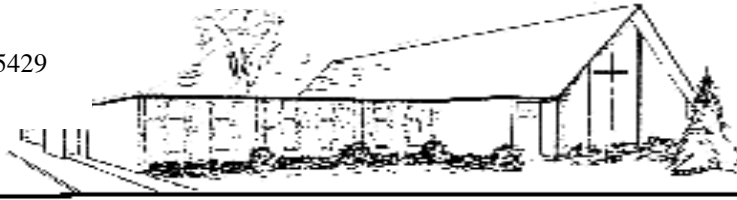




Brooklyn Ev. Lutheran Church

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Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55429

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by Pastor Holub

Quarterly Newsletter—Winter, 2008



SPECIAL WINTER DATES

- November 27 – Thanksgiving
- December 25 – Christmas
- January 11 – Baptism
- February 15 – Anniversary

WHAT DO ALL THESE DATES HAVE IN COMMON?

First off -Thanksgivings, Christmases, Baptisms, and Anniversaries **all bring to mind happy occasions with loved ones.** Thanksgiving and Christmas are special holidays that come every year. By its very name “anniversary” suggests an annual event, but certain milestone anniversaries call for special celebration. Baptism, which only happens once in a lifetime, calls for special celebration. Baptism provides those we love a sure promise of forgiveness and eternal life as they believe and live as God’s children.

Secondly, **all these occasions are certainly “days the Lord has made!”** What would there be to be thankful for, if our Creator/Preserver God had not provided so richly for us along with all His creatures? Christmas in particular is a celebration

“made in heaven.” God so loved the world that He sent down His own Son to live, die, and rise again as our Savior. Baptism also is all God’s doing. We baptize in the “name” of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We have already spoken to the loving reputation of the Father and Son in Christmas. With baptism, the Holy Spirit gets involved – graciously bringing faith with all its accompanying blessings to the recipient. In God, we live and move and have our being. Without God there would be no anniversaries to mark milestones of God’s mercy and blessing upon us.

So, it is fitting that the third thing the four all have in common is that **they each have their own separate special Service of thanks and praise.** This year again we will offer one

Thanksgiving worship both on the Eve (7pm) and on Thanksgiving Day (9am) to “say thanks” to God. Bring family and friends along to acknowledge God’s many gifts! Then, Christmas Eve (10pm) and Christmas Day (9am) there will be two very different Services for double praise to our “newborn King.” January 11 is the first Sunday after Epiphany(January 6). Traditionally we observe the Baptism of Christ on that Sunday. With Brooklyn Lutheran’s 50th Anniversary observance looming, our 10am Service that day will be an opportunity to remember the great blessing of nearly 500 baptisms over the history of our congregation. Friends and relatives who may have been baptized here but moved on elsewhere are being invited back to celebrate their personal new

birth in Christ years ago at our baptismal font. Finally, Sunday, February 15, we will mark fifty years of the administration of the means of grace in Word and Sacrament as a congregation. Pastor Lloyd Hohenstein will preach at a special 10am Service. After, we will have a sit down dinner. Talk it up with those still here and former members who are now God’s saints elsewhere, so that we have a packed house and appropriate praise of God!

What a great set of celebration dates! What a great time to be connected with Brooklyn Lutheran! What a great time to give God the glory!

These are the dates the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in them!
paraphrase of Psalm 118:24)



THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

- Wednesday, November 26 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 27 9:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

- One Advent Service,
Wednesday, December 10 7:00 p.m.
- Brooklyn Bridge Christmas Program
Thursday, December 18 6:30 p.m.
- Children and Choir Christmas Service
Sunday, December 21 10:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
Wednesday, December 24 10:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day Service,
Thursday, December 25 9:00 a.m.
- New Year’s Eve Service w/ Communion, Wednesday, December 31 7:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS BANNER FESTIVITY

The Ladies Guild invites you to attend a *Christmas Banner & Cookie Party*. It will be held at Brooklyn Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 6 from 1:00 –3:00pm. We will be completing new banners for hanging in the back of the church and baking cookies to be distributed to our shut-ins. Cookies and hot apple cider will be served. You are welcome to invite a friend to join us. If able to attend, please fill out the lower portion of the invitation by the basket on a table in the commons area. We look forward to seeing you!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING EVENING

Come and join the fun and fellowship in putting up the church's Christmas tree and other decorations on December 7th at 3:00. Bring the whole family as there will be activities for everyone. Also bring your favorite Christmas treat to share. Sloppy joes will be provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CHOIR CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Sunday School and Choir will lead in Worship on December 21 at the 10:00 Service. A fellowship will follow. Be sure to attend.

NOTE: Annual Meeting, January 25, 2009

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Where has the fall gone? The beautiful colors are now behind us as well as the cool days and crisp evenings of fall. Now that I have your attention; thought you should be updated on some of the things our members have been doing regarding our buildings and grounds to get prepared for winter.

