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Someone said to me recently, "Is it just my imagination or are there younger faces around DML?" It's no imagination, there are several younger faces at DML and it's good to see them. As a church we are perhaps typical of other Lutheran churches in that we are an older church. I know that Lauren and Brad Johnson were looking for some younger faces at the recent Synod Assembly. The average age of a citizen in this country is 35, while the average age of a member in the Lutheran church is 65.

In the past few months we at DML have been working hard to bring our average age down. Just last month there were two babies born to parents who are working on membership at DML. On July 6th Emma Lynn was born to Shane Garrow and Kristina Carey. On July 10th Nicole Carolyn was born to Stephen & Adriana Hellman. Of course, we can't forget Ocsar James Swanson Justian born to Eric and Julie Justian back on April 5th. That's not the end of it because we also anxiously await the birth expected by Jeff and Michelle Ward.

This will mean of course, that we will likely have to deal with those noises that little children make during the service. The noises may

be annoying at times, but they are welcome, because they are a sign of life. The good news is that God uses the young and the old and in between for his purposes.

Jeremiah was a young boy when he was called into God's service. God said to Jeremiah, "*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.*" (Jer 29:11-12).

God had plans for Moses when he was a little baby and his mother placed him in a reed basket on the river to save his life. It wasn't until Moses was 80 years old that God called him to lead God's people out of slavery.

Then there is the in between, a young man a little over 30 years of age or so who God called to give his life as a ransom for man. We still celebrate the birth of that baby in a manger and know him as Jesus, God's Son.

Babies are important in fulfilling God's mission. Carl Sandburg has said, "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." I would add that a baby is a statement of God's hope for the world. Let us view these recent births as God's

(continued page 8)

The Church Door

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events. Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or cborreson@charter.net) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.

Worship Assistants

August 1

Deacon Rose Justian
 Lector Cindy Borreson
 Acolyte Eric Burke
 Nursery Beulah Justian
 Ushers Mike Sellon
 Russ Tilden
 Tellers Donna Whitehead
 Tom Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

August 8

Deacon Andrew Kitchka
 Lector _____
 Acolyte Andy Doane
 Nursery Rose Justian
 Ushers Emily Kitchka
 Bill Kitchka
 Tellers Cindy Borreson
 Randy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

August 15

Deacon Bill Kitchka
 Lector _____
 Acolyte Bethani Eggleton
 Nursery Betty Proksa
 Ushers Emogene Cotal
 Jan Wolf
 Tellers Irene Borreson
 LaVern Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

August 22

Leader Tom Whitehead
 Lector _____
 Acolyte Emily Johnson
 Nursery Lauren Stroh
 Ushers John Moore
 Tom Proksa
 Tellers John Moore
 Betty Proksa
 Tom Proksa

August 29

Leader Janet Wolf
 Lector _____
 Acolyte Andrew Kitchka
 Nursery Jan Ward
 Ushers Gene Broge
 Brian Doane
 Tellers Emogene Cotal
 Janet Wolf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
If you are unable to fulfill your
responsibility, please contact:

Deacons, Acolytes, & Tellers contact:
Cindy Borreson—616-846-2477

Lectors & Ushers contact:
Janet Wolf—(231) 739-7328

Nursery contact:
Jan Ward—(231) 739-7328

Prayer List

Tim Debard & family
 (Margaret Hulka's nephew)

Bea Eggleton
 Millie Fredrick

Ann Hamil
 Ann Hulka

Tillie Jandris
 Mille Lussy

Patti McRoberts
 (Paul & Ada Filka's daughter &
 Previous member)

Floyd Nickisch
 Mary Panozzo

Jeannette Roach
 Judy Slezak

(Irene Borreson's sister &
 previous member)

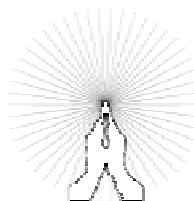
Evelyn Stroh
 (Pastor's Mother)

Paul Suchovsky
 Lowell Tambling

I pray that you may enjoy
 good health and that all may
 go well with you, even as
 your soul is getting along
 well.

3 John 1:2 (NIV)

Our dear friend, **Ivan Zona**, departed this life on Tuesday, July 20. His death was unexpected and we pray God's peace to him and his family. Please remember his family in your prayers. His memorial service was held Friday, July 23rd.



Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at cborreson@charter.net or Pastor Dennis to add a name to the Prayer List.

