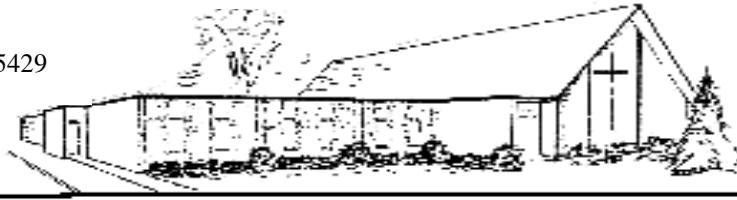




Brooklyn Ev. Lutheran Church

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WHAT MAKES FOR A "HOLIDAY"?

by Pastor Holub

Quarterly Newsletter—Winter, 2007

On that day holy to the Lord.... (Zechariah 14:20)



My old Webster's Dictionary from the 1960s says that a "holiday" is, first and foremost – *a religious festival; holy day.* That's the first definition given.

A second is *a day of freedom from labor; day for leisure and recreation.* Thirdly, the word can be used (usually plural) when referring to *a vacation.* Fourth and lastly, a "holiday" can be *a day set aside by law, in celebration of some event.* In Christian circles, all four apply to pretty much every single "holiday."

Thanksgiving (November 22nd this year and as early as ever possible) is a national "holiday" declared by the President of the United States. To what degree it is a law that we observe Thanksgiving, I am uncertain. It seems more custom and union negotiated freedom from labor, day of leisure – than anything.

To the extent that the original intent was for it to be a *day holy to the Lord* – a day when we pause to reflect on God's blessings and thank

Him for all the outpouring of His abundance on our land - it historically has truly been a "holy day" – from which "holiday" was derived as a slightly contracted single word form.

In 21st Century America "Holiday" has become the politically correct word to substitute for the likes of Christmas or Good Friday or Easter. Don't dare say "Merry Christmas!" in the wrong company, or you could get a frown – or worse, legal action. You are supposed to say "Happy Holiday!" Christmas vacation from the public schools has become "winter vacation." And what used to be Easter Vacation, or heaven forbid (Oops, there I go with another religious expression!), Holy Week Vacation, has now become "Spring Break" and is most often scheduled without regard for exactly when

Holy Week and Easter may fall.

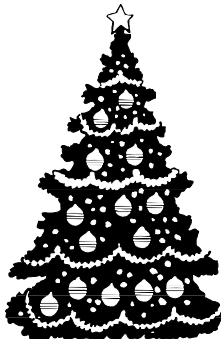
As we move through Thanksgiving celebration and on into the Christmas season, wear your Christianity on your sleeve. Don't shy away from opportunities to wish souls for whom God became man a "Merry Christmas!" Say it at the checkout counter in the stores you will frequent during the weeks ahead. Express what *the Holy Day* is all about on December 25th in the Christmas cards and emails you send.

And finally, be sure to make it a truly religious festival, a holy day, for you and your family in which you set aside time to celebrate the event with fellow Christians in worship. You will find Brooklyn Lutheran's "Holy Days" schedule printed on this page.

THOSE ABLE TO HELP

During the Christmas season exchanging gifts has become a practice that has been overtaken by the world with its commercialism. Instead of remembering God's great exchange in Jesus, even well meaning Christians sometimes lose focus at this time of the year. Some forget that the material gifts are simply reminders of the great spiritual gift given to us by God through the fulfilled promise of our Lord Jesus.

Truly, God's love abounds to mankind, especially to the Christian who understands and appreciates God's will and the mission that He has set before His church. That mission involves both evangelism and making disciples of all nations. The Lord has been gracious in His gifts to the church in order to accomplish His mission. God has
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HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Services:	Wed. Nov. 21 at 7:00 Thurs. Nov. 22 at 9:00
Advent Service:	Wed. Dec. 12 at 7:00
Brooklyn Bridge School Christmas Program:	Wed. Dec. 19 at 6:30
Children's Christmas Service:	Sun., Dec. 23 at 10:00
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:	Mon. Dec. 24 at 10:00 pm
Christmas Day Service:	Tues. Dec. 25 at 9:00
New Year's Eve Service:	Mon. Dec. 31 at 7:00

work of the Gospel would be hindered.

