

**STS. PETER AND PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
  - A. Devotions
  - B. Quorum Determination
  
- 2. ROUTINE MATTERS**
  - A. Approval of Minutes (1/24/10)
  - B. Additions to Agenda
  
- 3. PASTOR'S REPORT** - Pastor Dennis J. Lauritsen
  
- 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - Paul O. Watkiss
  
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT** - William R. Boor
  
- 6. COMMITTEE/ORGANIZATION REPORTS**
  - A. Standing/Special**
    1. Christian Education
      - a. Sunday School - Sheryl L. Hallmann
      - b. Preschool - Donna J. Tuider
    2. Maintenance - James D. Boyanchek
    3. Missions and Outreach - Ramona A. Suffern
    4. Finance - John K. Kostelny
      - a. Budget
    5. Worship and Music - Charles R. Matthies
      - a. Parish Musician - David B. Richards
    6. Social Ministry - Nicholas Sasuta
    7. Nominating - Paul Watkiss
    8. Community Life (CLC) - Marty/Ann Pennino
    9. Staff Support/Mutual Ministry - Gary Drahos
    10. Long Range Planning - Jan A. Hapgood
  - B. Organizations**
    1. Ladies' Altar Guild - Vera Borysek
    2. Dorcas Society - Emily Kostelancik
  
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  
- 8. OLD BUSINESS**

- A.
- B.
- C.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Forums to Discuss Slovak Zion Synod
- B.
- C.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**The Blessing of Being**  
**An Annual Pastoral Letter to the Congregation**  
**at Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Riverside**  
**from Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor**  
**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-42, ESV).*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"To the church of God that is [at Sts. Peter and Paul], to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy ones together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:2; paraphrase).

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?" asks the prophet Micah in our stead today, ". . . He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:6, 8).

There once was a young rabbi who discovered that he had a serious problem in his new congregation shortly after his arrival. During the Friday evening *Shabbat* service, he noticed that about half the congregation stood for the prayers and about half remained seated. And he was alarmed when each side began shouting at the other, insisting that theirs was the right *tradition* for prayer. It seemed that there was nothing, absolutely nothing, that the young rabbi could say or do that would resolve the conflict in this his very first congregation. Finally, in desperation, the rabbi sought out the 99-year-old founder of the synagogue who, by this time, was living in a nursing home. There, at the aged rabbi's bedside, the younger man poured out his troubled soul.

"So, tell me," he pleaded with the older rabbi, "was it the tradition for the congregation to *stand* during the prayers?"

"Oh, no," came the answer from the old rabbi, "that was *not* the tradition."

"I see," responded the younger man, "then it was the tradition to *sit* during the prayers?"

"No, no," answered the old rabbi again, "it was *not* the tradition to sit during the prayers."

"Well," the young rabbi responded, "what we have in the congregation these days is complete chaos! Half the people stand and shout, and the other half sit and scream."

“Oh, yes,” remembered the old rabbi, “yes, *that* was the tradition.”

Neither are we always so sure at Sts. Peter and Paul just exactly what is our tradition, having come to this congregation from many and very diverse traditions, including, but not limited to, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Evangelical, Methodist, Orthodox, Episcopalian, Covenant, Pentecostal churches; and many who have come from little or no religious tradition at all. We have come here from all sorts of religious and cultural, ethnic and economic, social and generational backgrounds, who often have little experience and less understanding of each others’ traditions. We are a motley crew, if truth be told, who would never be caught dead together on a Saturday night, but who have been caught alive together in the broad fishing net of “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.” And thanks be to God that, among our many traditions, we do not number standing and shouting, or sitting and screaming at each other, not even at monthly Council meetings.

Tradition! Whether you like it or not, whether you are willing to admit it or not, given enough time, we all have our traditions that we love and to which we cling. Just think for a moment about the traditions—the songs, the candles, the food, the lights, the gatherings, the decorations—that you associate with Christmas just past. If you forget to sing a hymn, or change the hour of opening the gifts, or decide to dress differently for the liturgy, or leave out a special dish from the Christmas Eve meal, well, you can expect to hear about it.

