

# THE EPISTLE



SHARING CHRIST'S  
LIGHT AND LOVE

August—September  
2011

Volume VII

Issue V

## *From the Pastor's Desk ...*

The other morning during my devotional time I read the following short Hasidic tale: The rabbi of Sassov once gave the last of the money he had in his pocket to a man of very questionable character. When the rabbi's disciples objected, he asked them, "Shall I be more finicky than God, who gave it to me?"

None of us deserves what we have. We are all the recipients of God's unconditional love poured out and overflowing. Each of us, as Luther once stated, stands before God as a beggar totally dependent upon God's grace and steadfast love.

All of life is a gift that we've been given from the simplest pleasures that we often take for granted, such as, the wonderful aroma of the first cup of coffee in the morning, the smile of a loved one, the warmth of the sun on our face, the fragrance of the flowers in our garden, the beauty of a sunset, to the greatest and totally undeserved gift of love and forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus. Everything and everyone is a gift lavishly bestowed upon us by a God whose love for the world is beyond our human ability to comprehend or measure.

Meister Eckhart (1260-1329), a Dominican, a renowned preacher of his time, and sometimes referred to as the greatest mystic of the West, once said, "If the only prayer you say in your whole life is 'Thank You' that would suffice." How then do we say "thank you" to such a gracious and generous God? We do so by living lives of gratitude as we open our hearts to the Spirit who enables us to be imitators of God so that we can love and give to others as God has loved and given to us. Such is the opportunity and privilege that we have as God's beloved children!

Living in gratitude,  
*Pastor Shirley*

*Bible verse.....*

And with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
(Colossians 3:16c-17)

**A Thought...**

Love and service should never be separated.

**August 2011 I-K Lutheran**

*Where mission meets the road*

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

**From Bishop Bill Gafkjen**

*For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them...So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.      2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 20*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lutherans tend to get uncomfortable when urged or compelled to do something. Yet, there it is from the pen of Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: the love of Christ urges on – compels – those who are convinced that Christ has died for all.

Those who bear the cruciform mark of God's claim and call are compelled by the centrifugal force of God's Spirit

into the world as the body of Christ to be broken and poured out for the life of the world. The deep, abiding, forgiving, renewing, life-giving love we know in the crucified and risen Christ urges us to share that love in word and deed in every moment every day. This cross-formed living and proclaiming in the everyday world – not filling pews, not preserving church structures, not getting our way, not any other compelling agenda that we are tempted to follow – this love of Christ is what urges us on toward the promises of peace, justice, healing, and hope that ring in our ears and sing from our lips when we are gathered by the Spirit for worship.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod mission, vision, core values, and operating principles offer insight into what it looks like for us to live together as Christ's ambassadors in this mission territory. Rooted in scripture, centered in Christ crucified and risen, and discussed, affirmed and embodied by members of this mission territory since the year 2000 these commitments are still vital and relevant for us as we move out into the swiftly changing landscape of our corporate and individual lives.

**OUR MISSION:**

Empower, equip and encourage the people of God to make Christ known

**OUR VISION:**

Every person a Missionary

Every pastor a Mission Director

Every Congregation, Conference and Ministry a Mission Center.

**OUR CORE VALUES:**

Christ Centered

Collaboration/Trust/Risk taking

Communication/Interconnected

Compassion

Commitment and Faithfulness

**continued**

## **OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES:**

1. Christ centered: We pray together to determine God's will for us.
2. Mission focused: Everything we do contributes to the mission of the church.
3. Ministry focused: God has gifted each person for ministry.
4. Committed to collaboration: Working together for the good of all and for mission.
5. Open to taking risks: We encourage ourselves and each other to try new things.
6. Committed to excellence: What we are called to do we do well.
7. People focused: We respond to others with care and compassion.
8. Open to resources: We want to use all the gifts God sends us.
9. Sharing decisions: We use each person's knowledge/wisdom/experience.
10. Sharing accountability: We are accountable to God, each other and the Wider Church.

