<u>50</u> (Combined-Park)	19	<u>22</u>
25	<u>42</u>	26	<u>37</u>

**August Worship Attendance**

Aug. 1	<u>33</u>	Aug. 2	<u>28</u>
8	<u>28</u>	9	<u>14</u>
15	(service—park)	16	<u>30</u>
22	<u>29</u>	23	<u>23</u>
29	<u>30</u>	30	<u>12</u>

To the members of St. Paul's:

We would just like to thank you for again allowing us to use the church for our sale.

Please accept the \$25 check as a small token of our appreciation. Thanks so much!

Girl Scout Troop #30743

The special offering that was held at the Ecumenical Worship Service in the park on August 15 was well received.

\$357.85 Food Shelf

\$332.85 Brad Strobel (mission in Uganda)

After 10 years, the old dehumidifier in the Fellowship Hall gave up. The trustees picked up a new one at The Hardware Center. Very nice. So quiet. Energy efficient. The Church Women paid for it from the money they received from various organizations for using the hall.

*Congratulations to **Brianna Hahn**, who received the title of 'Miss Gaylord' on August 14 at Gaylord's Eggstravaganza Days. **Brianna***

*will be a Senior at Sibley East this fall.*

**Chelsea Gerholz**, St. Paul's SE 2010 graduate, is attending Rasmussen College, Mankato. She began her classes on August 9 and is studying Business Sales and Marketing.

Transfer requested and accepted for Kacey Trout to Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church. Kacey is getting married June, 2011.

**Let the Brainstorming Begin**

The new Bible Study the Naomi Circle will be studying beginning this month will follow the theme verse from Amos 3:3. "*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*" (KJV) We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10:00 am. The September study is:  
*'The people of God: Reading the Bible.*

The longest sermon on record was delivered by Clinton Locy of West Richland, Washington, in Feb., 1955. It last 48 hours, 18 minutes and verses were taken from every book in the Bible. Eight members stayed and listened until the end.

In the month of August, the Sibley County FoodShare served the greatest number of people in one month in the history of the Food Shelf. Sibley County is not alone, as many of the food shelves in our state are experiencing increased usage as well.

In September a percentage of cash donations made to the Food Shelf will be matched by a program called Hunger Solutions MN. If you would like to make a cash donation to the Food Shelf it would be appreciated.

The **Fall Ditch Clean Up** for Thrivent will be Wed. September 22. Meet at the Drive-In in Winthrop by 5:00 pm. When finished everyone will be treated at the Dairy Queen. (a sandwich and a soft drink) In case of incumbent weather, the alternate date is Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress accordingly to what the weather is. The more the merrier and the faster we get done.

New Member Class, Wed., Sept. 29, 7:15 pm.

Pastor Bill will be offering a special class & orientation session for prospective new members on Sept. 29. Our **Outreach Team** will be issuing special invitations to potential new members to come and learn about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective and to be introduced to all the exciting things happening at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. All members should reach out to people they know in our community who could gain so much by joining the faith community at St. Paul's.