

Sharon Lutheran Church's Monthly News

February 2014

Pastor's Note

Let the Servant Church Arise. Thanks to all who took part in the sessions throughout January. What great discussions and conversations I have had the pleasure to share in during these adult discipleship sessions. There were many stories that were told and good and prayerful thought given to why and how we are designed by God for serving as a part of our identity as God's own creation. If anyone would like to read the book, there are several copies available. It is a short read, but worth the time.

One of the places that I really saw the Spirit at work was in our second session as we talked about meaning and reflected on a variety of Bible texts to aid in that reflection. I am pleased to be able to share two brief reflections that were written based on Isaiah 58:6-8.

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:6-8

Didn't I promise to live a life that is not self-serving.

Didn't I promise to look to the needs of the world in which God placed me,
so that I might be of service, a vessel of God's love in the world.

--Deb Bernhisel

I choose not to be passive,
Letting life come to me.

I choose to be active

in building relationships with others and in reaching out to others in need
to bring light to darkened lives
to bring joy to saddened lives
to bring peace to troubled lives
to bring health and restoration to unhealthy lives.

-- Lowell Leitzel



From Vicar Rick

Because the confirmation retreat will focus on prayer, I have been focused on prayer. As I searched for resources, I found a lot of quotes about prayer and lots of prayers. So here is a sampling of what I found for you to ponder and pray on a cold February night:

"Sometimes the first time we pray, we cry out in the deepest desperation, "God help me." This is a great prayer, as we are then at our absolutely most degraded and isolated, which means we are nice and juicy with the consequences of our best thinking and are thus possibly teachable.

Or I might be in one of my dangerously good moods and say casually: "Hey, hi, Person. Me again. The princess. Thank you for my sobriety, my grandson, my flowering pear tree."

Or you might shout at the top of your lungs or whisper into your sleeve, "I hate you, God." That is a prayer, too, because it is real, it is truth, and maybe it is the first sincere thought you've had in months."

Ann Lamott, from *Help Thanks Wow*

"The problem, I think, is that divine response to prayer is one of those beauties that remain in the eye of the beholder. What sounds like an answer to one person sounds like silence to another. What seems like a providentially big fish to someone registers as blind luck for someone else. The meaning we give to what happens in our lives is our final, inviolable freedom. Only you can say whether God answered you. If you have any sense, you will ask someone with more experience than you to help you decide what the answer means, but even then the choice is yours. Are you still waiting for God to answer you, or is your life the answer you have been seeking, hiding in plain view?"

Barbara Brown Taylor, from *An Altar in the World*

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downward; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

Our Father, you called us and saved us in order to make us like your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Change us, day by day, by the work of your Holy Spirit so that we may grow more like him in all that we think and say and do, to his glory. Amen.

Soren Kirkegaard, 1813-1855

MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Director Family & Youth Ministry Robin Kunkel 374-8444 robinkunkel@gmail.com
Visit our Website at sharonlc.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

The Apostles' Creed

The Sunday school children are learning all about the Apostles' Creed. They have separated it into three parts or articles and are on their way to memorizing it. The children learn why they are saying things and how it affects their faith and lives. The children have designed a display in the Narthex to help others walk through the Apostles' Creed. The map with play-dough designs shows God's creation and there's an I-spy to help you find places where Jesus traveled, from the time he was born until the time he was crucified. The children have taken on this project with plenty of enthusiasm, and an additional bonus of learning new things about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and their faith.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

January 31-February 2, 2014

The seventh through ninth graders spent a weekend together with other adult leaders to contemplate the theme of Prayer. It was an interactive weekend with youth and adults leading sessions and worship by experiencing different methods of prayer. They were in the woods of Camp Karoondinha in the Edna Sheary cabin keeping toasty warm with friendship, fellowship and a camp fire.

SKI TRIP: FEB 8

Please sign up for the Sharon Ski Trip soon! It is for seventh through twelfth graders and their friends, costing \$55.00 per person. You will meet at Sharon church on Saturday, February 8 at 7am to head to Sno Mountain for a day filled with skiing fun. Dress warm and bring a bag lunch and change of clothing. Sign up on the Youth Bulletin board no later than February 5. Adult leaders are Donnie Weirick and Carol Hanson.

