

August 2008



St. Paul's Lutheran

MESSENGER

Season of Pentecost



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Rev. Louise Mollick, Pastor
Cindi Paulsen, Music Director

Vince Jacobson, Congregation President
Linda Dundas, Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

God's Scale

We have recently returned from the amazing experience of visiting Alaska. I have never before experienced anything that gave me such a humbling sense of God's scale.

I found myself being surprised over and over by my mistaken interpretation of scale. One of the best examples is a lodge we stayed at near Talkeetna, where we could sit outside looking toward Mt. McKinley. The view was spectacular, but I found myself speculating as to which of the tall peaks was Mt. McKinley. After a bit, some clouds cleared and two much taller mountain ranges appeared in the distance. It was obvious that one of them must be Mt. McKinley. The nearby attendant assured us that neither was. It turns out that only about 30% of visitors get the opportunity to actually see Mt. McKinley from that location. The lodge actually provides a wake-up call service, calling interested rooms when the mountain is visible. When the call came, we went out and found the entire earlier scene dwarfed by Mt. McKinley, over 100 miles distant. Of course, we could only see the part above 10,000 feet because the rest was blocked by nearer mountains. I could not begin to comprehend what it would be like up close, but it was also clear we would not be able to see the entire mountain from a location much closer.

Later in the trip, I was able to ride in a small airplane much closer to Mt. McKinley, and to land on and walk around on a glacier. One of the observations that really stunned me happened when we were flying, when the pilot pointed down into a mountain valley and said "Do you see those tracks way down below that look like someone drove up the valley and almost got stuck in the mud? They are actually glacial silt ridges over 300 feet high being pushed up by the weight of the glacier." We were flying at about 9000 feet at the time, so even the peaks above those ridges would not have been visible from our earlier location.

These surprises in trying to grasp the scale of God's creation are not all that different from the surprises I get when I try to reason about what God

has planned for me and for us as a congregation. My senses; sight, hearing, vision, smell, and touch; provide imperfect information, and my brain fills in the gaps based on my background and experience. If I have pretty good sensory inputs and relevant experience, my observation may be quite accurate and I may indeed correctly discern that my destination is that mountain in the distance.

I am blessed when I study scripture and pray and meditate and listen intently enough that I begin to hear God's voice in my life, but when I decide that I know the way on my own, I am likely to start off in the morning on a brisk walk toward my mountain, completely unaware that I have 100 miles to go before I am close enough to mistake a 300 foot high ridge for track in the mud.

I am slowly learning that God does not expect big things from me. All God expects of me is to take a single step in the right direction; then another ... and another, and God will take care of directing steps that lead to the mountain if that is HIS destination for me. The big things are in God's plan, not mine. In fact, the biggest things that I can imagine are miniscule compared to the ways in which God wants to use me. When I read, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light", I hear that I need to discern and achieve my next step, but I do not have to plan or even be able to make sense of my entire journey. When I am able to be faithful in the little things, the big things will follow.

Pray for each of us to listen for and faithfully follow God's direction as we take each step of our journey.

Blessings,
Vince Jacobson

St. Paul's congregation is pleased to send you this newsletter. However, if you prefer not to receive it, please call the church office at 952-938-4683 or email us at StPauls@saintpaulslutheran.org.

Fact about homelessness:

The West Metro Homeless Youth Task Force, which Teens Alone leads, estimates a minimum of 65-150 youth are homeless in any given year in the seven school districts of the west metro communities of Hennepin County.

COUNCIL NEWS

New Business:

- Election of officers: Vince will continue as President, Mary as Vice President and Carolyn will serve as Council Secretary.
- A council workshop will be held on Saturday, August 2 at 11:00 a.m. It will address planning, council, and leadership goals for the year. Other topics include ministry team assignments, Sign-up for announcements, lock up, council refreshments, etc., potentially changing the way we do it.
- The need for painting the Fellowship Hall was discussed. Carolyn will lead this effort with color/style input from Mary and Connie. Work will be done by the Handy People with assistance from solicited volunteers.