Tradition! Remember Tevye from *Fiddler on the Roof*? . . . No? “A fiddler on the roof,” Tevye ponders, “Sounds crazy, no? But here, in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck. . . . It isn't easy. You may ask 'Why do we stay up there if it's so dangerous?' Well, we stay because Anatevka is our home. And how do we keep our balance?” Tevye asks the audience, “That I can tell you in one word: *Tradition!* Without our traditions our lives would be as shaky as . . . as shaky as a fiddler on the roof!”

We middle-aged Americans, those of us who were raised in the church during the 1960s and 70s

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on folk masses, accompanied by acoustic guitars, and forever singing “Kumbayah,” are rather unlikely to agree with Tevye that *tradition* is what keeps us from tumbling off the roof. After all, we in our young American culture were labeled decades ago by our elder European cousins as “neophyles,” that is, people with a fetish for anything that is new. I am reminded of the passage in the Acts of the Apostles, recounting the day when the Apostle Paul preached at the Areopagus in Athens where Luke tells us, “Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new” (Acts 17:19, 22). Tradition is old, we mid-lifers think, we like new; though much younger people, generations after us, are actually said to be attracted, even fascinated, by tradition as it is expressed in the liturgies of the Orthodox and Anglican Churches, even the Tridentine Latin masses of the Roman Catholic Church. (We have some parents and grandparents in the congregation who can affirm this.)

As many of you know, we in the church have just concluded another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Some of our congregations in Riverside and North Riverside observed this week by getting better acquainted with the *traditions* of our various denominations by participating in a pulpit and table exchange last Sunday. As you may know, this particular week begins every year on the Confession of St. Peter (January 18<sup>th</sup>) and ends on the Conversion (or Call) of St. Paul (January 25<sup>th</sup>). Traditionally, St. Peter has represented the apostolic mission to the Jewish people and St. Paul the mission to the gentiles (i.e., nations). And we are very blessed to be part of a congregation that bears the names of these two premier apostles, reminding us of the gospel mission to “the ends of the earth” and the fullness of time.

While Pastor Jansen from the Presbyterian Church was with you, I had the privilege of worshiping with our brothers and sisters at the Methodist Church, just a few steps down Woodside, where about a dozen of us gathered in the Tope Room, very similar to our Friendship Room. There we worshiped beneath a carved, wooden cross and a portrait of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Most of us sat on comfy couches and overstuffed chairs while a blaze arose from the fireplace and the sound of those heart-warming, Wesleyan hymns filled the room. I’m thinking this description should be enough to send most of you off to the Methodists next Sunday to get yourselves warmed up.

To observe a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is also to recognize the reality that often we are anything but one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. In fact, the reality of the church often appears as one of unholy divisions, even within our own denominations, especially we American Lutherans, as we sing in the hymn about the church, “sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed.” And yet, the church remains, always on the move, a means of the holy gospel, a divine creation of God through the Holy Spirit of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus.

It occurred to me, preaching in front of that fireplace, that maybe the more important question is

not really *how* we worship, whether we stand and shout, or sit and scream; whether we sing Lutheran chorales or use lots of incense; whether the hymns are accompanied by a sixty-rank pipe organ or by a set of simple bongos; whether prayers of intercession are spontaneous or prepared ahead of time.

We all have our traditions that we prize, and we ought to share them, enjoy them, receive them, affirm them, learn from them, and have our lives enriched by the power of the Holy Spirit speaking through all these wonderful, diverse traditions. One of the beauties of this congregation (one that I experience anyway), is the abundant sharing of talents, gifts and traditions that people who are new to the congregation have been so willing to take the risk to share, and then to have these received by others.

However, I thought last Sunday, maybe the more important question is not necessarily *how* we worship but rather *why* we worship at all. I think part of the answer to the question “why worship?”

*The chimes are a public call to worship, a call to be at prayer with the gathered people of God, and a sign of our own tolling hearts as we are sent to summon others into the great fishing net of God’s love in Jesus.*

lies within one of the words we use for worship, that is, “liturgy” (from the Greek, *leiturgia*) which can be translated literally as the “service of the people” or, more simply, “public service.” Sometimes I like to call liturgy “worship as witness,” done for the benefit, not of a single congregation, but for the benefit of the public, the *publicus*, the people. Liturgy is not a club meeting or gathering of like-minded friends. This is why we toll the bells at hours of worship, not just to

grab the attention of those of us inside the church, but to announce to the public, surrounding us in our communities, that it is also time for them to worship either here at the corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and DesPlaines in Riverside or with another congregation. The chimes are a public call to worship, a call to be at prayer with the gathered people of God, and a sign of our own tolling hearts as we are sent to summon others into the great fishing net of God’s love in Jesus.

