

November/December
2009 No. 4

The Messenger

*The newsletter of First Saint Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church*

You are invited to First Saint Paul's Annual Christmas Concert Sunday, 13 December

Greetings! As the seasons of Advent and Christmas fast approach, the choir and I are enthusiastically preparing for the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, 13 December, presented at 3:30 PM and 7 PM. We look forward to sharing the news of our Savior's birth through this wonderful parish tradition.

This year's program will be a service of LESSONS AND CAROLS. A concerted prelude featuring the marvelously spirited Magnificat in B-flat of Francesco Durante, an Italian contemporary of J.S. Bach's, will lead to the beloved service first held in Cambridge, England, in 1908. Familiar carols will be sung by choir and congregation. Also included will be Gustav Holst's stirring setting of "Let All Mortal Flesh" and J.S. Bach's advent cantata "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (BWV 61). The beautiful sounds of our first-rate string ensemble led by Jeri-Lou Zike of the Baroque Band and the sensitive organ playing of William Beermann will complement the choir and audience's singing of their favorite Yuletide carols.

As always, the fine hospitality of First Saint Paul's will be offered at a candlelight reception following the 3:30 PM program – just one of the many ways our congregation reaches out to the neighborhood and beyond.

The choir and I hope you will join us on 13 December at 3:30 PM or 7 PM for a glorious holiday celebration. Thank you for your support!

Wishing you a joyful, peace-filled season,

Maurice Boyer
Choir Director



The Messenger

FIRST SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*First Saint Paul's,
established in 1846, is the oldest
Lutheran Church in Chicago.
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
was founded when historic meetings
were held here in 1847.*

**1301 N. LASALLE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60610
312.642.7172
www.fspauls.org**



CHURCH STAFF

**The Reverend Paul W. Krause
Interim Pastor**
paulwk1942@sbcglobal.net
847.669.9599

**The Reverend Delayne H. Pauling
Pastor Emeritus**
1615 North Cleveland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614
312.545.8876

**Ms. Tina VanYzendoorn
Office Administrator**
firstsaintpauls@yahoo.com

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Sunday
8:30 & 11 AM

Wednesday Spoken Eucharist
7 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST

First & Third Sundays
8:30 AM
Second & Fourth Sundays
11 AM
Fifth Sunday
8:30 & 11 AM

ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

* Voting member of Church Council

Chairman*

Howard Ansorge

Vice Chairman*

Tea Akbar

Secretary

Amy Hendricksen

Assistant Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer*

Judy Mason

Assistant Treasurer

Cindy Goers

Financial Secretary

Lucille Nedved

Assistant Financial Secretary

Peggy Cassidy

Membership Secretary

Sandy Lawrence

Assistant Membership Secretary

Valerie Stodden

Chairperson, Board of Christian Education *

Vacant

Board of Elders

BJ Chakiris
Jill Chapman
David Rogner
Gene Svebakken (Chair)*

Chairperson, Board of Social Ministry*

vacant

Chairperson, Board of Stewardship*

Doug Harkness

Chairperson, Board of Worship & Music*

Paul Rehmer (Interim)

Chairperson, Board of Evangelism & Outreach*

John Stodden

Board of Trustees

Rich Allen
Nick Covello
Paul Fahrenkrog (Chair)*
Susan Rosborough
Bryan Schneider

Board of Deacons

Barbara Hart
Elga Heintzen
John Mason
Jan Seefeldt (Chair)*
Sandy Wilborn

Nominating Committee

Benjamin Chandler
Paul Claybaker
Gary Flagler
Susan Morgan

Pastoral Call Committee

Dorothea Chaveriat
Joel Friend (Chair)
Jen Masengarb
Paul Meynen
Taiwo Ogunyankin
Paul Rehmer

COMMITTEE/GROUPS CHAIRS/CONTACTS

Altar Guild

Sandy Lawrence

Communications

Amy Hendricksen (Contact)

Communion Assistant Coordinator

Jody Lucey

Community Meals

Lisa Richards
Sandy Wilborn

Concordia Cemetery

John Stodden

Fellowship/Hospitality

Roseann Hubbard

Finance

Judy Mason

Human Resources Committee

Susan Rosborough

Landscape Committee

Walter Heintzen

Liturgical Arts

Darlene Fahrenkrog

Lutheran Home

Susan Rosborough

Near North Singles

Vacant

Wunder's Cemetery

Rev. Delayne Pauling



A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends of First Saint Paul's Church,

As a congregation you have certainly experienced your fair share of change this past year. Your former pastor left you in November last year, then you had fill-in pastors, different ones each week to adjust to, and then I came on the scene in January and that has taken another adjustment on your part. And now we have just experienced the quick and unexpected departure of Deaconess Nunes. And many of us are still coming to grips with the reality that she is no longer with us. We will miss her and remember her valuable contributions to the life and ministry of this congregation for years to come.