Prayer & adjournment at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Carpenter

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President – Vince Jacobson

Vice President – Mary Hromatka

Secretary – Carolyn Carpenter

Treasurer – Phil Eckhert

Youth – Kristen Campbell

Pastor – Rev. Louise Mollick

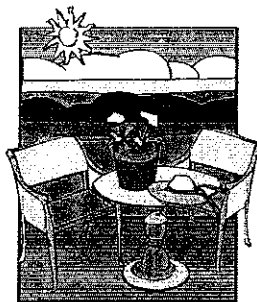
Connie Hessevick

Kathy Powers

Assisting Council

Associate Treasurer – Bernie Johnson

Communication – Jan Guetschow



Patio Project Fundraiser

There has been a very hard working, committed crew (Boy Scouts, adult volunteers and a number St. Paul's members) moving dirt, gravel and pavers on most of the past summer Saturdays! Our special thanks go to Hopkins High School student Raymond Mestad, who has taken on this project as he works toward his Eagle Scout badge and Nora Bonner, who will be completing a rain garden as a Girl Scout Silver Award project. The patio area is already a wonderful addition to our church property.

We have some funds available for the project. Gifts given to our memorial fund over the past years will provide about \$2,000 of the \$5-6,000 needed for the entire project. We would like to raise an additional \$3-4,000 to complete the project as designed. **You can participate in the following ways.**

1. **Buy a Brick** – contribute \$50 and a brick will be engraved with your message, up to 3 lines with 15 characters per line. You can make your gift and brick in honor, memory, celebration, etc. of a friend, family member or special occasion. An order form is attached and there is no limit to the number of bricks that can be given. The bricks will be part of the patio and we've set a goal of 100 engraved bricks.
2. **General Contribution** – we'd also like to encourage members to just make a gift in support of the patio project. There is a place on the enclosed form for you to note your gift. We've set a goal of \$1,000 in special gifts.

Please send your completed forms and gifts to the church office no later than August 15. Our plans are to have the bricks in place with a special thank you ceremony early this Fall.

Our thanks for your committed care and support of our building, property and congregation!

Vince Jacobson Pastor Mollick
Mary Hromatka Eric Campbell

YOUTH NEWS

Not "Just" Another VBS!



This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) Day Camp was a resounding success. Our pre-schoolers focused on God's calling us around the world as they learned about the different cultures Christ's missionaries are called to serve.

"Just for Life," the theme for our older day campers this year, drew from Jesus' teachings about justice in the world. We admit, we organizers struggled with some of the difficult parables and lessons in our months of VBS preparation. However, the Luther Point Bible Camp (LPBC) counselors were able to teach the parables of the mustard seed, the unjust judge and the widow, the laborers in the vineyard, the rich man and his manager, and the Pharisee and the tax collector to our campers with much success. The LPBC counselors used a variety of means to teach the week's theme of justice including skits, songs, crafts and more. The kids responded, as always, to the enthusiasm and faithfulness exhibited by the counselors and grew in their relationship with Christ. For the first time, LPBC counselors were able to participate in a worship service with St. Paul's and its partner churches, Mizpah United Church of Christ and Hopkins United Methodist Church, by leading our well-attended Wednesday evening worship service. A highlight of the week was the joint Tri-Congregation worship service following the week of VBS. We didn't count heads but it seemed to us that it was the best attendance yet for a Tri-Congregation service. The kids thoroughly enjoyed presenting the songs and skits they had learned throughout the week.

Over 30 campers were brought closer in their relationship to a loving Jesus Christ. Over 35 scholarships were funded to help everyone be able to attend who needed financial help. A HUGE thank-you goes to the many people who donated food, time, prayers and funds to contribute to the success of VBS. Over 400 meals were served throughout the week. Over 500 volunteer hours were generously served. While the numbers are impressive the impact of the overall experience cannot be counted. Thank-you members of St. Paul's for faithfully supporting the children of our community.



Sunday School Starts in September!

