



Brooklyn Ev. Lutheran Church

5840 69th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55429

Reverend Curtis J. Holub
Phone 763 560-5953



by Pastor Holub

Quarterly Newsletter—Summer, 2009



*Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God.*

Isaiah 41:10

DON'T BE AFRAID TO "PRACTICE" WHAT WE PREACH!

I admit that I have never gotten comfortable with the speaking of physicians as "practitioners." Do they really need to "practice?!" One of my dictionary's definitions of the verb practice is "to do repeatedly in order to become proficient." According to this definition, I would much prefer that the surgeon who may have to operate on me one day get lots of "practice" on someone else!

Inherent in this word and the above definition is the freedom to experiment, to try again and again – with the almost limitless expectation that there is going to be failure. "Practice makes perfect," my folks always told me. But this means that practice itself is not perfect. Practice often involves a patient process of finding out what works

and what doesn't. Practice leaves *plenty* of room for making mistakes. Practice implies that mistakes are to be taken for granted. Regarding practice, it goes without saying that any success is only the fruit of many failures.

In the times that Dr. Kelm has been with us, he has sent chills down my spine with his almost cavalier remarks that to turn things around at Brooklyn Lutheran we may have to try a number of things before we find one that works. I fear how I might deal with failure. But there is something else Dr. Kelm has said: "Always fail forward."

Shall we be frozen from putting a plan of action into place out of fear of failure? Professional medical people are not afraid to "practice." To err is human. Some mistakes they commit are material for horror stories – not to mention major lawsuits! Maybe one change in attitude we need is to see ourselves as the profes-

sional Christians we are. Let's give ourselves to "professing" our faith in new and exciting ways.

And then remember what the Lord says through His prophet Isaiah: ***Do not fear, for I am with you!*** It is God with us that is finally going to bring positive results anyway. We can humbly proceed with trial and error, and rejoice all the more at success! As humble, unworthy servants may we be surprised by God's grace in anything accomplished under the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

So don't get down! Don't be dismayed! Keep in mind that your God is the one true God. His name is worthy to be proclaimed in any and every way by any who would profess to be His people. *Be professional and practice your faith!* Our God is with us in our efforts. He will bring forth the fruits He seeks to accomplish His purpose, even if our "practice" isn't perfect!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Attend your WELS or ELS churches while on summer vacation.

We can help you find a church to attend wherever you go on vacation.

Week Night Services at our local churches:

- ◆ 7:00 Monday - Redeemer, Maple Grove and Cross of Christ, Coon Rapids.
- ◆ 7:00 Thursday— New Life, Shoreview.



- ◆ Monday Night Brooklyn Lutheran ball games
- ◆ Friday, June 5, end of school program.
- ◆ Thursday, June 11, last day of Brooklyn Bridge School
- ◆ June 25, 26, 27 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society in Denver, Colorado.
- ◆ August 10-14 (M-F) Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Wednesday, August 26—Lutheran Night at the Twins.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our summer schedule begins Sunday, May 25 with **one Service at 9:00 am**. Sunday School and Bible Classes will recess for the summer. A Fellowship will be held after each summer Sunday morning Service. If you can serve one of these Sundays, there is a sign up sheet by the bulletin board. Donations will be asked for our Thrivent matching fund project this year-replacing landscape in center islands and on corner or if we have more money, we will put it towards parking lot pavement work.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

We thank those who already signed up for the **lawn mowing crews**. There are still some spaces left to fill. Come out in the summer air and enjoy the smell of new mown grass. There are riding mowers for all. For those of you that like to dig in the dirt (or even if you don't), we can use people to plant flowers and make our grounds more beautiful. Then we need people to help with the watering. There is a **watering crew** sign up sheet for you to sign up for first, second, third, or fourth week of the month June-September.

This year's **spring cleanup** on Saturday April 25th went better than expected. The weather really cooperated and special thanks to all the people that volunteered their time and talents. Workers for this years event were Duke Carstensen, Steve Deuth, Dan Gabrielson, Dave Glodowski, Kirk Graen, Pastor Holub, Brian Larson, Roger Lucht, Jerry Steinbach and Guy Schimenz.

The work crews accomplished the job of trimming all the shrubs around the church, and the lilac bushes by the parsonage. All the leaves were removed around the shrubs and other areas of the grounds. The heat tape was removed from the roof and the outside stairwell was cleaned. Grass was cut in the front of the church, sticks and garbage were picked up on the entire property. We filled up a truck load of leaves and a trailer load of sticks not to mention the bags of trash we collected. We also washed the glass on the Church's corner sign and the siding was put back up on the garage. The

parking lot was swept, the garden street light was replaced and the storm windows of the church were removed and stored.

At the end of the morning one couldn't help but notice all the work that was done and how nice our Church grounds looked. Again, thanks to the volunteers who helped beautify our Church by getting it ready for the summer.

Guy A. Schimenz
"I love the house where You live, O Lord, the place where Your glory dwells (Psalm 26:8)"

We have two gardens that have not been claimed for this year but there are five people on the waiting list. We give the last year's people first choice and if they don't come by May 16, then we give them to new people.

LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild is a study/fellowship/service organization. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month. We recess for the summer so our next meeting will be September 1. All women are welcome.

Celebrations of the 50th Anniversary are continuing: Sunday, May 3, we had **Renewal of vows** by all confirmed thru the years at Brooklyn Lutheran Church and elsewhere. The Ladies Guild served cake at the fellowship following the Service. We had about 20 people in attendance who were former confirmands of Brooklyn Lutheran.

Baptism Sunday, January 11. About 25 people who were baptized at Brooklyn Lutheran, together with their families, attended the Service and fellowship after the Service. The **50th Anniversary Day** was held February 15 with 160 people attending the Service and 140 for dinner.

August 9 - **Weddings**, November 15 - **member saints passed into eternity**. (If you have addresses for any of the people who were married here or families of deceased, please give them to the Office.) If anyone wants to help with any of these, please let the Ladies Guild or the Anniversary Committee know.

The Worship Enhancement decorated for Maundy Thursday, Good

Friday, and for Easter, the cross was decorated and banners hung. We thank all those who donated flowers for Easter. Thanks to all who work very hard to enhance our Services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

"*Education Sunday*" — Sunday, May 17. This is the last day of Sunday School until fall. The Sunday School students will be singing in the Service. The Sunday School staff thanks the parents for giving them the opportunity to teach their child/children God's Word. We would like to thank the following for their dedication to the Sunday School department this past year: Cindy Boyd, Duke Carstensen, Jean and Pastor Holub, Katie Koch, Becky Rudenick and Betty Tommerdahl-Dickinson.

The CEAP Food Drive sponsored by the Sunday School collected 146 pounds of food and \$25 in cash. We thank everyone including our preschool families who donated to this very important project.

300+ Minnesota food shelves distributed more than 50 million pounds of food to 2 million clients last year! Since 2000, the number of Minnesota children living in extreme poverty has doubled – at a pace faster than most of the nation. Sadly, in 2009 the households struggling to put food on the table will account for more than 1 million people. More than 50% of adult food shelf visitors are employed, and in the Twin Cities' suburbs alone the working poor make up 60% of the people who use food shelves. Two thirds of food shelf visitors make less than \$1,000 a month, with more than half of their income going to housing.

CHOIR

May 3, Confirmation Day, marked the end of our choir singing for this school year. It also is the end of weekly Wednesday evening practices since last September. BUT we will be back working hard this coming September. We thank Mrs. Brenda Glodowski and the choir for another year of beautiful praise and dedicated service to their Lord.

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

The Prayer Chain has had 20 requests for individuals so far this year. Remember that the Prayer Chain is here for you. God wants us to come to Him in prayer.

What a gift God has given us in the Lord's Prayer.

Worship.....Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name

Allegiance...Thy kingdom come

Submission..Thy Will be done on earth as in heaven

Petition.....Give us this day our daily bread

Intercession.Give us this day our daily bread

Confession...Forgive us our debts

Forgiveness..As we forgive our debtors

Guidance.....Lead us not into temptation

Deliverance...But deliver us from evil

Worship.....For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Contact Bonnie Johnson with any prayer requests. 763-427-0448

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grab your swim goggles and flip-flops. Get ready to ***Dive In!*** to God's saving Word with an exciting journey to the ocean! As you visit the deep waters, you will learn interesting new things about some of God's incredible sea creatures, including the black dragonfish, porcupine fish, sand dollar, sea anemone, and dolphin. The characteristics of these fantastic creatures will help students make visual connections to the main points of the Bible lessons. Interactive activities, theme-related crafts, and music are also part of this exciting five-day program. **Join us as we *Dive In!* It'll be oceans of fun!** Vacation Bible School will be from August 10-14. VBS was a great success last year thanks to all of our volunteers. There are many ways to help out other than teaching a group. Please watch for a bulletin board and sign up sheet with more information.

OUR CONFIRMANDS AND GRADUATES

On Sunday, May 3, three of our young girls were confirmed in the faith:

- ***Kelli Lynn DeShaw***
- ***Colleen Ann Larson***
- ***Aleah Michelle Melchert***

Congratulations to our graduates. We have one graduating from High School, Jordan Graen and one from college, Nikki Larson. Jessica DeShaw graduated from a nursing program after the winter quarter.

We pray for each of our youth to learn and grow in God's Word and to hold fast to their faith as they become young adults. We will be having a reception for our graduates following the Service on June 7. Please join us for this important Sunday.

MEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Our church's softball team plays all its games on Monday evenings. Watch the bulletin and church calendar for schedule.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DAVE GLODOWSKI

Over a year ago our congregation voted to engage Synod's Parish Assistance Program to help us evaluate our current status, and more importantly, help us look ahead to our future

This past weekend (May 8 and 9) Pastor Paul Kelm was with us once again, to conclude the "Phase 2" portion of this program. Phase 2 helped us see "*where we have been*", and "*how do we begin to move forward*". As we move into Phase 3, we begin to talk about our vision for our future. In fact, the next group of people who will lead this part of the program will be called our "*Vision Task Force*".

