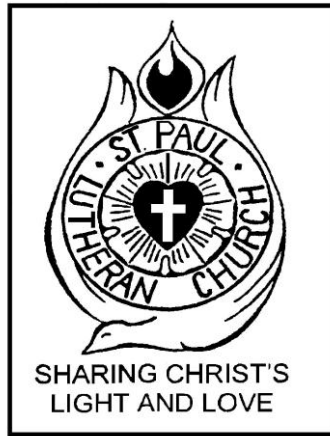


THE EPISTLE



**APRIL
2011**

Volume VII

Issue III

From the Pastor's Desk ...

I am writing this on the afternoon following the Special Congregational Meeting that was held to extend a part-time call to me, based upon the congregation's lack of financial resources to continue the full-time call that was extended in July of 2004. This was a gut-wrenching and emotional meeting for those present, but the change in the call was passed with the required 2/3 majority of those voting members present. This was a necessary decision that neither the Council nor I wanted to make, but because of the gap between the offerings and expenses we were left with no other choice.

As I've stated on numerous occasions over the past 6 ½ years that I've served as your pastor, this is not my ministry nor St. Paul's, but God's. **We** are simply the vessels through which God works. Our role is to remain open to the Spirit, continue to thank and praise God, and **above all** to trust that God's will, whatever that might be, will indeed prevail.

From the OT text for March 27th: "Is God among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7). Or to paraphrase the wandering Israelites: "If God is among us, why aren't things going as we'd like?" Such was the gist of some of the questions that I've have been asked over the past several weeks. I don't know specifically what the future holds, but **I do know that God is in that future** and participates with us in the struggles of life and will *never, ever* abandon us.

We need to continue walking faithfully where the Spirit leads, trusting God for whatever lies ahead as St. Paul enters a new chapter in its 58-year history. The exact date that I will begin serving part-time will be determined once the letter of call is signed by the Bishop and returned to me.

Obviously the shape of ministry will change in the days ahead as my availability will be sharply curtailed. However, St. Paul's ministry will continue because **YOU** are the Body of Christ—the Church—and the church is certainly **NOT** the building nor the pastor but each and every one of you using your gifts to reach out to those outside of our walls as you continue our mission of sharing Christ's light and love with those in our immediate community and beyond.

It's interesting and even appropriate I think that we've had to grapple with this decision in the midst of the Lenten season. I say this because Lent, contrary to how much of our culture

views it, is far more than a season of “the giving up of something.” It is a season that offers much more than the ashes with which we begin our forty day pilgrimage; rather, the season of Lent embodies the hope that Easter is on its way and arrives with the glorious proclamation that **God has the last word over the power of sin and death.**

Because of Christ’s resurrection, we are an Easter people who can confidently face whatever life holds for us because we know that we are God’s beloved and we live in Christ by God’s grace through faith, trusting the presence of God in the world despite what is happening around us. As someone once said, “God is always present before us to lure us into the promised future, beneath us to bolster us when we fall, behind us to encourage us and above us to bless us on our way.” That certainty sustains me and I pray that for each of you also.

Pastor Shirley



Bible verse.....

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb...Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings! Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (Matthew 28: 1,9a, 10)



Mid-week Lenten Services

There are still two more mid-week Lenten Services – ***Wednesdays April 6 and April 13.*** As has been our tradition, we will gather for a supper of homemade soup and bread at **6 P.M.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Following supper we'll enjoy a two-person Lenten drama from the series, *Encounters Before the Dawn*, at **6:45 P.M.** The series centers around encounters between two biblical characters that take place between the time of Christ's crucifixion and his Resurrection. Not all of the encounters, however, occur before the physical dawning of Easter, but rather all occur before the reality of Easter dawns on the characters.

Then at **7 P.M.** we'll gather in the sanctuary for a **Taiz'e** service (see the article that follows on **Taiz'e**). This is a simple, informal, meditative worship time in which we'll hear scriptures read, offer up prayers, and sing the beautiful repetitive **Taiz'e** songs that are biblical texts set to music.