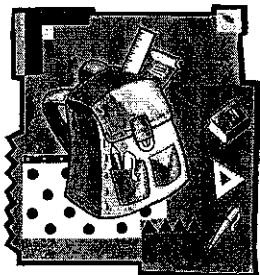
Sunday School and **Little Lambs** will kick-off September 14, 2008 at 10:50 AM. **Sunday school** is offered to children four-years old through those in sixth grade in the 2008-2009 school year. Our Sunday school will be lead by a team of volunteers and will include music, Bible lessons, service projects, crafts and more. We will meet each Sunday (with some exceptions) from September 2008 through May 2009 at 10:50 AM in the sanctuary. **Little Lambs** is offered to newborns through three-year olds and their parents/grandparents/Godparents. Little Lambs will meet during the second Sunday of each month in the nursery for Bible stories, crafts and play time. This is a great time for parents with young children to connect with other parents in the congregation and to journey with their children as they grow in Christ's love.

Volunteers are very much needed for Sunday school and Little Lambs! We are currently seeking volunteers to teach Sunday school, assist with weekly Sunday school, be substitute teachers, lead the children's choir, coordinate service projects, and more. We are also seeking a coordinator for Little Lambs to arrange monthly lessons and leaders. If you are able to help with Sunday school and Little Lambs in any way, please contact Lisa Foss at 952-401-8044 or lisaefoss@gmail.com or Darcie Rodman at 763-546-4404 or urholy@comcast.net. St. Paul's teens and youth are particularly encouraged to become role models for our children's programs and engage in helping with Sunday school and Little Lambs. Please prayerfully consider whether children's ministry might be what you are called to do!

Fact about homelessness:

The true number of homeless or young people at risk of homelessness is most likely low because many of them don't tell adults they're homeless because they're afraid they'll "get in trouble".

School Supplies Needed for Low Income Children in Our Area!



St. Paul's is collecting donations for the Hopkins Minnetonka Family Resource Center (952-988-5350). Please deposit your school supply donations in the collection box at St. Paul's **by Thursday, August 7.**

In order of need: Fiskar scissors, 3-ring zippered binders, water based magic markers, colored pencils (12-24), college ruled spiral notebooks, college ruled loose-leaf paper, highlighters, Kleenex, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, 12" rulers with metric, crayons (24), pencil boxes, zippered pencil pouches, ballpoint pens (blue or black ink), 3-ring notebooks. Backpacks, plain colored pocket folders, pink erasers, glue sticks, **new socks** (boys & girls all sizes) and **new underwear** (boys & girls all sizes, men & women's sizes up to size 8).

Additional items: Paper towels, Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon), healthy snacks, spiral sketch books, and assignment books.

Fact about homelessness:

84% of homeless teens are attending school because it's one of The places they feel most connected!

ICA Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive

Through August 18, we invite you to join us in providing Peanut Butter and Jelly for our clients. During the school year nearly 2400 Hopkins and Minnetonka school district children are provided free and reduced lunch and breakfast. Without that support, added stress is put on families in need and ICA wants our younger clients to know that the community cares about them. Please donate Peanut Butter and Jelly in the provided ICA box over the next few weeks

SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, Sept. 17

for the Albert Pike Fall Fundraiser Dinner (the Albert Pike Lodge is at 907 Mainstreet, Hopkins) to benefits ICA, Hopkins/Minnetonka Family Resource Center, Hopkins Center for the Arts, and the Albert Pike Scholarship & Community Event Fund. Chicken or Steak dinner from the Outback Steakhouse, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Minnetonka

Community Center. Tickets available – August 10. Adults \$12, Children \$6. Ticket deadline – August 30. Order at 952-938-2046 or 952- 938-6863.

Concern For Youth Homelessness

On July 10 our Transformational Ministry Team had the pleasure of welcoming Lydia Kihm, Executive Director of Teens Alone, to speak with us about the growing concern regarding homelessness among teenagers in the west metro. Throughout this newsletter you will find staggering statistics surrounding this issue. These are not just numbers; these are the very lives of the young people that live in our neighborhoods, yet have no place that offer nurture and love. It is clear that faith communities are being called to open our hands and our hearts and to come together with the Hopkins/Minnetonka Family Resource Center and Lutheran Social Services to respond with compassion and care for the least among us.