FAITH PRESENTATION: MARCH 16

Each year the ninth graders are guided through five projects with a final presentation that is reflective of their faith story. On March 16, the ninth graders will be presenting their Faith Projects to the confirmation and senior high classes. Every presentation is as unique as the person who presents it. The youth are encouraged to share their faith journey throughout their lives. This concept can be disconcerting to Lutherans. That is why the Christian Education Team at Sharon feels it is important to foster an environment where children and youth are comfortable sharing their faith not only with like minded friends and family, but with others as well.

RISE UP TOGETHER = ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2015

The youth interested in traveling to the next Gathering are in the planning stages of ways to fundraise for the trip. An approximate cost for one person is \$1,100.00, which includes transportation, accommodations, registration, food and fun. We'll keep you posted on luncheons and other FUNdraisers in the newsletter, church bulletin, Sharon's website and on the Youth bulletin board. Save your quarters, because we'll be starting our Mini M&M container fundraiser at Easter.

Special Thanks

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful poinsettia. Also for Anna's special card and to Grace from the welcoming team for the lovely Christmas cards.

Nancy Ernest

THANKS TO ALL who helped with the decorating and undecorating the church for the Christmas season. Special thanks to Maureen Ries, who coordinated these efforts

For the Women

The 9th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA will be held in Charlotte, N.C. July 22-24th, 2014. Registration can be completed through the website at womenoftheelca.org.

Council Action Items

\$5000 is being moved from Memorial Checking to be invested in the Trust Memorial Fund.

\$600 is being given to the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg prior to June 1 in order to include Sharon as a Bronze Level Contributor at the \$1000 contribution level.

Executive Officers were elected for 2014

President: Jeffrey Whitman (1st term)

Vice-President: Janet Bilger (2nd term)

Secretary: Carolyn Sand (1st term)

Ministry Team Liaisons were selected:

