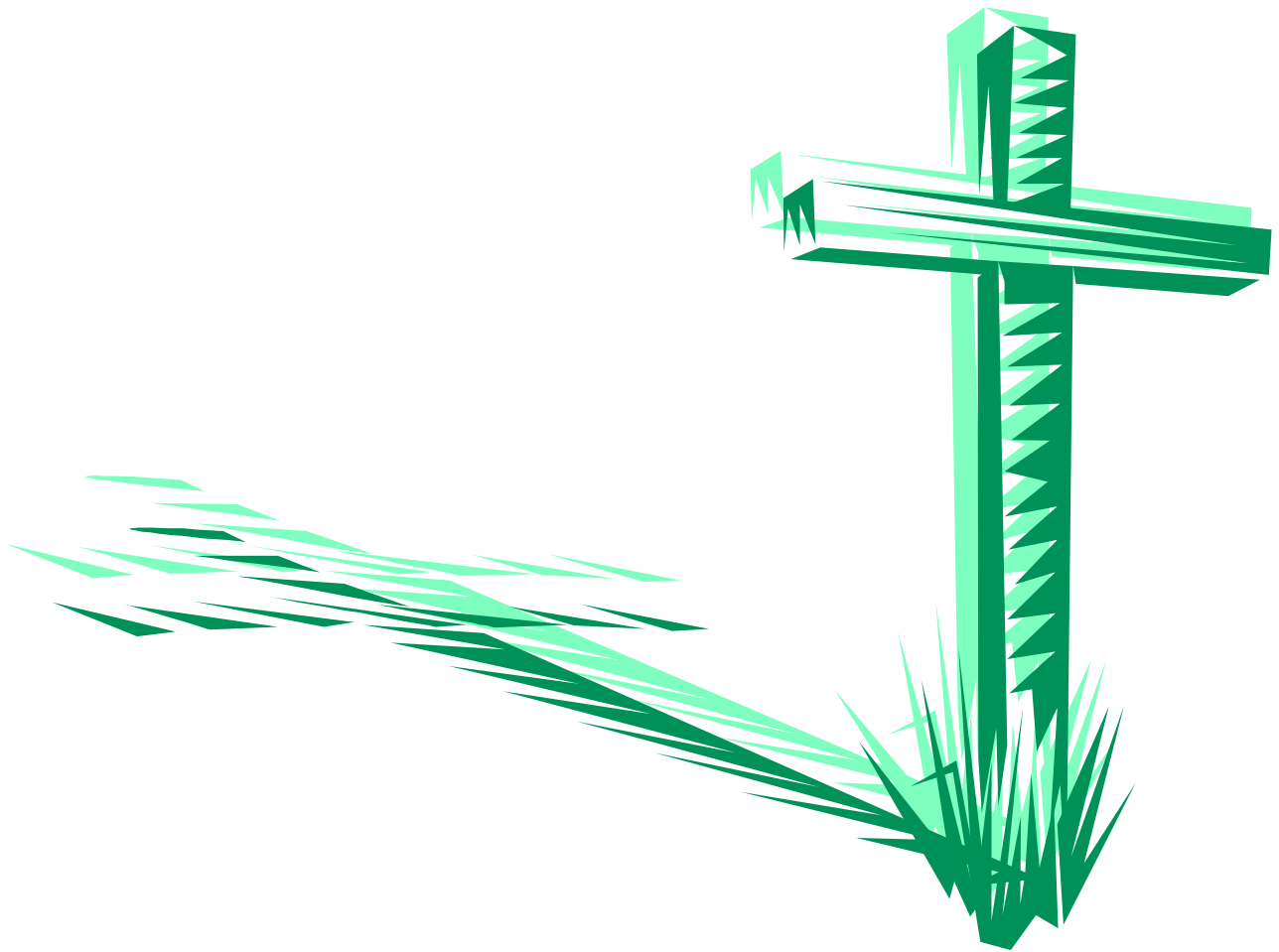


March 2009



# MESSENGER

---



## *Lent*

---

Phone: 952-938-4683

Email: [stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org](mailto:stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org)

Fax: 952-938-1141

Website: [www.saintpaulslutheran.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheran.org)

**Rev. Louise Mollick, Pastor**  
**Cindi Paulsen, Music Director**

**Vince Jacobson, Congregation President**  
**Linda Dundas, Administrative Assistant**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Abundant Life, Passion, and Energy

A while back, when Pastor Louise was taking on yet another commitment, I was concerned about the possibility that she might become overloaded and be at risk of burnout. I asked her if she really had time to take on one more thing, and she replied that she had agreed to do it as long as it brings her new Life; as long as it gives her energy.