The Transformational Ministry Team is in the process of discerning how we, the people of St. Paul's, can minister to the needs of these young people, knowing that we need to:

- provide *local* services to our homeless youth, so they are more likely to graduate from high school and avoid a long term slide into adult homelessness;
- provide the whole housing continuum beyond just crisis shelter, i.e. Transitional Living Programs and Scattered Site Supportive Housing; AND
- "be there" for kids who say, "I don't have anyone who watches over me every day."

Keep alert for announcements about upcoming events that will enable us all to be well informed. Share any ideas you have that would address this issue. Above all, pray for our youth, for all who seek to serve them, and for God's gracious, challenging guidance.

Teens Alone is the lead agency of the West Metro Homeless Youth Task Force providing free and confidential counseling and crisis services year-round to young people and their parents in the western suburbs, addressing issues of drug/alcohol abuse, emotional, sexual and physical abuse, racial issues, pregnancy, sexual orientation and family breakups and conflicts.

For more information please call Lydia Kihm, at 952-988-4086 or go to www.teensalone.org.



**3rd Annual LSS Night
@ the Twins on Friday,
August 1 – 7:10 p.m.**

Join Lutheran Social Service
of MN as **we team with the**

Twins in striking out homelessness for youth.

According to the Wilder Foundation, 47% of the people staying in shelters on a given night are youth under the age of 21. Join us for a fun night at the ballpark while making a difference for young people in need. Visit lssmn.org, or contact Steve Griffiths at 651-969-2334 or steve.griffiths@lssmn.org.

Please join LLS before the game at the Metrodome Pavilion, located by Gate D, for the LLS Pre-Game Party. While there, your group will enjoy a silent auction, entertainment and food and beverage available for purchase.

LSS receives \$5 from every ticket.

Tickets @ \$17 are Upper Club baseline.

Mail order form available in the church office.



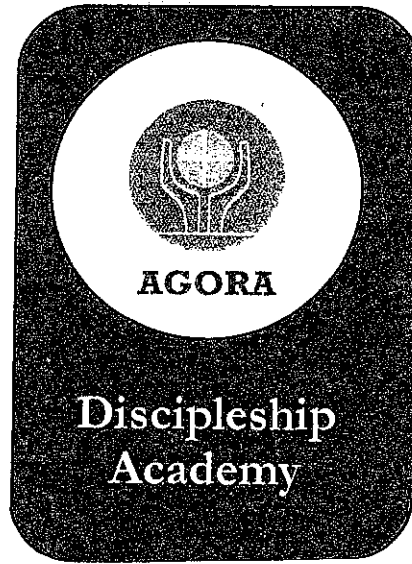
**Annual Lutheran Night
@ the Twins Tuesday,
August 19 – 7:10 p.m.**

There is a new way to order your Lutheran Night tickets. All ticket orders 24 or less can call 1-800-338-9467 to order your discounted tickets right over the phone with a credit card. Your discount code is Lutheran Night ticket OFFER (valid only for this night). All groups of 25 or more can send an order form (form available in the church office). The order deadline to have your tickets mailed back to you is August 12. All orders received after August 14, will be held at the Main Box office (west side of stadium) at the WILL CALL window named Lutheran Night. Picture ID required.

<i>Lower Level Reserved</i>	\$21.00
<i>Upper Club Reserved</i>	\$16.00
<i>Upper Level General Admission</i>	\$ 7.00

\$1.00 from every ticket sold from the Lutheran Night program will go to "Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity" to help MN families.

No discount purchases on game day.



Meets every other Saturday –
Sept. through April,
8:30 a.m. to Noon,
at Central Lutheran,
333 South 12th Street,
Minneapolis, 55404

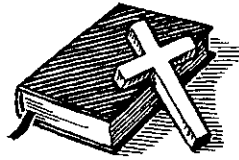
**Discipleship
Academy**

This is a flexible three year curriculum that will allow participants to attend units at \$25 each or \$50 for the entire year. It is designed by a task force to include Bible teachings, church history, and areas of ministry.

