

The Chimes

September 6, 2007

Saint Paul's Worship Schedule

Sunday

(Summer Schedule—through September 9)

9:30 am: Holy Communion

Children & adult sermons

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(Fall Schedule—beginning September 16)

9:00 am: Holy Communion

Children & adult sermons

Worship service concurrent with Sunday School

10:30 am: Holy Communion

Traditional liturgy

Wednesday

7:00 pm: Holy Communion

Healing Service – third Wednesday of the month

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 E. Athens Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003*

The Rev. Dr. Harry W. McDowell II, Pastor

The Rev. Julie K. DeWerth, Pastor

610-642-3211 610-658-3262 (fax)

www.stpaulsardmore.org

Sunday School begins at 9:00 am, September 16.

The morning will proceed as follows:

Four year-olds, five year-olds, and first and second grade classes:

- ❖ The children begin the morning by joining their parents in worship.
- ❖ After the children's sermon (which occurs after the prayer of the day), the children are joined by their Sunday School teachers in the narthex and go to their Sunday School class rooms.
- ❖ The younger children may be picked up from their classrooms after worship.

Children in third grade and up:

- ❖ The children begin the morning by going to their Sunday School classrooms.
- ❖ During the sharing of peace segment of the service, the children's teachers bring them to the sanctuary to join their parents for worship so that they will be present for Communion.
- ❖ The children remain with their parents until the conclusion of the service.

Adults:

- ❖ Sunday School for adults takes place concurrently with the 9:00 a.m. service, in the Meeting Room on the second floor.

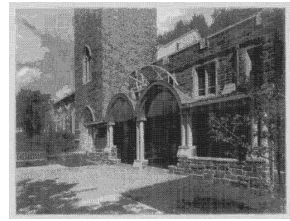
(See page 6 for the 2007-08 Sunday School Teacher Roster.)

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The Chimes, the newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, is published monthly for the inspiration, education and entertainment of its members and friends. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Just mail, e-mail or deliver them to the church office.

The next issue of *The Chimes* will be published on **Tuesday, October 9**. Your articles are due in the office no later than noon on **Monday, October 1**. Thank you!

Thoughts from the Pastor



**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.**

Hebrews 13:2

Dear Friends:

There is an interesting word in Swahili: the word *mgeni*. I always think of the above words from the Book of Hebrews when I think of the word *mgeni*. When I was taking Swahili at Bryn Mawr College, I remember being puzzled when I was doing my homework one night because *mgeni* can be translated as “foreigner,” “stranger,” “visitor,” and “guest.” How could one word be used for both stranger and guest? So I asked my professor at our next class.

She explained that in Swahili there really isn't a word for foreigner or stranger, because in that culture no one is ever a stranger or foreigner, but always *mgeni*: visitor or guest. She went on to explain that in most Tanzanian villages and small towns, all of the young people call all of the adults “Mom” and “Dad,” and that one always refers to a person of similar age as “My Brother” or “My Sister.”

In this African culture, whether you're from a neighboring village or from another continent, you are always greeted as *mgeni*: guest or visitor. Moreover, the greeting quickly changes from *mgeni* to *rafiki*—“friend.”

What a wonderful image of the ministry of hospitality for the church. There are no strangers or foreigners, just visitors and guests who quickly become friends!

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” These words recall that day at the Oaks of Mamre when Abraham and Sarah were sitting by their tent and three strangers happened along. The couple offered them shade, water, and a full meal. It ended up that one of the strangers was truly an angel—a messenger of God—who brought them the message that they would have a son by the following spring.

A special thanks this month to all who extend the ministry of hospitality here at St. Paul's.

In Christ.

Pastor Skip McDowell

Change of Address

Elizabeth Buchanan
1500 Hagys Ford Rd., Apt. 5R
Penn Valley, PA 19072-1054

Jay Doudna
4503 NW 25th Place
Oklahoma City, OK 73127-1900

Sanford H. Groff, Jr.
3231 Saint Paul Street, Apt. B
Baltimore, MD 21218

Jill Sherman
2868 College Drive
Allentown, PA 18104-6102

Prayer Chain

Prayers are requested for our men and women in the armed services, especially Jeff Amorose, serving in Iraq (Jeff is the nephew of Chris Fritton), and Andrew Campbell, serving in Iraq (Andrew is the cousin of Liz Cassidy).