We have continued to keep up with the lawn mowing and general maintenance the past few months. Our fall cleanup on November 8th, was well attended (must have been the coffee, juice and doughnuts or the nice fall weather?!)

The crew that helped with fall cleanup was one great group, accomplishing the pickup and disposal of seven trailer loads of leaves, general mowing and of course

great conversation. Other tasks accomplished were the lighting over the parking lot was fixed (the 20 foot pole is a long way up), the Church's concrete block wall on the west side was painted, speed bump markers were installed, and the heat tape was put on the roof.

While most of us attended to the grounds, others added new outside lighting in front of the Church to illuminate the new signage and Cross. If you have not driven by our church at night, please note some evening how beautiful the Church looks with the lights on. Special thanks to Shirley Aleckson for the dedication of the signage and lighting in memory of her son Mitch and for the hard work of Kirk Graen and Steve Deuth in getting the electrical and lighting installed.

Thanks again to all those who participated in the fall cleanup. It would not have been accomplished without the help of Mike Boyd, Steve Deuth, Kirk Graen, Brian Larson, Glen Lieder, Jerry Steinbach and foreman Guy Schimenz. I was once quoted, "Don't worry I'll have my people do it." Well we had people and we did one great job, thank you! I'd also like to thank everyone who helped with building and grounds all this year, donating your time and God given talents to the Church.

Guy A. Schimenz

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

We have begun a study entitled, "A Woman of Beauty" from The Dee Brestin Series. It is a woman's journey through 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. The topics have so far centered on "what makes a woman beautiful?" and "beautiful beyond description". We are currently studying "a woman of beauty walks in the light". We have come to recite by heart the passage from 1 John 1: 5-6: *"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth."* We are con-

tinuing to meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Watch the bulletin for meeting days and times.

Other BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES –

David's Life Study, Sundays, 8:55am

Life of Christ, Gospel Study, Fridays, 9am

I delight in Your decrees. I will not neglect Your Word. (Psalm 119:16)

LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild is a study/fellowship/service organization. We normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month. In January we will meet on the second Tuesday, January 13. All women are welcome.

We decided to purchase teaspoons to replace many that are missing. Arlou Lorenzen volunteered to purchase 50 spoons as a gift to the Church. We thank her very much. The Special Events Committee is making plans for our 50th anniversary celebration next year: January 11 - the celebration of baptisms over the years, February 15 - the first Service of our church, May 3 - Confirmations of youth and adults, August 9 - Weddings, November 15 - member saints passed into eternity. If anyone wants to help with any of these, please let the Ladies Guild or the Anniversary Committee know.

In November we had elections for the coming year. President—Julie Deuth, Vice-President—Janice Budach, Secretary—Brenda Glodowski, and Treasurer—Mavis Kuensting. We thank those who served last year for all the work they did. There are committees to be filled. Please let our president know if anyone would like to help on one of the following:

- Christian Contact-send welcome and get well cards
- Kitchen-keep kitchen clean and supplies on hand
- Special Events-plan all special events. Minimum of six people on this committee.

- Worship Enhancement—members divide up taking care of flowers, communion ware, altar cloths, candles, banners and other special occasion decorations.
- Calling-contact people at the direction of the Guild
- Historical—preserve any mementoes and information of historical value to the church.
- Visitation-visit our shut ins and hospital patients.
- Baptismal-provide baptismal napkins.
- Confirmation-care and fitting of gowns, flowers, photography, fellowship.

All committees serve for one year.

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave us. It asks our Lord to sustain our daily lives and asks forgiveness and courage to forgive others. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that we can carry with us in our minds and hearts. Prayer is simply talking with God. We can tell Him anything and everything. Even those things we aren't aware of, our Father in heaven knows all these things. Turn them over to God. Pray when you are afraid, alone, feel overwhelmed. Pray when we or our loved ones are in need or despair. Just ask our Lord to have mercy on us and our loved ones. God knows what we need. He shows His mercy on us. Thank Him for all things. Up to the end of October the prayer chain this year

has had 29 prayer requests and numerous updates for those requests. Please consider joining the Prayer Chain. Contact Bonnie Johnson (763-427-0448) for more information.

BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHOIR

Do you like to sing? Would you like to be part of a fun group? If your answer is "yes", then you may join us in January. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00. We will be singing for the 50th anniversary, Easter and Confirmation, at least once a month. Come and see what it's all about!

From our President - Mike Boyd

Coming soon are the holidays. It is the time of year that all of us look forward to. In November we give thanks to the Lord for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Then to end the year we celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a wonderful time of the year for all of us. But also we need to look forward to the coming year and start making plans for that as well.

At the annual meeting in January we set the budget and Service schedule for the coming year as well as review the past year and make an evaluation of how the council represented you during that time. Also at this meeting we elect the people who will lead our church during the next few years.

