



August 2010

# “Proclaim”

The Newsletter of St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## From the Pastor

### Dates to Remember

- August 3 - 5  
Vacation Bible School  
6:00 – 7:30 PM
- August 8, 9  
School Registration
- September 1  
First Day of School

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“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit” (Ephesians 2:13-18).

“Irreconcilable differences.” How often haven’t you heard that as the official reason for a married couple separating? But it’s not just married couples. While it may not be stated in court records, there are many people, family members, friends and co-workers, who no longer communicate, who even refuse to acknowledge each other because something has gotten in the way. One has offended the other. One has betrayed the other. No longer is there any trust. The tie that once bound them together has been severed, apparently beyond repair. Apparently.

A wise pastor once said to me, “There are no irreconcilable differences, just people who refuse to reconcile.” I agree with this statement. This isn’t to say that when, for example, trust is broken in a marriage it’s easily restored. It’s not, but it is possible if both people are willing, and the marriage can go on to be very blessed.

So often there are situations that do not seem so serious, and yet the parties involved blame each other and refuse to communicate and be reconciled. Who wins in such situations? It seems that the only winner is Satan because he has succeeded in getting sin to reign. He’s even happier when the ones who refuse to reconcile are Christians.

But let’s never forget that the victor over all things is Christ Jesus. By his life of perfect obedience, his death that was the

complete payment for sin and his resurrection to declare his work complete, he has reconciled us to God. The only one who ever had a right to say, “I refuse to forgive,” has forgiven us, not even because we said, “I’m sorry,” but only through the blood of his Son.

St. Paul tells us in his letter to the church in Ephesus that this reconciliation between God and man also reconciles people to each other. You see, it’s more than just the idea that we *should* be united. The fact is that if we believe that Jesus is who he says he is— our Lord and Savior— and he’s done what he said he’s done— reconciled us to God by his life and death— then we *are* united in him, even if we don’t act like it. The hostility between us has been put to death. Why do we keep trying to fan it back to life?

We do it because we are sinners. Sometimes the sinful nature enjoys the enmity between itself and others. Sometimes the sinful nature is too proud to try to see things from someone else’s point of view. Sometimes the sinful nature is lazy, and it’s much easier to just let things continue to keep us apart than it is to talk it out, forgive and ask forgiveness, and be reconciled to each other.

But the lazy way serves Satan’s purposes, not God’s. If there is something keeping you from being reconciled to another person— whether a friend, a family member or someone in church— first go to your Lord in repentance. See your loving Savior and his cross and empty tomb and hear him tell you that you are forgiven. Then swallow your pride or whatever else is sticking in your throat and go talk to that person. Listen first. Speak in love. And as you cling to Christ’s forgiveness, as the Spirit renews your heart through it, your communication will be with a forgiving heart, and God will bless you through his gospel.

Remember, there are no irreconcilable differences, just people who refuse to reconcile. God did not refuse to reconcile you to himself. Be reconciled to each other!



### Board of Trustees Highlights 7/20/10

The Board of Trustees met on July 20<sup>th</sup> for their regularly monthly meeting. Following a Bible study prepared by Pastor Snyder, and concluding with prayer, they moved into the business portion of the meeting at 7:30 PM.

In addition to the regularly monthly reports, special reports regarding finances, membership changes, service schedules and ongoing projects were presented. The following action items were approved on motions made, seconded and passed:

- A simple monthly financial summary will be included in the newsletter each month.
- Troy & Jennifer Gander and Brandon Gehri are recommended for membership having completed the adult confirmation class. In addition, Kevin Weber was recommended for membership upon completion of the high school confirmation class.
- A recommendation will be made to the voters that regular weeknight worship services be held only during the summer months of June, July & August.

Discussion was held on several agenda items, including regular and wider distribution of the newsletter through mailing and direct delivery, procedures for audits of the church and

## Church News

school financial records, replacement offering baskets and replacement church sign & entry doors for the church. These items were tabled until further information can be obtained.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM, closing with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

### Quarterly Voters Meeting Highlights 7/20/10

The Quarterly Meeting of our congregation was held on Sunday, July 25, 2010 following the 10:30 AM worship service. There were 17 voting members present.

Following an opening devotion and prayer by Pastor Snyder, the minutes of the April Quarterly Meeting and a Special Meeting in June were read and approved with minor corrections.