Prayers are also requested for: Randall Claney; Janet Feldman (sister of Julia Friedgen); Chase Frost (friend of Mike Burns); Gunnel Kramer (Andy Heller's sister-in-law); Terri Mount (friend of Millie Parker); Mike Moran; Jack Morris (Mary Lynn Kennedy's uncle); Elizabeth Pulsifer (daughter of Kami and Sam Pulsifer); Monika Rohen (cousin of Eleanore Flom); and Alyce Stanley (friend of Debbie Keyser).

Thank You!

Thank you for your prayers, cards, notes, and inquiries about my back operation for my spinal stenosis. All has gone well with surprising speed, due in no small measure to your prayers. This reminds me of Luke 5:17-26, where a paralytic is cured because of the faith of those who brought him before Jesus. If my healing continues as it has, I expect to see you all soon.

Stark Lash

Gift to Navajo Mission

(Excerpts from a letter written by Polly Jobnsen on August 9, 2007)

Dear Millie and Pastors,

I thought you should know that a package containing nearly a thousand Campbell-family labels, about as many General Mills "Boxtops for Education," and Campbell Bonus Certificates* worth an additional 4000 points, is being hand-delivered to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) this week.

[~~These 5000 Campbell Soup Certificates are a gift from Don Larson, who works for Campbell Soup. Don, who has generously donated Campbell Certificates to St. Paul's Global Mission program on several occasions, is the son of Millie Parker, our Church Secretary.~~]

The Campbell labels we contribute are redeemed for 15-passenger vans that are used to transport children to and from school and other Mission-sponsored events. As you can imagine, such vans wear out quickly on the rutted dirt roads that predominate in that desolate region on the northern edge of the Reservation.

As Lynn and Shirley McCall prepare to leave us, I would like to express my personal gratitude to them for their efforts on behalf of the Mission at Rock Point, particularly during the last few years when limited manual dexterity made me a poor custodian of small pieces of paper and cardboard. I will, of course, continue to serve as liaison between our congregation and the good people associated with the Mission. I regret that I haven't been to Rock Point since 2004, but I plan to meet with Ms. Weis [Executive Director of NELM] whenever I resume my visits to the Southwest.

Recalling that NELM is the only organizational "face" of the Lutheran Church on the vast Navajo Reservation, I urge St. Paul's to continue in its support and prayers for the tasks carved out in this mission statement: "The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is a community seeking to recognize and help meet the educational, health, social and spiritual needs of the Navajo people in partnership with the Navajo."

*Yours, with thanks for your help and in mutual commitment,
Polly Johnsen*

Bear Creek Camp Request for Volunteers

Thank you for all the time and energy and work that you have given to Bear Creek Camp in the past. We are having a special **Fall Work Day** to finish up the many projects that have been undertaken as part of the \$70,000 Fix-it Up Campaign that has been so successful this year. On **Saturday September 22**, we will gather for a day of fellowship and service. Projects (including grounds work, carpentry, painting, taking down tents, and many others) will begin at 9:00. Lunch will be served and we will close our day with a picnic dinner and worship at my home (on site) at 5:00. I hope that you will be able to join us for this day. Please RSVP to prodir@bearcreekcamp.org and let me know if there are any special skills that you bring with you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*God's Peace,
Ben Larson, Director of Program, Bear Creek Camp*

Thank You SteepleChase Bike Ride Participants!

(The 17th Annual Lutheran Charities SteepleChase Bike Ride took place on June 23, 2007.)

It was a beautiful day and 110 riders toured lower Montgomery County. A special thanks to the St. Paul's riders this year: **Andy Heller, Jane Knappe, Gerard Cachon and David Miller.** Andy and Jane biked 32 miles and Gerard and David, 62! Thank you also for the day-long support of riders provided by volunteers Barbara and Kim Curtin, and Matt Schnaath.

