



# The Voice

September 2007

## HARRY POTTER'S WORLD

Recently, my son Pastor Timothy from Hope Lutheran Church in Sunburg, MN, brought his youth over to experience an overnighter at our church with our youth. We went to see a new movie called *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. After the movie, twenty-five youth and adults gathered to discuss its implications on our Christian life.

I was amazed that almost everyone, including me, had seen a movie and/or read one of the seven books in the series. In fact, four out of five teens in America, according to a new gospel tract from the American Tract Society, have seen a movie and/or read a book in the series. Harry Potter is a likeable boy with a cute lightning bolt scar on his forehead. But how much do you really know about Harry?

Harry Potter became an orphan at a very young age when his parents were killed by an evil wizard, Voldemort. His mother died saving his life. Harry struggled with his life. He lived with Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, and cousin Dudley who forced him to live in a closet under the stairs. He was underfed, unloved, and had no power to change his miserable life.

Then the magic started! At age eleven he was invited to Hogwarts School, where instead of being a nobody, he was somebody special. He had friends like Ron and Hermione who became a real family to him. Together they learned magic and had wonderful adventures defeating evil all around them.

Harry Potter's world is fantasy but there are many lessons for us to learn through it, just like the parables Jesus used to teach morals and values. Pastor Tim helped us see some

of the parallels between this movie and our spiritual life: We have a greater adventure waiting for us if we trust God. We are all spiritual orphans cut off from God. Like Harry, sometimes we feel alone and worthless. Often, because we feel unloved, we do evil things that hurt

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*Tending the flock for 103 years*

### Reach Workcamp Survivors

Fifteen youth and adults from St. John's volunteered a week of work to help less fortunate people in a very depressed area of New York. Together, with 400 other volunteers from across America, they helped make a big impact on a community in Jesus' name. Immediately after the conclusion of the 9:30 Worship Service on September 9, which is Rally Day, our "Survivors" will share the adventure of Reach Workcamp 2007 in words and pictures.

## Welcome Back Pastor Al

Good news! Pastor Al is back working with us. The better news is that the church council voted to double his hours to ten hours per week. He would like to support the congregation however he can in his retirement, but has indicated that ten hours per week is all he wants to do right now. So far, his major focus has been visitation, preaching, and covering emergencies whenever Pastor Ed is gone. Normally, he will be preaching the first and third Sundays of each month. Come welcome Pastor Al and Karen back on Rally Day, September 9. Worship services are at 8:00 and 9:30 AM that day with Sunday school registration and games after the 9:30 worship service. Welcome back Pastor Al!

## Rally Day

Rally Day is right around the corner on September 9. Pre-register your children on September 2 or come on September 9. The schedule for Rally Day is: 10:30 - Rally Day begins with Sunday school registration, fun and games! 10:45 - Youth workcampers' presentation and pictures! 11:30 - Spaghetti dinner 12:00 - Sunday School teacher orientation/new teacher presentation for the 2007/08 Sunday School year (teachers, interested parents, or members).

## Worship Hours

Our fall worship hours are 8:00, 9:30, and 10:45 AM starting September 16.



## Vacation Bible School

Our 2007 Vacation Bible School (entitled "Is a Parable Terrible?") was a success. A parable is an earthly story that has a heavenly meaning. God loves us and we were happy to share that love with your child(ren). Your children learned to love, forgive, help, and reach out to others in Jesus' name. Our special event was a field trip to Fawn-Doe-Rosa petting farm in St. Croix Falls. Special thanks to everyone who helped contribute to Vacation Bible School. Time, talent, and treasure were all appreciated. Here is a list of our 2007 helpers:

Shirley Weekes, Kim Humble, Matt Humble, Amber Bachman, Amy Darwin, Alicia Ammerman, Angel Schaub, Randi Rath, Ashley Olson, Joanne Wheatley, Lynzy Johnson, Zoey Schaub, Mel & Jeanne Aslakson, Jamie Cooper, Anni Cody, Mike Bachman, Josh Wetterling, Bridget Becker, Jenny Abress, Kalina Rasmussen, Lindsey Hess, Marlene Gray, Jessie Johnson, Sarah Dotseth, Lynne Graber, Lynzy Abress, Bailey LeVasseur, Pastor Steve Ford, Paula Shelley, Marissa Schlecht, Ashley Oglesby, Andrea Abress, Lynnette Nadeau, Chris Rath, Teresa Humble, Maddie Haler, Kayla Fox, Carol Arceneau, Michelle Wolfe, Rose Katzmark, Patty Runyon, and Pastor Ed.