I have had the privilege of serving with some very great people these past years. Going off the council

with me this year are Glenn Lieder and Roger Lucht. Glenn's dedication over the years is truly appreciated. In fact Glenn was the President of the council the first time I served, MANY years ago. Roger has been the Financial Secretary for so many years that I am sure even he can not tell you what that number would be. Both of these men have given much of their time and talents to BELC. For that we are grateful. Also going off this year would have been Doug Johnson. With his being called home to God's arms in September we lost a tireless worker.

But people leaving allows others to come in and work for Christ and His church. The council is responsible for setting the budget and directing the affairs of the church. This is accomplished by a monthly meeting and then you might head a committee that more than likely would meet once a month as well. During the coming weeks you may get a call to serve your Lord on the council. Please give careful consideration to this call to serve BELC and your Lord. A two year election to the council is not a sentence that you need to fear.

Lastly, as we enter 2009 and the 50th Anniversary year of our ministry in Brooklyn Park, know that we have exciting dates on the planning board right now. In January we will be celebrating the over 450 baptisms that have been done at BELC. Then in February the official Anniversary will happen with a meal served by the Guild. More celebrations will be happening throughout the year to com-

memorate confirmations, marriages and those who have gone before us. Please plan on celebrating with us next year.

In his service, Mike

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Our area Lutheran High School is well into its 30th year of operation. We are blessed with 192 students at our facility, about one mile west of I494, between Hwy 55 and Rockford Road. The freshmen class of 55 is largest. The others are near fifty each as well. Every year we find ourselves earnestly praying for a large incoming class to be able to offer a rich variety of curricular choices, all taught in the light of God's Word. Being able to offer a good number of extra-curricular opportunities is also always a big plus. The challenge is to do all this at still affordable tuition for our families who earnestly desire a Christian setting for high school.

We reached our largest student body size a few years ago, when we surpassed 240 enrollment. Early indications for freshmen class size next year and following years is a cause for concern. In the matter of keeping tuition down, association congregation budget support has been and continues to be as disappointing as Wise Penny's ever growing support from thrift store sales has been phenomenally good.

(Con't on page 4)



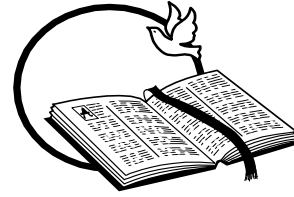
BROOKLYN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Quarterly Newsletter—Winter, 2008

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
brooklynlutheran.com

Mission Statement



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

During this past year we bought the building and lot on the corner toward Fernbrook. Demolition toward conversion to much needed parking area will be put out on bids and done in the weeks ahead. We have secured through the city of Plymouth a low interest bond loan to do this work and refinance the current loan on the addition from several years ago.

With a large corner parking lot off to the east soon, there is much to be said for making the north side of the building (facing the street) the main entrance. The General Board of the twenty congregations which make up the West Association has given approval to architectural plans for a nice north entry, with new offices and some classroom space. In view of the current economy however, the Board of Regents recently appointed a committee to look into possible scaled down square footage construction and fund raising potential.

Mike Boyd and Pastor Holub continue to represent Brooklyn Lutheran on the Board of Regents. For more information read closely the quarterly newsletters from West. Now more colorful and newsworthy, the fall edition was placed in everyone's church mailbox on November 16th.

The Christmas Concert at West is Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30pm. The theme is "*Tidings of Comfort and Joy*." All choirs and bands are performing.



Happy Harvest to everyone! Our school year is back and busier than ever. Four separate classes started after Labor Day and we've had a number of events since then.

Our Annual Harvest Party was held on October 24th. We had a great response from the families in our school and our church. About 50 children came to play the games we had set up. They all went home with a sack full of prizes. They still talk about that night even now.

"Thank you" to everyone who came to help with running the games, serving the cookies, and cleaning up after. This is just one way to bring the families into our church and get to know them a little better.

Also in October, we had our first Parent-Teacher Conference. A little over half of the 40+ families came to talk about their child. There is another conference day set for April. Thanksgiving Break is coming up in just a week. We

have been learning about the pilgrims, native people, and of course TURKEYS! They love doing the Turkey Dance.

The days are turning colder now, so there is less time outside. We have been working on more projects indoors. Practicing for the Christmas program started already in October. The Children's Program will be Thursday, December 18th. Everyone is invited to attend and hear what the children have learned about their Savior.

FUND RAISER TO BENEFIT BROOKLYN BRIDGE SCHOOL Scrip

Every Sunday after church, you can purchase prepaid certificates or cards (at face value) to pay for services and products from the merchants that you already use like Cub, Holiday, Applebee's, Sears, Borders, Subway, Macy's and many more.

A percentage of the purchase price goes directly to our school.

See Cindy Boyd or Dawn Heebl.

You can get more information about the Scrip program at www.scrip.com.