We extend our gratitude to the people who supported Lutheran Charities through their sponsorships, and to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Lower Montgomery Chapter 31014, for matching the funds raised for the bike ride.

Lutheran Charities represents the eight Lutheran Social Service Agencies providing services to over 30,000 people at risk: Artman Home, KenCrest Centers, Lutheran Children and Family Service, Lutheran Settlement, Mary J. Drexel Home, Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, Manatawny Manor, and Paul's Run Retirement Community.

Thank you for everyone's participation! Let's have a team from St. Paul's again next year!!

*Carol Hammarberg,
Lutheran Charities Coordinator*

2007-08 Sunday School Teacher Roster

Class	Teachers		
2 & 3 year-olds	Lisa Lexa	Katie Schnaath	
Pre-K & Kindergarten	Kari Draper	Tim Horner	Melissa Krissinger
1 st & 2 nd grades	Pam McDowell		
3 rd & 4 th grades	Mary Lynn Kennedy	Lisa Tintera	
5 th & 6 th grades	Lois Connell	Mark Pierce	David Miller
7 th & 8 th grades	Bill Frey	Tom Copeland	Bill Wagner
High School	Louise Pierce		

Message from the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship is an important element of our Christian faith. Each of us is a steward of the time, gifts, and talents that God has given to us. It is our calling to help share the time and gifts and talents to further Christ's mission at St. Paul's Ardmore.

Members share in myriad ways, primarily through volunteering their time and their financial resources. Examples of volunteer activities include: serving various roles in the life of the Church (assisting at services and Sunday School, serving on committees), preparing meals for the hungry, Stephen Ministry (described elsewhere in this *Chimes*), helping members with special needs.

A second important aspect of stewardship is sharing our financial resources. The St. Paul's congregation is asked once a year (in the fall) to consider pledging a level of financial commitment for the coming year. This support makes possible all that the Church can do. It pays for the salaries of our highly dedicated staff, the maintenance and utilities, which allow our facilities to operate, the evangelism efforts to the community, the glorious musical programs, the aid to members with special needs, visits to the sick and shut-ins, support for the Synod and the Lutheran Church in America, and help for missionaries spreading the Word. In addition, members are occasionally asked to help with special projects and needs (often around the Lenten and Christmas seasons).

The Stewardship committee will be offering a series of vignettes (short plays at the beginning of both Sunday services), which will help members think about their commitment for 2008, on October 28, November 4 and November 11. Commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 18.

We urge support from all members of the congregation for this essential process, which underpins all of St. Paul's activities.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, October 21
Main Line CROP Hunger Walk**

The CROP Walk is a community-based event to raise money for local hunger-fighting agencies and for international relief and development efforts.

Mark your calendar; bring your family and friends.

(Information on start time & location to be published at a later date.)

October Birthdays

- 1 Nord Bjorke
- 3 Jacob Joyce, Courtney Snyder
- 4 Rolf Hoyer
- 5 Charles Hayward
- 7 Dana Keeler, Barbara King
- 8 Randall Claney, Joyce Schultz
- 9 Judith Kidd, Lynn McCall
- 10 Randal Bjorkquist, Jane Marshall, Robert Penne
- 12 Eva Friedgen
- 13 Carol Clouse, Bernhard Dietzschold, Robert Ertner
- 14 Earl Pendergrass
- 15 Pamela McDowell
- 16 Jennifer Luistro, Pamela Wright
- 17 Susan Barber, Jennifer Chudy, Sarah Hasson, Kellyn Wilkes
- 18 Torgny Gustafsson, Andrew Horn, Quri Park, Guillermo Torres
- 21 Bernhard Herlyn, Maria Simms
- 22 Kathryn Santilli
- 24 Julia Garcia, David Yerger
- 25 Roberta Doan, Brian Heller
- 26 Kristin Hasson, Matthew Wolfe, Judi Zucker
- 28 Jake Aleardi, Roger Bjorkquist, Nancy Marlin
- 29 Linda Burns, Dean Hill, Alicia Kopp
- 30 Kari Legreid, Rebecca Morgan, Lauren Shank
- 31 Ruth DeLomba



Senior Friends

Our first Senior Friends event of the season is Wednesday, September 19, at 12 noon.

