



# The Voice

August 2007

## What If?

I often wonder what difference I make in the world around me. In a recent sermon, I shared that my cheery greeting to another fellow on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July prompted him to say, "God put you in my life today to affirm that there are still nice people in the world. Thanks!" Surprised that someone was so touched by my greeting, all I could say was "God bless you!"

What if we could shrink the earth's population down to precisely 100 people and retain all the existing human ratios of the world? ...What would that village look like? There would be (2006 figures):

57 Asians  
21 Europeans  
14 Western Hemisphere folk  
8 Africans

52 would be female  
70 would be non-white  
70 would be non-Christian  
93 would be heterosexual

6 would possess 60% of the world's wealth (all from the USA)  
80 would live in sub-standard housing  
70 would be unable to read  
50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death  
1 would be about to give birth  
1 would have a college education  
1 would have a computer

When I entered seminary over 30 year ago, 40% of the world population was Christian. Now only 30% of the world believes in Jesus. What can you do to help? **#1 Pray fervently** for our pastors and evangelists across the world. Ask God to send forth his Holy Spirit so people

might be healed of anger and hatred, accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and love others.

**#2 Give thanks heartily** to God for all His blessings. Think about this: **What if you** woke up this morning with more health than illness...

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*Tending the flock for 102 years*

## RALLY DAY

Rally Day is set for Sunday, Sept. 9. This is the first day of Sunday School, during which time students will be registered and meet their classroom teachers. We will have the annual congregational potluck picnic, so bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share. Church services will be at 8:00 and 9:30 AM with the potluck and games for the children to follow, after the 9:30 service. Regular worship hours of 8:00, 9:30 and 10:45 AM begin Sunday, September 16.

## Truths to Remember Eleven One-liners to Live by.....

1. Faith is the ability not to panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get all tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still, so He can untangle the knots.
6. Do the math! Count your blessings!
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day! It's like spiritual jogging!
11. When you wake up in the morning be sure to say: "Good morning Lord!" not "Good Lord, Morning?"

## Open House

Share the opportunity of a Christian education with your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. St. John's Academy and Little Angel Preschool will have an Open House on August 27 at 6:00 PM and the Orientation from 7:30 PM - 8:30. There will also be an Orientation on August 28 from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

## Garage Sale

The second annual fall garage sale will be held at the church on August 24 and 25. Donations of all your unnecessary treasures will be welcomed. Please drop all items off in the church basement August 5-12. Workers will be needed for pricing and organizing all items the week of August 12. Watch for sign up sheets so you too can be part of the fun and help us make money for St. John's. If you would be willing to be in charge of advertising and signs, please call Cindy Erickson at 674-1715. Together we can make a difference.

## ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES

Our web site is ready. Please check it out at: [www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org). All committees are expected to submit a "blurb" about the activities of their committee, so the people who visit our site will know about our work for Jesus here in Stacy. A special thanks to Kerry and Annette Olson for sponsoring our site.

## Tone up for Summer

Guess how much money we have saved on paper and office supplies over the last year because of your generous donation of ink cartridges.  
A. \$9.99      B. \$26.49  
C. Over \$1,000      D. \$1.5 Million?  
You guessed it! Thanks a million, the answer is C.

## Love to Sing?

Consider joining one of our choirs. It is good fun and fellowship. Senior Choir practices the Sunday mornings that they sing during the Worship Services. Youth Choir practices Wednesdays before Faithweavers. *It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High. Psalm 92:1*

## The Great Minnesota 2007 Get Together

Spend Thursday, August 30 at the Minnesota State Fair with Pastor Ed. Bus leaves the church parking lot at 8:45 AM and returns at 5:00 PM. Cost for the bus ride and entrance ticket is \$15.00. Space is limited. Please sign up in the narthex. Bus parking is by the Heritage Square so walking could be minimal. Contact Pastor Ed for more information.

## Wanted: Bell Choir Ringers

So, you've always wanted to be a bell ringer, but thought you couldn't. Well, we want to dispel some myths about ringing bells....

Myth #1: You have to be able to read music to ring bells. Truth: Over half of our bell players play by "color," a system we've devised so ANYONE can play bells.

Myth #2: You have to be a girl to play bells. Truth: We've had guys; we just tend to scare them off! Come on, men, join us, we don't bite... Too hard!

Myth #3: I'm not "good enough" to play with you. I'll just drag you down. Truth: Come listen to us practice sometime. Believe us, it will remove that myth in a minute! We practice to sound like we do, and we do make mistakes. We make a joyful NOISE unto the LORD (and some Sundays, to us it is a little more than noise!)

Myth #4: I'm too old or too young to play. Truth: You are NEVER too old to play, but you may be too young. You must be 13 years old to join bell choir.

Come join us. We practice every Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. We play the first and third Sundays of each month, at Christmas and at Easter. Contact Kim Schmidt at 462-4179 or Vickey Nelson at 462-1709.

## Elvis Live (Sort of)

Mark your calendars for the Big Christmas Party on December 1, 2007. You can come for the meal and the Elvis Impersonator Show for only \$25. If you don't want to eat, play Christmas Bingo, win door prizes and see Santa, show tickets only are just \$10 each. Space is limited but the fun is not. Proceeds from the show only tickets will help send our Youth on a Christian Workcamp, in Jesus' name. Thank you, Red Hatters! Thank you very much!