Welcoming Team: Stacy Koch

Social Ministry: Teresa Berger

Property: Toby Skinner

Worship and Music: Philip Riggs

Stewardship: Jeff Whitman

Education and Youth: Susie Weller

Mutual Ministry: Karen Bowen

Fellowship: Stacy Koch

Finance Team: Buzz Savidge

Personnel: Carol Harrison

Council Installation was Sunday, January 26, 2014

Happy Birthday to you

Martin, Cassie 2/1

Hummel, Martha 2/2

Doll, Robert 2/4

Pence, Doris 2/4

Aungst, Laura 2/5

Lindros, Ben 2/5

Mangels, Ryan 2/5

Reed, Freida 2/6

Spade jr, Shawn 2/6

Metzger, Vance 2/7

Pennay, Sarah 2/8

Reichenbach, Wayne 2/8

Rowe, Guy 2/8

Grimes, Paul 2/9

Pauling, Alma 2/9

Sands, Carolyn 2/12

Starr, William 2/12

Kalcich, Eva 2/13

Wagner, Vi 2/14

Hoke, Craig 2/15

Miller, Jen 2/15

Turbitt, Sue 2/17

Miller, Keegan 2/19

Mangels, Abigail 2/20

Doll, Dawn 2/21

Heintzelman, Tamie 2/22

Longacre, Judy 2/22

Wise, Benjamin 2/22

Dagle, Jason 2/23

Kalcich, Anna 2/23

Stetler, Michael 2/24

Terrio, Jayden 2/24

Pinkowski, William 2/25

Dagle, Dave Jr. 2/26

Burns, Jean 2/27

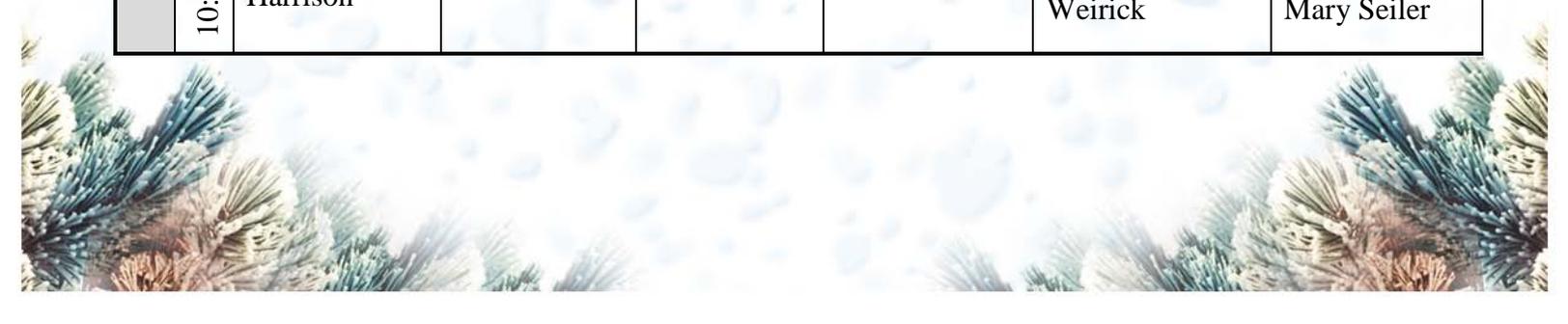
Sassaman, Jeffrey 2/28

We Remember in Prayer.....

Neil Aucker, Terry Beaver, Doris Berry, Pat Bertinet, Barb Blakley, Paul Botteron, Mary Bottiger, Don Bower, Frances Bowersox, Bob Bradford, Amy Bush, Arline Callahan, Elizabeth Campbell, Pat Campbell, Grace Cote, Sandra Depkin, Ellie Dinsmore, Ed Fisher, Larry Forrey, Wade Ganns, Jim Gautsch Jr., Grace Greiner, Suah Harris, Jeremy Hoffman, Grace Hollenbach, David Holmes, Jr., Valerie Holmes, Martha Hummel, Paul Kerstetter, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Dale Morse, Susan Mull, Elwood Partica, Scott Reinard, Rita Regel, Ernie Renninger, Dr. David Revak, David Rishell, Bill Starr, Wendy Stauffer, June Stetler, Robert Stetler, Molly Walker, Erma Weirick, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Gary Wydell

February Worship Volunteers

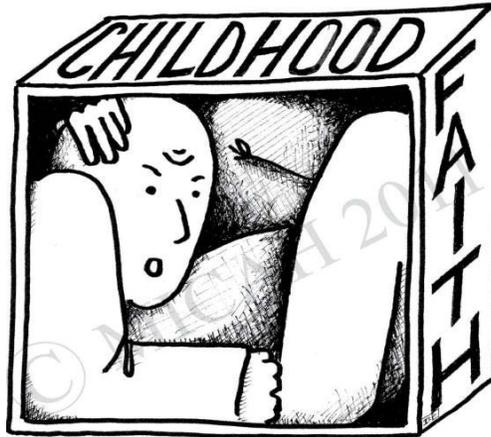
Date	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild	
February 2	8:00 AM	Matt + April Metzger	Wyatt + Vance Metzger	Fred Hooper	Don Bottiger Brian Pauling	Carol Black	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	Joyce + Teresa Kuster	Boy Scouts	Art Bowen	Boy Scouts	Philip Riggs Doug Hassinger Dave Deckard	Joyce Kuster Carol Harrison
February 9	8:00 AM	John + Mary Pendley	Aaron Weirick	Alma Pauling	Paul Culbertson Terry Kissinger	Chris Lupolt	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	Jim + Linda Gautsch	Sarah Fedder Sarah Pennay	Carol Bradford	Jacob + Stacy Koch	Don Housley Keith Kunkel	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
February 16	8:00 AM	Don + Dana Kemberling	Kyle Kemberling	Chris Lupolt	Jack + Kay Spigelmyer	Sue Pennay	Barb Remaley (B)
	10:30 AM	Paul + Delphine Grimes	Jessica Beaver Madison Snyder	Bob Bradford	Buzz Savidge Toby Skinner	Jeff Whitman Maureen Ries Eric Rowe	Shirley Walter Linda Gautsch
February 23	8:00 AM	Brian Pauling Dawn Dunkelberger	Courtney Kemberling	April Metzger	Barb + Bill Remaley	Lowell Leitzel	Alma Pauling (B)
	10:30 AM	Mary Hummel Carol Harrison	Emma + Anna Kalcich	Dawn Doll	Kermit Ritter Eric Rowe	Casey Reiland Markie Reiland Madison Weirick	Marian Thomas Mary Seiler



The Minnesota Institute of Contemplation and Healing
Presents:

The Discombobulated Church

A Humorous and Challenging Art Exhibit on the
Contemporary Church



“THIS SEEMED MUCH BIGGER
WHEN I WAS A KID.”