We will lunch together and talk about the program for the 2007-08 season. Come and enjoy the fellowship of old friends & new. There is no charge for this luncheon.

Please call the church office to make your reservation.

This group is open to all seniors.

Evangelism Corner

Time to Rally!

September 9 is (or *was*, depending on when you receive this issue of *The Chimes*), Rally Day at St. Paul's. I started thinking about the meaning of the word *rally* and concluded that many of our sports-minded members could relate to the term, especially high school football fans (pep rallies), car buffs (road rallies) and Phillies fans (rally caps have been required on *many* occasions).

Then I went to the dictionary (*Webster's New Collegiate*), which gives many definitions, among them:

- a mustering of scattered forces to renew an effort
- a summoning up of strength or courage after weakness or dejection
- a renewed offensive
- a mass meeting intended to arouse group enthusiasm

All of the above could be translated into "churchspeak" as saying "Summer vacation is over; time to eschew weak commitment and get back to regular church attendance and activities with renewed enthusiasm and ideas."

Finally, I searched for Rally Day on Google, where it was described (in addition to car road races) as a celebration of the beginning of the church school year or a program to "complement your overall plans for implementing the call for discipleship."

I guess all of this is my way of saying that on Rally Day we are celebrating a pep rally for Jesus. Let's not forget *our* call to discipleship, issued by our Lord himself, and let's start the new church school year by summoning up the strength and courage to go out and proclaim the good news to all.

In Christ,
Barbara Keyser, Evangelism Chair

A 2007 sign-up chart for sponsoring altar flowers for Sunday morning worship is available in the narthex. **Flowers are needed for the following Sundays: October 14 and October 28.** The cost of the flowers is \$25.00. Once you have signed up, you will receive confirmation of your sponsorship and information about how to make your payment.



The Stephen Series from Stephen Ministries is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around your congregation.

Why do we need it at St. Paul's / Who will benefit from it?

People Who Need Care . . .

- Receive quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for their hurts and needs
- Find hope, healing, and a new sense of self-worth through the support of a Stephen Minister
- Know they are remembered and supported by their congregation in times of personal difficulty
- Receive ongoing care for continuing needs long after the onset of a crisis, when many others have forgotten about them
- Grow in a deeper relationship with their Lord as they experience God's unconditional love for them through their Stephen Minister

Our Pastors . . .

- No longer shoulder the entire burden of caring in the congregation, as if the pastor were the only one able, willing, or called to do this ministry
- Receive support and care from the lay people who are part of the congregation's Stephen Ministry Team
- Reach more members of the congregation with quality Christian care
- Experience renewed joy and satisfaction as they equip others and so extend the reach of their own ministries
- Have more time to focus on the ministries that only the pastor can do

Lay Members . . .

- Discover, cultivate, and use the spiritual gifts they have been blessed with
- See themselves as active partners in the mission and ministry of the church
- Find all aspects of their lives enriched by the distinctively Christian caregiving skills they learn and practice
- Experience great joy as they see God working through them to bring hope and healing to a hurting person
- Grow spiritually as they experience the Lord's loving presence in community with other Christian caregivers

Our Entire Congregation . . .

- Discovers that many members want to be involved in meaningful ministry and will respond to the call to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader

- Becomes a more loving community that is more sensitive and responsive to people's needs for care
- Is able to provide more quality Christian care, so that fewer people slip through the cracks
- Is able to reach out to the unchurched who are hurting and introduce them to the healing love of Jesus in their time of need
- Sees itself as not only being served by the pastor, but as a caring body of believers actively involved in serving one another in love

Questions? Please ask Pastor Skip McDowell or a Stephen Leader here at St. Paul's:

Beth McElvenney	610-853-2444
Hazel Pelletreau	610-284-6835
Toni Whaley	610-896-7193



Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendars!

