

Sugar Creek Currents

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2010

From Our Pastor's Desk . . .

To me February is one of the most interesting months. It's short. When it is over you feel winter is on its way out. Valentine's Day gets us thinking about our relationships. President's Day reminds us of good leadership and our role as citizens. It is also Black History month which reminds me that much of our history can be viewed from a differing and valid perspective. We have been richly blessed by the contributions of African Americans.

February is also the month in which Lent usually begins. Lent can be a time where we gain a different perspective on our faith journey. The word "Lent" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon "lencten" meaning spring (the season). It is the period of 40 days prior to Easter - not counting Sundays. It focuses primarily on the cross of Christ and our response to it.

The disciplines of Lent - repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of love - together with our worship can help reshape our faith perspective. We usually view all those activities as something we do. Certainly, they are. But in a more profound sense these are practices that open us to God's leading.

I invite you to join me in a Lenten journey which leads to a deeper expression of our faith. God first made the promise to the Isaac (Genesis 26:3) and reiterated it to future generations, "I will go with you". That same promise is for you and me as we walk by faith into our future.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

01/17/2010 Elias Carl Kuespert

Funeral

10/25/1937-12/27/2009 Sheron Cornelison

03/27/1943-01/11/2010 Karin B. Meller



Lectors

02/07	8:00am	Carol Krauklis
	10:30am*	John Johnson
02/14	8:00am*	Jim Krauklis
	10:30am	Randy Leece
02/17	7:30pm*	Tom Schroeder
02/21	8:00am	Elaine Oehler
	10:30am*	Richard Logterman
02/28	8:00am*	Evie Schulz
	10:30am	Marc Nelson

Acolytes

02/06	5:30pm	Stephanie Schmidt
02/07	8:00am	Rachel Drettwan
	10:30am*	Natalie Sasing
02/13	5:30pm	Mackenzie Umnus
02/14	8:00am*	Erin Utesch
	10:30am	Casey Albright
02/17	7:30pm*	Jacob Beduze
02/20	5:30pm	James Graham
02/21	8:00am	Dylan Haling
	10:30am*	Braden Mann
02/27	5:30pm	Elijah Nelson
02/28	8:00am*	Alex Roberts
	10:30am	Wade Selvey

Projectionists

02/06	5:30pm	Matt Ambelang
02/07	8:00am	Robert Billin
	10:30am*	Jordan Keithley
02/13	5:30pm	Logan Knull
02/14	8:00am*	Kalan Welch
	10:30am	Nick Braun
02/17	7:30pm*	Logan Gallagher
02/20	5:30pm	Jesse Larson
02/21	8:00am	Max Reid
	10:30am*	Mariah Bormann
02/27	5:30pm	Vicky Bray
02/28	8:00am*	MacKenzie Krauklis
	10:30am	Morgan Knull

Ushers**Early Service**

Gene & Linda Krauklis	723-3623
Jim & Carol Krauklis	742-2511
Roger & Chris Burtraw	723-5959
Jean Eddy	728-6775
Joel & Sue Nelson	728-0614
Paul Ormson	742-4942
Tom Woellert	723-7278

Late Service

Kurt & Ginger Buehner	723-3831
Jerry Fassbender Family	728-8832
Jami Gooslin	728-8832
Jim & April Keithley	742-4068
Joe & Delores Keithley	728-4443
Ward & Kris Phillips	723-2003
Kay Felland	742-3879
Susan Lyons	472-0593
Eric & Tracy Hillenbrand	949-3801

Altar Guild—Connie Johnson, Linda Baldwin, Kathy Kuznacic, Cindy Shiroda

One of our members who has difficulty making it to Church often watches televised services from Lutheran churches. "Knowing what the scripture readings are will aid in my preparation." Perhaps others will find this helpful as well.

February 7: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

February 14: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36.

February 17: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21.

February 21: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2; 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

February 28: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

Church Council Members

Paul Beduze	742-4477
Mike Broll	723-1093
Melody Fehling	723-7441
Donna Felland	473-7380
Bob Hamilton	742-5121
Brenda Haling	723-6922
Tom Maier	723-6788
Scott Nelson	723-3039
Sandi Schreib	495-2620

Circle News

Leah circle will meet on February 10, 2010, at 9:00am at church.

Ruth Circle will not meet in February. February 17th is Ash Wednesday.

All are welcome at circle meetings.

Please remember to check the bulletin board in the Narthex and the bulletins for **Habitat for Humanity** Happenings. Brochures are available in the Narthex. For Habitat updates posted by the local organization, you can visit their website at www.habitatwalworthcounty.org.