Please remember that a parable isn't terrible!



## SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to all children, youth, and adults who helped make our 2007 Vacation Bible School a success. Eighty two children and forty four youth/adults shared parables and more with everyone. Our closing services had over one hundred people attend. God is Good! All the time!



## Ding-a-Lings Needed!

Bell choir is in dire need of more members in order to continue this year. No experience is needed, just the willingness to learn and have fun. Practices are every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM beginning Tuesday, September 11. We play the first and third Sundays of each month and on church festivals. Please call Kim Schmidt (651-462-4179) if you have any questions

## Reach 2008 Fundraiser

Two great days for Scrapbooking are coming:

Friday Night, October 19, 2007 through Saturday, October 20, 2007

Friday Only \$15.00 \* Dinner & snacks, prizes included

Saturday Only \$25.00 \* Lunch, dinner, snacks & prizes included

Both Days Only \* \$35.00 all of above

Stay overnight with us or leave your items and come back in the morning.

Please RSVP by October 1, 2007  
Linda Miller 651-462-2630  
Deb Hoppe 651-462-1945

## Noodlin' It Up For Parmly

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Supper and Scandinavian Auction will be on Thursday, October 11, 2007 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM at Elim Lutheran Church in Scandia. Proceeds go toward chapel renovation. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there!

## Senior Sunday Thank You

Thanks to the Christian Outreach Committee and volunteers for their help in organizing our Senior Sunday potluck on July 15. Everyone had a great time. Pictures can be seen at: [www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranchurchstacy.org)

## Faith Weavers

Faith Weavers is a Wednesday evening opportunity for Bible study, singing, memory work, games and snacks for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Last year we had 25 youth involved. Come and see how much fun is possible from 6:30-8:00 PM beginning September 12. Cost for the materials for the year is \$10. Scholarships may be available. Sign up in the narthex and come share Jesus!

## Confirmation Orientation Meeting

Seventh through ninth grade students and their parents are invited to an orientation session on Wednesday, September 12, at 6:45 PM. This 15-minute class, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will share an overview of this year's studies and answer questions about this year's calendar and requirements for confirmation. Forms need to be filled out and signed by parents, youth, and a committee member. Look for a tentative calendar in this newsletter for Confirmation and Faith Nights. See you at Orientation!

## JUSTIN

Thank you to all who donated to help Pastor Ed visit Justin Pinna at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC. He was surprised and overwhelmed by the thoughts and prayers of the congregation. Please continue to pray for him and his upcoming surgeries.



### Lack a Daisy? Full!

Thanks to council member, Nancy Nelson, Bella Flower of Forest Lake will prepare our flowers each week for \$12. This is a real blessing! The flowers are often taken home by the donating family, but if they remain one of the pastors is able to deliver them to a hospital patient or a shut-in. Special thanks to Linda Dilts who filled in as emergency "bud-meister" while we were seeking a new florist. If possible, after you have enjoyed your flower gift, return the container to the church (on top of the refrigerator in the old narthex) so we can recycle them to Bella. Sign up for flowers on the bulletin board near the water fountain in the narthex.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that our church hosts an NA meeting (Narcotics Anonymous) on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and a Crystal Meth meeting on Saturdays at 7:00 PM. Any questions, contact Pastor Ed.

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one another. The Bible calls this sin.

Sometimes we sin without even knowing how hurtful we can be to others. We all have hurts and fears. Jesus died for us on the cross so that might be forgiven by God and forgiving of one another. Jesus has called us into His family by Baptism. He wants to teach us the truths of the Bible and help us to love as He did. He wants us to not sin but do righteousness.