Families with Young Children		
Safari Party	Tues., Sept. 18	6-7:30 pm
Halloween Party	Sun., Oct. 28	4-5:30 pm
Intergenerational Dinner (FwYC & Senior Friends)	Tues., Nov. 13	6-7:30 pm
Pancake Breakfast with Santa	Sat., Dec. 15	9:30-11 am
Magic Show	Tues., Jan. 15	6-7:30 pm
Valentine Party	Tues., Feb. 12	6-7:30 pm
Easter Party/Egg Hunt	Sat., Mar. 15	9:30-11 am
Story Teller	Tues., Apr. 15	6-7:30 pm
Picnic/Moonbounce	Tues., May 20	6-7:30 pm
Women's Dinners		
Casey's, Drexel Hill	Tues., Oct. 2	6:00 pm
La Taverna, Bryn Mawr	Tues., Dec. 4	6:00 pm
John Henry's Pub, Ardmore	Tues., Feb. 5	6:00 pm
Vinny Testa's, Ardmore	Tues., Apr. 1	6:00 pm
McShea's, Narberth	Tues., June 3	6:00 pm
Pica's Italian Restaurant, Upper Darby	Tues., Aug. 5	6:00 pm
Senior Friends		
Kick-off Luncheon & Organizational Meeting (Come & help to plan events for 2007-08 season)	Wed., Sept. 19	12:00 noon

RALLY DAY

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
ONE SERVICE ONLY, AT 9:30 AM

- Blessing of backpacks
- Visits to Sunday School rooms

ANNUAL PICNIC* FOLLOWS WORSHIP SERVICE

*Members, please bring food items as follows
(take food to basement kitchen):

A-G desserts
H-M appetizers
N-Z salads/side dishes/vegetables

SAFARI PARTY FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

LIVE ANIMAL SHOW!



Tuesday, September 18
6 to 7:30 pm

Pizza Supper in Fellowship Hall
Families, please bring food items as follows:

A-M side dishes
N-Z desserts

*A free-will offering will be taken.
Please call the church office (610-642-3211) to register for this event.*

Council Highlights

Highlights of the August 8 meeting of the Congregation Council:

- Three volunteers have completed their Stephen Ministry training. Our goal is to launch the program at Saint Paul's by January. Look for additional discussion in *Chimes* articles.
- There will be a meeting for prospective members after the 10:30 am worship service on September 16. All are welcome.
- A new curriculum (*the Akaloo Curriculum*) has been approved for Sunday School. Sunday School will begin on September 16; all children are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- On the financial front: offerings have risen sharply from 2006 and are slightly ahead of budget through July. Expenditures are also up, and are somewhat ahead of budget. Some unforeseen expenses (renovating the caretaker's home and equipment needs for the cemetery) are responsible. Council is taking steps to finish the year in sound financial condition.
 - A great deal of work has been accomplished in recent months in the cemetery. Brush and trees have been removed and a project to right some fallen or dislodged gravestones has begun. Also, the schoolhouse and garage have been repainted, and one of the bays in the garage has been converted to a tool shop to house tools and supplies.
- Council received and discussed a report from the Property Committee regarding the stained glass window restoration proposal, and voted in favor of a proposal to install a Pitney Bowes postage meter to facilitate preparation of outgoing mail.

How I Spent My summer Vacation

By Beth McElvenney



This is a question many people are asked this time of year, so here's my answer:

In Pittsburgh, with 486 wonderfully caring Christians, including Hazel Pelletreau and Toni Whaley, all learning how better to help all of God's children.

Our mission was to learn how to bring Stephen Ministry to St. Paul's. Our week started on Sunday night around 6 pm and ended the next Saturday around 11:00 am. The longest day was Thursday (8:15 am to 9:30 pm).