I had not intentionally approached commitments this way before, but now I think about it quite often. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I came that they may have Life, and have it abundantly". So what is an abundant Life and how do we know it when we see it? I think that an abundant Life is a joy-filled life filled with purpose. An abundant life abounds with passion and energy. An abundant Life shines with light and brings light to those around it.

I continue to struggle with the mystery of Grace and how it is not only a free gift that we do nothing to earn, but that it is not even possible to earn. My current glimpse of clarity has to do with the gift of grace freeing us from our fears and other obstacles that prevent us from being in relationship with God. As I read John 10:10, I don't hear it speaking about salvation, but rather, about the blessings we experience here and now as a result of being in relationship with God. It tells me that when we walk with God, we are given abundant Life in the walk as a result of the relationship. I see this example of God taking care of us and giving us what we need repeated over and over in scripture. I see an exact parallel with I Corinthians 10:13 where we are promised that we will not be tempted without also being given a way of escape.

So how can we put this into practice? Some believers will tell you that all you have to do is claim the promises in the Bible. I pray that some day I will have the faith to claim the promises in the Bible and to have the clarity to see them when they are fulfilled, but while I am on the journey to that place, I rely on baby steps.

One of my challenges is discerning what choices put me on the path with God. Every day I learn a little more. I have learned to listen carefully for a small voice guiding me. I have learned to be very suspicious when the voice seems loud. I have learned that when I KNOW I am right, it is usually my pride trying to push God aside. I have learned to surround myself with others who can and will engage me in deep, honest discussion to help me try to see what God is up to. And now, I am learning to intentionally be sensitive to a choice that brings me abundant Life.

The vocabulary of abundant Life includes words like passion, calling, spiritual gifts, energy and many more. I think there is some chicken and egg stuff here. Passion and energy are visible attributes of an abundant Life. A calling may be God inviting us to begin a new relationship focus where that relationship will result in a gift of abundant Life. A spiritual gift is a skill or practice that helps us focus on a potential calling. Most of these occur at the same time and produce or reinforce one-another. When you take our Spiritual Gifts Survey, think about the gifts you discover and what you can do with them that will bring you new life.

One fascinating observation is that it seems as if the gifts of new Life and all of their signs may come in separate packages. At my workplace, we have had some especially challenging and stressful days lately with very disappointing outcomes. Often, by the end of the work day, my colleagues and I are completely drained. A couple of times a week, when we each feel like we need to lie down and rest, I look at the clock, perk up, and say something like "Goodnight, I need to be at church in 15 minutes", on my way out the door. It is like I am changing to a different compartment in my Life and this one is all fueled up and ready to go. My colleagues seem to always be amazed at the transformation from no energy to abundant energy. This is one example of others seeing the light shining from an abundant Life. I try to share the source of the light with them at every opportunity.

Pray to receive the promise of abundant Life and for that Life to shine to those that you encounter in your daily life. Pray for the courage to share the importance and the source of your relationship with God.

Blessings,  
Vince Jacobson

# COUNCIL NEWS

St. Paul's Church Council meets at 7:00 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Congregation members are welcome to attend and/or submit items for the agenda by contacting one of the council members.

## Council Meeting Highlights

### February 10, 2009

Council President Vince Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Jeanne Moe, Mike Mikulay, Connie Hessevick, Vince Jacobson, Pr. Louise Mollick, Carolyn Carpenter, Kristen Campbell, Phil Eckhert, Pat Tollefson and Jan Guetschow.