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Holy week begins on **Passion/Palm Sunday, April 17th**. Come and join us at 10:15 A.M. for the traditional procession into the sanctuary as we wave our palm branches and shout, ***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

The worship continues with the reading of Christ's Passion.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 21st**, we'll gather at **7 P.M.** for worship with Holy Communion as we hear Christ's mandate to "*love one another as I have loved you.*"

The **Good Friday Tenebrae service begins at 7 P.M.** and focuses on the reading of Christ's Passion as candles are extinguished. Worshipers leave the sanctuary in silence and darkness.

Easter Sunday morning begins with an **Easter breakfast at 9 A.M. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.** Worship is at 10:15 with the joyful return of the alleluias, special music, a garden of spring flowers and the proclamation of the good news of Christ's victory over the power of sin and death.

Invite family, friends, and neighbors to join you for all of these services as we remember the events of Christ's last week on earth, his love for the world, and his glorious Resurrection.





Indiana-Kentucky Lutheran Synod

From Bishop Bill Gafken

Where mission meets the road . . .

***Empowering, Equipping and Encouraging
The People of God to make Christ Known***



April, 2011

“Jesus has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” (Angel to the two Marys at the empty tomb in Matthew 28:7)

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

You are very likely reading this in Lent, but Easter is just around the corner. Since you are still engaged in Lenten disciplines, I will refrain from the “A” word for now. However, I cannot resist reflecting on where Jesus is to be found at the end of the long slog through these forty days.

At the end of the Lenten fasts, we will rediscover that the risen Jesus is to be found where we least expect to find him. “He is not here,” the angel said as the women poked their heads into the tomb, the place where dead people are expected to be. “He has gone ahead of you.” Alive and on the move, Jesus is always ahead of us, going where we have been afraid to go, where we have not thought to go, where we don’t want to go. He calls us to follow him there, to look for him there, in Galilee, among those with whom we least expect him to share space.

Years ago, when I lived in a house full of college student pranksters, one of my friends would threaten revenge for the latest prank by proclaiming, “When you least expect it, expect it.” When it comes to the great good news of the healing, reconciling, resurrecting presence of the crucified and risen Jesus, that’s not a bad Easter sermon: Where and when you least expect him, expect him. Go where you must, risen Lord, and help us to keep up and follow. Amen

Bishop Bill Gafken

Let us *consider*
our callings,
let us *reflect*
on our
responsibilities, and
let us *follow*
Jesus Christ
Thomas S. Monson

The new Church Council Officers for 2011 are . . .

President: Pastor Shirley Ross-Jones

Vice-President: Susan Miller

Alternate: Carol Weissrock

Treasurer: Alice Alvey

Alternate: Jean Shindlebower

Secretary: Pat Foster

Alternate: Carole Miller

Most Sincere "Thank You"
To our retiring Council Members . . .

. . . Dorothy Thomas, Ray Seng and Carolyn Walker

for their gifts of time and talents

serving on the Church Council

****Update on the Fundraising Campaign**

As of Sunday, March 27th, only two weeks into our campaign, St. Paul has received a total of \$10,962 in actual contributions or commitments for contributions.

Thank you to all those who have given so generously.

Trust
God *and believe*
in good things to come.
Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

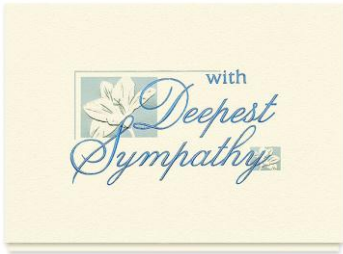
Dear Friends in Christ,

Thanks to all of you for the get-well cards, prayers and phone calls and encouragement for my healing and recovery. I am making headway in my recovery.

I am truly grateful for all you have done. Prayers do work!

Sincerely,

Darlene Wildt



The continuing thoughts and prayers of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of ***Elsie Jane Ford*** who died on February 9th. Pastor Shirley officiated at her funeral on February 12th. May God's abiding love and the hope of the resurrection bring comfort to all who mourn her death.



Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Women of the ELCA
South Central Cluster Spring Event

“Bold Women for Christ”

Faith Lutheran Church, Jeffersonville, Indiana
Saturday, April 9th.
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Registration is \$5.00, which will include your materials,
continental breakfast and lunch.

The program will include Bible Study by Pr. Robyn Kistemaker,
a presentation from the Bliss House in Jeffersonville, a
delicious lunch and a chance to fellowship and share with
others in our Cluster.