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 23, 2014

This exhibit at your church will stimulate deep conversation and reflection on becoming a healthy spiritual community

This insightful art exhibit consists of 14 pen and ink images of what the Church is and can be. The exhibit is designed to be thoughtful, introspective, and motivating to parishioners and the church body as a whole. Displayed next to each image is a short commentary with questions to ponder and discuss. The hope is that this unique exhibit will be a spring board for your church to contemplate, discuss, and make choices that reflect what a healthy spiritual community truly is.

Topics include: Communication, Unity, Doctrine, Attachment, Church Growth, Community, Action, Fear, Faith, Priorities, Attitude, Compassion, and Discernment

Images are fine art reproductions of original pen and ink drawings by Trey Everett.

Join Pastor Nathan at Beaver Lutheran Church for a reception and time of reflection:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 (FOLLOWING WORSHIP)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 6:30 PM

Refreshments will be provided at both times!

For more information on this traveling exhibition go to

www.micahprays.org

Volunteer Service Opportunities at Sharon

Team	Focus	Contact person	Meeting time
Social Ministry	Connecting people and resources uplifting lives, standing for justice and peace in the world, and healing hurting lives.	Teresa Berger council liaison	1 st Tuesday 7:00 pm
Christian Education	Deepening spirituality and discipleship with families and individuals of all ages.	Susie Weller council liaison	1 st Monday 7:00pm
Youth Ministry	Building community and deepening Faith through activities, serving, and learning.	Emily Spiegel council liaison	quarterly
Welcoming Team	Connecting visitors through hospitality and welcome. Encouraging those who are new members in their participation in ministry.	Darlene Ritter Stacy Koch council liaison	1 st Thursday 7:00pm
Worship & Music	Facilitates communal worship that glorifies God, as we give our best, worship with abandon, and seek to engage others with inspiration, spirit, and depth of expression.	Philip Riggs council liaison	1 st Monday 7:00pm
Property	Provides hospitality through the care and maintenance of the building and property.	Paul Grimes Toby Skinner council liaison	4 th Monday 7:00p.m.
Fellowship	Building community through social activities and meals	Nancy Martin Stacy Koch council liaison	as needed
Stewardship	Deepening perspective on faith And the use of gifts, health, wellness, time, and environment in order to grow and inspire generosity.	Jeff Whitman council liaison	
Cemetery	Manages the care and maintenance of the church's cemeteries. Historical information & research	Lowell Leitzel Jim Black	as needed
Finance	Provides for the use of God's abundant gifts for ministry outside and inside the congregation.	Jim Black Buzz Savidge council liaison	2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm

Mission Endowment	Investing for legacy and building faith across generations	Bob Soper	as needed
Usher	Aids in welcoming all by providing bulletins, assisting with offering collection and inviting and guiding the worshippers through communion.	Philip Riggs	prior/during worship
Greeter	Provides a welcoming and Cheerful presence for all who come to worship and delivers altar flowers to homebound or ill individuals.	Philip Riggs	prior to worship
Reader	Speaks the words of the Scriptures assigned for the day during worship.	Philip Riggs	during worship
Nursery	Provide a loving, caring, and safe environment for children during worship. Attendants are required to be adults. Helpers can be 14 years or older and watch children kindergarten age and younger.		Sundays worship
Acolyte	Acolytes assist the pastor in worship by being a crucifer, lighting and extinguishing candles, assisting with the offering and communion.	Philip Riggs	during worship
Altar Guild	Cares for the worship space and worship and altar furnishings. The altar guild sets up the elements for communion as well as cleaning the glasses and linens.	Alma Pauling	prior/after worship
Stitchers	This group designs and sews beautiful coverlets/quilts for local and world wide organizations.	Nancy Murray	every Monday 1:00 – 3:00p.m.
Prayer Shawls	This group knits prayer shawls for distribution by anyone to anyone whom we can wrap in prayer.	Judy Kissinger	Every Tuesday 10 am

For more information on how you can participate with any of these ongoing ministries, please contact the church office at 570-374-8444 or sharon.lutheran.church@gmail.com