We regret that she left us. But we were also painfully aware that our attendance and offerings have been dwindling these past years and we simply were not going to be able to financially support her for long. I believe Brenna knew that as well. It would have been a shame if we, in the near future, had to come to her and tell her that we could no longer afford her services.

But God graciously intervened on her behalf and on our behalf by working through the good people of Immanuel, Palatine, who extended her a Call. As it turns out, it has become a wonderful opportunity for Brenna to grow and be challenged to use her gifts in new ways. In talking with her she was quite excited and said that her learning curve was rather steep. Furthermore, she will no longer have to be concerned about her daughter's education. From this moment on, from pre-school through eighth grade, Naomi will be taken care of in their church school. What a blessing that is!

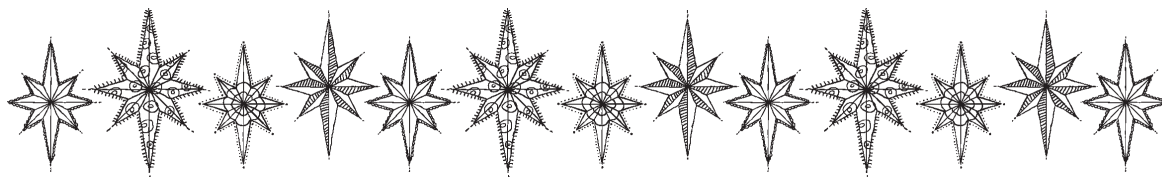
And so where does that leave First Saint Paul's? Yes, a vacancy has been created by Brenna's departure. So we need to ask, What would God now have us do? I don't think He would be pleased to have us sit back and feel sorry for ourselves. I don't think He wants us to retire to the sidelines and wait to see what happens. No, I believe that God wants to write a new chapter in the life of this congregation, a chapter in which, more than ever before, our members step up, roll up their sleeves, and find a place where they can serve. If more of our members would discover one opportunity to serve, and offer their service, this congregation would thrive again. In her farewell letter Brenna encouraged you to "open your eyes looking for opportunities where you are needed to serve." Then she went on to say: "When you come together to fill the present gaps in ministry, you'll be preparing the way for your next Pastor, and when he arrives he will experience what I already know to be true about FSP, that above all, it is a place filled with loving people who are generously sharing their faith as their lives overflow with the love of Christ."

Instead of waiting for the new pastor to arrive and then expect him to find people to serve in various capacities, wouldn't it be wonderful for you to be able to show him that you as members have taken responsibility for the ministry and life of this congregation? What a blessed way to welcome your new pastor! May each of you find your niche to use your gifts and talents to serve God and his people in this place.

Sincerely in his service,

Pr. Paul W. Krause, Interim Pastor

P.S. Please see page 9 in this *Messenger* for a list of opportunities where there are serious needs.



ADVENT BEGINS 29 NOVEMBER

It is hard to believe but the Church begins a new church year in just a few weeks. The Church year is divided into two parts: the festival half in which we relive the life of our Lord, the Savior; and the second non-festival half in which we focus on the life of the Church, the saved. The festival half is further divided into two parts: the Time of Christmas and the Time of Easter. Each part has its season of preparation, Advent for Christmas and Lent for Easter. This year for our season of Advent preparation we are going to direct our attention to the role of angels in the Christmas story. So the theme of our Advent Evening Prayer liturgies will be *Angles on Advent Angels*. They will take place on the Wednesday evenings of 2, 9 and 16 December at 7 PM. We would also like to continue our tradition of serving a Soup Supper at 5:30 PM. We are looking for people to volunteer and prepare those suppers. Expenses will be reimbursed. There is no cost to attend the Soup Suppers, but a free will offering will be taken to offset the expense.



“Then the
glory of the LORD
shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together.”

