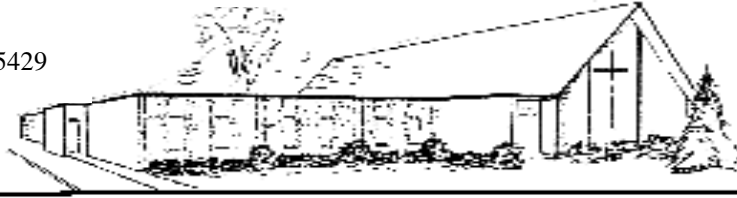




Brooklyn Ev. Lutheran Church

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by Pastor Holub

Quarterly Newsletter—Summer, 2008



The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of His hands.

PSALM 19:1

Monday evening, May 12th, was a milestone in the history of me and the long time family red Chevy van: our first \$90+ fill of gas! While we complain about the cost of petroleum, should we not also marvel that our Lord placed such a vast store house of “black gold” beneath the surface of the earth for us to benefit from all these years? Natural gas and coal remain in much larger quantities. How richly God has provided these natural energy resources! Claims that even billions of years could have made possible their being buried under the earth’s crust are laughable to common reason. Interestingly, before we were able to calculate the vastness of underground carbon fuels, some Christian scientists actually thought the flood could have placed them there.

With beautiful spring skies overhead these days, I would like to direct your thoughts and attention heavenward. No, not as far as to where our Lord Jesus has ascended, but to that jet stream we have been hearing has been the cause of our cool weather lately. I did a little research by Google on “jet stream.” I found out we actually have two in the Northern Hemisphere. The one we see predominately on our weather maps ranges from 30 to 60 degrees latitude. It is called

the polar jet stream. Another, the tropical jet stream, works below 30 degrees latitude. Occasionally, they do get close to one another. The polar one ranges from 4.3 to 7.5 miles above sea level. The tropical jet stream ranges about 33% higher. The streams run unbroken for 1,000 to 3,000 miles. They are about 1 to 3 miles in diameter and travel from 60 to 250 miles per hour.

They were probably discovered by a Japanese gentleman about 1920, but American pilot Wiley Post, who was the first to solo fly around the globe, gets the credit. German meteorologist A. Seikopf gave them their name – “jet stream” in 1939. They were put to the first good use during the Second World War, when US fighter planes got up into the polar jet stream to gain 100mph (and fuel savings!) enroute to Europe. Unbeknown to a lot of Americans, the Japanese were in-

genious during that war in trying to send hot air balloons laden with explosives along the jet stream from their main island to America. Over a period of several months beginning in the fall of 1944, they actually launched 9,000, of which about 1,000 completed the approximate three day 5,000 mile trip to somewhere between Canada and Mexico “riding the wind.” 300 have been found, the last in 1955 – corroded but still lethal after ten years.

Only one of these balloon bombs found their mark in the United States. Ironically, it was at a May 5, 1945, church picnic in Bly, Oregon. The pastor’s 24 year old wife and five adolescent children were its victims.

Now, here’s the possible real significance of jet streams for the future. Besides saving fuel on commercial flights, it is estimated that 1% of the potential wind energy in our

polar jet stream equals all the energy our world uses day by day. It is estimated that we are 10-20 years from the technology needed to begin to harness the jet stream’s energy. Scientists are talking about the potential of converting the wind to microwave energy that could be signaled back to earth. Who knows??

God does! God has given undeserving mankind rich resources for our needs and beyond. He has given us the intelligence to implement many of them. God will not forsake His creatures! We may not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future! The heavens declare His glory and work that His hands have done and can bring about for years to come, until Christ returns in judgment to take us home.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Attend your WELS or ELS churches while on summer vacation. We will not be conducting weekly Evening Service this summer (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
- June 15 Walking Together Sunday
- June 24 (Tues.) Saints vs Lincoln Salt Dogs
- June 26, 27, 28, 29 Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society in Tucson, Arizona.
- August 11-15 (M-F) Vacation Bible School
- August 19 (Tues.) Lutheran Night at the Twins



Did You Know.....?