Recently I had the opportunity to greet a woman who was worshipping here for the first time. She thanked me profusely for the warm welcome she had received from the congregation and for what had been a very meaningful worship experience for her, even on a low, cold Sunday in January when everybody was away from church getting ready for a Bears game at noon. Then she said, “You know, I’ve just recently moved into the neighborhood with my daughter, and I just love hearing the chimes from this church at noon and in the evening. I haven’t been to church in a long, long time,” she explained, “but when I heard the church bells, I just felt that they were calling me back to the Lord.” Sometimes, you know, it’s the things you are hardly aware of that can draw others to Jesus—just the sound of the chimes that most of you never hear.

Worship as witness, I've noticed, naturally happens during the summer months when our congregation worships outdoors where we are among the people, where the public better understands that worship is for their benefit, whether they walk across the street to sing with us, or simply listen to the Word from a patio recliner, or moan about the "noise" from under the covers. It would seem right, then, that we need to pray more frequently in such public spaces as did Paul when he preached in the *agoras* (the marketplaces) and Areopagus (the place of debates) in ancient Athens (cf., Acts 15).

I learned recently that the English word for "worship" comes from the older word "woerthscripe" which means "to ascribe worth." In the liturgy what humans hold valuable is revealed. When you come to church, when you are attentive to the Word, when you receive the Lord's Supper, when you sing the hymns, when you meditate quietly, when you pray the prayers, when you do all these things, you are saying that this is what is valuable and worthwhile for you. And when this does not happen, you are saying to me, your pastor, who has been charged with the stewardship of these things, and to your congregation, that worship and the rest of us have little or no worth or value for you.

You see, worship does not attempt to cultivate and shape God but to cultivate and shape the congregation and the world in which the congregation lives. "You turn things upside down!" remarks the prophet Isaiah, "Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, 'He did not make me'; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, 'He has no understanding'?" (Isaiah 29:16).

The good of worship is to be done, not to God but to humans, in that words of life and death and resurrection to eternal life will be said to us. What serves life is communicated to human beings in the liturgy. This is God's favor toward human beings. In a word, worship is not doing; worship is being. And what happens on Sunday morning is not just another thing to do on our long list of things that we think have to be done. What happens on Sunday morning, if we will allow for it to happen, is the opportunity to receive the *blessing of being* with the Lord and his people. Simply put, God wants to have a word with us. God wants to talk to us. The question for me is, Are we willing just *to be*? Are we willing *to be here* as clay in the hands of "the Potter who forms us?"

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Many of us are willing to be here, for a part of the public service anyway, but only if “I have something *to do*,” like serve as a greeter, read the lessons, attend a meeting, sing in the choir, or remember a departed loved one in the prayer of the church. But here’s my question again, Why not be here to receive the *blessing of being*? Why not be here to be shaped in the hands of “the Potter who forms us?” Don’t you already have enough to do?

A sentence from Martin Luther’s sermon at the dedication of the castle church in Torgau in October 1544 says plainly that the new church should be so used “that nothing else may ever happen in it except that our dear Lord himself may speak to us through his holy Word and we respond to him through prayer and praise.” In worship, the faithful encounter God: they have conversation face-to-face.

I am told that many churches in Central and Eastern Europe are constructed with only a sanctuary—no social halls, no dining rooms, no gyms, no Friendship Rooms, no offices, not even restrooms. The only thing you do when you come to church is be—be in the presence of the triune God, to hear the Word, to receive the sacraments, to pray and to praise. When you come to church you are to be—to be at worship. No business. No meetings. No money counting. No gossip at coffee hour. No fixing things. There is literally no room in these churches for anything but the blessing of being.