In some ways, they point toward answers to three key questions for every mission center and missionary:

***What is our primary call (mission)?***

***What central commitments guide our relationships, decision-making and behavior as we work together toward that call (core values/operating principles)?***

***What will it look like when we faithfully engage the mission and embody the commitments (vision)?***

Our mission, vision, core values, and operating principles point us toward Jesus and draw us into prayerful, communally discerned mission as Christ's ambassadors. They call us to meet at the foot of the cross. On our knees before God and one another, we gaze on the cruciform gift of what God has wrought for us and the world. Our disagreements, our confusion, our certainties, our need to be right and our fear that we're wrong, and our

and our tendencies to run after other gods are stripped from us again and again. At the foot of the cross, we hear and know the depth and persistence of God's forgiveness in Christ as our gaze is drawn toward the tomb, empty and overshadowed by the new life rising just outside its door and in the midst of our days.

This is the time, for us as mission centers, to repent of the ways we have been lured and compelled by other missions, to receive forgiveness and renewal, and to be moved together again as the body of Christ for the life of the world into the mission territory of Indiana and Kentucky and far beyond.

***Peace be with you, Bishop Bill Gafkjen***

**2011 I-K Synod Events  
& Opportunities**

**ONE WORD. MANY VOICES.**

**An Indiana-Kentucky Synod  
Day Celebrating God's New  
and Renewing Word.**

**Music, lectors, cantors, prayer, art, drama,  
ritual, preaching**

**Something for everyone in your congregation!**

**Oct. 29, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Christ Church  
Zionsville, IN  
[alynch@iksynod.org](mailto:alynch@iksynod.org)**

**Fantastic**  
**FALL FESTIVAL**

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Yard Sale  
and Fall Festival**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2304 Crums Lane**



**Saturday, September 24, 2011  
(Rain date: Saturday,  
October 8th)**

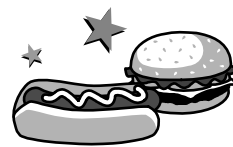
**9 A.M.—2 P.M.**

**Many vendors with lots of items to  
sell!!!**

**Health information and Blood Pressure checks  
Flu shots provided by Norton Healthcare**

**Live Bluegrass Music—Preston Highway String Band**

**Fun for Kids:  
Shively Firetruck (scheduled)  
Face-painting  
Louie the Lightning Bug  
Jewelry making**



**Cake Walk**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Soft Drinks  
at St. Paul's food booth**

**Donation of 2 non-perishable food items for Shively Area  
Ministries entitles donor to two free tickets for the Cake  
Walk**

**Call 449-6011 for booth rental  
Save \$5.00 with Early Bird Registration by Sept.**

## **Habitat 2011 ICE House (Interfaith Community Effort)**

This year The Lutheran community has partnered with the Episcopal Churches and the Jewish Community to sponsor the rehab of an existing house in Louisville's west end at 111 S. 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Alonte Block and her son, Santee, will be the homeowners.

The project began on June 17<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled for completion by November 18<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul has already worked on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and supplied fruits, snacks and desserts for the workers on those days. Our next scheduled work days are August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be responsible for lunch and water on those days.

Please think about working, providing food or contributing money for the purchase of the lunch items. The work day is from 8:30—3:30 each Friday and Saturday. Carole Miller is our congregational coordinator and will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

### **SAM Annual Dinner and Concert**

This fun event will be held on Thursday, September 29 from 6:30—8:30 P.M. at Incarnation Catholic Church, 2229 Lower Hunters Trace. A \$25 donation is all that is needed for an evening of good food, great music by the Monarchs and even dancing for the young at heart!

An extra added attraction is a \$2500 Travel Voucher (cruise or trip), compliments of Group by Design and Ohio Valley Travel. A ten dollar (\$10) donation for each opportunity to win is required!

In 2010 SAM served **20,678** people in the Shively Area helping with utility bills, prescription medications, food, clothing, Meals on Wheels, school supplies and rent/mortgage payments.

# With Our Thanks!

Dear Supporters,

You are our heroes. A challenge went out to invite you to help us stock our food pantry for the summer months and you responded. Thank you ever so much for your generous donation of canned goods for May and June. It was a great help. The need continues to grow. We served over 12,500 folks from the food pantry this past fiscal year. Many thanks for your help. We could not have done it without you.

*Shively Area Ministries Staff*

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift to God's Global Barnyard, a ministry of ELCA World Hunger. Gifts like yours make it possible for people the world over to lift themselves out of poverty—with a little help from a feathered, four-footed, or finny friend.

