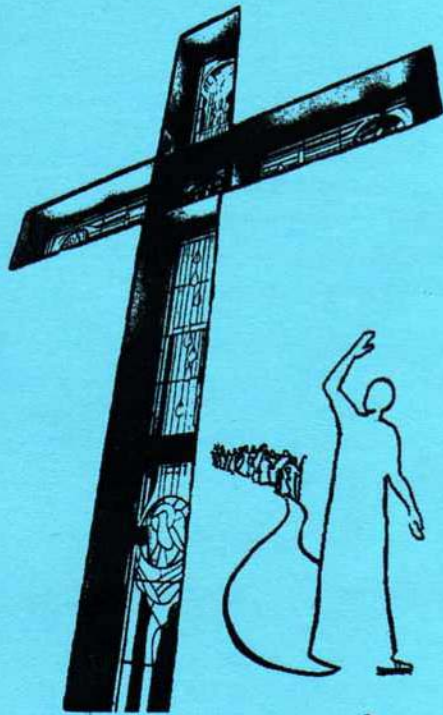


The Voice of Galilee

JANUARY 2009



*But after I am raised up,
I will go before you to Galilee.*

Mark 14:28

Mission Statement

To gather people together to hear the story of God's love in Jesus Christ,
to be nurtured in faith and knowledge, and
to share the Good News through word and deed.

Pastor's Corner January 2009

By the time you receive this month's newsletter, it will be on or about New Year's Day. This is the time of year when we read those articles in newspapers and magazines in which we find lists of the ten most significant news stories in the past year, or the ten best and worst movies, or some other ranking of things that happen along life's way.

As we start the New Year, we have a wonderful opportunity to do our own reflection on the old year just ended and the new year just beginning. I have the practice of making a list at each year-end of the most meaningful things that have happened to me or to others over the past year. Along with that, I have the habit of reflecting on my goals for the past year—did I achieve them? If not, what stood in the way? And what goals do I set for the new year?

Furthermore, I recommend that you set your priorities for the new year in line with your goals. It is very instructive to flip through your calendar and assess what priorities you have actually given to your time in the past year. By the same token, it is equally revealing to go through your checkbook and analyze what working priorities you have given to your money. I sincerely hope and pray that your faith and your church are ranked high in your priorities. And while faith is a spiritual enterprise, how we use our time and money is a sign of how high a priority we give to our faith and our church.

If you would like to share with me your struggles in setting those priorities, I would be delighted to have that conversation. At the end of the day, those struggles have a big spiritual component, and I would be glad to help you think through all of that. In the meantime, have a most blessed New Year!

See you in church.

Pastor Ralph

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Worship is an encounter with the living Christ...Jesus invites you to "come."

We come to offer our worship to God

January 4 Second Sunday of Christmas

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

January 11 Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

A time to grow in your journey of faith.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:45 a.m. for children and youth ages 3 through 18.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM – Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

January 4 *Vibe-Urban Youth Ministry* – led by Justin Dittrich

January 11 *"China Service Ventures" a Lutheran group working in China* – led by Rev. Paul Ofstedal

January 18 *Guatemala Campaign Synod Task Force* – led by Tom Lee

January 25 **No Forum** – Annual Meeting

BIBLE STUDY - Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

The texts for the coming Sunday will be the focus of each week's study. Bring a bag lunch.

EARLY BIRD BOOK STUDY – Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Good Earth Restaurant in Roseville. We will read and discuss *Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to Be Church Again* by Kelly Fryer.

Are you interested in the Early Bird Book Study? Starting on Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 a.m., there will be a book study during breakfast at the Good Earth in Roseville. We will read and discuss *Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to Be Church Again* by Kelly Fryer. Here is the publisher's description of the book: "God is up to something! God is on a mission to save and bless the world, and God calls the church to be part of this mission. That means getting focused, setting people free, taking action, expecting surprises, and being hopeful. A church on God's mission isn't a building or a building plus a pastor. It's people -- people who carry out God's mission in the world. Building on her bestselling book, *Reclaiming the "L" Word*, Kelly A. Fryer gives practical advice on how to transform our idea of church and what that means for our lives as Christians."

There are eight short chapters in the book, and each is followed by a very few questions for discussion and thought. We will discuss one chapter each week, ending on Ash Wednesday, February 25. Please talk to Jo Ann French or Miriam Peterson if you would like to join the group!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you to all of you for listening to my story of Tanzania. I am very grateful that I had an opportunity to visit the country and our companion congregation in Uhominyi. What wonderful lessons in faith, hospitality and stewardship I learned there. I hope that one day others of you will also be able to do the same. With promises of many people, I believe that in 2009 we will be supporting 15 students rather than the 8 we currently support. Thank you! These young people will have a better life because of you. The cost is \$350 per year to support a student in boarding school.

The Nominating Committee will begin meeting to find people to serve on the Council for the next three years. Jay Fehrman is chairing the group. If you feel that God is calling you to be on the Council, please talk to Jay or to me. If we speak to you, please prayerfully consider the possibility. The Annual Meeting of Galilee will be on Sunday, January 25. The Annual Report will come out the week before, which means that we need all articles into the office by January 10.