It follows from what I have said thus far that the challenge for all Christian churches is to offer a living experience of the Lord Jesus here in the present instead of the generic religious experience of various culture-oriented understandings of spirituality such as are rampant among the generic, so-called community churches. Christian worship is not generically “spiritual” but ought to bring one in contact with Jesus and his Spirit. So, liturgical action is the interruption of all action so that the passive righteousness of humans before God becomes dominant. In the liturgy, the human crosses the boundary from doing to being, leading us out of the kingdom of results into the kingdom of freedom where being comes before action. In salutation and greeting, in words and music, in symbols and sacraments, even in the parish announcements and the offering we speak with God and God with us. Thus worship is different from all the other activities of the congregation (care of souls, education, nurture, stewardship, fellowship, administration, charitable service, missions and outreach). The dialogue with God, the prayerful attitude, the congregation at worship, stand at the forefront of it

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all. (Here I am indebted to Michael Meyer-Blanck for his fine article entitled, “The Active Passivity of Faith, Art, and Liturgy” which appeared in the Winter 2009 edition of *The Lutheran Forum*.) As I have said in previous years, if the Word is leading, everything else will follow, including programs, ministries, organizations, budgets, offerings, events, etc., all of which are really no more than servants of the gospel, and there they should remain. “And where is the Church?” the Lutheran reformers were asked. They wrote, “The Church is the congregation of saints wherein the Word is taught in its purity and the sacraments administered rightly” (Augsburg Confession, Article 7).

It is here at worship, during Sabbath rest, that the human crosses *the boundary from doing to being*, leading us out of *the kingdom of results into the kingdom of freedom*. So much of the church, especially annual meetings like the one today, is focused on results. How many programs? How many new members? How much money? How much are we *doing*? But here, in the church, the *blessing of being* comes before the *blessing of doing*. Prayer comes before labor. We Lutherans ought to know by now that “we hold that one is justified by faith [being] apart from works of the law [doing]” (Romans 3:28). This is the heart of so much of St. Paul’s correspondence and the source of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation.

Some of you know that often when I have a vacation Sunday and our family is in town, we worship at the Episcopal (Anglo-Roman) Church here in Riverside near Central School. When we have attended during the summer months, there are usually no more than thirty or forty people. The

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sanctuary is small and welcoming, and after several visits, we have not heard the Rector preach. But we go to St. Paul Church because there is a prayerful attitude in the foreground. One is aware of the tremendous mystery (*mysterium tremendum*) of the Almighty God. The congregation gathers in silence. Incense fills the room with the smell of prayer. Great care and preparation is given by the ministers to the liturgy. Musicians serve to assist the congregation in singing the hymns. One has a sense of the mystical body of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. I experience

this as the blessing of being—being in worship.

When I look at the Annual Report of the Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul, I recognize that we have abundantly received the *blessing of doing*. We have heeded the Lord’s words to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in

heaven” (Matthew 5:16). We have accepted the challenge of the Letter to the Hebrews which asks that we “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24). I am deeply grateful that the Holy Spirit through this congregation has been “stirring [us] up to love and good works.” “For we are his workmanship,” says Ephesians, “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Similarly, First Timothy reminds us that “[We] are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (6:18). We as a congregation have welcomed and are receiving the blessing of doing.

I hope and pray for this congregation that we also will welcome and receive the blessing of being with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in worship, study, meditation, prayer, conversation, and reaching others with the saving gospel of Jesus. I think this is what Jesus was getting at when he went to share a meal at the home of Martha and Mary. Remember, Mary sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. She received the blessing of being while “Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to serve alone?’ . . . But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:38-42). There is the blessing of doing. There is the greater blessing of being.

The Book of Acts says about the early church, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). In the Beatitudes, Jesus does not say that those who “do” are blessed, but those who simply “are.” “Blessed are the poor in spirit . . . Blessed are those who mourn . . . Blessed are the meek . . . Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. . . Blessed are the merciful. . . Blessed are the pure in heart. . . Blessed are the peacemakers. . . Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. . .” (Matthew 5:2-11).

*As a congregation, maybe the first question we need to ask on this day of our annual meeting is not what more we need to do for Jesus’ sake but how we need more to be with Jesus.*

As a congregation, maybe the first question we need to ask on this day of our annual meeting is not what more we need to do for Jesus’ sake but how we need more to be with Jesus—in being present at worship to listen to what God has to say to us and gladly to receive that Word; in being grateful and interceding in our prayers; in reading and studying the Scriptures in conversation with others; in being fully present for the mutual consolation of each other in the fellowship; in being near to the Lord’s

presence in “the breaking of the bread” and the pouring of the cup in the Holy Communion; in being present to our bishop, synod and denomination as partners in the mission of the church that reaches beyond the congregation; in being present to our children and young people to assist with the formation and nurture of their faith.

