



The Messenger

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davis WV

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Pastor's Corner

*Why must you be such
an angry young man,
When your future looks
quite bright to me?*

*- Styx "Fooling
Yourself"*

It is often easy to become cynical in life, confronted as we are with the folly of humanity both within and without the church. I tend to get passionate in my writings here and in my sermons as a counter to that cynicism. I get angry, upset, rant and rave to some degree because I want the church to be more than it has become. Our God is a god of hope and has a vision of a future that is not dependent upon the frailty of humanity. There is no need to cave into our fears, our baser wants, or any of that, because God is and will always be in control.

Last month in this space, I argued that the church needs to get ahead of the times instead of behind them. My sermons of late have contained dire warnings about the hunger for wealth and power and all else that can divide us from our creator. All those things needed to be said, because when we fall into those traps, we are caving into our

own despair and fear. In many ways, it's like we're saying God can't really help us. We're on our own. Nothing could be further from the truth.

For this article, I want to take a different strategy to drive back this darkness. I want people to understand that while they may see things in this newsletter that are cause for concern, all is not lost. Yes, we passed a budget with an \$18,000 deficit at our congregational meeting last month. Yeah, attendance in worship is at its lowest since I've been here as Pastor. But if we look only at the darkness, we will miss the beauty of the stars in its midst.

So here's a few stars to remember.

One, our work in the community has never been greater. We have made our presence felt in the lives of people all over this mountaintop. The food pantry is expanding its operations with the donation of a new refrigerator along with the freezer they were given earlier this year. The Generations youth group, with its cafe at Thomas UM church, has at least a dozen kids every Friday, with St. John's members volunteering as hosts. Many of these kids are unchurched.

Pastor's Corner (continued)

Two, we are working more closely with our ecumenical partners, assisting in times of grief and joy together. I have assisted Pr. Jim with with ministering to two families who were losing loved ones and those funerals, and we have aided each other by visiting each others congregation members in the hospital when the other is unavailable. It's not just the pastors who have been doing this work of ministry either. We are closer with our brothers and sisters of other denominations now than ever before.

Three, our worship life is expanding further. Here I must confess my own lack of vision, for I never expected that we would chant the psalms in worship or have assistants up front with me. *Mea culpa*, my friends. The Spirit has moved among you and it was you who made these changes. Not me, not some edict from on high that made this stuff come about. This was all congregation.

Finally, the building is completed. This was no small task for a congregation of our size. All over the mountaintop, I hear word of how beautiful the church looks. In this month of Thanksgiving, there is much to be thankful for. Yes, there are still challenges ahead, but I believe we can tackle them from a position of strength, not weakness. For look at all that God has accomplished through us just from what I've listed above. He remains faithful, and with him, we can accomplish far more than just mere survival. We can thrive and make God's vision on this mountaintop a reality.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:13

God bless,
Pastor Allen

Building Information

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Building Fund Balance: | \$9,380.83 |
| Cost of Building Repairs: | \$105,207.64 |
| Amount of money borrowed: | \$72,500.00 |
| Donations to building fund received since January 1 st : | \$29,280.00 |

Please remember your pledge. We are now starting to pay off the loan so we can move on. Let's get this loan paid off (while still meeting general expenses)!!

Council Minutes October 14, 2009

Church Council met on October 14, 2009 in the Church Office. Present were members: Andy Dalton, Pastor Schwarz, Dick Adams, Don Gnegy, John Cooper, Martha Wolfe, Mary F. Good and Jack McGuigan.

Meeting was called to order by Council President Andy Dalton and opened with prayer by Pastor Allen.

Pastor presented monthly report concerning his activities in September. He visited in members homes as well a shut-ins. Community meetings and events were participated in and conducted funerals. Pastor was very busy during the month of September.

Jack McGuigan reported on current insurance coverage and is working on quotes from other sources. Will bring figures to the next meeting.

After lengthy discussion Jack presented figures for Financial Statement for 2010. Vote was taken and passed with Martha Wolfe abstaining. John and Andy will present F/S to the Congregation on Sunday.

Visionary committee was proposed and discussed. John Cooper volunteered to serve on said committee. Motion to initiate committee was made by John, seconded by Dick. Motion carried

Service Contract for copier is expiring. Said contract costs \$351.00 per year. Motion to renew contract was made by Andy Dalton, seconded by Don Gnegy and carried by unanimous vote

Council Minutes 10/14 (continued)

Pastor Allen is changing cell phones and all calls made to Church will be forwarded to his new phone number.