Isaiah 40:5, NRSV



Upcoming Services & Events at First Saint Paul's

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Day, 10 AM

WEDNESDAY, 2, 9 & 16 DECEMBER

Soup Supper, 5:30-6:50 PM

Advent Evening Prayer, 7 PM

SUNDAY, 13 DECEMBER

Christmas Concert, 3:30 & 7 PM

(Candlelight Reception between concerts)

SUNDAY, 20 DECEMBER

Children's Christmas Program, 11 AM

THURSDAY, 24 DECEMBER

Christmas Eve Services of

Holy Communion, 4 & 7 PM

FRIDAY, 25 DECEMBER

Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10 AM

SUNDAY, 27 DECEMBER

Christmas I, 8:30 & 11 AM

SUNDAY, 3 JANUARY 2010

Epiphany Festival Services of Worship

8:30 & 11 AM



November November November

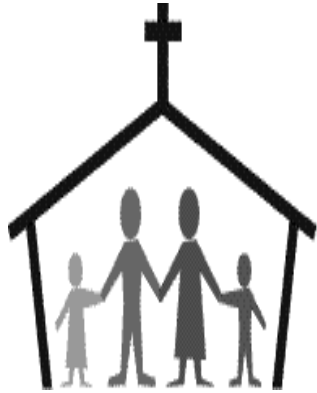
FOR A SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICES, SEE PAGE 2.

SUNDAY	15	9:45 AM	VOTERS' ASSEMBLY
		9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
MONDAY	16	4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY	18	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
		7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
THURSDAY	19	7 PM	BOARD OF WORSHIP & MUSIC
SATURDAY	21	9 AM	COMMUNITY MEALS TEAM #6
		9 - 11 AM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
SUNDAY	22	9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
MONDAY	23	8:15 - 5:30 PM	LIFELINE SCREENINGS
		4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY	25	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY	26	10 AM	THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FRIDAY	27	ALL DAY	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
SATURDAY	28	9 AM	COMMUNITY MEALS TEAM #1
SUNDAY	29	9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
MONDAY	30	4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS

December December December

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETS EVERY SUNDAY AT 4:30 & 6 PM AND EVERY MONDAY AT 7 PM.

WEDNESDAY	2	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
		5:30 PM	SOUP SUPPER
		7 PM	ADVENT EVENING PRAYER
		7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
THURSDAY	3	12 NN	50+ LUNCHEON GROUP
SATURDAY	5	9 AM	COMMUNITY MEALS TEAM #2
SUNDAY	6	9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
MONDAY	7	4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY	9	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
		5:30 PM	SOUP SUPPER
		7 PM	ADVENT EVENING PRAYER
		7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
SATURDAY	12	9 AM	COMMUNITY MEALS TEAM #3
		9 - 11 AM	CHOIR CONCERT TOUCH-UP REHEARSAL
		11 AM	FOOT CLINIC
SUNDAY	13	9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
		1:30 PM	CHOIR CALL
		3:30 & 7 PM	CHRISTMAS CONCERTS (RECEPTION BETWEEN)
MONDAY	14	4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS
		7 PM	CHURCH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY	16	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
		5:30 PM	SOUP SUPPER
		7 PM	ADVENT EVENING PRAYER
SATURDAY	19	9 AM	COMMUNITY MEALS TEAM #4
SUNDAY	20	9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
		11 AM	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
MONDAY	21	4 PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY	23	12:30 PM	BIBLE STUDY
		7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
THURSDAY	24	4 & 7 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION
FRIDAY	25	10 AM	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY	27		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
MONDAY	28		NO CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY	30	7 AM	SPOKEN EUCHARIST
		12 NN	BIBLE STUDY
		7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL



Praying Through The Church

BECAUSE WE ARE A CHURCH FAMILY, a community of faith, we have a concern for one another, a concern that is expressed on Sunday mornings, as we pray for members of our church family 'by name.'

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER remembering the words of St. Paul the Apostle to Timothy, "I urge, then first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone..." and the promise

of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE members and friends of the congregation to make their prayer requests, births, illnesses, deaths, anniversaries, special occasions for intercession or thanksgiving, known to the pastor, preferably before the Sunday morning services, but in cases of emergency, right up to service time.

THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS & MEMBERS of our church family will be remembered in the services of worship during August and September. The non-member spouses of members are also listed, and even though not 'officially' members of our congregation, they are certainly included in our concern.