HOW DID WE COME TO SPEND A WEEK IN PITTSBURGH YOU MAY WONDER? It all started last year in a Social Ministry meeting, when we were trying to come up with a way for St. Paul's to be an even more caring community, where no one falls through the cracks when facing hard times. Someone mentioned Stephen Ministry; I'd never heard about it but agreed to look into it. I mentioned it at the Thursday evening Bible Study and three people there said it was a great program. I went to the website (www.stephenministries.org), requested information (they sent lots), and then put an article in the *Chimes* asking if anyone was interested in attending a one-half day information session in New Jersey to learn more about it. Toni and Hazel were interested; we went and were hooked. The stories people tell about how their lives have been enriched and changed by the program were wonderful to hear. They gave us a small sample of how the learning modules are taught, and we experienced first hand how the power of prayer and listening can bring people closer together.

At the next Social Ministry meeting, we discussed it and decided to ask Council if they would support this venture. This was BPS (Before Pastor Skip). Imagine our excitement when Denette Stetler came back from her first meeting with him and learned that he was a Stephen Leader and thought the program was fantastic.

With Council's approval, we signed up for the Leader Training Course and now have the task of implementing this well-organized program at St. Paul's.

HOW DO WE PLAN TO DO THIS? Well, with a lot of prayer, God's guidance and support from you, our fellow members. To start, you'll be seeing lots of information about Stephen Ministry in the months ahead in the Sunday bulletin and *The Chimes*. There will also be informational meetings and brochures.

In the fall, we will begin to recruit people who want to become Stephen Ministers. They will have to go through a 50 hour training which we hope to start early next year. Then our "official" ministering can begin. It's a major commitment for those who volunteer, but the rewards can be amazing.

PLEASE feel free to ask Pastor Skip, Hazel, Toni or me about this program; there is so much to tell, and not enough time/room to tell it.

Hey, by the way—what did you do this summer?



Toni Whaley (on left), with black lab, Sport, receives Stephen Ministry Leader Training Certificate

Mediator Lutheran Church

*(Saint Paul's partner congregation)
2832 North 28th Street, Philadelphia*

**Invites you to a Celebration and Jubilation for
Pastor Tim Poston's
10th Pastoral Anniversary, 1997 – 2007**

❖ *Two Day Revival: September 11 & 12
Guest Preachers at 7:00 pm services*

❖ *Pastoral Anniversary Banquet
Saturday, September 15 at 1:00 pm
Brossman Center, Lutheran Theological Seminary
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba,
Asst. to the Bishop for Evangelical Outreach, SEPA Synod*

❖ *Sunday September 16 at 11:00 am
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Skip Wachsmann*

***For information / reservations, call 215-226-0167, ext. # 1
(Please contact Pastor Julie if you plan to attend)***

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS—SAVE THE DATES!

Miriam Circle

Next meeting at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, October 2, second floor Meeting Room
Hostess: Cynthia Smith. All women of Saint Paul's are welcome!

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

8:30 am in the Kugler Room. All men of Saint Paul's are welcome!

Next New Members Class

Sunday, September 16, following the 10:30 am worship service

New Members Received into Church

Sunday, Sept. 23, 10:30 am service

PLEASE ATTEND THE RECEPTION AND WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE.

Women of Saint Paul's—

Join your friends for a fun-filled evening
in the Trolley Room of Casey's Restaurant
in Drexel Hill!



When?	Tuesday, October 2
Where?	12 Lansdowne Avenue, Drexel Hill
What time?	6:00 pm
Cost?	\$20.00 (includes gratuity)
Menu?	Entrée (turkey breast w. stuffing, broiled filet of flounder, or grilled chicken w. pasta); salad, rolls, beverage, dessert

Please contact the church office at 610-642-3211
to make your reservation.

2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Selected highlights (For more information, go to <http://www.ELCA.org/assembly/>)

The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA) acted on a variety of topics, including a churchwide initiative focused on Bible Study, a social statement on education, the ELCA's financial future, an extension of the ELCA's full communion relationship with the Moravian Church, sexuality matters and a new social statement on criminal justice. The assembly also acted on proposals regarding social concerns such as HIV and AIDS, the situation in Darfur, Sudan, the Iraq War, military veterans, and the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Navy Pier, Chicago, was the site of the Churchwide Assembly, August 6-11. About 2,000 people participated, including 1,069 voting members. The theme was *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!*