Motion by John Cooper seconded by Paster was unanimously passed for Council to write letter to Grant County Bank giving Mary F. Good permission to withdraw interest earned on \$45,000 CD and deposit into checking account.

Meeting adjourned by motion of Martha Wolfe, seconded by Dick Adams.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary F. Good

Annual Congregational Meeting

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church's Congregational Meeting was called to order on Sunday, October 19, 2009 by Council President Andy Dalton and opened with prayer by Pastor Allen.

With 30 members present a quorum was declared and the meeting was open for business. President Dalton thanked Bill Peterson for the sound system and all his hard work getting it operational. Sherman Jarrett was thanked for his work on council after fulfilling his 3 year term.

Reading of last years minutes was dispensed with by motion of Jack McGuigan, seconded by John Cooper.

Annual Congregational Meeting (continued)

Andy Dalton and Dick Adams were nominated for re-election and Amy Fiorini to fill the vacancy left by Sherman Jarrett. Motion by Jack McGuigan, seconded by Jackie Burns to close the nominations passed unanimously. Paper vote was taken and all members voted in favor.

After discussion of budget and questions answered Jack McGuigan moved for adoption of budget as presented. Don Gnegy seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned by motion of John Cooper, seconded by James Arnold.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Good

Financial Information

Endowment Totals

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ELCA Pooled Trust | \$241,438 |
| Thrivent Financial | \$10,365 (this is the fund we have been using to cover our deficits. As you can see, it is almost gone). |
| Mission Investment Fund | \$28,432 |
| Grant County Bank CD | \$45,668 |
| Grant County Bank CD | \$55,000 |
| Citizens National Bank | \$119,175 |
| | |
| Total | \$500,078 |

Our funds are doing better. In November of 2008 our investments were \$467,908. Since that time we have taken out \$15,000 and our investment value is over \$500,000.

Breakdown of Investment Income

| | ACTUAL 09/28/09 | Projected End of year | Council Proposed 2010 Interest income budget breakdown |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Citizen's National Bank</i> | \$4115 | \$5,487 | *\$5500 |
| <i>Grant County Bank CD Interest</i> | | | *\$1567 |
| <i>Grant County Bank CD Interest</i> | | \$1950. | *\$1950 |
| <i>ELCA Pooled Trust</i> | \$4,756 | \$6,341 | *\$6500 |
| <i>Mission Investment Fund (ELCA)</i> | \$2,476 | \$3,301 | *\$3750 |
| <i>Total</i> | | \$13,298 | \$19,267 |

*We are using this money to cover general expenses.

St. John's Lutheran Church Projected 2009 Figures and Proposed Budget 2010

| | <i>Receipts</i> | Projected End of Year 2009 | Council Proposed 2010 |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Members' Offering | \$39,621 | \$45,000 |
| | Loose Collections | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| | Interest TOTAL | \$17,242 | \$19,267 |
| | Park Ministry | \$1,816 | \$2,000 |
| | TOTAL Budgeted Income | \$62,776 | \$71,742 |

| | <i>Disbursements</i> | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Missions | WV Synod | \$7300 | \$7300 |
| Pastor | Salary | \$31,842 | \$31,842 |
| | Housing Allowance | \$13,000 | \$13,000 |
| | TOTAL Salary + HA | \$44,842 | \$44,842 |
| | Pension & Disability | \$4,525 | \$6,591 |
| | Health Insurance | \$5,688 | \$13,200 |
| | Pension & Ins Total | \$10,213 | \$19,791 |
| Prof Exp | Auto Allowance (2008 only) | n.a | n.a. |
| | Continuing ed | \$190 | \$500 |
| | Total Salary, HA, P&I & CE | \$55,135 | \$65,133 |
| | Subtotal Program | \$2,746 | \$3925 |
| | Subtotal Maintenance | \$14,254 | \$14,205 |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$79,435 | \$90,563 |
| | TOTAL INCOME | \$62,776 | \$71,742 |
| | NET | -\$16,659 | -\$18,821 |

A Note from Andy

As Pastor Allen mentioned in his Pastor's Corner, our financial situation is a cause for concern, but good things are also happening. Our membership is small which means it is hard to concentrate on more than one thing at a time. This year we have worked on getting the exterior of our building repaired - **and we have!!**

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This coming year, we will concentrate on increasing our membership. We have so much to offer, a welcoming congregation with strong messages. Our vision committee, chaired by John Cooper, will work to develop ideas to help us grow. Please, give your input!!