A major part of the meeting's activities involved review and discussion of observations from the Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 25. Recommendations made by the Transformational Ministry Team were part of the discussion. Jan and Pat attended to support discussion of the recommendations.

#### **Important Actions:**

- 1) Our mission statement has been changed from: "To be an open and inviting church in order to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ" to: **"To be an open and inviting church spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ"**

On the surface, this may seem like a very small change, but it is clearly a change in focus from passive to active. This is not so important unless we actually intend to begin living out our mission statement.

- 2) We have committed to begin moving intentionally toward living our mission statement. The first step taken on this path is committing to beginning the "Reconciled in Christ" congregation process.
- 3) We established regular monthly congregational gatherings that will incorporate:
  - A potluck brunch
  - Guided discussions
  - Focus on furthering/advancing our mission
  - Ways to equip each of us for mission in specific ways

- Efforts to instill a personal sense of urgency
- 4) We will "Advertize" our Lenten service and soup suppers in the community, emphasizing "stop in for a free meal, stay for fellowship and evening prayer". We will seriously consider continuing this kind of mission after Lent.

The Staff Support Ministry Team recommended and the council acted to change Linda Dundas' title from Church Secretary to Administrative Assistant to be more consistent with her responsibilities.

#### **Other business and reports included:**

- 1) Approval of prior meeting minutes
- 2) Vince is forming a Tech Ministry Team of people who have an interest or skills in computer technology areas. Those with an interest will be trained to maintain our web site. The team will think about and get us started on computer backups and investigating/implementing ways that we, as a congregation, can take better advantage of technology such as electronic newsletters, etc.
- 3) We have recorded about 24 Spiritual Gifts Surveys as of this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

---

*Featured Ministry Team is a recurring article written by the council member liaison to that ministry team. This month's feature is by Carolyn Carpenter.*

## **Featured Ministry Team**

### **STAFF SUPPORT**

A new and badly needed ministry team was established this last summer - the Staff Support Ministry Team. The four members of the team are Lois Bell, Mike Mikulay and Tom Larson. I am the liaison to the Church Council. Reviews should be done for our employees (pastor, music director, accompanist, administrative assistant) on a regular basis and that had not been happening in the last few years. Lois, Mike and Tom have organized this task and it's a much better situation for everyone concerned. Thanks to them for their good work.

**Reminder: April newsletter items are due in the office by Sunday, March 15.**

**Sponsor A Family**

www.sponsorfamily.org

Minneapolis  
866-620-2236

St. Paul  
800-285-3014

January 2009

Dear Friend,

On behalf of Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and our partnering agencies, thank you for your generous support to the 2008 Sponsor A Family Program. Your compassion and generosity touched 1,880 families, and their 8,199 family members.

Those needing the most help received support during the holidays. Your donations of warm coats, clothes, educational gifts and toys filled two warehouses. The families were overjoyed with the gifts you provided. The expressions of gratitude came as thank yous in multiple languages to tears of joy. One family shared this:

*"Thank you very much for all your love, time and gifts! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making this Christmas special- without you Christmas would not be possible- there truly is a Santa and the kids are so happy! Many blessings."*

The stories are no different than ones you have heard before: loss of a job, a struggling single-parent, refugees arriving in the very cold Minnesota winter with nothing, seniors with no one, and careworn families working to improve their lives. Understandably, the thought of Christmas coming seemed bleak until you touched them with your generosity. Another family shared this:

*"Christmas seemed grim until you came into my life. Thank you for giving me hope and thanks for making my son's Christmas memorable."*

You brought hope and joy to thousands of your neighbors during the holidays. We are truly blessed to partner with you in providing for those in need. Thank you for your support of this holiday program and your ongoing support of our programs and services. You make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

In gratitude,



The Rev. John Estrem  
CEO  
Catholic Charities



Mark A. Peterson  
President/ CEO  
Lutheran Social Service of MN

 sponsor a family



HOPKINS  
MINNETONKA  
FAMILY  
RESOURCE  
CENTER

915 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
(952) 988-5350

# COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTER



Over the past year the HMFRC staff identified the need for a computer center where people in the community can access technology to work on resumes, job hunt, learn computer skills, research educational opportunities, and look for housing.