Graduates become leaders and disciple makers with a goal to become an outreach worker. Participants will be supported and mentored by selected members of an existing congregation.

Please contact Pr. Louise or register today at www.agoraministry.org.

**Discussion on the writings of
Bishop Spong**



This discussion will be around updating a liturgy and possibly the articles about "Gabriel's Revelation". Come join in this monthly discussion group **Tuesday, August 5** at 5:30 pm in the church library. A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP to Jim Uden ASAP, 763-553-9209 or juden@nonprofitrx.com.



**Come to the August 19th
"Book Talk"**

The next book, *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs, will be discussed Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. October 21 will be the final Book Talk for the year when *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder will be discussed. You can find both upcoming titles at the Hennepin County Library. Hope to see you there and enjoy!

Minneapolis Area Synod—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
122 West Franklin, #600 Minneapolis, MN 55404 612-870-3610



Dear friends at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Greetings and summertime blessings to you. Would you like to know more about what your offerings to Mission Support are doing this month, and each month, across the whole ELCA? Great! Let me share one story with you.

This month Lutherans—and friends of Lutherans—anywhere in the world where there is internet access have a wonderful weekly Bible study available whenever and wherever they want to use it. That includes you.

Daily Discipleship is a free, online, downloadable, lectionary Bible study based on the gospel lesson used at Sunday worship. Each weekly session is designed for “Daily Discipleship Groups” of two to seven people who gather to prepare for upcoming Sunday worship (or to reflect on the previous week’s reading) by discussing the assigned gospel lesson’s implications for daily living. It can be easily adapted for personal devotions, email conversation between friends at a distance, or even for sermon preparation.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America produces **Daily Discipleship** as a service to ELCA Lutherans and anyone, anywhere, who would like an easy to access devotional Bible study. Users download each session at no cost, and may freely make copies for participants. What a gift! Although it is free to the users, the undesignated mission support (benevolence) of generous congregations such as yours covers the cost of preparing the study and placing it on the web for all to use and grow. To see for yourself, go to <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/Daily-Discipleship.aspx>.

On behalf of a grateful church,

Pastor Heather Hammond, Bishop’s Associate

p.s. For more stories like this each and every month, visit <http://makingchristknown.wordpress.com>

What is a lectionary?

A lectionary is a list of scripture texts assigned for reading on particular days. This tradition has its roots in ancient Jewish worship and was continued by the early Christians. The ELCA uses the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary also used by Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and others.

Sunday Bible Readings

August 3 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 10 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

August 17 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Psalm 67
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

August 24 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 31 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm 26:1-8
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer & Bible Study

- ✦ **Bible study with Pastor Louise** is held each Saturday morning at 9:30 – 11:00 am in St. Paul's Library. Please check the monthly calendar for occasional conflicts.
- ✦ **St. Paul's Prayer Line** is activated by calling the coordinator, Maxine Rieman at 952-238-8516, cell 763-807-7682, or calling the church office when she cannot be reached.
- ✦ **ELCA radio ministry, *Grace Matters***, is on Sundays at 6:30 am KSTP 1500 AM and 10:30 pm WFMP 107.1 FM.
- ✦ **Daily devotional booklet, *Christ in Our Home***, is available on the entryway table.
- ✦ **ELCA online Bible study, *Daily Discipleship*** is based on the lectionary and online at www.elca.org/evangelism/daily-discipleship.
- ✦ **Other prayer resources** are available at www.elca.org/prayer.



Tuesday Grief Support Group

West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship.



Tuesdays 4:30-6:30pm

Minnetonka Lutheran Church
 16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
 Minnetonka, MN 55343
 (952) 935-3419

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
August 5	Lynn Baskfield, MA	Creativity & Grief
August 12	Paul Johnson, MA	Men in Grief
August 19	Ted Bowman	Loss of Dreams
August 26	Lois Untinen	Personal Story

For more information, please call the coalition co-coordinator,
 Darcie Rodman at (763) 546-4404

Phone Tree Instructions:

Last month St. Paul's Phone Tree was included in the newsletter. There are times when important events happen that everyone needs to be aware of before Sunday when it can be announced or included in the newsletter. The phone tree will be implemented when Jan Guetschow calls each name in Column A for a total of five calls. In turn, each person listed under Column B and notified by Jan will call their assigned individuals listed to the right of their name in Column C. Individuals listed in Column C need only to answer their phone to receive the alert and the phone tree is completed.