1 November – Patricia Strayer; Gene & Carole Svebakken; Dana Sweeney; Tom & Lori Thomas; John & Jean Thorpe; Alfred Thurner; Florence Toma; Joe & Stacy Tomczak; Jim Tomell

8 November – Ken Tornvall; Mark Tucker; Brian & Catherine Turley; Ronald Urbaniak; David & Bonnie Utz; Mike & Tina VanYzendoorn; Shirley Varland; Michael Vrshek

16 November – Nicole Waalen; Erin Weaver; Elisabeth Weber; Nathan Weber; Gwen Weithaus; Jenny Wells; Jim Whitehead; Nina Whitsel; Anna & Luke Wiesel

22 November – Sandy Wilborn; Sharon Wildermuth; Mark & Melissa Wimer; Bruce Winterhof; Florence & Francis Wolfe; Trevor Wolter; Jeanne Yoss; Matthew & Sarah Zaute

29 November – Jacob & Ellen Zehnder; Janet Zielke; Tim & Ada Zingelman; Roger & Kathi Adams; David Aebisher; Tea & Clyde Akbar; Jesse & Heather Alejos, Jeremy and Colin

6 December – Rich Allen & Jill Chapman, Lydia and Henry; Suzanne Allmer and Jacob; Laura Amend; Holly & Chad Anderton; Luke and Cade; Jean Andre

13 December – Howard & Nancy Ansortge, Emily and Amanda; Donna Arends and Margaret; Rev. Charles Aufdenkampe; Eric Ause; Debra Axelrod, Stuart and Laura

20 December – Pat Baehler; Carol Balluf; Doriann Basaraba; Sarah Basel; Judie Bastin; Richard Baxter; Steve & Katrina Beck, Emma, John, Elliana and Sadie

27 December – David Benck; Maryann Benck; Donald & Mary Bennett and Caroline; Richard & Alexis Bentsen, Tyler, Lana and Tayt; Eric & Andrea Berg, Alexandra, Katherine and Sonja

Official Acts

Baptism:

08.30.09 Reese Marie Branagan
08.30.09 Colin Joseph Alejos
10.18.09 Whitney Allegra Shank

Marriage:

09.12.09 Suzanne Stoffels &
Ryan Hojara
10.31.09 Colleen Higgins &
John Whitehead

Death:

09.23.09 Viola Raasch



Our Church Family



Why Lutherans Do What We do

From protecting our pews to having mandatory Jell-O at potlucks, here are 10 things that help make us Lutherans a unique bunch – see if any of them sound familiar!

By Gretchen Roberts

Q: How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

This joke makes us chuckle because we see ourselves in it, however on the outskirts of actual truth it may be. It's not that we're inflexible when it comes to change. It's just that we put our hope in someone who does not change – God. His love, His grace and His word are eternal. In honor of Martin Luther's 526th birthday November 10, here are 10 unique ways Lutherans believe, think and do, served up with a little humor. We asked Kristofer Skrade, editor of the indispensable *Lutheran Handbook* series, and the Rev. Todd Wilken, host of the Lutheran radio show *Issues, Etc.*, to shed some light on why Lutherans ...

1. Sit in the back of the church and/or protect our pew like it's reserved seating at a rock concert.

Staking out the back row facilitates a quick escape for those wanting to avoid the Sunday restaurant rush, Wilken says. "Plus, Lutherans are leery of being too devout. We have a proper understanding of our sin, so we shy away from the holy things up front."

As to pews, Skrade believes we get into ruts that are unrelated to holy rituals. In his first congregation, he had everyone switch seats during a sermon to get people thinking from a different perspective. "The congregation was good-natured, but it was, 'Ha, ha, don't do that again,'" he says.



2. Reprint the entire worship service in a bulletin when we have hymnals.

Count this habit as an evangelism tool: The hymnal is a Lutheran legacy, but these days we understand that it can be intimidating to guests. "If

a visitor has to decipher this ancient Rosetta stone that is the hymnal, it can be daunting," Skrade says. "A huge bulletin may be wordy, but it's easier to navigate."

3. Consider our main form of socialization the potluck – with mandatory Jell-O®.

The potluck, a long-standing tradition among many Lutherans, is an opportunity for the same kind of table fellowship Jesus practiced throughout his ministry. "Recipes make good conversation like nobody's business, and that sharing is community-building," Skrade says, "You could never start a church without hosting food gatherings. They're critical." Wilken believes Lutherans understand that food is a good gift of God. "If God gave it to us, why not enjoy it, and why not all together in the church basement?" (The Jell-O dessert is just a bonus.)