Lessons & Hymns



August 1
9th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Hymns

Gospel Hymn Fest

August 8
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Hymns

#327 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
#476 Have No Fear, Little Flock
#296 Just As I Am, Without One Plea
#345 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

August 15
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons

Isaiah 61:7-11
Psalm 45:10-15
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 1:46-55

Hymns

#752 Here I Am, Lord
#781 My Life Flows on in Endless Song
#495 Lead On O King Eternal
#779 On Eagle's Wings

August 22
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Hymns

#551 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
#549 Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
#518 Beautiful Savior
#341 Jesus, Still Lead On



August 29
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons

Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Hymns

Put Your Hand in the Hand
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Eat this Bread
Jesus, Remember Me
We are One in the Spirit

July Congregation Council Minutes

Present: Cindy Borreson, Gene Broge, Emogene Cotal, Gordon Eggleton, Beulah Justian, Betty Proksa, Pastor Stroh, Tom Whitehead, Janet Wolf

Excused: Stephen Hellman

Jan Wolf called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions: Pastor led devotions with readings from Matthew 19: 13-22 and Romans 3: 21-31

New Business

Gene Broge requested that the normal order of business be suspended so that the Council can meet with Michael Lynn from USA Sign Co. at 7:00 p.m. and discuss options for a new church sign. The Evangelism Committee had gathered pictures of many church signs around Muskegon. Gene had samples of several designs, and had prices from several local companies ranging from \$4500-\$6000 for signs 5'x8'. Mr. Lynn described the sign his company would provide: dimensions: 5'x8' and set 2' above the ground, key-locking vandal cover, four rows of changeable letters, 2 rows for 4" letters and 2 rows for 6" letters. Sign needs to have a dedicated 20 amp circuit with breaker, installed by a licensed electrician. He does the drawings and presents them to the township and township inspectors. Cost: \$4350. His original bid did not include the price of the changeable letters, which were \$120 for the 4" letters and \$157 for the 6" letters. He said he would include both sets of letters in the \$4350 cost. The Council returned to its normal agenda after Mr. Lynn left.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the June 14, 2004 Council meeting were presented in

written form. Cindy pointed out that Vic Kowalski's first name mentioned in the Worship & Music Committee report should not end with a "k". Cindy moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Emogene seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented in printed form. Beulah moved to accept that Treasurer's Report, Gene seconded. Approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor presented a written report and provided the following additional information:

- There are approximately eight people in the new member classes.
- He has requested letters of transfer for five people from Bethlehem Church and one from Central.

Committee Reports

Property: Beulah's grandson (Matt) cut the grass at church and will do this every other week for half his normal price. Beulah will pay the \$20 charge each time. The church's lawn mower was broken but Louie Boucher got it running. Cindy volunteered Randy to put up a list on the bulletin board for volunteers to cut the grass.

Evangelism: Met twice and discussed the new church sign and a new brochure for the church. The committee took pictures of church signs around town. Gene moved that the church get a new sign from USA Sign Co., which USA Sign will install for \$4350 excluding the electrical hook-up. It will be paid for partially with funds that have been donated in memory of Elsie Whitehead and Melissa Hellman,

and the balance with other undesignated funds from the Memorial Fund. Emogene seconded the motion. Approved.

Pastor pointed out that both the Evangelism Committee and the Worship & Music Committee have been very hardworking committees.

Finance: The committee reviewed the year-to-date budget and expenses and the church is doing OK right now.

Parish Education: No report.

Church school is off for the summer. The committee will meet in August to plan the new school year.

Social Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: Will have a special meeting to plan the outdoor worship service on August 1st. Cindy mentioned that the committee has emphasized selecting music that is "singable" for the congregation.

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: No meeting in May or June. Next meeting will be July 24th.

Cindy moved to accept the committee reports. Gene seconded. Accepted.

Special Committees

Eve Circle: Will meet on Saturday, July 24th at 1:00 p.m. to make cards.

Dorcas Circle: No report

Men's Club: Tom said that he would be turning in the grant request to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the wheelchair ramp and needed to have the names of six families that are members of Thrivent who will work on the project. He had some names already. Betty, Gene, Beulah, and Jan all said that they were Thrivent members and would be willing to help.

Youth Group: No report.

Petitions and Communications

Jan Ward requested use of the fellowship hall on July 16th and 17th to set up and have a baby shower. Cindy had circulated this request to the council members by e-mail earlier in the month and it was approved.