- Education Sunday at our Church on Sunday, May 18
- POPS Concert at West Lutheran High School is Thursday, May 15 at 7:30
- We will change time of Service to 9:00 starting May 25
- Brooklyn Bridge School closing/graduation Service in June
- Last day of school for Brooklyn Bridge School on Thursday, June 12

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our summer schedule begins on 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 matching fund project this year, **“Brooklyn Bridge School.”**

8 Flower Watering Volunteers are being sought for a midweek or weekend watering each week of the month. This is mostly hose watering. Sign for first, second, third, or fourth week of the month June-Sept – and hope it rains! *I love the house where You live, O Lord, the place where Your glory dwells (Psalm 26:8).* Thanks to those who are filling out our lawn mowing crews for the summer!

WOMEN OF THE WORD

We have continued to meet twice monthly and have finished the Bible Study on *The Beauty of Balance, Living an Integrated Life*. The study helped us search the Scriptures to define our mission/vision, namely to will and act according to God's good purpose. We learned that what we do grows out from who we are. This study encouraged us to find balance between being and doing. We meet again on Monday, May 19th and will determine our summer schedule. Watch for information regarding our summer schedule in the church bulletin.

LADIES GUILD

Guild served treats after guest speaker, Jacob, on April 6.

Spring cleaning of the kitchen was done on April 21 and April 24.

College students are receiving devotional e-mails on a regular basis from a member of the Guild.

A date honoring graduates is being determined according to convenience to the honorees.

Plans are in process for a new altar cloth and some new banners.

September 7 has been chosen as the day to honor grandparents.

Guild continues to strive to be of service to Brooklyn Lutheran wherever we are needed.

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

The Prayer Chain at our church hasn't been very busy lately. Not sure what that means, if it's a good or bad thing. I do know that we are not to worry about things. God wants us to take it, our worries and concerns, to Him. He is always available. No “busy signal” or “outside of service area” when we want to communicate with Him. Boy, it doesn't get any easier than that.

“Thank you, Lord God, for always listening, always caring, always loving us no matter what we do or how far away from You we get. We know that all we have to do is take it to You in prayer. Boy, it doesn't get any easier than that. Thanks again, dear Lord God.”

So far this year there have been 11 prayer requests plus those carried over from last year. You can contact Bonnie Johnson, 763-427-0448 if you would like to utilize the Prayer Chain.

BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHOIR

Thanks to the choir members for edifying worship with their beautiful music. We will meet again in September. We can always use choir members, so if you like to sing, join us in the fall.

OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to our graduates. We have one graduating from High School, Kristi Larson and one from college, Nathan Graen.

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 1. Please join us for this important Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Education Sunday” — Sunday, May 18. This is the last day of Sunday School until fall. The Sunday School students will be singing in the 10:00 Church Service. During Sunday School, the classes will enjoy refreshments followed by a fun time reviewing the past Sunday School year.

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 Holub, Katie Koch, Sara Posorske, and Betty Tommerdahl-Dickinson.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held at Brooklyn Lutheran Church August 11-15 from 9:00 –11:30 am. The theme will be **“Quest for Truth.”**

VOLUNTEER AT WISE PENNY

Wise Penny is a thrift shop located in Buffalo, whose proceeds help to support West Lutheran High School, Christian Life Ministries and LIMA. There are jobs for everyone at the Wise Penny from 10-90 years of age. In addition to their regular store hours, Wise Penny has a Tuesday night work night. Scheduled days for volunteers from our church to go out to Wise Penny are the second Monday of each month and also one Sunday a month. (You can also check the monthly church calendar

for the dates.) Please consider donating your time at Wise Penny and join a fun group in an air conditioned shop. We need YOU. Contact Arlou Lorenzen, Bonnie Johnson, Cindy Boyd or Julie Deuth.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Pops Concert on Thursday, May 15 at 7:30.
 Graduation Saturday, May 24 at 2:00. There will be 62 graduates this year.

MEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

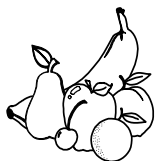
Our church's softball team plays all its games on Monday evenings. The following schedule will be in effect:

- May 19- vs. Holy Trinity 8:20 at Central S.
- May 26- no game
- June 2- vs. Peace 6:20 at East Palmer N.
- June 9- vs. Grace 7:20 at Central N.
- June 16- vs. The Elk 7:20 at Central N.
- June 23- vs. Edinbrook 6:20 at East Palmer N.
- June 30-Position night
- July 7- Second round starts

We invite you to come to the games and cheer our team on to victory. The first two games were winners, complete with homeruns. One was a grand slam! Fun to watch!

"FOOD" FIGURE OF SPEECH

When was the last time you said somebody didn't know beans about something, or described a fog as



being thick as pea soup, or called a political speech a lot of applesauce.

It probably wasn't very long ago, because we Americans really take the cake when it comes to using foods in our everyday figures of speech. For example, when things go right, they are in apple pie order, and life is a bowl of cherries. But when they go wrong, it's a fine kettle of fish, or a pretty pickle.

If a man is important, he's top banana. If he's not, he may be just a meatball. If he's clumsy, he's butterfingers. If he's cowardly, he's chicken-livered. If he's posed, he's cool as a cucumber. If he's smart, he's an egghead. And if he's a prizefighter, he very likely has cauliflower ears. If he talks too much, he spills the beans. And if he doesn't talk enough, he clams up.

Moreover, he doesn't earn money, he earns dough, or he brings home the bacon. And if he's working for peanuts, his wife may egg him on to butter up the boss.

If something is good, it's a peach. If it's bad, it's a lemon. And that may lead to a rhubarb. But someone will say it's just sour grapes.

You may think you deserve an egg in your beer, but if you're not worth your salt, you may wind up eating humble pie...and that would be getting your just desserts.

Finally, a pretty girl is a tomato, or quite a dish, and the boys may want to spoon with her. But if one asks her to elope, she may say she "cantaloupe."

And now, just to ice the cake, I want to say that you may take most claims with a grain of salt.

From our President - Mike Boyd

There is a line from a song that I have been listening to lately that says, "It is good to know that it is out of my control." I like that line not because it absolves us from any thing that we do but more from the point that it gives me the confidence that decisions made and plans made will be at the directions of God and to his glory.

Recently we had a visitor from the Office of Parish Assistance (OPA) who was here to talk to us about change in the church and perhaps Brooklyn engaging OPA to come here and evaluate us and our programs. OPA would look at us with a fresh perspective and perhaps recommend changes that we should do. OPA takes a Four Phase approach to the work that they do and each phase has a specific approach and desired outcome for it. What was completed this past weekend during phase one was OPA coming in and telling us how we are doing compared to other WELS churches and WELS in general. For good or for bad we are following a line of attendance and member loss that is mirroring the synod and other churches.

Many of you will remember that we engaged OPA once before. At that time I was the President as well. I can assure you that this time we would do so for much different reasons.

While I do not want to dwell on the past, I would like to take a look at what happened last time. At that time OPA had a four phase approach but we only engaged them for the first two phases. It seems that at that time we felt that after phase two our problems would be over. I am not sure that was good planning or a good approach but that was then and this is now. If we decide to use OPA we need to be in it for the long haul. With the four phase approach they will come in and evaluate, recommend, set up the structure and work with us during the implementation phase, a three to five year commitment.

The Elders are meeting to discuss and bring forth a recommendation to the council on how to proceed. God guide them in their deliberations.

It is good to know that it is out of OUR control.