Let me tell you about one example. In the Philippines, rice farmers learn to raise a better, more sustainable crop with help from the generosity of people like you—and flocks of quaking ducks. The ducks spend their days happily paddling around in wet rice fields, eating bugs and worms that might damage the crop. The farmers and their families are delighted with the quality of the duck-assisted, organically grown rice.

Your life-changing gift brings both help now and hope for the future, around the corner and around the world. Thank you.

Together in Christ's service,

*Daniel Rift*

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director  
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



## Blessing of the Animals

St. Paul will hold its sixth annual Blessing of the Animals on the first weekend of October either Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> or Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have more details as the date draws closer.

### Fund-raising news

A number of people from outside of St. Paul have given money to our Fund-raising Drive. Some of those donations have been sent with notes which the Fund-raising Committee wanted to share with our members:

Hello,

I expect to give yearly, during the summer. If I should receive an unexpected windfall I could give more.

Best regards and wishes to Pastor Shirley and St. Paul members.

This is in response to the Fund Raising letter. I wish I could give more. Good success on this because St. Paul is very important part of our family. God Bless everyone at St.. Paul and Pastor Shirley.

I am making a donation to the St. Paul Fund Raiser. I used to be a Cub Scout leader at St. Paul.

I hope the financial plan works our well for St. Paul.

St. Paul has always been there for my family. I will be praying for you and your ministry.

### ***August Birthdays:***

- 6 - Sandy Hetzel
- 15 - David Edward Weissrock
- 17 - Mary Jane Neal
- 20 - Kayia Yates
- 28 - Jessica MacDonald



### ***September Birthdays:***

- 1 - Marshall Skillman, Sr.
- 3 - Dean Weissrock
- 5 - Rebecca Ford
- 12 - Mary Gregory
- 24 - Betty George
- 25 - Janet Alvey
- 26 - Alyce Buckalew
- 29 - Juanita Klotz  
Pastor Shirley
- 30- Anna Luttrell

## *Remember in your Prayers*

Ramona Aldridge  
Jan & Chris Alvey  
Martha Alvey  
Shirley Alvey  
Maggie, Jackie and  
Kami Lee Basham  
June Boehm  
Karen Bowling  
Karen Bradley  
Martha Branham  
Sharon Burkhart  
Janice Cantrall  
Kelly Campbell  
Elizabeth Ann Clemons  
LaVerne Collins  
Jeff Drake  
Roger French  
Dennis Gahafer, Jr.  
Glen Gahafer, Sr.  
Buddy Griffin  
Linda Henry  
Kathy Hoffman  
Angie Johnson  
Harry Koltz, Jr.  
Karen Lawrence  
Luttrell Family  
Morris Longacre  
Ed McGuire  
Bobby, Nadine and Carol McKinney  
Denna Metzroth  
Jim Michalec  
Lily and H.L Moran  
Phyllis Morris  
Tim Nalley  
Leslie Nevitt  
Pastor Jon Ostenburg  
Lenora Ott  
Dave Outman

Wayne Patterson  
Kathleen Perkins  
Mike Perkins  
Charlie Phelps  
Kurt Priddy  
The Warren Rainwaters  
Michael Rausch  
Phyllis Ross  
Caroll Russell  
Connor Russell  
Kathy Russell  
Kim and Molly Russell  
April Samuels  
Pastor Dave Shugert  
Marshall Skillman, Sr.  
Maxine Skinner  
Phyllis Smith  
Wayne Smith & Danielle  
Brian & Kathy Spangler  
Anna Stewart  
Josh Stout  
Claire Thibodeau  
Rick Ulrich  
Tim Ulrich  
John Vaught, Sr.  
Johnny Ray Vaught  
Samuel Vaught  
Carol Weissrock  
David Weissrock  
Suzanne Weissrock  
Belinda Wilson  
Shannon Young



The victims of the Norway bombing and shootings who were killed or injured and their families, friends, and the country as it mourns; the young man who carried out the horrendous crime and his family and friends.

Men and women serving in the Armed Forces

Those seeking employment -12-

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**Pastor: Rev. Shirley Ross-Jones**