Unfinished Business

- Council discussed the work needed to bring the building into compliance with fire safety regulations for preschool. Concerns were expressed about whether Diane Irwin was still interested and whether the work can be completed in time for her to open the preschool in the fall. Pastor will contact Patron Construction to see if it is still possible to do in the time remaining. Patron Construction provided the only bid from contractors that the church contacted. Gene moved to go ahead with the Patron Construction bid for the storage areas, assuming:
 - Diane is still interested and can pay her portion (est. \$2200) up front;
 - There is no lower bid;
 - and Patron Construction can complete the project in time.

We can go ahead with a different construction company if it has a lower, credible bid. Betty seconded. Approved.

New Business

Cindy moved that the council follow tradition and not meet in August. Beulah seconded. Approved. There will be no Council meeting in August.

Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and Betty seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Whitehead
Church Secretary

What's Happening at DML

Dorcas Circle

Meetings have stopped for the summer and will resume in September. Have a great summer!!!
See Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle will be meeting Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome—Please join us.
Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Saturday, August 7th, Breakfast at Nino's.
Be on the lookout for information on the Wheelchair Ramp Project.
Contact Russ Tilden or Tom Whitehead with questions.

Youth Group

See Stephen Hellman for more information

Spanish Class

Classes are on break until the F all to allow Adriana time for the new baby.
More information to come in September.

From our Members

Oh my..... That's wha'cha get for taking credit.....

Alice was to bake a cake for the church ladies' group bake sale, but she forgot to do it until the last minute. She baked an angel food cake and when she took it from the oven, the center had dropped flat.

She said, "Oh dear, there's no time to bake another cake." So, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom ... a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and covered it with icing.

The finished product looked beautiful, so she rushed it to the church.

Alice then gave her daughter some money and instructions to be at the sale the minute it opened and to buy that cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale ... the attractive cake had already been sold.

Alice was beside herself.

A couple of days later, Alice was invited to a friend's home where two tables of bridge were to be played that afternoon. After the game a fancy lunch was served, and to top it off, the cake in question was presented for dessert.

Alice saw the cake, she started to get out of her chair to rush into the kitchen to tell her hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, one of the other ladies said, "What a beautiful cake!"

Alice sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (a *prominent church member*) say .

"Thank you; I baked it myself."

Submitted by Betty Proksa

Please be careful. This person has found her way into my house and could also go to yours. A very weird thing has happened. A strange old lady has moved into my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly did not invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn't there, and the next day she was. She is a clever old lady and manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And whenever I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there she is hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body. This is very rude! I have tried screaming at her, but she just screams back.

The least she could do is offer to pay part of the rent, but no. Every once in awhile, I find a dollar bill stuck in a coat pocket, or some loose change under a sofa cushion, but it is not nearly enough. I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I think she is stealing money from me. I go to ATM and withdraw \$100, and a few days later, it's all gone! I certainly don't spend money THAT fast, so I can only conclude the old lady is pilfering from me. You'd think she would spend some of that money to buy wrinkle cream.

And money isn't the only thing I think she is stealing. Food seems to disappear at an alarming rate - especially the good stuff like ice cream, cookies, and candy. She must have a real sweet tooth, but she'd better watch it, because she is really packing on the pounds. I suspect she realizes this, and to make herself feel better, she is tampering with my scale to make me think I am putting on weight, too.

For an old lady, she is quite childish. She likes to play nasty games, likes go-

ing into my closets when I'm not home and altering my clothes so they don't fit. And she messes with my files and papers so I can't find anything. This is particularly annoying since I am extremely neat and organized.

She has found other imaginative ways to annoy me. She gets into my mail, newspapers, and magazines before I do and blurs the print so I can't read it. And she has done something really sinister to the volume controls on my TV, radio, and telephone. Now, all I hear are mumbles and whispers.

She has done other things - like make my stairs steeper, my vacuum heavier and all the knobs and faucets harder to turn. She even made my bed higher so that getting into and out of it is a real challenge.

Lately, she has been fooling with my groceries before I put them away, applying glue to the lids, making it almost impossible for me to open the jars. She has taken the fun out of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she stands in front of the dressing room mirror and monopolizes it. She looks totally ridiculous in some of those outfits,

plus, she keeps me from seeing how great they look on me. Just when I thought she couldn't get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She came along when I went to get my picture taken for my driver's license, and just as the camera shutter clicked, she jumped in front of me!

I hope she never finds out where YOU live.