The Resource Center has decided to fill this need and create a Community Technology Center (CTC) which is open to *Everyone* in our community.

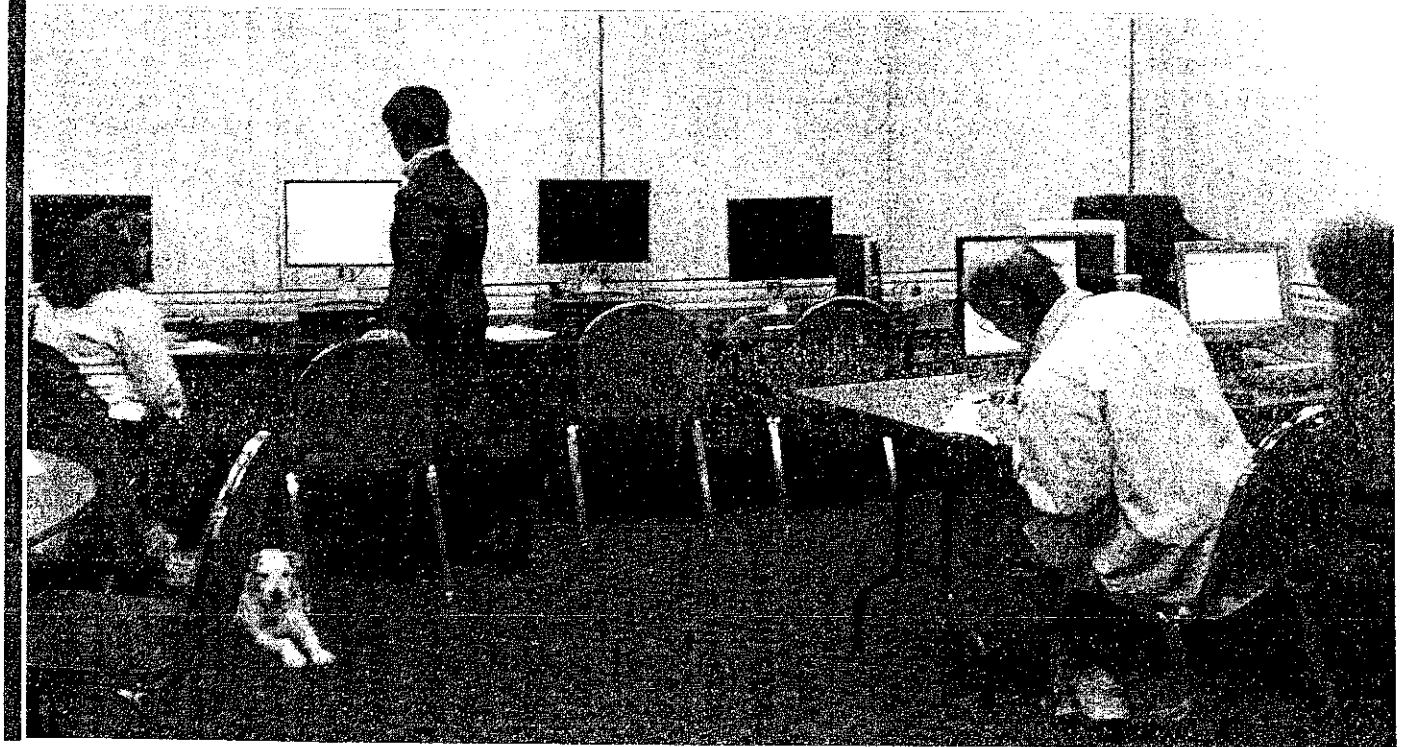
Volunteer mentors will help with resume writing, interviewing tips, job search support and more.