If you brought dishes to the potlucks or to the Homeless Shelter, please remember to pick them up in the kitchen. If you have picked up someone else's dish in error, please return it. Some are looking for their dishes and can't find them. Thanks!

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 Sugar Creek Lutheran Church
 N5690 Cobblestone Road
 Elkhorn, WI 53121
 262-728-2222

THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL --

Unless the weather is hazardous, we do not cancel worship services or other activities. Our location sometimes makes driving difficult. We always urge you to exercise caution. In the event that we cancel services or activities, that will be announced on TMJ4, FOX6, WISN12, CBS58, their related radio stations and websites.

YOU WERE THERE -- When 37,000 Lutheran teenagers descended upon New Orleans, Louisiana, in July 2009, the city welcomed them with open arms.

The teenagers, along with adult chaperones and other volunteers, came from all over the United States as participants in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Youth Gathering. Sugar Creek sent 17 youth and 5 adults to this event. They were there to serve a city battered by both weather and the economy.

"The people of New Orleans deserve all of our help," said Reba Burkett, a high school student from Verdon, Nebraska.

During the three-day event, participants donned bright orange t-shirts and braved the exhausting heat and humidity to work in nearly 200 community service sites.

The city was effusive in its expression of gratitude. Mayor C. Ray Nagin issued a proclamation declaring July 24, 2009, "A Special Day of Honor" for the ELCA.

At a news conference in New Orleans East, Nagin stated, "We have had so many volunteers from around the country and around the world, but for some reason your presence here is different, special and takes everything to the next level."

In Joseph Brown Park, youth and adults worked to remove debris left from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, four years earlier. The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, was an enthusiastic volunteer at the event.

Maryland teenager Amber Fletcher, 15, was amazed at the impact that the young Lutherans had on the Crescent City.

"We made a huge difference," she said with an ear-to-ear smile. "(We) reminded (them) to have hope because people still cared."

Through your generous support, **YOU WERE THERE!**

DID YOU KNOW? -- The ELCA Youth Gathering is a triennial event for high-school youth from the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Program and service units at the churchwide

organization, including Office of the Treasurer, Communication Services, Information Technology, Vocation and Education and Human Resources, work in partnership to plan and implement the event.

A focus on service and justice encourages attendees to return home with a renewed commitment to sharing God's boundless love with the world.

KISS -- Years ago a young man entered the ordained ministry and his wife gave him a framed cross stitch with the word KISS prominently displayed. He hung it in his office. The Bishop noticed it. Learning it was a gift from the pastor's wife, he said, "Isn't that sweet?" The pastor responded, "I don't think so. She said it means, "Keep It Simple Stupid".

Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday. This year our theme will be **KISS**. We will incorporate themes from our last stewardship campaign, "Make It Simple" and expand it by focusing on the disciplines of Lent – repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of love.

I invite you to join me each Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Together we can **KISS**.

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS to Rich Verrengia for coordinating our week of hosting the Emergency Homeless Shelter. We also thank the numerous volunteers who provided meals, transportation, and those who stayed as chaperones. Thanks also to Lutherdale Ministries for making their showers available for our guests. We housed between 13 and 15 men. It was so successful we are going to become a regular host site.

WHO WE ARE is a four hour session introduction to Lutheran beliefs and practices. Potential new members are encouraged to attend. It is also an excellent refresher course for Lutherans. Sessions will be held on Sundays February 21, 28 and March 7 & 14 beginning at 7:00pm. New members will be received on March 20 and 21

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY -- A new membership directory is being printed. Due to postal regulations it will not be mailed with the Currents. You can pick up your copy at church. Please help us out by checking your listing and letting us know if there are errors. We only know what you tell us. Also, we would like to update our e-mail listings. Please, help!