Burglar Alarm



Just a reminder that the burglar alarm is set to automatically arm itself at 11:59 PM each night. The burglar alarm is normally always armed when the building is not occupied, and this step will insure that the alarm is armed in the event that someone forgets to arm it manually when they leave. Normally, this automatic arming will not cause any problems, however, a problem would could occur if someone was in the building at 11:59 PM when the alarm arms itself because they would set off the alarm. The church council did not think that it is likely that anyone would be in the building that late.



August 1st

Mark your calendar!

There will be an outside worship service—Gospel Hymn Fest.
A Picnic will follow the service.
Invite family and friends.

A Pig-Roast will be provided.
Please bring a side-dish (salad or dessert) to share and your own table service.

Rolls, beverages, games and good times will be supplied.

Opt Out

Several DML members have already opted to receive the church newsletter from the DML website. If you have internet access and would like help the church save resources you can opt out of receiving the printed version of the newsletter. This will save on printing costs, volunteer time and postage. Simply send an email to newsletter@dmlc.org (or contact Cindy directly) saying you will use the online version of the newsletter.

Annual Slovak Zion Synod Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We would like to thank you all for allowing us to represent you at our annual Synod Assembly. We would like to quickly highlight some of the events of that week-end.

As is customary for a synod assembly, we heard reports from the Bishop, treasurer, and other committees on the synod. An election was held to determine our representatives for the 2005 Churchwide Assembly.

As is not customary for our synod assembly, we were offered Breakout Sessions. Topics for these included Evangelism and Witnessing, Sunday School Curriculum, Meeting the Needs of the Next Generation, and Sexuality and Homosexuality in the Church.

This last topic will probably be the focus of discussion for next year's Synod Assembly. There will be resolutions to discuss in great detail. To keep yourselves up to date with the latest information regarding sexuality in the

church you can log onto <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>. This website will keep you posted as to the latest findings of the task force studying this issue. From here you may also make you opinions known to the task force. The deadline for responses is October 31, 2004.



Coming in January 2005 the Task Force will publicly release information on their study. At that time we, as a congregation, will be expected to study the "Report and Recommendations" of the task force. In August 2005 the Churchwide Assembly will consider the same along with the proposed resolutions from the ELCA Church Council and determine appropriate action.

Most of Saturday was spent learning about Transformation Ministries in a session called On Our Way to a New BEING in Christ. We learned 3 characteristics of growing ELCA Congregations: 1) Purpose- The congregation has a collective sense of what God wants them to do; 2) Willingness to Change- Individual members are SO committed to God's purpose that they will

change HOW THEY ARE and WHAT THEY DO to carry out God's purpose; and 3) Leadership- Growing congregations have laity and clergy who work together.

If our congregation is interested in going through the process of transforming our ministry, we should begin by inviting Pastor John Schleicher to speak at a church service. He is the Mission Director for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. We would then vote as a congregation whether or not to participate in the purpose set before us. The congregation would elect four members to attend Transformational Ministry training (possibly Chicago, May 2005) who would then return to assist leading the church toward our common mission.

Thank you again for this blessed opportunity.

God's Blessings in your Mission Work,

Brad and Lauren Johnson



Financial Information

June 30, 2004

ASSETS

Cash & Bank Accounts

Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$21.83
Savings – Reserve	<u>\$3,869.76</u>
Total Funds for General Operations	\$3,891.59

Funds for Special Purposes

Savings—Designated	
Roof Fund (Loan)	\$1,656.71
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$2,196.50
Kitchen Fund	\$350.20
Men’s Club	\$314.31
Youth Group	<u>\$149.39</u>

Total Savings—Designated	\$4,736.11
Savings – Memorial	\$7,333.29
Savings – Social Security	<u>\$1,549.38</u>
Total Funds for Special Purposes	\$13,618.78

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$17,510.37

Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance

LB Money Market—Cash	\$953.51
LB Fund	\$35,636.99
LB Income Fund	<u>\$44,878.67</u>

Total Investments \$81,469.17

TOTAL ASSETS \$98,979.54

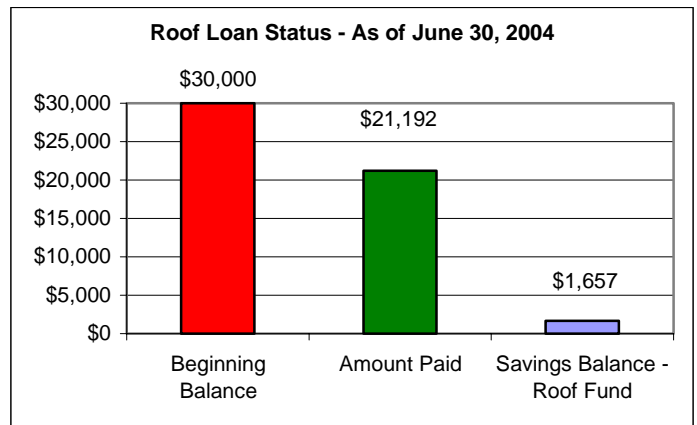
LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$8,392.67
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$2,303.66
WH—State Tax Liability	\$324.50