Mrs. Sharon Kurtzahn has been teaching for us four years. We are grateful for her conscientious work with our older preschoolers and kindergarteners. We are struggling to get enough children for kindergarten next school year. As a result, we have been unable to reissue a one year call to Mrs. Kurtzahn. She is free to pursue another call or employment. Should we be able to register enough children for kindergarten and she is still available, we would be most happy to have her back for a fifth year in 2008-09!



BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Mission Statement?

Quarterly Newsletter—Summer, 2008

The board of Elders is proposing for adoption by the congregation the following shorter mission statement:



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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
brooklynlutheran.com



Our school year is coming to a close, but with Spring finally here we've been very busy!

In March - Remember our Valentine boxes we sent to the soldiers in Iraq in February? We received a letter back from one of them, and he lives in Brooklyn Park! He was very excited to hear from us and he sent his thanks and appreciation to all who helped with the boxes. We began planning a time when he could come and share his pictures and stories with the children. The children sang "Let Me Learn of Jesus" during a Wednesday night Lenten service. We learned that Jesus wore a crown of thorns for us! We made artwork each day that displays his love for us. We have a new picnic table in our play area now too! Mr. Carstensen helped some of our older Sunday School boys build it. THANK YOU SO MUCH! We have been using it for picnics, and even coloring or doing other work outside.

In April - The children sang "Jesus Shepherd of the Sheep" for Good Shepherd Sunday. We made Bumble Bees for the letter B and learned a song about them. We also read lots of books about Bears. We painted— painted our names, painted our ABC's, painted "He is not here. He is risen!" Can you guess that we are

on the letter Pp in Pre-K?

Kindergarten learned about the orchestra, specifically the violin. We listened to different types of music and tried to decide if it was happy, sad, fast, slow or bouncy music. The American soldier we sent Valentine cards and candy came during this month to show us pictures of camels, donkeys, other school children and many other interesting things. He came to thank us for taking the time to write to him. We also had a photographer who came to take pictures for the SunPost newspaper.

The Kindergarten made and painted a volcano, so the school children had an opportunity to watch a volcano erupt. We made the volcano out of paper mache' and used vinegar and baking soda to watch it explode. It was fun for all - even the teachers. It was a great way to end our lesson on the letter Vv and a little science was taught in the process.

Will it sink or float? We took our water table outside and each of the children chose 5 objects from the classroom to test in the water. Then they had to predict whether the objects would sink or float.

We practiced brushing some teeth with a real toothbrush. You have to remember to brush the front, the sides, and way in back. Don't forget to brush your tongue too! It's a hiding place for germs called "plaque."

We celebrated Earth Day and the Kindergarten helped pick up some of the litter and trash around the playground and in the back yard. It was amazing how much trash we picked up in just a few minutes!

God wants us to take care of the earth he created.

In May - We have also been learning about animals you see at the ZOO! We went on a pretend safari to Africa (the garden area behind the church) to find animals to put in our very own zoo pictures.

The Kindergarten class were photographers. The camera went click! click! The children took many of the pictures themselves. Mrs. Kurtzahn had the pictures developed and they turned out quite good. They loved learning about cameras. The Kindergarten also took a field trip over to Cross of Christ School in Coon Rapids. They went on a tour with Mrs. Cison the Kindergarten teacher. They visited each classroom, played in the gym, and played out on the playground. **David Evbayekha will be attending First grade there next year!**

We also learned about pussy willows, a tree like bush that grows in Minnesota. The children loved touching them and learning about the small gray Catkins that come out in the spring. Thanks to Mrs. Carstensen for bringing them to us!

We had school pictures for the first time this year. A father of one of our students is a professional photographer. He did a wonderful job with each of the children, and most of the families ordered pictures.

We are finishing up our year with lots of fun projects, games, and even a few parties. The last day of school will be June 12th. Our "End of the Year" program is scheduled for an evening in June. Watch for date in bulletin. We would love to see you there!

Katie Koch