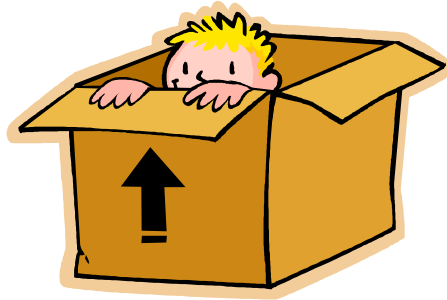
- Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, 60, was elected to serve a second six-year term as presiding bishop.
- By a vote of 538 to 431, the assembly asked its synods and bishops to “refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining” people and congregations that call otherwise-qualified candidates in mutual, chaste and faithful committed same-gender relationships, and it called for restraint in disciplining rostered leaders in committed same-gender relationships. The proposal was adopted as a substitute for a recommendation of the Memorials Committee. Following the decision, Hanson said, “These are words of counsel. They are not words that change the standards of the church. They reflect the mind of this assembly as it seeks to give counsel to the leaders of this church.” . . . The assembly added an amendment to its referral on clergy standards, directing the task force to “specifically address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.”
- The assembly endorsed “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible,” a five-year initiative to promote study of the Bible. . . . A companion recommendation . . . gave specific suggestions for ways to “invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing and being formed by God’s Word.”
- The assembly adopted a social statement, “Our Calling in Education,” which addresses issues of children’s faith formation, equitable access to education, quality of U.S. public schools, and support for Lutheran schools, colleges and campus ministries. . . . Several amendments were adopted, including the addition of language that addresses the specific needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities as well as students with disabilities.

The assembly directed the Board of Christian Social Service to develop a social statement on criminal justice for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Requests for the statement grew out of memorials from three synods. The social statement will be developed following consultation with church members and others involved in criminal justice, and it is expected to deal with topics such as the prison system, rehabilitation for those convicted of crimes and the current cost of incarcerating criminals.

- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* was “received with thanksgiving” as this church’s primary worship resource. Released in 2006, about 725,000 volumes of the book have been distributed.
- The assembly called for a churchwide strategy for responding to HIV and AIDS to build on and deepen current denominational engagement with the pandemic in the United States and around the world. The resolution urged further prayer, charity, advocacy and education efforts. The ELCA committed \$1 million to be used for the strategy’s implementation. The assembly asked the Church Council to consider committing up to \$1 million more for implementation of the strategy.
- The assembly invited renewed efforts by members and congregations to “reach and surpass, as soon as possible,” a goal of \$25 million in annual giving to the ELCA World Hunger appeal.
- The assembly said Lutheran should study the situation in Darfur, Sudan, and advocate to federal officials on behalf of Darfur, a place where the U.S. government has called the mass killing “genocide.” The action praised the presiding bishop for the efforts he and the LWF have made to address the situation in Darfur.
- Voting members declared their opposition to “any escalation of the war” in Iraq and asked this church to call on the U.S. government to “take immediate and comprehensive steps to end the violence and establish a peaceful, stable, and just society in that country.” They urged the ELCA to engage in “moral deliberation about the situation in Iraq,” urged concern for military personnel and their families, and asked ELCA members to make their views known to members of Congress. ELCA congregations and other Lutheran agencies should provide a “welcoming and supporting environment for returning military veterans,” according to an assembly resolution.
- The assembly called on the ELCA to recommit to this church’s strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine, including a call for economic initiatives. An assembly amendment said that economic initiatives could, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, include “purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements.”

PLAY GROUP

Children from Birth to Age Four



First meeting - Tuesday, September 11

9:30 to 11:00 am

Two's and three's classroom—ground level of church



“LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS . . .”

Matthew 5:16

Enroll now in a program designed to identify and strengthen your leadership skills:

The Faith and Leadership Academy October 13 – November 17, 2007 (6 Saturdays)

The Faith and Leadership Academy is a six-week adventure in faith and discipleship sponsored by the SEPA Synod and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Through lectures, discussions, prayer, and mutual encouragement, participants discover new insights about their faith, their church and themselves. Classes are led by seminary staff, pastors and trained lay leaders. For more information, contact George E. Keck (610-489-1202 or gbkeck2@msn.com) or Sara Calderon at the Seminary (215-248-7384 or scalderon@Ltsp.edu).