MONDAYS  
1:00P-3:00P  
THURSDAYS  
3:30P-6:30P  
FRIDAYS  
10A-12P

ASSISTANCE WITH  
RESUME WRITING  
PLEASE CALL FOR  
APPOINTMENT

## What can you do at the CTC:

- ♦ Job Searching
- ♦ On-line Job Applications
- ♦ Resume/Cover Letter Writing
- ♦ Computer Skills Tutorials
- ♦ Research Educational Opportunities
- ♦ Housing Search
- ♦ Childcare Searches
- ♦ Open an e-mail account (MSN/ Yahoo)
- ♦ 1 to 1 Mentoring (Resume writing, interviews, helping with job search)





**EMPTY BOWLS**  
**Tuesday, March 24**  
**11 AM to 7 PM**  
**1111 Mainstreet**  
**Hopkins**  
**Center for the Arts**

The Hopkins Business Community is hosting its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Empty Bowls event, inviting everyone to the Hopkins Center for the Arts on Tuesday, March 24 to choose a bowl from among 1200 bowls created by local artists and students, eat your choice of soup and bread donated by local businesses, enjoy entertainment, and make a generous free-will donation to benefit ICA Foodshelf and Hopkins Minnetonka Resource Center.

In the first 10 years of Empty Bowls, \$394,078 has been raised. The goal for 2009 is \$50,000, funded in part with a seed grant from SuperValu of \$5,000. SUPERVALU, INC. has once again challenged businesses, community groups, congregations and leaders to add their sponsorship to the \$5,000 "Challenge to the Community Fund." For information about becoming a sponsor or to volunteer, call Hopkins School District Volunteer Office, 952-988-4069 or pick up forms in the church office.

ICA greatly appreciates the generosity of the Minnetonka and Hopkins schools in enlisting the students to make the art pieces and in taking the time to prepare and sponsor these fundraisers. Thanks to all the involved students and volunteers, and thanks to all those attending and offering their support.

Donna Duchene  
ICA Executive Board

**Current ICA Foodshelf Needs:**

- Canned Kidney or Misc. Beans
- Canned Broth
- Rice Sides
- Dry Instant Soup
- Hamburger Helper
- Condensed Soup (no chicken noodle)
- Ready to eat Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Empty Plastic Water Bottles

**March is National Reading Month**

The Learning Disabilities Association is in the process of collecting new or gently used books for the reading levels pre-kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. LDA Minnesota provides reading instructions and donated books to benefit low-income students who have fallen behind and do not have access to books. Look for a collection box in the narthex during March and April. Contact Laura Eggert if you have any questions.

**Do You Know About Earth Hour?**

[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)



The World Wildlife Federation and Earth Hour organization are encouraging all businesses and individuals to turn off their lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 28 to support a powerful global message that it is possible to take action on climate change. In 2007 more than 2 million businesses and households participated; in 2008 more than 50 million people in 35 countries turned off their lights, and in 2009 Earth Hour aims to reach one billion people in 1000 cities worldwide.



**THANK YOU!**

From Heather Hammond to St. Paul's for \$750 in Mission Support and for additional donations supporting the wider church in 2008.

From ICA for 37 pounds of food donated.

Handy Helpers and volunteers that signed up for prompt and dependable snow removal from the front steps and sidewalks.

Vida Abundante en Cristo and Agora Ministries for their participation in the Transfiguration Service and Mardi Gras celebration.

## Shall St Paul's become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation?

Our Mission Statement: is "to be an open and inviting church spreading the Good News of Christ".

Reconcile means "to find a way in which two situations or beliefs that are opposed to each other can agree and exist together." To be reconciled means "when two people are reconciled they become friendly again after they have argued." (both from the *Cambridge Dictionary*.)

"*Reconciling in Christ*" (RIC) is a program to recognize Lutheran congregations that welcome lesbian and gay members into full participation. Since its formation in 1983, the *Reconciling in Christ* program has been expanded to include organizations, synods, colleges and seminaries

Lutherans Concerned/North America is the sponsoring agency with the ELCA for the RIC program. It is a program for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the gospel by welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities

Three things have come together as St. Paul's begins the process of discerning our interest in this program.

1. During "Table Talk" at our congregation's annual meeting, a question was raised as to our true commitment to our mission: live it or change it. Are we truly an open and inviting church? Do we truly welcome all? Are we truly inclusive?
2. The Transformational Ministry Team recommended moving intentionally toward living our mission statement by beginning the process of becoming a RIC congregation.
3. The Church Council committed to begin the discernment process with the congregation, to widen our hospitality and welcome.