4. Consider it a badge of honor to show as little emotion as possible.

Our Lutheran ancestors were from northern Europe, where the cold climate made stoicism a survival tool. Though it began with physically enduring difficult environmental conditions, fortitude became an emotional state of mind as well. "When things get bad, Lutherans say, 'Well, it could be worse.' And when things go really well, we don't say anything, because we're afraid to jinx it," Skrade says. "You can't waste energy celebrating, because there's work to do."



5. Approach the church's spending with a careful eye, but often give anonymously to those in need.

We take pride in our thriftiness, which extends to getting full use out of every penny for God's church, too. "There's just not a penny to be wasted,

and if we as a faith community can get by with an unheated building and secondhand hymnals, then we'll get by. It's almost a point of pride. We don't need fancy soap dispensers in our church," Skrade says. But Lutherans aren't stingy: "We're certainly frugal, but when Lutherans see someone in need, they're incredibly generous," Wilken says. "In my experience as a pastor and nonprofit radio show host, the more someone gives, the less they want anyone to know about it."

6. Live our faith all day and all week, even in our work.

Luckily for those of us who aren't church workers, Lutherans believe in the doctrine of vocation – that is, every job performed by a Christian is a call to serve others, not just that of a pastor. Luther once wrote, "The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." The idea isn't new – Paul said as much in 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

7. Avoid saying hello to new people in church.

Again, our wallflower tendencies surface here. We're secretly afraid of this conversation: "Hi, welcome to our church." "Umm, I've been here for 30 years." "Oh." Skrade says that in the small northern European communities of our ancestors and even in the first Lutheran communities in the U.S., everybody knew everybody else. "Welcoming strangers was an underdeveloped muscle," he explains. "It's hard to overestimate just how strong our habits really are."

8. Volunteer endlessly even though we believe we're saved by grace alone.

One of the main tenets of Lutheranism is found in the fourth article of the Augsburg Confession, which says we are saved by grace – through faith in Christ – not by works. (See also Ephesians 2.8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.") "When we feed on God's word, the natural result is service to our neighbor," Wilken says. "What Jesus did for us, He did willingly. We in turn serve freely and willingly, 'in fervent love toward one another,' because everything in the church is free – the grace of God and service to our neighbor."



9. Pass the peace when secretly we feel that shaking hands and/or hugging our neighbor in church is too intimate.

Passing the peace is an ancient Christian tradition that has survived in the Lutheran church, even if it's "the most uncomfortable 25 seconds of Sunday morning," Wilken says. "Sunday morning worship isn't a spectator sport. We are there and bound together in unity by the Word and the Sacrament, a bond closer than any handshake or hug can communicate." Skrade says it's more than just your weekly chance to say hello to someone. "Passing the peace can be disarming and uncomfortable, but it's an opportunity for a literal connection with your neighbor during corporate worship instead of being in your own mental silo," Skrade says. "It's part of glue that holds the community together."



10. Baptize babies

While many Lutherans are baptized as babies, it's actually a nondiscriminatory practice: "We baptize sinners," Wilken says, as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28.19 ("Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"). We're not stingy with grace.

Luther taught that if grace is available, everyone ought to get it ... including babies.

You Might Be a Lutheran If ...

Lutheran jokes abound, from Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon skits to Ole and Lena jokes. Here are some of our favorites, culled from around the web. So with a nod to Jeff Foxworthy, we say: You might be a Lutheran if ...

... potlucks and coffee are nearly as important as the service itself.

... you have the entire service (and most of the hymns) memorized, but you hold the hymnal open anyway.

... rather than introducing yourself to visitors at church, you check out their names in the guestbook.

... a midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.

... you firmly believe that if it's never been done this way before, why do it now?

Reprinted with permission of the editor of Thrivent Magazine, Fall 2009 issue.

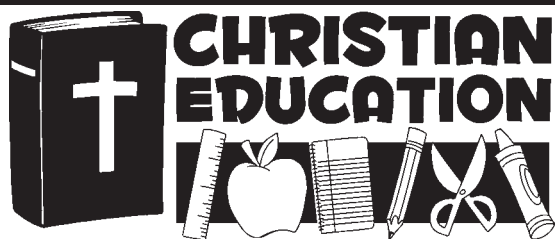
50+ Luncheon Group

50+ is a luncheon group for those 50 and over – or younger. Mark your calendars for 3 December and plan to attend this fun group. Lunch is \$8 per person and an interesting program will be presented. If you have any suggestions for future programs, please speak contact Pastor Pauling at 312.545.8876 or the Church Office 312.642.7172.