Some observations I have made during this process are, that God has blessed our congregation these past 50 years, and we need to celebrate our past, but more importantly we need to look to our future and look to the mission field that God has given us.

That means we need to begin to see our congregation as a mission congregation! We need to focus on the mission Jesus Himself gave to all of us, "*Therefore go and make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*". (Matt. 28:19)

We must never change our mission. We must also never change the message, that Christ was crucified for our eternal salvation. However, what we need to change is how we go about spreading this message to our mission field, our community.

As we continue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary here at Brooklyn Lutheran, let us carry that joy into our future, and allow the Lord to guide into whatever direction He sees is best for us!

VISION TASK FORCE MEMBERS-(VTF)

Mike Boyd, Duke Carstensen, Brenda Glodowski (coordinator) Matt Hilliard, Kari Schimenz, Jean Sulzle, Gene Wales. Our called workers, Pastor Holub and Katie Koch will function in advisory capacities.

The Council and Elders will seek input for the VTF from our members through a "*Listening Sunday*" June 7th, which will follow a shortened Service that day.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

West Lutheran will celebrate 30 years of existence with a special week-end on October 2-4, 2009. We are concerned that only 31 freshmen are enrolled for this fall (as of January 12, 2009, we had only 21, so God has been good!). We have 55 freshmen this year, and 194 total students.

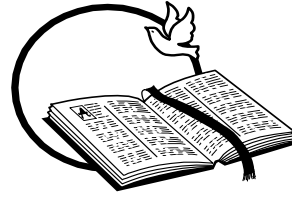
Wise Penny raised \$153,500 for West in 2008, exceeding their goal of \$148,000. The twenty congregations which make up the association running West have been performing at only 71% of the financial support that our budget anticipated. (con't on page 4)



BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Quarterly Newsletter—Spring, 2009

Mission Statement



We exist to use the Gospel of Christ to win the lost and to nurture believers, all to the glory of God.

5840 69th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55429
Phone: 763 560-5953
Email: brooklynlutheranchurch@yahoo.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
brooklynlutheran.com

Expenses will have to be reduced next school year to match our income.

Mrs. Brenda Glodowski announced on January 6th, the twentieth anniversary of her called service to West, that she will not be returning in the fall. Her choral and other work was combined with Mr. Keith Wordell's band and art work (minus grade school band) to form one Fine Arts Chair Position. Staff Minister Gregory Baures (pronounced "Bauers") of Christ Our Rock Lutheran Church in Rochester has accepted this call. The staff will be further reduced by the retirement of Mrs. Jean Neitzel, who worked in special education and German. German class offering will be immediately reduced and probably soon eliminated. The staff will have to absorb her special ed efforts with one teacher leading the work.

About one quarter million dollars are being spent this spring to remove the building from the corner of Fernbrook and Harbor, and convert the acreage to parking lot. As of this date, May 11th, the building is already gone and work is underway to remove several feet of soil and debris to bring the lot down to the level of the school. The extra parking will be much appreciated and having our school grounds extend to the busy corner is going to be wonderful. With the economy not good, any further developments to make the reverse side of the school (toward the street) the main entrance have been put on hold while the Long Range Planning Committee

works on a revised time table and possibly more modest building modification.

Mike Boyd is completing his third term on Regents. By-laws require that he now step aside. We thank him for representing us and serving the school in this capacity. Pastor Holub has two years remaining on his third term with the Regents. Among Pastor's efforts has been serving on the Development Committee. In view of the economic times in which we have undertaken the expense of the corner project and with lower tuition income forthcoming from smaller enrollment, our 20 association congregations are being asked to conduct a West Sunday. A celebration special offering noting 30 years of God's grace to West has a goal of \$300,000.



Another school year has flown by once again. This year has been special for many reasons. We began in September with four full classes and a small waiting list. Brooklyn Bridge enrollment has remained in the mid forties all year. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to reach so many children and their families with His Word.

We are also thankful for the support the congregation has shown us—through your gifts, collecting craft supplies,

volunteering, attendance at special programs, and just your active interest in what the children are accomplishing. We would be unable to run such an effective preschool without your support.

We sang for a mid-week Lenten service again this year. It was well attended, with nearly half of the students and parents there. Everyone was excited to hear their children. Many parents approached me afterward to express their appreciation of the dinner and worship service.

Many of our families attend Christian Reformed churches. Mid-week Lent and Advent services are generally not observed by these churches. What a blessing it is to share these special seasons with them!

As we wrap up the school year, two things come to mind—the end of the year program and where are we starting next year?

Our program will be held on Friday, June 5th. It is tentatively planned to be an outdoor event with a pot-luck supper beginning at 5:30 and the program following at 6:30. It would be wonderful if everyone would attend. The last day of school is June 11th.

As for next year, we already have 14 students signed up for classes and one class nearly full. Many more have expressed interest now that the large corner sign is on the building. We are looking forward to another exciting year beginning September 1st.