At St. Paul's monthly potluck brunch gathering, we will work on the "Congregational Assessment Worksheet" provided by Lutheran Concerned/North America to help assess our readiness to become a RIC congregation. The RIC program simply focuses on welcome.

This is the beginning of a process to thoughtfully discuss and attempt to become a truly open and inviting church to all in the community. More background information is available in the enclosed brochure and on their website, [www.lcna.org](http://www.lcna.org).

Please plan to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> potluck brunch gathering and an upcoming Sunday Adult Forum on this program. Contact Jan Guetschow, Pat Tollefson, or Pr. Louise with questions, for more information, or to help.



### You are invited to St. Paul's First Monthly Congregational Potluck Brunch Gathering Sunday, March 22

"We really had a wonderful time, super get-together, great discussion, and wonderful brunch...**WE COULD/SHOULD DO THIS REGULARLY!**"

The Transformational Ministry Team and Church Council heard the above and have acted. Following the service on March 22, we will gather for brunch and discussion in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level. It will mark two beginnings: first, the monthly gathering will be for discussion, fun and fellowship; and second, to begin the congregation's process to become a congregation "Reconciling in Christ."

Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Coffee, juice, and milk will be provided. Please contact Mary Hromatka, Carolyn Carpenter, or any member of the Transformational Ministry Team with questions. **Mark your calendar and plan to be there!**

*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 e-mail us at [stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org](mailto:stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org).*

## Midweek Lenten Service Schedule

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1

6:00 pm – Soup Supper

6:45 pm – Holden Evening Prayer

April 9, Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm – Foot washing and  
Holy Communion

April 10, Good Friday

7:00 pm – Worship

are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

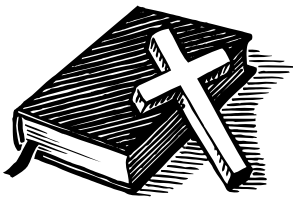
from *Whistling in the Dark* by Frederick Buechner



## Winter isn't over – Snow Removal Help is Still Needed

*and should include ice!*

**A sign-up sheet for every one to help** (including the congregation of Vida Abundante En Cristo) is on the entryway table. Please keep in mind that increased building use requires **clearing snow and ice** from sidewalks every snow fall before it is packed down and forms an uneven and slippery ice hazard. Please check the enclosed calendar for building usage during your week. Thank you so much for your help and



## LENT

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why? When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore? If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less.

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you



## Church Office News

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the news was full of ice warnings. Driveways and parking lots were wet from the rain, probably because they were black and still had some warmth, but the sidewalks - oh the sidewalks; they looked wet but turned to clear ice quickly as the concrete cooled.

What was wet just a few minutes early could be used for ice skating just a short time later.

St. Pauls Administrative Assistant, Linda Dundas, slipped and fell as she stepped from the parking lot onto the sidewalk that morning entering the church and broke both bones in her right wrist. Consequently St. Paul's office hours will be irregular for several weeks. Please call before coming. Phone messages are being handled daily and the work is getting out with the help of supervised volunteers.

## Sunday Bible Readings

### March 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15

### March 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
 Psalm 22:23-31  
 Romans 4:13-25  
 Mark 8:31-38

### March 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
 John 2:13-22

### March 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9  
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
 Ephesians 2:1-10  
 John 3: 14-21

### March 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 51:1-12 *or* 119:9-16  
 Hebrew 5:5-10  
 John 12: 20-33

## Prayer & Bible Study

- † **Bible study with Pastor Louise** is held every other Saturday morning from 9:30 – 11:00 am in St. Paul's Library. Please check the monthly calendar for exact dates.
- † **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 a.m. KSTP 1500 AM and 10:30 p.m. 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](http://www.elca.org/evangelism/daily-discipleship).
- † **Other prayer resources** are available at [www.elca.org/prayer](http://www.elca.org/prayer).