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$11,020.83

Breakdown of Giving for Loan

October 2003.....	\$474.00
November 2003	\$1,645.50
December 2003.....	\$911.00
January 2004	\$302.00
February 2004	\$373.00
March 2004	\$419.00
April 2004	\$1,218.00
May 2004	\$717.00
June 2004.....	\$505.00



(continued from page 1)

hope for DML. *Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation--if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:2-5)*

Let us continue to let God build and form us in this spiritual house at DML.

God's Grace, Mercy, Peace and Hope to all the children of God at DML.

Pastor Dennis



Festivals & Commemorations for August

Sunday, August 8

Dominic, priest, founder of the order of the Dominicans, 1221

Dominic was a Spanish priest who preached against the Albigensians, a heretical sect that held gnostic and dualistic beliefs. Dominic believed that a stumbling block to restoring heretics to the church was the wealth of clergy, so he formed an itinerant religious order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) who lived in poverty, studied philosophy and theology, and preached against heresy. The method of this order was to use kindness and gentle argument, rather than harsh judgment, when bringing unorthodox Christians back to the fold. Dominic was opposed to burning Christians at the stake. Three times Dominic was offered the office of bishop, which he refused so that he could continue his work of preaching.

Tuesday, August 10

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

Amid the concerns for the institutional church, reflect on what we consider the treasures of the church today. If the people on the margins of

life are treasured in God's eyes, consider ways a congregation can sharpen its vision for social ministry.

Friday, August 13

Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and there resumed her work for hospital reform. Clara Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.

Sunday, August 15

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of

God incarnate among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

Hymns to commemorate Mary as *theotokos* might include "Sing of Mary, pure and holy" (WOV634) or a paraphrase of the Magnificat, such as "My soul proclaims your greatness" (WOV730).

Friday, August 20

Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, 1153

Bernard was a Cistercian monk who became an abbot of great spiritual depth. He was a mystical writer deeply devoted to the humanity of Christ and consequently to the affective dimension of spirituality. He was critical of one of the foremost theologians of the day, Peter Abelard, because he believed Abelard's approach to faith was too rational and did not provide sufficient room for mystery. Bernard's devotional writings are still read today. His sermon on the Song of Solomon treats that book as an allegory of Christ's love for humanity. Bernard wrote several hymns, five of which are in *LBW*. Singing his hymn "Jesus the very thought of you" (316) could be a way to commemorate this monk at gatherings within the congregation today.

Tuesday, August 24

St. Bartholomew, apostle

Bartholomew is mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The list in John does not include him but rather Nathanael, and these two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on these lists of the twelve, little is known. Some traditions say Bartholomew preached in India or Armenia

Festivals & Commemorations (con't)

following the resurrection. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was killed.

In Bartholomew we have a model for the way many Christians live out their faith: anonymously. Like Bartholomew we are called by name to follow, though much of what we do in faith is quiet and unrecognized.

Saturday, August 28 Augustine, bishop of Hippo, 430

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and made bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow move toward faith and includes the line, "Late have I loved thee."

Saturday, August 28 Moses the Black, monk, c. 400

A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. Prior to his conversion he had been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers.

The story of his conversion is unknown, but eventually, he became a desert monk at Skete. The habit of his monastic community was white, though Moses is reported to have said, "God knows I am black within." The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He was murdered when Berbers attacked his monastery.

Tuesday, August 31 John Bunyan, teacher, 1688

John Bunyan had little schooling but became one of the most remarkable figures of seventeenth-century literature. He was a lay preacher who made his living as a tinker. After the restoration in England he was ordered to stop preaching, but he refused and was jailed several times. His spiritual pilgrimage is revealed in his works, particularly *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It is an allegory of a person's experience from his first awareness of sin, through a personal conversion to Christ, then on to the life of faith and then finally to the "Celestial City," the true and eternal home. His commemoration and his own journey offer strength for people to continue their own quest for spiritual truth.



