

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

## NEWSLETTER

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Our mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others

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### March 2009

#### PASTOR'S CORNER

I didn't mean to do it. Had I known better, I never *would* have done it. When I found out what I had done, I felt bad about it. When I discovered that some people were upset because of it, I tried to apologize. I have come to relate better to the passage about the disciples not eating food that is offered to idols if it will offend others. We all come from different cultures with different backgrounds. What may not be offensive to some of us, may be offensive to others. As a Christian Community, we need to be sensitive to *all* the members of the body of Christ.

So what was it that I did? On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, February 8<sup>th</sup>, my sermon title was "Being part of the gang". The theme was inclusivity in the Christian Family. When putting together the Sunday Bulletin, I look for various pieces of artwork or an appropriate graphic to help support the theme. Based on the "part of the gang" theme I thought of the old T.V. series "Our Gang" with The Little Rascals. What I did *not* know, was how offensive the Buckwheat character was to people of color. His stereotypical features are over emphasized and he was often portrayed as the less intelligent kid in the gang. I have come to learn that Bill Cosby bought the rights to this series so he could keep it from being aired due to its offensive nature.

When these issues were pointed out I, of course, could understand how they were offensive to people from that heritage. Had I known ahead of time, I would have never chosen that graphic for a bulletin cover. I was simply looking for a gang of kids together. So I would like to make this public apology for *anyone* who may have been offended by my ignorance. I also thank those who kindly brought it to my attention so we could resolve that issue.

More than in a regular family, our church family is made up of members from various cultures, ethnicities, nationalities, and other differences that add to our diversity. But it is our common bond of Christ as our brother that ties us together in bonds of love. Let us continue to grow as a family and always feel free to share our concerns, our sadness and joys, and all that makes up the complexities of life. I know that I will probably mess up again, but hopefully not in any hurtful ways. But if I do, your grace and forgiveness is appreciated. After all, we prayer for God to forgive *our* trespasses in the same way we forgive others. May we use this Lenten season to reflect on our penitential ways, and giving grace and forgiveness to others.

Yours in Christ, The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

## FROM THE VICAR...

March puts us right in the middle of Lent, a time for repentance; a time to draw closer to God; a time for personal reflection. In our busy lives we often fail to take time to see the true wonders of God in our lives. Repentance is more than acknowledging our sins. Yes, it is important to realize our sins but unless we work to make changes in our lives asking for forgiveness is an unfulfilled task. God knows our sins just as God knows if we have made changes to rid our lives of the sin.

God never leaves us, even in times of distress. It is easy to see God in the good things that happen in our lives. But when a time of discomfort comes around, we ask why. Why God have you abandoned me? Where are you God when I need you most? God is there for us through the relationships we keep with family and friends. God desires nothing more than for us to be in relationship with him; to be free to be ourselves; to love one another just as God loves us – unconditionally.

Do you take time to consider God within your life? The busy-ness of life gets in the way, and God gets pushed to the side. Yes, we all do it! There are places to go, things to do... We take for granted that God knows our every need. Unless we take the time to acknowledge God within, we are challenged to experience God among us.

During this season of Lent, let us take time to let God work through each of us. Help us to see the needs of others; to work for justice among all God's people; to take time to reflect on the majesty of God's love; waiting in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus after the agony of the crucifixion.



All are welcome to join in our discussion of this popular book continuing on Wednesdays at 12 noon and 7:30 pm. Topics for discussion include:



March 4 – Who is God?  
Who is Jesus?

March 11 – Fear

March 18 – Judgment  
Evil  
Freedom from...

March 25 – Expectations  
Forgiveness

April 1 – Life?

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES:

The children are learning that through faith and commitment, we can help a family in need by opening the gates to God's barnyard. The hallway leading to Sunday school has been transformed by the children into God's barnyard as a reminder.

A BIG THANKS to Debbie and Kelly Graham and Jamie Griffin for lending their artistic abilities to the creation of our barnyard.



March 29<sup>th</sup> will be the first Sunday School Service Day in which the children will provide a service to our Church. This month's activity will include starting flower seeds in cups to be planted on the Church grounds this spring.



Thank you to the St Peter's Congregation for helping us pass the 50% mark in our fundraising for the National Youth Gathering. Souper Bowl Sunday hoagie sales raised \$1,000 and Social Ministry graciously donated their proceeds from the soup sale to our kids.

To date we have raised \$4,680 (net of our expenses). Airline tickets have been purchased and registration deposits for the Gathering have been paid. Next we will be paying for hotel accommodations, transportation, tee shirts, benevolence gifts and more.

Our St. Peter's family has been so supportive to this program and word can not proper express our thanks. As we journey to New Orleans this July, we will be taking the Spirit of St. Peter's with us as we share the life love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.



## **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

What a huge success!! Twenty three members of our congregation graciously volunteered to make their special homemade soup and they were delicious! Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who gave their time and talent to make this such a success. We were able to raise \$1800, which will go to our Youth to attend the National Youth Gathering and give their time and talents to the people of New Orleans.

World Hunger collected almost \$200, and the barrels in the Narthex were overflowing with canned soups, which were delivered to our local food pantry at The Colonial Neighborhood Council.

