



# The Voice

May 2008

## Letter From Our President

God's blessings to each of you. Before we have the semi-annual meeting, I would like to take a few minutes to thank each and every one of you for all you do for our church. As I have said before, we have accomplished so much in the past three years.

Over the past six months, I have reviewed the last three years that I have served as President on the council and have seen that by putting everything we have into God's hands, together we have accomplished and received many great and wonderful gifts. Now I'm not saying that God has given us an easy road to travel together because we certainly have had many trials and setbacks, but by putting our faith in God there is nothing too big for us to overcome. I can only dream about all the great and wonderful things that God has planned for St. John's in the many years to come and in the immediate future. No, we don't know what His plan is yet, but He will give us guidance if we listen.

As the term of my presidency has come to an end, I would like to personally thank God for His great love for me. Without His love, strength and guidance I would not have had the courage to accept such a position. Everything that I have done for St. John's, I owe all to God. For without His strength in my life I would surely fail.

I would also like to applaud the current church council for their great commitment to God and this church. It takes a great team of people serving God to make this church run. For those of you leaving the council, "thank you" for giving of your many hours of time, ideas and leadership

to serve God and His house.

Now, for those of you who have been thinking about joining the council, been asked to join the council, or have not yet had the thought cross your mind, please read on. Some of you are horrified about the thought of joining the council or pretty sure

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Tending the flock for 103 years*

## Memorial Day Service

In these difficult times, it is important to remember that freedom is not free. There are and have been many sacrifices made by many people to insure our freedom of worship. Please join us as we celebrate Memorial Day with two traditional services at 8:00 and 9:30 on Sunday, May 25. God bless all of our troops!

## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 4. We will have two worship services at 8:00 and 9:30 that day followed by the meeting at 10:45. There are twelve people elected to council to serve on eleven different committees. The committees that need filling for this year are: Adult Education, Christian Outreach, Evangelism, and Youth Committee. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please let Pastor Al or Pastor Ed know. Please come to our meeting and make your voice heard.

## Twice Blessed

Pastor Al Valerius served this congregation for over 20 years before retiring and has now come home again to serve the Lord as Visitation Pastor, since May of 2007.

In appreciation of his dedicated and distinguished ministry among us, the Church Council has recommended to the Congregation to bestow the title of Pastor Emeritus on Pastor Al at our 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 8. This would mean that he would be recognized as a pastor of St. John's as long as he lives or as long as he chooses to be recognized as a pastor of St. John's, even if he were to stop working for our parish.

This honorary title is a small gesture of appreciation for all that he has done for us and has meant to us over the years. Please come to the Semi-Annual meeting on May 4 and let your voice be heard concerning this matter.



## Garage Sale

St. John's Annual Garage Sale is May 1 - May 3 at St. John's Lutheran Church. We need lots of help for the sale in order for this event to continue. We need a minimum of six volunteers each hour while the garage sale is open and for clean up after the sale. Hours are: 8 AM - 6 PM, Thursday and Friday, Saturday 8 AM - noon (or until clean up is done). Please sign up for the times you can work. We also need people until the start of the sale to price the items as they arrive. Pricing can be done anytime the church is open (7:00 AM - 2:30 PM, Monday-Friday and 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday). Ten to twenty people are needed for set up, starting at 6 PM Wednesday, April 30. We will be boxing up all remaining items on Sunday before/during and after services and the semi-annual meeting. Smaller items and clothing may be brought to church anytime the church is open (7:00 AM - 2:30 PM, Monday-Friday and 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday). We cannot accept televisions, computers, monitors, microwaves, or junk. If you bring appliances and/or furniture and they do not sell, you must pick them back up. Larger items should be delivered to the parking lot on Wednesday evening, April 30. The proceeds will benefit the general fund.

## Old Fashioned Service

Mark your calendar for June 8 as we celebrate the 104th anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church in Stacy. This will be Dress-up/Old Fashioned Sunday.

## National Day of Prayer Ascension Day Meal

Please mark your calendar for the Stacy observance of our National Day of Prayer in the Stacy Park. Pre-service music will begin at 11:30 AM and the prayer service at high noon. Please invite your friends and neighbors to pray for our nation, our leaders, and our world on May 1.

Due to the early Easter this year, May 1 is also the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus. You are invited to the church for a 6:00 PM meal with a worship and prayer service at 7:00 PM.



## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Peterson-Waller American Legion and Auxiliary of Stacy will conduct Memorial Day services as follows on, Monday, May 26, 2008:

9:00 AM - Stacy Cemetery  
9:45 AM - Wyoming Methodist Cemetery  
10:15 AM - Wyoming Lutheran Cemetery  
11:00 AM - Linwood Cemetery

Please join us in remembering those who gave their lives for us.

## Brenda Borash Benefit Dinner and Fund

There will be a benefit dinner for Brenda (Houle) Borash, mother of Eric and Shane Bakke and two teenage sons, Brent and Jacob. She has been a caregiver for her father and sister for many years, along with many others she has helped. She now needs your help. In January, she was diagnosed with Stage IIIB lung cancer (she is a non-smoker). She has undergone extensive surgery and is receiving chemotherapy. Unable to work, her bills are piling up. Cost of living expenses are taking a back seat to the medical bills. The benefit will be Saturday, May 24 at Lent Town Hall in Stacy. 4:00 - 7:00 PM BBQ dinner, catered by Madd Joe's BBQ. Adults - \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, Children 12 and under - \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door, Children 3 and under - free. 4:00 - 8:00 PM is a silent auction, 7:00 - ? PM DJ and dancing. Children's games throughout the evening. Door prize drawing throughout the evening.

## Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 180 has been sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church for over 25 years. Volunteers are needed to help reorganize the pack for the coming year. If you would like to help or have a son who is interested in joining, please contact Leo Byrne at 462-6570.

## Going, Going, Gone

Pastor Ed will be gone from May 15 through May 30. If you need spiritual care during this time, please call the office and/or Pastor Al at 462-3703.

During this time, he will be in New York for Jenny's graduation from the New York Academy of Art and a two week trip to Norway/Sweden/Denmark with Rose Katzmark, Agnes Swanberg and twelve others.

## Horseback Riding

Space is limited for our trip to Bunker Hills Stable on May 4. Youth, nine and under, are invited for pony rides and children, ten, and older are welcome on the trail rides. The bus will leave at 1:00 PM and return at 4:00 PM. The cost is \$10 for a pony ride and \$20 for the trail ride. This includes transportation and an ice cream treat on the way home. Parents and chaperones are welcome to ride the horses or just ride the bus to the stable. **Your permission slip and money must be submitted by April 27** in order to secure your spot on this event. This is open to all St. John's youth including 4-F's and B.I.G., and Sr. High.

## Nickelodeon Universe at MOA

Please join Pastor Ed as he treats our children to the new theme park at the Mall of America on Sunday, June 1. The cost for all Youth Choir members and Faithweaver Friends is \$5.00 per person for food and transportation. As a thank you for your faithful service, Pastor Ed will purchase your Universe pass.

Everyone else (even adults) are invited to come along for this fun event with the cost being \$20 per person. The bus will leave the church at 1:00 PM and return at 7:00 PM.

Space is limited but the fun is not. Permission slips are required. Space is available on a first come basis. Please turn in your money to the office as soon as possible.

## Pastor Chris's Bible Study

The final two Bible Studies led by Pastor Chris will be Sunday, April 27 at 10:45 AM and Sunday, June 29 after the 9:30 Service.

*(Continued from page 1)*

you would not be a good fit for council. **I ask you to take that question to God.** I would like everyone to take a moment of prayer to ask God if serving on the council is right for you at this time in your life, and listen to His answer. Ask Him for guidance in your decision. Becoming a council member may or may not be on God's task list for you right now. Then again, this may be God's newest challenge for you by stepping out of your bubble and trusting Him enough to give you the courage to step forward and serve on the council. I can only tell you that it could possibly be one of the hardest and most challenging things you will ever do, but nothing can compare to the rewards God will give you.

Thank you for three years of support, guidance, and prayer. It's been a great pleasure to serve God and my fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

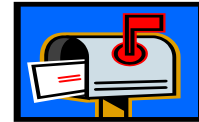
Blessings, *Linda Miller*

## Favorite Things

It has been an honor to serve St. John's for all these years. Many of you have seen my family grow up before your very eyes. Your faithful witness has blessed my family and me.

