

specifically. What does that mean? Jesus says in the Bible that it is up to the parents and elders of the church to teach the generations. We have an awesome opportunity to reach out to the children of our congregation and our community. We need to ensure that we share God's Word with them and continue as Jesus taught us to bring the children to Him and share our knowledge of God's Word as we were taught by our parents and elders of our church. We invite all to help us with Sunday School during the 2010-2011 school year. Here are some highlights of our plans for this year. The school year will be broken up into 6 week sections, with each section focusing on a different set of topics and stories

- Session 1 – Tasty Treats- VBS Series
- Session 2 – Catechism – Commandments 1-5
- Session 3 – Christmas Stories
- Session 4 – “Praise Band” – VBS Series
- Session 5 – Catechism– Commandments 6-10
- Session 6 – Easter Stories
- Session 7 – TBD – stories to wrap up our Sunday School year

Here are some ways you can help us with this years Sunday School Program and Activities:

- Design and Select the materials for each session
- Selection of music for each section
- Storyteller or Activity Leader for selected sections.
- Music Leader for selected sections.
- Follow-up with missing children
- Supplies for activities and treats required

Please see Cindy Boyd or Katie Koch if you would like to help us with this years Sunday School Program.



**BROOKLYN
BRIDGE
SCHOOL**

The school year

has begun! No, the children aren't here yet. We start officially on September 7th, but before the children come we are very busy around here. What have we been doing this summer? You'll notice there's been a few changes to the rooms that we use. The large cabinet is gone from the main room. The main room is smaller now that we've moved the library upstairs. The paint, paper, and craft items that were once in the banner storage room have been moved to a better location in the basement. New sand has been added to the sandbox and we even have some new toys in the playroom. Everything has been disinfected in preparation for the children who will be coming shortly.

We have also been busy calling and gathering registrations. We're about half full (25) at this time, but expect to fill the classes (48) within the first few weeks of September. Many of our students last year went on to Kindergarten, which means this year's group will be fairly young.

Finally, I'd like to direct your attention to the Wishing Tree. It's located on the wall next to the coat rack. Each of the leaves has an item or two that we would like for our classroom or crafts. If you would like to help, take a leaf with you. Maybe you even have some of these items already in your home. The leaves and items will change as the year progresses. Everything can be left on or near my desk in the office. If you have other things that you think might be good for a craft project, please don't hesitate to ask. I'm always looking for new ideas.

- Miss Koch

BROOKLYN BRIDGE BUCKS

Every Sunday after church, you can purchase prepaid certificates or cards to pay for services and products from the merchants that you already use. A percentage of the purchase price goes directly to our school. These funds will be going towards new playground equipment of the school. We have raised enough

money to buy a few new items for our playground. Thank you so much for all your support. See Cindy Boyd or Dawn Heebl if you have any questions, or check out www.scrip.com. Consider store gift cards for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other gift occasions in the months ahead.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

School starts at West Lutheran High School on August 30 for freshman, and the entire school population returns on August 31. All members of West's Association congregations are invited to the Opening Service on August 31 at 8:15 a.m. The enrollment for this school year is 160 students. West also welcomes new faculty member Rachel Kionka who will be teaching science and algebra along with coaching girls' sports.

Mark your calendars now for West's Annual Dinner/Auction to be held on Saturday, October 16. You can view information about the Auction on West's website: www.wlhs.net.

LIBRARY

You may have noticed that the library is now upstairs. We are currently in the middle of cataloging the books and grouping them into subjects. Once this is done, the catalogue will be kept in a three ring binder. To check books out, we will continue to use the cards located inside the back cover of the books. Not all books have these. If there is anyone that would like to help get our library in order and keep it running smoothly, please contact Katie Koch. If you have books that you would like to donate, they may be left on Katie's desk.

MEN'S SOFTBALL

Our church's softball team took on a whole new look this year with some of the long time players retiring and getting younger players to fill their places. The season ended with a tour-

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—Fall, 2010



NEVER SURRENDER IN THE WAR FOR LOST SOULS!

For the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands! (1 Samuel 17:47)

Custer's Last Stand – Three little words that epitomize complete and utter defeat – except for the victors! Another summer drawing to a close reminds me of an August years ago (1991), when I and my family stood on the grounds of Little Big Horn National Park in southeast Montana.

George Custer was a West Point graduate and a seasoned war strategist. His tactics were often criticized, but never his success ratio. This man knew how to wage war – and win! So, how was this expertly trained and highly decorated veteran out-planned, out-foxed, and out-fought by some of history's most independent and disjointed people?

The answer comes in the name of one man: Chief Sitting Bull, the spiritual leader among the fractured Sioux nation. Though he had neither a formal education nor charismatic sway, he defined his nation's purpose and vision. Wisdom and persuasion were his calling cards.

For years he had warned his people of the impending trespass of the white man, of the broken treaties, of the needless killing of “ta tanka” (the buffalo). He spoke with passion and vivid imagery. But the Sioux leaders were tired and discouraged. Failed promises had left open wounds and ugly scars. “Nothing will stop the

white man's migration,” they said. “The Great White Father has too many sons to fight.”