We have been running a deficit since 2006:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| 2006 | \$2,371 |
| 2007 | \$2,011 |
| 2008 | \$12,473 |
| 2009 (projected) | \$16,659 |

If you are not able to attend church (such as being on vacation), please remember that church expenses continue. Please do make your contributions. Thanks.

The article below was sent out by the WV-W MD Synod. I have never heard many of these recommendations from US general doctors, but after looking on the internet, many US holistic medicine doctors are recommending it. I guess it can't hurt. Thought I would pass it on.
Andy

Swine Flu Prevention

Prevent Swine Flu – Good Advice from Dr. Vinay Goyal, an MBBS,DRM,DNB (Intensivist and Thyroid specialist in India) having clinical experience of over 20 years.

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications) .
2. "Hands-off-the- face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat, bathe, etc.).
3. *Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt).. *H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
4. Similar to 3 above, *clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. *Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Neti (very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities), but *blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.*
5. *Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). *If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. *Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc) as you can. *Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

Announcements

Pastor away. Pastor will be gone over the weekend of November 6-8 and over the Thanksgiving holiday to visit with family.

Advent Devotions - The Blackwater Charge of the United Methodist church and St. John's are jointly putting together an Advent Devotional booklet. Slots are available for people to write a brief reflection on the topics of Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. These reflections will be compiled and given out to the congregations before Advent begins. If you would like to write a devotion, talk to Pastor Allen. Also, finished devotions are due by November 18.

Blackwater Ministerial Thanksgiving Meal - Each year, the Blackwater Ministerial Association sponsors a meal for needy and shut-ins throughout our community. St. Thomas Catholic Church hosts this meal and is always looking for volunteers to cook, serve, deliver, and otherwise help out.

Church Council meets November 18 at 6:00pm.

New locks, new keys, new doors. Much of the work on the doors and locks around the church is now finished. All have received new handles and knobs, with new locks and keys. If you are the possessor of a church key and would like a new one to replace it, please talk to Pastor Allen. Also, Pastor can now enter and egress his office from the side door and will be doing so in future. You are welcome to come by the office by this means as well if you have need to see him during his hours.

Psst! Pastor's birthday is November 30.

Looking Ahead

- **First Sunday of Advent - November 29**
- **Tucker Community Chorus - December 6**
- **Sunday School Christmas Program - December 20**
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - December 24**
- **Christmas Season Hymn Sing - December 27**

Prayer List

Please remember the following in your prayers.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nancy White | Virginia Lytton | Kenny Helmick | Renae Worden |
| Sharon Stavrakis | James Miller, Jr | Dick Wolfe, Jr. | Eloise Bachtel |
| Michelle | Bernettie Gnegy | Barbara Ruckle | Hun Arnold |
| Irene Ruslow | Dan Nascembeni | Shahan family | Fay Cooper |
| Doug Rumer | Michelle Webster | Ron Gordeak | Lisa Cousins |
| Paul Wamsley, Sr. | Youla Reynolds | Phyllis Friend | Bruce Stennett |
| Andrew Judy | Michael Adkins | Jeff Patterson | Melissa Herlan |
| Rev. Louise Knotts | Charlotte White | Fay Cooper | Robin Reynolds |
| Virginia Parsons | Jacob | Candy | Mitchell Cooper |
| Margret Smith | Cheryl Ball | Bob | Cindy |
| Brenda | Kristina | Derek | Linda |
| John & Bill Hubbard and their families | Freddie Jean Sauers | Nancy Leshar | Carroll Loebig |
| The Carr family | | | |

Help us keep this list up to date. If there are any on it who have received answers to their prayers, let Pastor Allen know. Likewise, if there are any whose names need to be on this list, also contact Pastor Allen.

November 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <i>All-Saints Communion</i> | | | PHMC/ Sermon Study 9:00am | | Youth café 7:00pm Pastor away | Pastor away |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Pastor Away | | BW Ministerial 11:30am | | | Youth café 7:00pm | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | | | Council 6:00pm | | Youth café 7:00pm | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <i>Christ the King Communion</i> | | | Pastor away | Thanks- giving Meal @ St. Thomas Pastor away | Pastor away | Pastor away |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| <i>1st Advent</i> | | | | | | |