## **CHANGE-FOR-CHANGE**



Social Ministry will be doing the Lenten Change-for-Change program again this year. There are pouches available at church for you to put your change in every night. We are asking that you bring these back to church by Easter Sunday and drop them in the collection bags as you go into the sanctuary. The money will be used to support the Summer Camp program at Martin Luther/Silver Spring School. Please donate your change so we can help make a change in the lives of these children.

To St. Peter's Church Members

I cannot thank everyone enough for all the good wishes expressed in memory of my mother's passing. She had a long life and did the best she could all the way.

Faith and I are grateful for all your kind and caring thoughts. Each card, each hug, each heartfelt word has helped us through a difficult time.

Thank you all for being such good friends.

Elsie & Faith Kortrey





## **What is S.O.S.? Supporters of S.P.Y.**

### **Who can volunteer?**

Anyone interested in spending time with this smart, energetic & hilarious group of kids

### **What kind of support does SPY need?**

Well, for instance, in March SPY has two service projects.

On **Sunday March 15th** we are headed to Silver Springs Luther School to put on a party for the children. We could use a few adults to help out and/or individually packaged snacks to give out.

On **Sunday March 29th** we are designing and sewing pillow cases for children in the hospital. The foundation is called ConKerr Cancer-A Case For Smiles. Any Joann Fabric coupons would be great and if you like to sew and have a sewing machine, well that is even better!

On **Friday March 20th** we are kid-sitting the little ones as a fundraiser. Again we could use another adult as an extra pair of eyes. It's a lot of fun.

Thank you.

Questions, comments & ideas welcomed.  
DanielleOrganizes@msn.com



## **CAR SHOW RETURNS**

Remember the First Annual St. Peter's Car Show? Well, the **Car Show** Committee is going to do it again! This year, the event will be held on **September 26** in our parking lot; the SPY group will be the lunch vendors, and the participants and spectators will look forward to another "different kind of stewardship" activity. We will be providing all the details as the months progress toward the show.

# STEWARDSHIP NOTES

## This Month's New Member Focus

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Another of our wonderful new members is Rosalie Swetkowski who lives nearby in Lafayette Hill—her proximity to St. Peter's makes it easy to join us for worship. Recently, she started attending the early service with a friend, and recognized many familiar faces, one of whom was Silvia Rotenbury. Rosalie has conducted her own spiritual journey that led her to other regional churches, and now she is one of ours.

She works for the Superintendent of the Colonial School District. She spends much of her free time with her family who all live close by and are also employed in education. And, she has three grandchildren—one boy and two girls. We are pleased to have Rosalie now among the St. Peter's family.

## St. Peter's Service Day (TAKE TWO!)

On **Saturday, April 25**, we will have the next St. Peter's Service Day. This is a chance for everyone who is on a committee to come to the church and provided services from 9 to 12. Of course, the Property Committee has lots of jobs for everyone, but other committees may have some tasks that could be accomplished on that day. So, save the date and plan to join us for another successful SPSD!

## The Dollar-a-Day Campaign

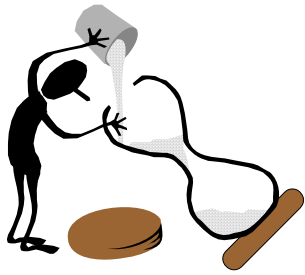
**The Stewardship Committee and Council are working toward a way in which we can assure that the "Dollar-a-Day" Campaign does not fall by the wayside. You will soon see the "logo" and will be provided some information that will help everyone to participate. Watch the weekly Bulletin and the TV monitors for more news about this very important project!**



## Save The Date



In an effort to express appreciation for all the work that our congregation does to help share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others, we will be having a **Member Appreciation Luncheon** on **April 26, 2009**. We know that the Committee Chairs and project leaders look forward to recognizing the dedication of everyone who makes St. Peter's what it is today. You will receive more information regarding this luncheon as the day draws closer.



## **CHANGES**

### **Deaths:**

John Pfeffer

Irene Flor

Mary Bathelemy

Jay Schraishuhn

### **Baptism:**

Abigail Elizabeth Wiglusz

Parents: Megan (Bell) Wiglusz & Jason Wiglusz

### **Weddings:**

Heidi Ann Melley & Jeffery Scott Hunt

February 14th, 2009

## 2009 EASTER ALTAR FLOWER ORDER FORM

For Easter, the Church is decorating the altar with Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths and daffodils *in memory of or in honor of love ones*. Please return this form to the office with a check payable to: **St Peter's Lutheran Church** **ORDER DEADLINE: APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**  
Plants may be taken after the *last service Easter Morning April 12<sup>th</sup>*,

<u>PLANT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PLANTS</u>	<u>EACH</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Lily Plants (Double Stem)	_____	\$14.00	\$_____
Tulip Plant (10 Bloom)	_____	10.00	_____
Hyacinth Plant (5 Bloom)	_____	10.00	_____
Daffodil Plant (8" pot)	_____	10.00	_____
<b>TOTAL ALL PLANTS</b>			<b>\$_____</b>

In Memory of

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In Honor of

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Given By \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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I will take the flowers \_\_\_\_\_ I will leave the flowers \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