This is liturgy. This is worship (*woerthscripe*). This is genuine public service. This is coming to know our Lord and the language of faith in order that we may more fully give witness to him and call others into relationship with him. I suppose this is why Martin Luther liked to say that “the church is not a fortress of the perfect but a hospital for sinners,” echoing the very words of Jesus: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” So, we heard last Sunday that “large crowds” began to follow Jesus, people “who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, the epileptics and the paralytics,” people walking in darkness who were longing for the light, people longing for radical change in their lives. Surely, you must know people like these. “I have come,” Jesus announces, “I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. . . I have come to call them.” By his own goodness and mercy he calls us and gathers us with those who hear the chimes ringing from this church and who may also hear the chimes ringing from our hearts.

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? . . . He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:6, 8)?” I am

Your brother in Christ,  
Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor

**Annual Report of Pastoral Rites and Statistics  
to the Congregation of Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church  
submitted by Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Official Pastoral Rites, January 1 — December 31, 2010**

**Baptisms (3)**

Henry Lawrence Quest (November 21)  
Jason Edward Kowalewicz (November 28)  
Cynthia Ann Valuch (December 26)

**Burials (7)**

Mary Maytan (January 23)  
John Skaritka (March 6)  
Paul Adler (March 11)  
Sue Stepanovic (March 12)  
Deanna Oklepek (April 10)  
Joseph Kompanik (June 3)  
Juan Cobrda (July 9)

**Newly Registered Members (7), Day of Pentecost, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

Keith Altavilla, affirmation of baptism  
Leslie Byrne and children, Jessica, Donovan and Nathan, renewal of membership  
Dale Hawes, affirmation of baptism  
Ann Head, membership transfer from First Christian Church, Downers Grove

**Marriages (3)**

Catherine Dziejciec and George Pagurko (May 15)  
Gandy Garcia and Peter Drahos (September 18)  
Raeann Bagato and Daniel Dlhy (October 30)

**Confirmations (7), All Saints Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Carrie Boike  
Jake Collins  
Staci Dabrowski  
Katherine Melnyk  
Kristian Kubo  
Karin Kubo  
Nina Ritacco

**Members Transferred to other Congregation (4)**

Ron and Mary Mular and children, Raymond and Michael, to Faith Lutheran Church, Brookfield.

**Summary of Official Pastoral Rites 2010:**

Baptisms: **3**

Baptized Members Received through Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism and Transfer: **10**

Burials: **7**

Transfers of Baptized Members to other Congregations: **4**

Baptized Members Removed from Membership through Burial: **4**

Baptized Members Removed from Membership by Statistical Adjustment: **0**

Marriage Rites: **3**

Confirmations: **7**

Current Baptized Membership: **≈381**

Sunday Worship Attendance 2010: **118**

Sunday Worship Attendance 2009: **110**

**Cumulative Pastoral Rites, January 1, 2001 — January 1, 2011**

Baptismal Rites: **51**

Burial Rites: **137**

Confirmation Rites: **27**

Marriage Rites: **33**

Members Received through Affirmation of Baptism or Transfer to the Congregation: **120**

Members Transferred to other Congregations: **35**

**Ministry Summary and Highlights**  
**submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
**of Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Riverside**  
**by Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor**  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*The Year 2010 in Review*

On Wednesdays during the season of Lent, the congregation offers Evening Prayer using the *Holden Vespers* setting, preceded by suppers, and followed by small group studies. Last year, the offerings received through the discipline of Lenten almsgiving benefitted Lutheran World Relief and the Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund of the congregation.

Several members of the congregation again volunteered their time and resources preparing meals for the B.E.D.S. emergency shelter program in neighboring LaGrange congregations during the winter season.

The Annual Mission Dinner in the spring, hosted by the Missions and Outreach Committee, benefitted the St. Thomas Hospice youth program in LaGrange, the young persons from the congregation who traveled on the Appalachian Service Project in August, and the youth group of the congregation.

The pastor and members of Sts. Peter and Paul participate yearly in the Riverside Memorial Day Program.

This year we sponsored five high school students on the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) in Tennessee during the first week of August. We also recognized several 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, college and professional school graduates on a Sunday in June.