Pastor Chris is finishing his chaplaincy internship at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Chris' wife, Nicky, is cancer free and is employed by the city of Richfield. Pastor Tim and his wife Mary have one son, Elijah, and serve Hope Lutheran Church in Sunburg, MN. Tim is finishing his third year there. Beth will soon graduate from the U of M Medical School and will serve a three year residency at Sioux Falls, SD. She is in the process of purchasing a house in Sioux Falls and will be having lots of patients. Jenny will be getting married on Saturday, June 14, to her high school sweetheart, Lee Fisher. We would like the whole congregation to celebrate with us on Sunday, June 15, after the 9:30 worship service.

Many thanks to all the faithful members of St. John's who have covered my family in prayer over the years. Please join us for our celebration on June 15.



## You've Got Mail

Dear Pastor Ed, Pastor Al, and St. John's congregation:

First of all and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your many prayers the past several weeks when I have been unable to be with you due to medical problems. The osteoporosis is an ongoing condition for which there is no cure. The pain is continuous. Pain pills take the edge off which makes it tolerable. The surgery for the left shoulder replacement was very successful. I will be immobilized for the next four to six weeks intermittently with no excessive activity. It will be at least six weeks before I will be able to resume normal activities with the left shoulder. Until then, activities are very limited. The surgeon says it will take from six months to a year for full recovery. I can't complain. God has been so very good to give me with 80 years of fairly good health. Having friends and family, such as St. John's congregation, has been a continuous blessing for which I'm very grateful and thankful to God. My prayers are with all of you. May the peace and love of Christ abide with you.

Peacefully and lovingly,  
*Pete (Roland) Peterson*

## Gala Gladness

Over 100 people participated in the 8th Annual St. John's Academy/Little Angel Preschool Gala, which was held at the Stars and Strikes Entertainment Center on April 18.

A delicious meal, silent auction, and a couple hours of laughs with Scott Hansen and his minions rounded out the evening.

At this time, we do not know how much the Gala produced in profits, but projections are between \$4,000 and \$6,000 for our schools.

Thanks to all who participated and supported our efforts.

### Annual Dinner

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare, serve and eat our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Congregational Dinner which was held on April 13. We wish to thank the All American Rib Company for the donation of the ribs which were a tasty addition to our Ham and Turkey. So far, over \$1,747 has been turned in to the office for ticket sales. Many items were donated for the dinner and expenses so far are \$176. Matching funds are available through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for up to \$1,600. Profits of the dinner will go to the General Fund. Special thanks to Mike & Sandy Neiman for coordinating this event.

### GOOD NEWS!

There are two youth Bible classes. The 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM and the 10<sup>th</sup> graders and up will continue to meet at 10:45 AM.

### Summer Worship Hours

Summer Worship hours will be at 8:00 and 9:30 AM beginning June 1. Contemporary Services will be June 1 and 22 and July 13, 20 and Aug 10 and 17 at the 9:30 AM service.

### Baptisms

We join with Robert and Pamela Larson in the joy of baptizing their son, Kaleb Alexander Larson; Wade Nihart and Melissa Peck in the joy of baptizing their son, Jacob Kennedy Nihart; Chad and Corina Peterson in the joy of baptizing their son, Cole Jeffrey Peterson. In Holy Baptism, God claims each of us as a child of His own.

### Spring is Here!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- May 1-3 Annual garage sale
- May 4 8:00 AM and 9:30 Services. 10:45 AM Semi-Annual Meeting 1:00 PM 4-F's, BIG, & Sr. High leave for MOA
- May 25 - Memorial Day service 8:00 and 9:30 AM
- May 26 - Cemetary Celebrations
- June 8 - Old Time Service 8:00 & 9:30 AM
- June 9 - Vacation Bible Camp
- June 11 Confirmation Camp
- June 15 - Jenny Wheatley's open house 10:45 AM

- ◆ *Favorite Things*
  - ◆ *Nickelodeon Universe at MOA*
  - ◆ *Garage Sale*
  - ◆ *Semi-Annual Meeting*
  - ◆ *Letter from Our President*
- Inside This Issue:*

Email: [patty@citrlink.net](mailto:patty@citrlink.net)  
Pastor Rev. Ed Wheatley  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Al Valerius

**The Voice of St. John's**  
St John's Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 308  
31075 Genesis Ave.  
Stacy, MN 55079

Non-Profit Organization  
Postage Paid, Permit #3  
Stacy, MN 55079  
Phone: 462 5115