This October 31, many youth and children will knock at your door and expect a trick or a treat. I challenge you to purchase a packet of Harry Potter Gospel tracts that will help clarify the truth of the Gospel in Jesus' name. Samples of the tract will be available to purchase on October 7. It may be better than any other twenty-five cent treat that a child brings home. The tract will invite the child to our church to meet Jesus. They will read it because it has Harry Potter's picture on the cover but they will find Jesus on the inside. That is where Jesus belongs – on the inside. Blessings!

Pastor Ed



## Senior Choir

Please help us praise the Lord with singing! The first Senior Choir practice will be on Sunday, September 16 at 9:00 AM and we will sing that day at the 10:45 service. We are looking for new members. Anyone in tenth grade or older is invited to join us. We sing the first and third Sundays of each month and on church festivals. Practices are from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM on the Sundays we sing. Please call Joanne (Fritz) Wheatley at 651-462-5060 if you have any questions.

## 4-F's

Roller Skating for 4 F's and their parents. All first through fifth graders are invited to attend our kick-off event on Sunday, September 16. The 4 F's hold a monthly meeting focused on Faith, Family, Fellowship and Fun. Parents and children are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served immediately after the 10:45 service (around 11:45 AM). Bus/Van will leave at 12:22 (sharp) and return at 4:44 PM (not quite so sharp). Space is limited so sign up in the narthex ASAP. Cost for the skating, lunch and transportation and mini golf (weather permitting) is only \$2.00 per children, when accompanied by a parent or guardian over 18 years old. Parents/guardians are always free. Younger children may attend with their siblings, only if accompanied by a parent/guardian. Cost for children without a parent or guardian is \$5 per person. Spend some quality time with your kids and have fun in Jesus' name. The October event may be a train ride. The November event is the Minnesota Children's Museum and December is a trip to the Holidazzle Parade.

## Youth Group Kickoff

Many things can happen in our youth groups this year. We invite all parents and 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders to come for our planning session on Sunday, September 9 at 1:00 PM (or immediately after the Spaghetti Meal cleanup). We have not had a regular Committee to co-ordinate the entire year events for several years. We need to meet and plan activities for the school year and plan next summer's workcamp experiences. Start the new school year off right and do all of Pastor Ed's favorite things in one day! Immediately after the 1:00 PM meeting, we will travel to Wyoming for video games, bowling, and a game of lazer tag at Stars and Strikes Entertainment Center. No charge for youth who attend the meeting. Please come and make our youth group better.



### Farmers Market

Christian Outreach Committee's Annual Farmers Market will be September 8 at 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, across from the Stacy Post Office at the Jewel Lane Farmers Stand. Please stop by and see us. Anyone wishing to donate baked goods, jellies and jams, plants, and/or fresh vegetables can drop off their pre priced items and purchase other tasty treats. Funds from this event will go towards the purchase of holiday food packages for families in need this coming holiday season. Thank you all in advance for supporting this Christian Outreach Committee event.

### Sunday School Is it right for YOU?

Please consider being a teacher for our children. Sunday School teachers should love children. They should worship regularly. They should witness their faith in all that they do. They should come and see the "IT" program, which has tons of resources and makes it easy to share Jesus with our children. Even if you have never taught before, come to our orientation meeting on Sunday, September 9 at noon (after the Rally Day spaghetti dinner). Most classes are staffed by two volunteer teachers who share teaching duties throughout the year. This reduces the time one teacher must prepare and makes scheduling much easier. We need your help to do what God has asked us to do. Jesus said, "Let the little ones come unto me!"



### Baptisms

We join with Christopher Powell & Anna Smith in the joy of baptizing Sierra, Serena, and Christopher Powell, Jr.; Tom & Amanda Bourgoin in the joy of baptizing Thomas Bourgoin III; Jeremy Boettcher & Michelle Johnson in the joy of baptizing Landon Boettcher; Ryan & Jolene Davis in the joy of baptizing Morgan Davis; Michael and Mallory Merchlewitz in the joy of baptizing Hailey and Alayna Merchlewitz. In Holy Baptism, God claims each of us as a child of His own.

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