In a day when people ask, "What's in it for me?", it is refreshing to see active faithful members work joyfully in service to their God. May all you who faithfully volunteer be encouraged in your service to your Savior.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

WLHS Players under the direction of Brenda Głodowski presented their fall play November 16 and 17. *The Fabulous Fable Factory* was a children's theater musical based on Aesop's fables. **Christmas Concert** will be Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30pm.

Fall sports included girls VB, boys and girls soccer, girls tennis, and football. An advantage of our small school is the abundant opportunity for those so inclined to make teams and get playing time.

Perhaps the biggest news this fall is the closing on the corner lot October 29th. After a number of delays, it is really ours at \$525,000. An **Enlarge to Strengthen** task force is working on how the new acreage will play into the landscape of our site. In the short term we may rent the building out while we develop plans. The building will probably not remain ultimately.

Last school year income was about \$44,000 over budget. This year our 200 current enrollment makes for an anticipated \$30,000 shortfall in tuition. Congregational support also is lagging at 73% of budget. On the bright side, Wise Penny contributions continue to grow beyond our expectations, at 130% of budget. The October Auction netted \$23,646 for the school.

2008-09 Budget is already in the works. It is based on a high end projection of 195 students. That will be a great challenge because we will be graduating a senior class of 61. We started this year with the next three classes behind them 57, 46, and 37. Another freshmen class of 37 would make for 24 fewer than we are graduating. The nineteen fewer than projected would make for more than a \$100,000 shortfall in hoped for tuition. The budget calls for \$110,000 from our association congregations and \$125,000 from Wise Penny.

West graduates continue to beat statewide student averages in every category of college readiness and ACT scores. More importantly, our graduates are being prepared for Christian adult life in this world, and for eternal life beyond. Your interest, prayers, and efforts in behalf of WLHS are much appreciated.

**We will praise Him
for all that is past.
and trust Him
for all that is to come.**

From our President - Mike Boyd

BLC Budgets 2007-2008

It is that time of year again. The time when we set the budget, elect officers and take an accounting of the affairs of the church for the past year. Recently I was asked "How can the church keep going when every week I look in the bulletin and see that we have not made the budget for the week and the month and the year?"

It is a great question and it has a simple answer. We don't pay all of our commitments. When we set the budget we estimate the cost of running the church: the lights, the heat, the printing, all of the costs that we know that we are going to have. Then we set the salaries, this being the easy part since we pretty much subscribe to the synod code guidelines for salaries. But lastly we set our subscriptions.

The subscriptions are what we tell others within the synod that we will give them throughout the year to help them operate. We have three that we do. First is synod itself, next is WEST high school, and lastly is Lutheran Institutional Ministry Association. Between the three we pledge about \$2500 per month in support. These groups make their budgets off of these subscriptions. This is the area of the budget that gets hit first when we do not make our budget amount in offerings. It is unfortunate but thru October we are

\$10,251 behind in our subscription payments for the year. Synod- 5 Mo. x 1500 = 7,500 / West- 3 Mo x 750 = 2250 / LIMA-3 Mo. x 167 = 501. We pray that this will get taken care of before the end of the year.

If my memory serves me correctly, since I have been on council there were only a few times we did not meet our subscriptions by year end. I would like to say that it always works out but that is not true. The question that then is asked most often after that explanation is "Why then do we need to meet the budget with our offerings if we are just giving our "extra" money to others?"

While I would deem the first part of the question fair, I do not think the second part is fair in that these entities depend on us coming through for them. The budget is set at the annual meeting, all of the factors are laid out and the budget is up for review. All voters are encouraged to attend and give input to the budget as well as all of the other church business. One can only assume that if our men do not attend the annual meeting and our ladies don't express their feelings to Pastor, a councilman or an elder, that you agree with the budget and are willing to do your part to help meet it. The date of the annual meeting has not been set (look for it to be the 20th of January) but start making plans now to attend. Start looking to your council members and ask them about the budget and what is being done at the church. It all works as well as we all are involved and taking care of it. You men might even want to consider being on the council....



BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Quarterly Newsletter—Winter, 2007

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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We have had a very busy first quarter at Brooklyn Bridge School.

In September –

The Kindergarten completed 22 days of school. They are busy counting the days until the **100 days of school party**. In Pre-K and Kindergarten we are learning to write our numbers, too. Pre-K is learning to recognize the numbers **1, 2, 3** and **4**. Kindergarten is learning to spell, sound out and read words. They learned the difference between letters, words and sentences. We practiced what to do for a fire drill and a tornado drill this month. The children know how to line up quietly and stay with their teachers at all times as they either leave the school or head down into the basement. Miss Koch's class was learning all about apples. They can be red, green, yellow, and even pink! They also learned that apples grow on trees. First little flowers, called blossoms grow on the trees, and then come the apples. When they grow big enough and are ready to eat, they'll fall off the trees.

In October –

The children enjoyed a week of new ideas. After attending our teachers' conference last week in Mankato, both Miss Koch and Mrs. Kurtzahn came back with many new ideas to teach the children. It was a great conference! Mrs. Kurtzahn's class painted a "Big Book" called Mary Wore Her Red Dress. The class book is based on the song and book "Mary Wore Her Red Dress." The Kindergarten made a graph for showing the favorite color and article of clothing – a red dress! Miss Koch's class weighed a pumpkin and each of the children. Everyone thought that the pumpkin would be heavier, but actually, the children were heavier than the pumpkin. We cut up a pumpkin and put it inside a jar. We are going to talk about how God changes things. So, to understand this idea, we will leave the pumpkin in the jar for the rest of the school year. We also made pumpkin glyphs with each of the classes. They were great decorations for our Harvest Party! Thank you to everyone who came and helped for our annual Harvest Party. We hope you all had a great time. Seeing the children in their costumes and playing all those games was so much fun!

In November –

We are getting ready for Jesus' Birthday and our Christmas service. The Children's Christmas Program (Wednesday, December 19th) and we're learning all about the upcoming holidays and seasons. (Reformation, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas) A new addition to our day is "game time." The children love the game "Memory." We play it every day. We talked about the many blessings we have from God and that we should be content with what we have. So as we began talking and discussing Thanksgiving coming up next week, we realized how many wonderful blessings God has given to us. Thursday, November 15, 2007 is the **50th** day of school. We are 1/2 way to our 100 days of school! In Kindergarten this week we are learning about number lines and skip counting. We love one of our new songs called, "I Like To Count It, Count It." We count by 1's, 5's, 10's and 2's in this song. The children will be skip counting by 2's in no time! We will celebrate Thanksgiving today! Everyone had different traditions. On Thursday and Friday, we got to taste different "traditional" Thanksgiving foods. Then we made a paper plate turkey to tell which foods we liked, and which foods we didn't like.

Thanksgiving Word Search

G	E	Z	K	D	A	H	N	C	K	B	P	Y	T	R
G	C	N	A	B	H	Y	O	O	Q	L	B	N	O	X
K	E	Y	Y	E	K	R	U	T	V	T	M	V	G	F
J	I	V	D	N	A	G	M	P	Q	E	D	A	E	V
Q	P	B	I	S	C	U	I	T	S	S	M	T	T	I
A	R	M	W	Q	B	B	H	D	E	L	H	B	H	L
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C	C	V	A	O	J	O	A	J	V	I	I	B	A	Z
Z	I	Z	P	T	E	W	G	F	J	V	C	C	B	T
G	X	C	M	Q	Z	O	E	N	R	P	W	L	L	G
K	N	F	Y	R	B	Y	A	Q	X	K	S	P	X	X
H	Z	S	R	J	X	U	F	O	O	D	G	P	L	S

BISCUITS
CENTERPIECE
EAT
FAMILY
FOOD
GIVE
NOVEMBER
POTATOES
THANKS
TOGETHER
TURKEY
VISIT