The congregation again sponsored a church softball team during the summer months that participates in a west suburban Lutheran athletic league.

We held outdoor worship services in July and then in September to coincide with the opening of the educational year and the annual congregational picnic. These seem to be very effective means of outreach, and we hope to add more of these types of services during the summer months in the years ahead.

This year we are offering Sunday school classes for ages three through high school. The high school class is new this year in the form of a Christian drama group using the assigned lectionary texts. Together with this class, a youth group of jr. high and high school students meets occasionally for service projects. The youth room was redecorated with a mural designed by the kids which was dedicated in June.

Some of the highlights of the Sunday school year are the Christmas pageant, the children's and junior choir anthems, and the Thanksgiving and Easter breakfasts.

The preschool is in its 13<sup>th</sup> year with a curtailed schedule due to lower enrollment during the past three

years. A preschool advisory group spent several months meeting to review the program and make recommendations for the future. Based on current enrollment, registration for the coming year appears optimistic. We are currently in the process of organizing a Christian Education Committee which would provide support for the congregational faith formation and nurture programs.

Sts. Peter and Paul hosted Vacation Bible School for the Covenant of Churches program during the third week in July which brought together scores of children, families and leaders from the surrounding communities.

We continue to use the online confirmation curriculum “Here We Stand” with lay leaders meeting with the classes on Sunday mornings as part of the Sunday school educational program. The Rite of Affirmation of Baptism was celebrated for seven confirmands on All Saints Sunday, November 7.

The congregation continues to provide financial and prayer support for missionaries at the international congregation in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Dorcas Society again held its Annual Craft and Pantry Fair, an event that draws several hundred people every year, on Saturday, October 9. It is the single most successful fund-raiser and community gathering event of the congregation.

Several members again participated in the local CROP Walk sponsored by the Riverside Covenant of Churches in October which benefits Church World Service globally and locally. Members of the Covenant continue to gather monthly on Wednesdays for midweek prayers for peace as well as a number of other worship and community service projects throughout the year.

We continued to host the Young Musicians of Riverside Program at the church which presents several recitals each year for students and their families from surrounding communities.

The congregational leadership continues to find ways of increasing space-sharing with local and area organizations and groups.

The Community Life Committee of the congregation ambitiously hosts many social events throughout the year which promote fellowship and fun in the congregation as well as financial support.

The Thanksgiving Day offering benefits the Greater Chicago Food Depository in its efforts to alleviate hunger in the metropolitan area.

The Ladies Altar Guild continues to host its annual *Stedry Vecher* in December for well over a hundred guests from various congregations and organizations in the metropolitan area. The dinner was held again on December 9 to which all of the conference and neighboring pastors and spouses were invited as guests. The Altar Guild annually hosts a birthday luncheon for members and friends in June. Together with matching funds from the National Slovak Society, both events provide financial support for the ministries of the congregation.

For many years the congregation has annually received gifts and monetary donations for the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois program to benefit dozens of needy children at Christmas.

For the past couple years, a vespers service is held on the afternoon of the Third Sunday in Advent followed by a holiday reception.

The Christmas pageant this year, as in previous years, was an outstanding production combining the inter-generational dramatic, artistic and musical talents of many children, young persons and adults in the congregation.

The Christmas Eve communion and candlelight service was filled with the beauty of a cantata of carols led by singers and instrumentalists of the congregation.

We continue to use a blend of instrumentation and musical styles in worship while being faithful to the traditional liturgy. We have also made more use of dramatic readings and presentations in worship with children, young persons and adults.

The congregational website has been redesigned and expanded in its use. Since we began using a site monitor in mid-October, over 2,000 visits to the website have been recorded.

During the past year the congregation and pastor participated in the funerals of retired pastors of the Synod, Rudolf Shintay and Juan Cobrda.

—*DJL*

**Council President's Report for 2010**  
**Submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

To begin, I would like to thank each and every member of this church and their families. We cannot function as a congregation without active support from all of the membership. I would also like to personally thank all those involved with Council, committees, Sunday School, preschool, cooking for all of the occasions celebrated throughout the year and maintenance of the church. Your work on behalf of the church is greatly appreciated. Such willingness to bring your talents to aid in the mission of this church is a credit to you as a Christian and does not go unnoticed.