The following membership changes were effected on motions made, seconded and carried:

- Troy and Jennifer Gander & family were accepted as members by rite of adult confirmation.
- Brandon Gehri was accepted as a member by rite of adult confirmation.
- Kevin Weber was accepted as a member by rite of high school confirmation.
- David and Joan Leak were accepted as members by transfer from Faith Lutheran in Reedsburg. David Leak was also accepted as a voting member.
- LaVern and Jean Lietz were released from membership per their request.

Reports from the standing committees were then presented and discussed.

**The Elders** continue to meet with Pastor for training to prepare for mem-

ber visits.

**The Finance Committee** is studying ways in which to best use God's financial blessings to our congregation and is also performing audits of church and school financial records to maintain good order. The Treasurer's report was also read, discussed and approved.

**The Education Committee** report included information on the school calendar for the upcoming year, summer planning and preparation by the faculty and registration information for the coming school year.

**The Evangelism, Maintenance and Stewardship Committees** presented summaries of their activities over the past 3 months.

**The Annual Cemetery Board** report was presented and discussed. All finances appear to be in good order with plans for the future well in place.

**Pastor Snyder** provided a list of Pastoral acts for the past quarter. He also expressed his thoughts regarding the schedule for Monday night services and how we can best honor and serve the Lord with this worship service while managing time and talent in a God pleasing way. In addition, information was presented and discussed about the possibility of obtaining pulpit assistance through a program offered by the seminary involving students in their senior year.

Following Pastor's presentation, further discussion regarding a regular weeknight worship service led to a motion that these services be held only during the months of June, July and August. The motion passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison, led by Pastor Snyder.

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## School Scoop

Celebrating 130 Years of  
Christian Education



**2010-11 School Year Theme:** In all things we look to God for guidance asking Him to direct us on the right path. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

**School Registration:** Sunday, August 8, before and after Bible Study – After the second service. Monday, August 9, in the evening (6-7 PM). **Location** – School's Main Hallway

**Parent Meetings:** Just after school starts we are plan-

ning to have several get-togethers to discuss our respective roles in Christian education. The purpose for these meetings is to improve communication, encourage each other, and spur each other on in love to do our best.

**School Apparel:** We are assembling a variety of school apparel ready for purchase once school begins. We will have various sizes and styles on hand. Orders may also be placed for special sizes or as gifts. Shirts with the new church logo will also be available.

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and  
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—WELS—

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**Greeters for August**

- Sunday, Aug. 1, 8:00 a.m.  
**Donna Biermeier**
- Sunday, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m.  
**Steve & Jan Fick**
- Monday Aug. 2, 7:00 p.m.  
**Shelly Degner**
- Sunday, August 8, 8:00 a.m.  
**Ethel Degner**
- Sunday, August 8, 10:30 a.m.  
**Steve & Jan Fick**
- Monday August 9, 7:00 p.m.  
**Shelly Degner**
- Sunday, August 15, 8:00 a.m.  
**Donna Biermeier**
- Sunday, August 15, 10:30 a.m.  
**Vicky Durkee**
- Monday August 16, 7:00 p.m.  
**Karen Dempsey**
- Sunday, August 22, 8:00 a.m.  
**Emily Herritz**
- Sunday, August 22, 10:30 a.m.  
**Vicky Durkee**
- Monday August 23, 7:00 p.m.  
**Ken & Janet Field**
- Sunday, August 29, 8:00 a.m.  
**Donna Biermeier**
- Sunday, August 29, 10:30 a.m.  
**Cheryl Hedler**
- Sunday, August 30, 7:00 p.m.  
**Ken & Janet Field**

**Pastoral Acts**

- Baptisms:**
- July 25  
Matthew Allen Roloff,  
son of John and Katie Roloff
- Marriages:**
- June 5  
Troy Gander & Jennifer Carter
  - June 12  
Thomas Trankle & Megan Scott
  - June 19  
Jeff Schmidt & Becky Sullivan
  - June 20  
Jacob Hepp & Alisa Srisawatkun
  - June 26  
Jason Schulte & Tiffany Durkee  
Shawn Lehman & Colleen Treptow

**Welcome!**

We welcome to our church family,  
the following new members:

Troy and Jennifer Gander  
and family

Brandon Gehri

David and Joan Leak

Kevin Weber