But Sitting Bull would not give up. He issued a call for all Sioux to stand and fight in the sacred land of “The Greasy Grass” – Little Big Horn – to honor the legacy of their ancestors. To reject his invitation would be to disinherit their past. If they died there, it would honor their nation's cause. And if they won.... And so they fought as no army had ever fought. Custer never had a chance. Sitting Bull's persuasive vision made sure of that.

Every generation has to have its visionary leaders like Sitting Bull – those who are forced to prod the naysayers in order to do the unthinkable. Jeremiah was like that. For forty years he faithfully proclaimed God's judgment on apostate Judah, all the while enduring opposition. Isaiah's bio reads the same, as does Hosea's and Amos' and Joel's – the prophets we studied in recent Sunday morning Bible Class. And though the response was rarely promising, the prophets' resolve never wavered.

Today calls for Brooklyn Lutheran “tribe” to have some passion-filled leaders – faithful men and women armed with the beacon of salvation, turning darkness into light in our neighborhood. We may be “outnumbered” – as was Custer on that fateful June 25, 1876, and the Sioux nation outnumbered in the years to follow – but neither a hostile culture nor an apathetic number among the saints has ever been safe when God's men and women with vision were unleashed. As the pint-sized shepherd said as he took on the giant, “For the battle is the Lord's and He will give all of you into our hands.”

No matter what may be the outcome years down the road, the Lord has called us – right here, right now - to do battle. May He inspire us through His Word and Sacrament to carry out our vision....that “giants” may be “slain” for the Lord in precious souls won to eternity from our corner at 69th and Zane! Keep the vision!

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

Brooklyn Lutheran Mission Statement

ALL SUNDAY MORNING STARTUPS

Our fall Service and education schedule begins September 12th.

- **WORSHIP**
*We allow God to speak to us from His Word and respond with our prayers and praises!
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 - 9:45 am**
*Bible Stories, Singing, Memorizing God's Word.
- **ADULT and TEEN BIBLE CLASS**
8:55 - 9:45 AM.
- *Studying and learning God's Word.

For further information, please refer to the article “Bible Classes—2010” on page 2 of this newsletter.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT, MIKE BOYD

The new is becoming old? We have talked for so long about what we are going to be doing to change the structure of the leadership of the church I am getting the feeling that it is old now. That is fine, it is old. It is old from the standpoint that no matter what changes, the mission of the church is still the same old thing... *TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST*. That one over riding goal will never change.

One thing that is changing is quarterly meetings. This September 19th we will be having a meeting after the service for the Elders to tell you what they have been working on, where they are with their goals for this year and what is coming up for them. The congregation will get a chance to ask questions and express support or offer suggestions. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think of how we are doing. IF there is something that you would like for us to make sure we talk about please talk to myself or one of the Elders before the 19th and let us know what that is.

One thing that is old is the falling attendance, and with it falling offerings. I know none of us wants to hear this again and I have no great desire to talk about it again but we all need to take a look at what we do to help the church. I am not just talking about his money that we give in the offering plates. What are we doing to help boost attendance? What are we doing to make sure that the visitor who comes in gets greeted? What do we do to, well you get the picture. As our Lord said to the workers he was sending to the mission field, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2) We do not have to do great things to make an impact at church, being a greeter, serving coffee, taking a moment to talk to that visitor that you see

after the service. All of these little things add up and make an impact. With the current way we are doing things we are looking for folks that want to make a difference, want to try something, to lead something. If you have an idea, talk to an elder that takes care of that area, then move forward, that simple, that easy. We, the Elders, know that we do not have the corner on the market for ideas on how to take care of things at the church, we need your help. With everyone offering to do something, to offer an idea, to make something happen... WOW what would BELC look like? Who would recognize it?

Let me leave you with some verses that we all know well and have heard many times over the years and the past few months.... *It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

An Idea Memo form for everyone to offer ideas and suggestions to our Elder Council has been developed. A sample of the Idea Form is below. Forms will be located by the entry mailboxes under the title *Idea Memo Forms*. Please offer your suggestions and ideas to our council to consider in furthering the mission of Brooklyn Lutheran. The completed forms can be deposited in the mailbox titled: *Idea Memos*.

Two-thirds of
PROMOTION is
MOTION

Sample:
Idea Memo to Elder Council
My idea is:

Name:

I can be contacted for further information at:

Date Submitted:

Please deposit in mailbox in entry titled: *Idea Memos*



Dave Glodowski, Discipleship Elder

The Discipleship Group has been spending the past few months planning our weekly Bible Study classes for the fall. Starting Sunday, September 12, we will be offering a total of 4 Bible Study classes each week. Sunday morning will have 3 classes - Adult Bible class with Pastor, Adult Bible class led by Mike Boyd, and a new "Young Adult" Bible class led by both Andrew Boyd and Katie Koch. There will also continue to be the Friday morning Bible Study class led by Pastor.