August Service Team

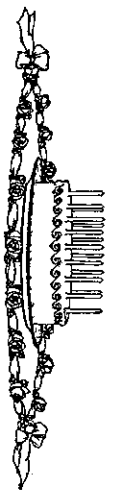
- Carpenter – Marshall, Carolyn
- Eckhert/Brenden – Phil, Sheri, Emma
- Peaslee, Sarah Eckhert
- Falk – Grace, Ron
- Hanning – Elsie
- Hanson – Darold, Diane
- Larson – Tom, Rachel
- MacNaughton – Jenni, Katie, Zach
- Madson – Annette, John
- Mikulay – Mike, Beth
- Rodman/Rudolph - Darcie, Chuck, Peter
- Schaller – Shirley
- Schmitz – Matt, Shari, Maggie, Heidi,
- Haily, Kelsey, Riley
- Streater – Kim, Dylan, John

September Service Team

- Bonner/Hromatka - Dean, Mary, Nora
- Gilbertson - Roger, Darla
- Guetschow – Bob, Jan
- McGee – Linda
- Peterson - Mary Kay
- Powers – Tom, Kathy, Jack, Nick
- Rustad – Virginia
- Eggert – Laura
- Hoyhyta – Carol
- Riggie – John, Shirley
- Smith – Lorraine
- Tollefson – Paul, Pat
- Bell/Burdick – Lois, Glyde
- Lindquist – Rey, Lois
- Schwitzer – Bill

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 1 Diane Hanson,
Linda Dundas
- 4 Ann Streater
- 7 Vicki Smith
- 9 Dawn Skrogstad
- 10 Katie Campbell,
Roger Gilbertson
- 18 Tom Hoyhyta
- 23 Tom McGee
- 24 John Madson
- 25 Lois Lindquist



Happy Anniversary

- 9 Carl & Louise Molllick
- 15 Marshall & Carolyn
Carpenter
- 18 Bob & Jan Guetschow
- 27 Greg & Lisa Saal
- 30 Dick & Jeanne Moe

Fact about homelessness:

The number of unaccompanied homeless youth is an increasingly serious problem in the suburbs. In 2007, 135 out of 341 unduplicated young people Teens Alone served were either already homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Please continue to check the Service Team Calendar on the office door each week for available opportunities.

St. Paul's Patio Project

Please fill out the table below with your message. Place one letter in each box, we are limited to 15 letters per line, 3 lines per brick; make a copy of this form if you order more than 3 bricks. **Mail or drop off this form at the church office by August 15!**

Example:

Line 1	I	N		M	E	M	O	R	Y						
Line 2	O	F													
Line 3	J	O	E		J	O	H	N	S	O	N				

Message for brick #1:

Line 1															
Line 2															
Line 3															

Message for brick #2:

Line 1															
Line 2															
Line 3															

Message for brick #3:

Line 1															
Line 2															
Line 3															

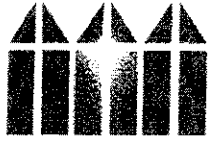
Name _____

Phone _____

Amount contributed (\$50 per brick) \$\$ _____

Additional contribution to project \$\$ _____

THANK YOU!!!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #532
Hopkins, MN 55343

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Please deliver within 5 days
of August 1, 2008**



SUMMER AT ST. PAUL'S

ALL OUR NEIGHBORS

(old and new, young and old, from near and far)

ARE INVITED

Wednesday evenings May 28 – August 27, 2008

6:30 p.m. Dinner on us!

7:00 p.m. Informal worship

7:30 p.m. Community time

(getting to know each other)

Everyone is expected !!!!