Call Committee News



The Call Committee received over 20 names from friends and members of FSP to help us in our search for a Pastor. Those names were submitted to the Northern Illinois District for their review; we have started to receive biographical information on these men, as well as additional names from the District. The Committee is in the process of reviewing the information.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY The group meets for lunch (bring your own sack lunch) at 12:30 PM each Wednesday followed by a study of Esther. All are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children 3 and older begins 13 September with story time, games, songs and sidewalk chalk. Join in the fun every Sunday, from 9:45-11 AM. These weekly classes explore Old and New Testament stories about God's grace and redemption. Help your children learn early in life that God's love for them is great, covers a multitude of sin, and is everlasting. Join us each week on the south side of Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be 20 December at the 11 AM service of worship.

TODDLIN' TO JESUS for parents and their toddler's 0-3. Julie Friend leads these classes which are designed to build up the necessary parenting skills related to Spiritual nurture and development of the young child. Attend these free classes and leave with songs about Jesus on your heart and lips.

ADULT FORUM - 20 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS POEMS AND PAINTINGS

Between the worship services on Sunday, 20 December, David Rogner will discuss five pairs of paintings and poems for the Christmas season. The images and poems will depict scenes of the Annunciation, the Nativity, and the visit of the wise men on Epiphany. Each image/poem pair relates to a devotion that he is writing for a proposed book called *The Word Made Flesh: Meditation on the Life of Christ from Poems and Paintings*. He will discuss the poems and paintings and read one of the meditations. The presentation will take place in Fellowship Hall.

David Rogner is Professor of English at Concordia University Chicago and serves as an Elder here at FSP.

Your Church Needs You!

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is the ministry of preparing the vessels and vestments used at the altar. Members are trained and assigned on a weekly basis.

COUNTERS

Individuals are needed once every 6 weeks to assist with counting the offering after each service.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

We are in need of additional communion assistants for both services, but especially the 11 AM service. The communion assistant schedules are prepared four to five times a year; and, therefore you can plan ahead. This is a great opportunity to serve and doesn't require any additional time on your part.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Team members serve every 6 weeks helping to prepare and serve a hot meal to our guests.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES

Bring treats to share between the services on Sunday mornings. Prepare and serve coffee.

GREETERS

Greeters are needed before both Services of Worship on Sundays to welcome members and friends who have come for worship. Greeters arrive at least 15 minutes before service time and position themselves at the front door to greet people with a warm smile and friendly "Good morning."

LECTORS

Lectors volunteer to read God's Word during worship and serve on a rotating basis.

SATURDAY OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Help the church on Saturday mornings from 9 AM to Noon by assembling the weekly bulletin and answering the phone and door.

USHERS

First Saint Paul's has 8 usher teams - 4 teams for the 8:30 services and 4 teams for the 11 AM services. Right now, several of those teams are short-handed. We are currently in need of several more volunteers to serve as ushers.

There are many other ways to get involved at First Saint Paul's. How about singing in the choir, helping with *The Messenger* mailing, teaching Sunday School, serving on a Board or Committee or volunteering time during the week to help with office projects? Or perhaps, you have something in mind that you'd like to see accomplished at our church. Let us know!

To offer your help, contact Tina VanYzendoorn at 312.642.7172 or firstsaintpauls@yahoo.com.

Stewardship & Reliance in God

Recently, I have taken up the Chair of the Stewardship Board, so I hope you might indulge me a few moments to provide my thoughts on the relationship of stewardship to our Christian life.

Through the years, I, like most of you, have been asked by the Church for a financial commitment to fund its ministries. I have frequently found myself deliberating my level of commitment by using several measurements. Among them has included my personal reflection of how much support I felt I could lend, without impacting, greatly, my desire for financial stability. You see, I am rather conservative by nature, and tend to squirrel away for a rainy day. I have expected this behavior of my Church too.