Also, this group will soon be passing out to all members a "Volunteer" listing sheet to see what areas of volunteering each member is interested in pursuing. As the Discipleship Elder, it is my prayer that each of you take the time to attend one of the above classes. Spending time studying God's Word is an important part of our Christian lives!

BIBLE CLASSES –2010

Excitement is in the air!!

OK perhaps that might be stretching it some but there are some of us who are excited about the new offerings this fall for Bible classes at BELC. As in the past Pastor will be offering a class upstairs in the fellowship area. This class will be "*Biblical Worship*" and promises to be inter-

esting and fulfilling.

Again this year there will be a lay lead class in the basement area. Working with Duke this year are myself and Dave Glodowski. I am going to take the first couple of weeks and base the classes from a book entitled '*Prepared to Answer*'. I am looking forward to this and hope to make it a discussion based class where folks can come and discuss ways that we can be prepared for answering questions about our Christianity and why we believe what we do. I know that I have times when I am caught with out the right things to say and wish that I had an answer. The goal is to make you examine your faith and give you a way to discuss it with others in a non threatening way.

We have not forgotten the young adults either. Katie and Andrew have agreed to deliver a class that will be geared to that age group with topics that relate to them. While they are working on nailing down all of the things that are going to be happening we are encouraged by the prospects.

The Friday morning group will start out the fall studying "*What In The World Is going On!?*" It will help us with a Biblical Worldview to understand the secular and pagan world views of our own culture and others. Joins us at 9:30 am each Friday.

Mike Boyd

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

The Prayer Chain had a total of 44 prayer subjects as of August 14th with a number of updates on those prayer requests. If you have need of the prayer chain, please don't hesitate to contact Bonnie Johnson, 612 789-2130. (Please note change of phone number.) As I was reading "Lutheran Book Of Prayer: I came to the prayer on Thanksgiving. It fits every day, not just Thanksgiving Day and is well worth sharing.

"Heavenly Father, from Whom come all good and perfect gifts, from Whom come mercies new each day, from Whom come blessings beyond measure: Accept our thanksgiving for pro-

tection and those who provide it, for daily bread and those who prepare it, for clothing and those who manufacture it, for family and those dear to us, for friends and those associated with us, for jobs and those working with us, for social security and support programs.

We confess we think too little about the fact that we deserve nothing, about the many who serve us, about the blessings of Your Spirit.

We pray You forgive our ingratitude, open our eyes to behold Your goodness, fill our hearts with thankfulness, make us respond in appreciation, help us to serve in love, We thank You; through Christ, our Lord, Your best gift to us. Amen."

Duke Carstensen Family and Youth Elder



Summer is nearly gone and the 2010 school year is just about to begin. Our Pre-School and Sunday School sessions will begin shortly too. As we look ahead to the coming school year there are many changes before us. Betty Tommerdahl-Dickinson has retired as our long term leader of the Sunday School. Cindy Boyd will be our new leader of the Sunday School.

Just 10 years ago our Sunday School attendance averaged 27 students per Sunday. We now average 7 students on a given Sunday. What used to be 4 classes of students has dwindled to 2 classes. The small number of students, their ethnic origins, the potential for parental involvement with spiritual education and various other factors have caused us to rethink our Sunday School program from top to bottom.

Our Vacation Bible Study program for children was held the second week in August. Our theme was "*The Circle J Ranch*" ("J" for Jesus!), a dude ranch adventure. 34 "cowpokes" attended with 3 little "pardners" also along for one day each. Those participating attended faithfully. After

only 16 cowpokes on Monday, we had 25, 31, 33, & 30 the other four days. Ten different people helped lead the program! A hearty thanks to each of them in the name of Jesus and the congregation!

Every day they had a Bible story and a project. The crafts reflect the "out West" theme and the lessons connect the families with God's saving Word. Jerry Steinbach did preliminary woodwork for craft projects for which we thank him.

The stories that were taught were:

- *Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem*
- *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*
- *Jesus Is the Good Shepherd*
- *Jesus Tells About Two Men Who Prayed. (The Pharisee and the Publican).*

Every day there was playtime such as relay races, volleyball, slip & slide. We shared our songs and Bible history with the nursing home down the street and our Sunday service. The majority of children were from outside of our church family. This effort of outreach to our neighborhood children may result in a new family addition to our church.

Thanks to all our helpers! Duke Carstensen, Jovy Cheam, Kelli DeShaw, Jean Holub, Pastor Holub, Katie Koch, Jessica McCoy, Becky Rudenick and Bridget Shockley. Thanks also to the DeShaws for providing us with cookies every day.

Katie Koch and Andrew Boyd are working toward establishing a Bible study group for young adults (teens to 20 somethings). Katie Koch is also considering a special one day 'Christmas for kids' program for mid-December.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we began our planning for the upcoming year we were reminded that Jesus said: "*Let the little children come unto me*". We also were reminded that the Bible very rarely mentions Jesus teaching the children