Pastor Ralph is doing well meeting people 1:1 and also in house meetings. We appreciate the ideas and concerns that you are sharing. It is wonderful to have our pastor in place and feel that Galilee is ready to continue in its mission. Thank you, Pastor Ralph, for all that you are doing.

Thanks also to everyone who made November 9 such a special day at Galilee. Sue Nelson led the stewardship drive. June Wendt and Christena Watson were in charge of the brunch. Annette Haukebo guided the preparation of the spaghetti dinner while Gloria Johnson prepared the desserts. Then a special thanks to Jo Ann French and the choir for all of their work to present Psalms Alive! 2. Many others also worked very hard. Thank you, one and all.

During this Advent season, may we prepare for the coming of Christ. Sometimes during difficult economic times, we realize what is truly important. The gifts that we give each other are not nearly as important as the gift God gave to us—His Son. May we concentrate on this message and see the difference it can make in our lives.

Miriam Peterson

ANNUAL MEETING

The Galilee Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, 2009 following the worship service.

A copy of the Annual Report will be set out in the narthex on Sunday, January 18 so that you will have time to go over it before the meeting.

Please bring your report and questions to the meeting.

OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Team will continue to collect nonperishable food items, toiletries, laundry supplies, and paper products. Donations will be accepted on any day. Place your donations in the "Little Red Wagon", which is located in the narthex.

Donations will be delivered monthly to Keystone Community Services (near Rice Street and Arlington Avenue) in St. Paul.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

To date we have received a total of 40 "Plan for Giving" cards totaling \$123,388 (This is the amount that will be used for budgeting in 2009). If you have not yet turned in your Plan for Giving Card, it is not too late! Please mail your card to the church or place it in the offering at your earliest convenience.

All of our life is a gift from God and our willingness and eagerness to give generously to the work of the church from all that he has given us is truly an expression of our faith and is pleasing to God. Blessings to you for your generous support of God's work through the ministries of Galilee

PROJECT HOME SUMMARY

The Project Home Team would like to thank each and every volunteer who stepped forward and gave of their time this year to help us welcome the homeless families.

We started out with a pretty full house and stayed that way for most of the month. We were within one to three people of being at full capacity of twenty each night.

During this busy season we had to juggle housing families with a Craft and Bake Sale, a death in our congregation and decorating Galilee for Christmas. All things were accomplished successfully.

A special thank you goes out to Jim Zrust, who happily came up every night to open up the church for Project Home staff, volunteers and families. Thank you to Peace United Methodist and Roseville Baptist for their volunteering. Thank you to the Project Home Team for their hard work in coordinating and making the necessary phone calls: Cindy Einertson, Mary Lanoux, Edith Londroche, June Wendt and Jim Zrust.

The Needy

I have more food than I can eat
They faint with hunger in the streets.
I have more clothes than I can wear
Their heads, hands, and feet are bare.
My walls are thick, and warm, and dry
Their walls are rain, and wind, and sky.
My heart knows love of noble souls
Their hearts are hungry, thirsty bowls.
These things let me remember when
Cries of the needy rise again.

Alice Perrin Hensey

GLOW

The **GLOW** program has been canceled for the time being due to the lack of volunteers needed to run it. There is the possibility that it could resume in the future. Check future Newsletters for information on this program.

GLOBAL MISSION

Offering collected as of 12/21/08 - \$299.77

The Children & Youth Education Team has chosen to help support the needs of the Karen community. The Global Offering June 1 – January 31 will be given to the fund that helps new Karen refugees get established. You can either put an offering in the Globe, which is set out during the offering each Sunday, or you may put your offering in the offering plate and mark it "Global Mission".

GALILEE CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

The Galilee Craft and Bake Sale was a huge success! \$1,787.85 was raised from the craft and bake sale items that were donated. In addition, \$500.00 in matching funds will be received from Thrivent to supplement the proceeds from the sale. \$143.00 was collected from the sale of the Tanzanian baskets to help support students from our companion congregation in Uhominyi.

Thanks to all the crafters and bakers who put in many hours to make the sale a success and to those who purchased the fruits of their labor.

GALILEE COOKBOOKS

There are still copies of the Galilee Cookbook for sale at \$10 each. They are filled with yummy recipes of all kinds, and are great gifts too. Call Jo Ann French (651) 642-1641 or the Church Office at (651) 488-6769 if you would like to purchase a copy.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to thank the Pastor and members of Galilee Lutheran Church for the prayers and support given during our sister/auntie's illness and funeral ceremony in Liberia.

She would not have had a nice funeral as it happened on December 13, 2008. Thank you again for your spiritual and financial support.

We hope that we all continue to pray for one another as one body in Christ.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Abe Watson and Children*

DOG IN NEED OF A GOOD HOME

Pepper, an eight-year-old black lab, needs a good loving home. Her family is moving to an apartment and cannot take her with. She is trained and good with children. She enjoys going for walks and thoroughly loves being brushed. If you are interested in giving Pepper a good home, please give Sharell Babin a call at (651) 489-8621.

Check the Galilee website for current events and updates to the VOICE newsletter at www.galileelutheran.net.

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