February Birthdays

- 02 - Evan LeMahiew
- 03 - Nathan Klade, Daniel Leach
- 04 – Laura Ford, Tricia Sgotta
- 05 - Meaghan Ambelang, Wendy Hanke, Shari Wisnieski
- 06 - Helen Ellsworth, Jordan Keithley, Steven Nettesheim, Art Styles
- 07 - Gerry Petersen, Degarya Sumiejski
- 08 - Jim Jacobson
- 09 - Richard Heacox
- 10 – Brandon Tucker, Sarah Zepezauer
- 11 - Christopher Kunke, Zachary Stewart, Lori Truckenbrod, Logan Truckenbrod
- 12 - Jonathon Boss, Makayla Messel, Elaine Oehler
- 13 - Jonathan Amon, Kim Bushey, Dale Halvorson, Nicole Ross
- 14 - Carol Flitcroft, Karen Fuelleman, Linda Krauklis, Clarence Willms
- 15 - Richard Carlson, Christine Fiore, Michael Maier
- 16 - Kyle Graske, Erika Sesing
- 17 – Joseph Matovich, Katie Pertzborn
- 18 - Jeff Firlinger, Pat Hoffman, Emma Jacobson, Amy Markham, Roy Wimer, Ric Wimer
- 19 - Jill Vigueras
- 20 - Blake Jordan
- 21 - Kurt Buehner, Corey Coffman, Renato Ruiz
- 22 - Katie Hanson, Elizabeth Markham
- 23 - Linda Braun, Erin Utesch
- 24 – Emma Hageli, Kris Markham, Dick Pawlowski
- 25 - Melissa Otto, Deb Williamson
- 26 – Brandon Hageli, Chris Scaro, Curtis Welch
- 27 - Mike Caulfield, Kristine Drettwan, Rahn Smith
- 28 –Keaton Bormann, Caitlyn Howard, Marc Nelson, Karen Secord

WHAT ABOUT THE HISTORIC CHURCH? -- A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21, at 9:15 AM to discuss the Historic Church building. Is this building a resource for ministry or only a monument to the past? If it is a resource, how might we utilize it? How do we preserve it – paint, vinyl siding, etc. (Repair and painting will cost close to \$20,000; vinyl siding may run around \$50,000.) What options do we have? Think about these questions and more. Come with your ideas and recommendations.

LUTHERDALE MINISTRIES SUNDAY -- It is not too soon to be thinking about Summer Camp. On Sunday, February 14 a representative from Lutherdale will be here to explain the Camp offerings, answer questions, and receive registrations. Normally, a deposit is required with the reservation. If you sign up your child on Lutherdale Sunday you will have 30 days to get the deposit in. If you attend the Saturday service, contact Martha for a registration form. As long as it is turned in on Feb. 14 you qualify for the grace period.

GRIEF MINISTRY - Anger -- Sometimes the strongest feeling a person has at the time of a loved one's death is anger. Is it really possible? Can someone who has learned to trust the Lord still be angry? Angry at God? Angry at doctors? Angry at others? Angry at yourself?

Yes, sometimes.

Let go of your anger. Commit your anger to the Lord. Ask Him to take away the bitterness of your heart. Ask Him to fill your heart with peace.

Psalm 71:20 *Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again from the depths of the earth. You will again bring me up.* Taken from the pamphlet, GOD UNDERSTANDS, Text : New International Version of the Holy Bible and Edwin D. Roels.

ASK BARNABUS – Barnabus literally means “son of encouragement”. Paul’s missionary partner certainly was that to the fledgling Christian church.

Our Grief Ministry Team wants to serve as a source of encouragement to you. We are initiating a new column in the CURRENTS “Ask Barnabus”. We encourage you to submit questions about death, grief, or related concerns. We then will answer them with the goal of encouraging one another.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved constitutional change C10.4. 25% of the average weekly worship attendance shall constitute a quorum
- Voted to become a host site for the Emergency Homeless Shelter
- Passed a budget of \$371,498 (3.2% increase over 2009)
- Elected the following:

Congregational Council

Melody Fehling
Brenda Haling
Scott Nelson

Endowment Committee

Barb Pawlowski
David Johnson
Marc Nelson

Nominating Committee

Paul Beduze
Robert Hamilton
Tom Maier
Kurt Buehner
Barb Stallman
Chris Burtraw

Delegates to South Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA Assembly

Terry Gefvert
Eric Gefvert
Pastor Pete

Lutherdale Ministries Annual Meeting

Jan Schuren
Sandy Johnson
Shelby Maier

Financial Secretary (shared position)

Jeanne St Clair
Rick Logterman

SUGAR CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 2010

Present: Pastor Pete, Paul Beduze, Mike Broll, Donna Felland, Bob Hamilton, Martha HarriSon, Tom Maier, Sandi Schreib, Susan Selvey, Barb Stallman, Jeff Vogt

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Peterson.