There can be many reasons for such a thrifty outlook, but many years ago, I found myself contemplating my stewardship as I read through the preface of a book on Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer. You see, Rev. Bonhoeffer was raised in Berlin in a solidly middle class family. He went to good schools, and was raised with the benefits of having all his basic needs more than taken care of. Because of this, Rev. Bonhoeffer found himself in quite an internal struggle when he realized that to follow Christ during the rise of National Socialism, he must place all the comforts of middle class at risk. As Christ himself testified to how hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God, Rev. Bonhoeffer found the trappings of middle class security to impede the necessary decisions before him to follow God's will. To have done less was ever so compelling and comforting....

This compelled me to reflect on my own tendencies to place the security of middle class before God's will. Each year, as the Church asks for my financial commitment, do I choose, as Rev. Bonhoeffer did, to step away from man-made security, and trust our Savior? Or, do I choose my middle class life, and give only that which doesn't risk my security?

I tell you this short story, because I believe it is common for most of us at First Saint Paul's to struggle as I do when stepping beyond our man-made security, and trust in God's will. I might ask each of you to reflect on your own desire for middle class security and its impact on following God's will as you review your financial support for our Church.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

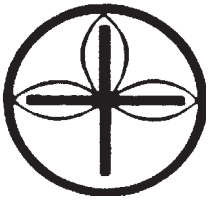
Doug Harkness,
Chair, Board of Stewardship





Financial Report

	Actual	Our Budget
	Jan - Sept 09	Jan - Sept 09
Operating Account: Funds Available 01/01/09:		75,461
How much we raised:		
Worship contributions	228,451	288,750
Facility rental income	5,786	3,975
Investment Income	2,388	3,000
	236,625	295,725
How much we Spent:		
Administrative and Stewardship	9,672	12,945
Communications and Outreach	7,154	8,363
Education and Fellowship	2,933	6,844
Facility Expenses	76,084	78,225
Synodical Commitment	3,750	3,750
Music and Worship	3,524	5,513
Office Expenses	6,908	7,322
Personnel and Employee Benefits	171,106	174,627
Social Ministry	302	375
	281,432	297,962
Operating Account: Funds Available 09/30/09:		30,654
Designed Funds Balances 9/30/09:		
Altar Guild Fund	2,641	
Angel Restoration Fund	1,355	
Christian Education Fund	6,652	
Christmas Concert Fund	7,689	
Community Meals	(2,362)	
Computer Fund	564	
Creche Fund	2,110	
Mission 2008 / 2009	2,348	
Liturgical Arts Fund	2,650	
Music Program Fund / Speical Music	14,408	
Oktoberfest	6,068	
Preserving God's House Capital Fund	36,748	
Sunday School & VBS Fund	2,368	
Youth Group Fund	1,098	
Other Restricted Funds	433	
Total Funds 09/30/09:		115,423
Properties less mortgage:		
Land and Buildings - Church Property (Cost)	450,000	
Land and Buildings - Parsonage (Cost)	656,600	
Mortgage Payable - Church Extension Fund	(320,292)	
Total Net Assets 09/30/09:		901,731
Other Contributions Received:		
ABEK Community Development Project	1,062	
Chicago Uptown Ministry	140	
Christmas Concert Fund	200	
Chicagoland Lutheran Education Fund	705	
Community Meals	12,428	
Deaconess Fund	935	
Lutheran Child & Family Services	293	
Lutheran Church Charities	200	
Lutheran Hour	200	
Lutheran World Relief	1,517	
Mission 2009	2,448	
Music Program Fund	320	
Oktoberfest	6,242	
Preserving God's House Fund	3,265	
Prison Ministry of Hope	836	
Seasonal & Special Music	2,790	
Synod/District Missions	90	
Sunday School & Vacation Bible School	1,961	
Voss Ordination	1,492	
Wednesday AM Eucharist	270	
Wunders Cemetery	2,274	
Total Other Contributions 09/30/09:	39,668	



**FIRST SAINT PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1301 N LASALLE CHICAGO IL 60610**

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage

P A I D

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PERMIT No. 5887

The Messenger



Sunday, 13 December 2009

3:30 PM & 7 PM

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

*Featuring Durante's "Magnificat in B-flat"
and J.S. Bach's Cantata 61
"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"*

Performed by the First Saint Paul's Choir,
soloists and orchestra under the
direction of Maurice Boyer

Free Admission
Candlelight reception between concerts

First Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

1301 North LaSalle Drive Free Parking ~ 2 blocks west on Goethe at Franklin School

for information call 312.642.7172 or visit our website at www.fspauls.org