They are accepting donations for Bliss House, a Women’s Half-
Way House in Jeffersonville. Items they can use are TARC
tickets, laundry detergent, dish liquid, cleaning supplies,
laundry hampers, writing tablets, stamps, shower curtains, bath
towels, copy paper, scrub pads for dishes, socks, bras,
shampoo, conditioner and body soap.

(NOTE: Deadline for registration was April 1st ,
so call Arlys Johnson at 812-944-2219 or e-mail
aryls_johnson@insightbb.com
to see if you can still make a reservation)

South Central Conference Spring Assembly

The SCC Spring Assembly will be held on Thursday, April 28th at 7 P.M. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 7153 Southside Drive.

There will be a short business meeting to elect a lay female to serve a three-year term on the I-K Synod Council. Following that meeting there will be a Vacation Bible School Round Table discussion and a time of fellowship and refreshments.



April Birthdays:

- 5 - Susan Miller
- 8 - Sarah (Sulzer) Fain
- 9 - Eleanor Skillman
- 16 - Meredith Hammers
- 20 - Keith Foster
- 21 - Marshall Skillman, Jr.



Remember in your Prayers

Terri Allen
Alice Alvey
Jan & Chris Alvey
Martha Alvey
Maggie, Jackie and
 Kameron Lee Basham
Katie Blasi
June Boehm
Karen Bowling
Karen Bradley
Sharon Burkhart
Dennis Christian
Elizabeth Ann Clemons
LaVerne Collins
Shirley Dempster
Mikayla DeVore
Lana Ellis
Family of Jane Ford (with God)
Fawnda French
Vickie Gaddie
Dennis Gahafer, Jr.
Glen Gahafer, Sr.
Bob & Maxine Good
Joe Halterman
Don Harman
Robert Hoffman
Jim Jaggars
Kim & Molly
Harry Koltz, Jr.

Karen Lawrence
Lola Leathers
Morris Longacre
Ed McGuire
Dave Outman
People of Japan
Mike Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Rainwalter
Michael Rausch
Caroll Russell
Kim Russell
April Samuels
Jean & Charlie Schmidt
Pastor Dave Shugert
Laura, Laurelle &
 Marshall Skillman, Sr.
Maxine Skinner
Phyllis Smith
Wayne & Danielle Smith
Family of Jean Snyder (with God)
Brian & Kathy Spangler
(He's deployed to Afghanistan)
Ramona Spencer
Nellie Sweeney
John Vaught, Sr.
Johnny Ray Vaught
Samuel Vaught

*Thanks be to God
for all His blessings!*



Know A Farmer ??

The Dream Team is looking for farmers. It is our dream to open a "Heart of Shively Farmers' Market," this coming spring. The rules and regulations have been written. The only thing we lack now, are the farmers to participate. Time is of the essence if we are going to open this spring. Only if we are able to attract farmers, will we be able to make this dream a reality. We are asking for your help. How can you become a part of this dream and help to make it happen? If you know of a farmer, or someone who raises a large garden and would like to sell their produce or flowers, please have them contact the church at 502-447-9341

A Thought...

**God is not limited
by who you are.**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Email: StPaul2304@aol.com

Website: StPaulLutheranLouisville.com

Join us on Facebook

Pastor: Rev. Shirley Ross-Jones

Editor: Jean Shindlebower



Easter Flowers

These beautiful reminders of the season come from the Kentucky Hemophilia Foundation and are available in Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths and Mums. The cost is \$15.00 each. All spring flowers are potted and feature a decorative pot cover. Your flowers may be picked up after the Easter Sunday service.

Make your check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and mail your check and the form below to the church at 2304 Crums Ln., Louisville, KY 40216 or bring your check and form to next Sunday's service.

All orders must be in on or before Sunday, April 10, 2011

Easter Flowers - Sale Form

Choose the type of plant and quantity and mail or take form and check to St. Paul on or before Sunday, April 10th.

Plant Type **Quantity** **\$15.00 each**

Easter Lilies _____

Tulips _____

Hyacinths _____

Mums _____

TOTAL _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

I've enclosed my check for \$ _____ (\$15.00 per plant)