Back to School 2004

The goal is to provide 2,400 backpacks with school supplies and share the Good News of Jesus. There will be family activities, health screening, lunch, haircuts and resources for parents at eight locations:

- July 29 Laketon Bethel Church
North Muskegon
231/744-1749
- July 31 First Church of the Nazarene
Norton Shores
231/780-4421
- August 5 Temple United Methodist
Muskegon Heights
231/737-6415
- August 7 Eastwood Nazarene
Muskegon Township
231/773-6662
- August 12 Moorland Nazarene
Ravenna
231/773-6662
- August 14 United Methodist Church
Holton
231/821-2323
- August 19 Lebanon Lutheran Church
Whitehall
231/893-5745
- August 21 Samuel Lutheran Church
City of Muskegon
231/772-7308

\$10 buys a backpack and school supplies. Please support this program with a donation to the Nazarene Community Resource Center, 2270 Milliron Rd in Muskegon, 49442.



Lutheran Cooperative Vision Discernment Team

On July 19, 2004 a Lutheran Cooperative Vision Discernment Team representing five Stony Lake Conference Lutheran Churches held its initial meeting. We brainstormed about possible cooperative activity and discussed the need to hire a part-time coordinator. Possible activities include:

- Evangelism efforts including Service Evangelism and Campus Evangelism at Muskegon Community College
- Development of ELCA ministry with people in the Muskegon Heights community in cooperation with Covenant Community Church (RCA) and its Barney Moffit ministry
- Working with Extended Grace to develop a holistic transitional housing initiative

- Creating and developing a fine arts focus as an aspect of ministry in the Stony Lake Conference possibly including a Reformation Arts Festival
- Developing educational opportunities through a Lutheran Lay Institute and developing a series of Speaker Events that would be held each year with discussions focusing on issues and topics that are relevant to current culture
- Exploring ministry with Hispanic people in the Muskegon area

We recognized that these are just some of many possible opportunities for cooperative ministry. Now we need your help. At our next meeting on September 1 at 7 PM at Our Savior's, we need two lay representatives from each Lutheran Church in

the Stony Lake Conference. If you are interested, let your pastor know. We also realize that in order to effectively work together, a person must be hired to organize, develop, create and bring what is now vision to fruition. We anticipate receiving some start-up dollars from our Synod. Therefore, on September 1st, we will seek to hire a Conference Coordinator who will get to know each congregation in our Conference, intentionally working to discern each Lutheran faith community's assets and understand what each community does well. This coordinator will then assist us to refine and implement our vision. If you are interested in this part-time position, contact Pastor John Grostic, 231/722-6565.



August 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist <b style="color: red;">Church Picnic	2	3	4	5 <b style="color: green;">NO Finance Committee	6	7 Men's Club 9 am
8 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist <i>Dominic, priest, founder of the order of the Dominicans, 1221</i>	9 <b style="color: green;">NO Congregation Council	10 <b style="color: green;">Parish Ed Committee 6:30 <b style="color: green;">Eve Circle 7 pm <i>Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258</i>	11	12	13 <i>Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society</i>	14
<b style="color: brown;">Pastor Dennis Vacation						
15 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Service of the Word MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, 1153</i>	21 <b style="color: green;">Worship & Music Committee 10 am
<b style="color: brown;">Pastor Dennis Vacation						
22 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Service of the Word <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"><b style="color: brown;">Pastor Dennis Vacation</div>	23 <b style="color: green;">Evangelism Committee	24 <b style="color: red;">Pastor returns from vacation ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	25	26	27	28 <i>Augustine, bishop of Hippo, 430 Moses the Black, monk, c. 400</i>
29 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist	30	31 <i>John Bunyan, teacher, 1688</i>	<b style="color: orange;">Pastor's 1st Annual Bike Outing Be on the lookout for information on Pastor's 1 st Annual Bike Outing. We are planning a bike ride to include anyone who would like to ride their bike, plus fellowship time at a meeting place for those who wish to visit but do not wish, or are unable, to ride.			

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Phone: 231.733.0603

Email: newsletter@dmlc.org

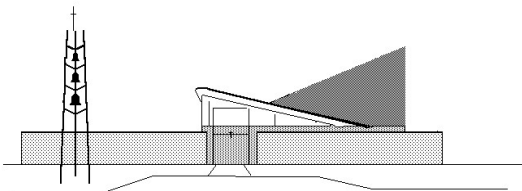
We're on the Web!
www.dmlc.org

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE Season
of
PENTECOST

August 2004



Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical
Lutheran Church

1860 East Hile Road
Muskegon, Michigan 49441

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