Correction to the December 2009 minutes – the Men's Ministry did not send the 110 letters; the SCSW ELCA Task Force sent those letters. Jeff moved to accept the minutes as amended. Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Homeless Shelter

Council agreed that volunteer coordinator Rich Verengia did a fantastic job organizing the hosting efforts by Sugar Creek. With our trial hosting week complete, we are now in the process of creating a manual on how to do this specifically at SCLC. At least 15 men total were served during the week, double what we were told to expect. Council thanks all the people who made food and volunteered in a myriad of ways for their participation in this ministry. The men truly appreciated our hospitality, telling volunteers that they rate Sugar Creek a 9+ on hospitality and that the food was simply off the chart in excellence and quantity. They were very grateful to have showers at Lutherdale. Gas cards from the Giving Tree helped some of the men who had cars. The interaction with our youth was valuable as a learning experience and also enjoyable for both the men and the young people of the church. Most congregations our size would have other congregations helping; the other groups who participate in providing this ministry were surprised we did it on our own.

As an ongoing host location we can expect our rotation to come every 9 weeks (3 or 4 times annually). Currently the shelter does not operate during the summer months. Like other host sites, we can have a partner church or group. SCLC can invite a congregation that is not involved currently and that would help recruit more in the community and help ease the load on our congregation.

Barb moved that we announce at the annual meeting that Council recommends that Sugar Creek Lutheran Church continue as a host location and invite discussion by the congregation. Jeff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Historic Church

Siding options – Tom has 2 reputable bidders looking into that option. Members of the church have asked that there be a way that members

could designate their contributions not go to the old church, or specifically can go to the church – Paul confirms we can do that easily. Council felt that decisions about the historic church relate to the Discerning our Future ideas. The majority of the meeting was devoted to discussion about the historic church --options and opportunities, feelings that members of the congregation have shared, ways we might pay for this, and how God might lead us in discerning our stewardship of this property in the way He calls us.

Barb noted her previous suggestion that we call a congregational meeting to fully discuss the historic church, to which council had agreed. Mike moved that at the Annual Meeting we give a short summary of options, and that we set the date of **February 21 between church services** for a special congregational meeting to discuss the historic church. Sandi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Since it has been difficult filling the treasurer's position, Pastor brought up the option that we could consider having this be a paid position (not just stipend, as currently is our practice). Paul Beduze, current treasurer, described the learning curve and the weekly amount of time needed (approx 8 hours) with the improvement of the systems in use; he recommends that it not be someone who travels a great deal. Council agreed that the preferred situation would be that an elected Council member will do it.

The Synod requested a representative to serve on their Mission Table. Mike volunteered to take this position.

Since our advertising rates are increasing significantly and we do not think there is enough return on that investment to continue that expenditure, Pastor Pete suggested we end all phonebook advertisements and instead use the funds to pay someone to develop our website and maintain it. We will ask advice of church members and others on the best way to chose a developer and website maintenance professional. Barb moved that we cancel the ads in the phonebooks and look into prices to hire someone to design and maintain our website. Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Martha HarriSon's Youth and Family Ministry Report

Christmas service by the Sunday School classes went well.

Barn Service went well.

Martha is taking 7th and 8th grade confirmation students to a lock-in called "Girl Talk" in Madison (eight girls and their confirmation mentors are going).

Two milestones coming up – bible presentations and first communion.

February 14th is Lutherdale Sunday - if you sign up that day to go to camp, the deposit is waived.

YouthQuake in the Dells is coming up in February for the confirmation kids.

Bob Hamilton – President's Report

Bob thanked out-going council members Susan Selvey, Barb Stallman, and Jeff Vogt for their service to the church, and they were applauded by council. He also reported that the 3rd annual all-church birthday party was an enjoyable and well-attended event.

Treasurer's Report

Paul gave a detailed report, including highlights of what will be given at the Annual Meeting. He noted that over the holidays we supported Habitat for Humanity, both Elkhorn's and Delavan's food pantries, Agape House, Mary's Room, and the Association for the Prevention of Family Violence. Almost \$600 was split between the two food pantries (from our Thanksgiving collection) and approximately \$2500 was divided between the other four groups (from Christmas Eve and Day services). In addition, Twin Oaks Shelter received \$330 from the Christmas Eve Barn Service collection. Mike moved to accept the treasurer's report as given, Barb seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom noted that we need to update our church directory with the new members' listings. Pastor Pete confirmed that this is scheduled in the next month and will be done.

Barb moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandi seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Schreib, secretary

**Youth and Family Ministry Schedule
February 2010**

February 3rd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm

February 7th - Sunday School 9:15am
Youth Group 4-7pm

February 10th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm

February 14th - Lutherdale Sunday
Sunday School 9:15am
Youth Group 4-7pm

February 17th - Confirmation 6-7:15pm

February 19th - Barefoot Benefit 7pm

February 21st - Sunday School 9:15am
No Youth Group

February 24th - Confirmation 6:00-7:15pm

February 26-28th - Dells Youth Quake

February 28th - Sunday School 9:15am
No Youth Group