FALL 2007 CLASS SCHEDULE Sessions run from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM

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|-------------------|--|
| October 13, 2007 | “Orientation to the Faith and Leadership Academy”
– The Rev. George Keck/Ms. Sara Calderon |
| | “Reading the Bible: “Dead Facts” or Living Story”?
– The Rev. George Keck
Faith and Life Institute at LTSP |
| October 20, 2007 | “Jesus to Luther”
– Mr. Steve Keiser
Staff at Holy Communion Lutheran Church |
| October 27, 2007 | “Our Lutheran Heritage”
– Dr. Nelson Rivera
Assistant Professor of Theology at LTSP |
| November 3, 2007 | “Why Worship Matters”
– Mr. Mark Mummert
Seminary Musician at LTSP |
| November 10, 2007 | “Leadership, Planning, and Mentoring”
– The Rev. Richard Stewart
Associate Professor of Parish Administration at LTSP |
| November 17, 2007 | “Honoring Our Neighbors’ Faith”
– Mr. Steve Keiser
Staff at Holy Communion Lutheran, Philadelphia |

Classes will be held in the new Brossman Center (room 201) on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

FAITH and LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

APPLICATION

Name: _____ Age 18-25 ___ 26-35 ___ 36-45 ___ 45+ ___

Address: _____

Phone Day: _____ Eve: _____ email: _____

Congregation: _____

Our congregation nominates the above named person to participate in the Faith and Leadership Academy.

Pastor's Signature: _____

Regular fee (on or before 10/8/07) - \$170.00

Late fee (after 10/8/07) - \$190.00

Please mail application and registration fee to:
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA, 506 Haws Avenue, Norristown, PA 19401 - Attn: Debbie Perez
Check payable to SEPA Synod, ELCA

(The \$170 fee covers tuition, notebooks, weekly outlines, morning refreshments and lunches for the six Saturdays.)

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Monday, October 1	
12:00 noon	Deadline for October <i>Chimes</i> articles
Tuesday, October 2	
9:30 – 11:00 am	Play Group/church basement
1:30 pm	Miriam Circle/Meeting Room
6:00 pm	Women's dinner/Casey's in Drexel Hill
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 3	
7:00 pm	Holy Communion
Thursday, October 4	
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:15 pm	Council meeting/Kugler Room
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, October 6	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room
Sunday, October 7 – (<i>Free blood pressure checks between services</i>)	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
12:30 - 5:30 pm	Grace Covenant Church at Saint Paul's
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Tuesday, October 9	
9:30 – 11:00 am	Play Group/church basement
12:30 pm	Prepare October <i>Chimes</i> for mailing
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 10	
7:00 pm	Holy Communion
Thursday, October 11	
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, October 13	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room
Sunday, October 14	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Grace Covenant Church at Saint Paul's
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Tuesday, October 16	
9:30 – 11:00 am	Play Group/church basement
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 17	
7:00 pm	Holy Communion – Healing Service

Thursday, October 18	
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, October 20	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room
Sunday, October 21	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
TBA	Main Line CROP Walk
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Grace Covenant Church at Saint Paul's
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Tuesday, October 23	
9:30 – 11:00 am	Play Group/church basement
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 24	
7:00 pm	Holy Communion
7:45 pm	Christian Education/3 rd floor front room
	Evangelism/Meeting Room
	Parish Activities/Kugler Room
	Social Ministry/Volunteer Room
	Stewardship/Fellowship Hall
	Worship & Music/Choir Room
Thursday, October 25	
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, October 27	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room
Sunday, October 28—Stewardship Sunday	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Families w. Young Children Halloween party / Fellowship Hall
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Grace Covenant Church at St. Paul's
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Tuesday, October 30	
9:30 – 11:00 am	Play Group/church basement
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 31	
7:00 pm	Holy Communion

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 East Athens Avenue
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003-3197

Change Service Requested
Time Dated Material