## Music Festival

All youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend the Higher Ground Music Festival in Welch Village, MN, on August 17-18. Cost of this event is \$70 per person and will include tickets to this two day event, food, transportation, and lodging. Tents are needed! Chaperones, who love good Christian music and children of all ages, are required for this event as well. Space is limited to 25 youth, so get your \$ in as soon as possible. Scholarships may be available.

## Special Thanks to God

A total of four churches (including St. John's, Stacy) raised \$3,250 to update the secondary school where our two sponsored African children, **Efron** and **Giradi**, attend. The goal was \$5,000 total. Even though we fell short of our original goal, the Iringa church is confident that they will have the needed classrooms completed for the fall term. Special thanks to the anonymous donor who helped our church give \$500 to this project. Remember \$500 in US funds is like \$625,000 in Tanzanian money. Remember God loves a cheerful giver!

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then you are more blessed than millions of people who will not survive this week. **What if** you have never experienced the dangers of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation... then you are already ahead of 500 million people in the world. **What if** you can attend church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death... then you are more blessed than 3 billion people of the world. **What if** you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep peacefully... then you are more blessed than 75% of this world. **What if** you have money in the bank and in your wallet, and some change in the dish by your bed... then you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. **What if** your parents are alive and still married... then you are rare...even in the USA. **What if** you can read anything you want at any time... then you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world who can't read at all.

**#3 Give generously** to our mission fund. Our sister congregation in Wimbe, Tanzania, Africa, has 63 souls and is increasing in size as more villagers find a relationship with Jesus. Last year we gave \$500 to support the congregation. This year we need \$1,000 to support this expanding mission congregation.

Last year we gave \$600 to support our two high school students at the Idete Christian School. \$300 came from our Christian Outreach Committee. The other \$300 came from our Christian Education Committee.

This year we need an additional \$600 to support our two high school students at the Idete Christian School. **Efron Msuva** is a third year student, while **Giradi Kikoti** is a first year student. I am also praying for an additional \$1,000 to help finish the building projects for their church.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM, Pastor Don Fultz and his wife Eunice will be here to share the vision for ministry with Wimbe. Please come and hear about some exciting opportunities to help share the love of Jesus here and around the world. What if we all come?

Blessings!

Pastor Ed

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is August 6-10. Lessons will be held Mon-Thurs with a trip to Fawn-Doe-Rosa Animal Park in St. Croix Falls, WI, on Friday. HELP? Due to recent layoffs at her work, Chris Rath will not be able to use her vacation to be our superintendent of Vacation Bible School. This creates a wonderful opportunity for someone else to step in and look good! The lessons have been chosen, the music is ready, the snacks have been decided, and the permission slips have been sent out. If you love children and want to share the love of Jesus and could help us out, please see Pastor Ed ASAP. The following are items that are needed for Vacation Bible School: play money, index cards, sugar cubes, craft foam, plastic lace or thick yarn, individually packed wipes, plastic eggs, basket, large beads, string, balloons, poster board, gingerbread man cookie cutters, 1/2 inch wooden beads, ruler, construction paper, tape, 5 identical plastic jars, lids or cups, and sheep stickers. A permission slip for Vacation Bible School is below.

### Endowment Fund

Our church council has authorized the formation of a new committee to oversee the **St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund**. This fund is designed for members and non-members to donate to our church for the years ahead. Gifts of money, stocks, bonds, property and other tangible goods will be included in this perpetual fund, where the principle will be invested for future generations, while the interest from that principle may be used to bless our congregation from year to year. Volunteers are needed to form this committee. Please consider whether or not you could spare 4-10 hours this year to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. Please pray about this and call the office. Thank you.

### Mary-Melodies

Congratulations to Barbara Schendel and Harry Krech who were married on July 21, 2007. They have donated a CD player to the church in memory of Mary Schendel, who passed away last year. This gift will be very helpful for our Vacation Bible School. Thanks to God for their thoughtfulness and support.

### Baptism

We join with Troy and Kimberly Patton in the joy of baptizing their son, Dakota James Patton and the adult baptism of Troy Patton and with Brian Peterson and Stephanie Miller in the joy of baptizing their daughter Hannah Angeline Peterson. In Holy Baptism, God claims each of us as a child of His own.

### Lifetouch

Christmas is coming! So is Life Touch Church Directories. It has been over three years since we did a pictorial directory for the church. Mark your calendars for October 23-27, 2007 for your chance to receive a free 8x10 photograph and a free pictorial directory of our church members. There is no charge for the sitting. Members may choose packages of pictures that will be ready for Christmas. Watch for more information next month. This year, you can even register your sitting time on line. Can you picture that? An organizational meeting with Bret from Lifetouch will be here at 6:00 PM on August 8. Volunteers are needed so that we can know one another better. Please contact Pastor Ed or a member of the Evangelism Committee: Katie Allquist, Laurel Anderson, Leo Byrne, or Elsie Groth.

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