## West Metro 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.

### Saturdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Wooddale Lutheran Church  
 4003 Wooddale Avenue South  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
 Carol Fiedler ~ church liaison  
 (952)926-9864



DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
March 7	Linda Rodgers, MS	Essentials for Emotional Well Being Accompanied by Maya, Therapy dog
March 14	Chaplain David Engelstad	Grief as Becoming
March 21	Video	The Journey of Grief
March 28	Host Church	Participants remember their loved ones

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

**Directory Update:** Ruth and Bernie Johnson have discontinued their land line. They can be reached on their cell phones. Bernie: 612-991-7025, Ruth: 612-581-1701. Please make a note in your directory.

**March 2009 Service Team**

★ church council member

Anderson – Doug, Terri, Cory, Sammi  
Bonner/Hromatka - Dean, Mary★, Nora  
Eggert – Laura  
Erickson – Muriel  
Falk – Grace, Ron  
Hanson – Darold, Diane  
Jacobson – Vince★, Kris  
Lindquist – Rey, Lois  
Ramsden – Roger, Joyce  
Rieman – Maxine  
Schaller – Shirley  
Schmitz – Matt, Shari, Maggie, Heidi,  
Haily, Kelsey, Riley  
Smith – Lorraine  
Tollefson – Paul, Pat  
Uden – Jim, Nancy

**April 2009 Service Team**

★ church council member

Bell/Burdick – Lois, Glyde  
Carpenter – Marshall, Carolyn★  
Foss – Ryan, Lisa, Kristian, Sawyer  
Guetschow – Bob, Jan  
Hessevick – Connie★  
Hoyhyta – Carol  
Johnson – Bernie, Ruth  
MacNaughton – Jenni, Katie, Zach  
Majersky, Deloris  
McGee – Linda  
Moe – Rick, Jeanne, Britta, Erik, Kris  
Nelson – Steve, Wanda  
Olson – Ray, Jean  
Peterson - Mary Kay  
Rodman/Rudolph - Darcie, Chuck, Peter  
Rutzen – Doris  
Smith – Kay, Ken, Michael



6 Carl Peaslee  
12 Chuck Rudolph  
14 Ian Wolfe  
16 Linda McGee  
17 Nicholas Saal  
20 Carolyn Carpenter  
24 Julius Helmer  
26 Shirley Riggle  
28 Mary Hromatka,  
Pat Tollefson  
29 Dean Bonner

**Blessed Anniversaries**

19 Bernie & Ruth Johnson



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 March 1, 2009**



**LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!!**

**Sunday, all**  
**Sunday, March 8**  
**Sunday, March 15**  
**Sunday, March 22**  
**Sunday, March 29**

9:30 am – Holy Communion, then refreshments & Adult Forum  
**Daylight Saving Time begins, Spring forward 1 hour!**  
Newsletter deadline, Luther Dell registrations due  
Service of Healing, monthly congregational potluck brunch  
2:00 pm – St. Paul's leads Chapel View worship

**Monday, all**  
**Monday, March 2**  
**Monday, March 9**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting, 7:00 pm Breast cancer survivors group  
7:00 pm – Transformational Ministry  
7:00 pm – Spong discussion group

**Tuesday, March 3**  
**Tuesday, March 10**  
**Tuesday, March 24**

7:00 pm – Worship & Music meeting  
7:00 pm – Council Meeting  
11:00 am to 7:00 pm – Empty Bowls, Hopkins Art Center

**Wednesday, all**  
**Wednesday, all**  
**Wednesday, March 4**  
**Wednesday, March 11**

**6:00 pm – Soup supper, 6:45 pm – Lenten service**  
7:15 pm – Confirmation Ministry here, 7:30 pm – Choir rehearsal  
11:30 am – Befrienders  
11:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Thursday, March 19**

6:15 pm – Our Saviour's serving

**Friday, March 27**

11:00 am – Meals on Wheels

**Saturday, March 7, 21**  
**Saturday, March 14**  
**Saturday, March 28**

8:30 am – Discipleship Academy  
9:30 am – Bible Study with Pastor Louise  
8:30 am – Multi-cultural Youth gathering, 8:30 – 9:30 pm Earth Hour