In reflecting on 2010, I note that one of the highlights of the year was Sts. Peter & Paul hosting the Covenant of Churches Vacation Bible School. This event was well organized and well attended. We were also blessed with perfect weather. It was clear to me that all of the participants benefited from this program. It was also a wonderful opportunity to be able to show off and share the use of our facilities. We have a terrific venue both inside and out.

Speaking of outside, I have always looked forward to our outdoor services. I think that there is a strong positive impact on the community to see us in worship. It sets a great example. As a member of the church of Christ, you occupy the place of which Jesus spoke when he said, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." We need to be visible in the community. What better way than to be outside in the open for all to see! I am hopeful that in the future some type of outdoor venue on the south side of the church can be constructed.

Finally, in closing I would like to note that it has been my honor and privilege to serve you as president of the Congregational Council since 2007. I have been a member of Council since 2005 and it has been a wonderful experience for me. I have truly enjoyed the experience. It is my hope for the future that this church will continue to reach out into the community and grow.

May God continue to bless us all.

Your brother in Christ,

Paul O. Watkiss  
Council President, Sts. Peter & Paul

**Sts Peter and Paul Church**  
**2010 Annual Report For Sunday School**

Our Sunday school continues to grow in love, hope and faith in Jesus Christ. We currently have 12 children in Sunday school and 4 youths in our confirmation class.

Our Sunday school teachers are:

1. Jane Lauritsen- Junior Choir
2. Kristine Boike-Children's Choir
3. Carrie Watkiss
4. Olivia Lauritsen
5. Sheryl Hallmann
6. Chuck Matthies
7. Fred Kuzel
8. Jim Boyanchek

We are using new curriculum, "Sermons 4 Kids". To supplement our curriculum we use videos, craft projects, games and themed snacks. Pastor Lauritsen meets with our children every Sunday morning following music for class lesson and discussion. The children then meet with their teachers to participate in a craft project, video, game and/or themed snack.

January-

The children were able to watch their "2009 Christmas play" thanks to Tom Meyers who video taped it for them. The children really enjoyed seeing themselves perform on TVJ They all did such a wonderful job! The children performed a puppet presentation on the day of our Annual Congregational meeting, "One Bible to Go", along with singing a song.

February-

Our Sunday school classes made Valentine Days cards that were mailed to members of our congregation who were homebound or in nursing homes. The children performed a Puppet Presentation and song, "Jesus Loves Me" during worship service. The "ALLELUIA" letters were buried to begin our Lenten season. Both Children's Choir and Jr. Choir sang during worship services.

March-

The morning time with Pastor Lauritsen was used to learn about Communion instruction. Our Jr. Choir sang during worship service twice during this month and also performed puppet presentation, "Zacchaeus".

April-

Dale Hawes started a "Christian Drama Group" and worked with our teenagers to perform a skit for Good Friday service, which turned out beautifully. Thank you Dale!! Sunday school children helped prepare and serve our Fourth Annual Easter Breakfast. Thanks to Tad & Cathy Dabrowski everything ran smoothly in the kitchen. All proceeds (approx. \$695.00) from the Easter breakfast helped defray the costs for our youth who plan on going to the Appalachian Service Project in August. Those youth were Olivia Lauritsen, Cammy Shaw, Carrie Boike, Rachel Decosola and Miranda Ryan. We also had an Easter egg hunt outside for the younger children, while the older ones helped arrange fresh flowers on our wooden

cross which was placed outside our front doors after Easter service for all to see. Our Jr. Choir sang twice this month.

May-

Children brought in homemade bakery items for Mothers' Day. Puppet presentation, readings and skit was done for Mothers Day during worship. Our last day of Sunday school was on Pentecost. Plans were then starting for Vacation Bible School.

June-

Vacation Bible School meetings and preparation took place this month.

July-

Sts. Peter and Paul was the host for VBS in the evenings at 6:30 beginning July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had close to 80 children who participated and approximately 50 volunteers. It was a great success! The children also put on a puppet show for the outdoor service, "The Red Balloon".

August-

Summer Break- Plans being made for annual church picnic and 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sunday school.

September-

September 12<sup>th</sup>, was the fourth year to combine the church picnic with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sunday school. Theme: "Rock & Roll your way back into Sunday school". We had plenty of food this year. Thanks to all who helped out especially, Ramona Suffern, Tad & Cathy Dabrowski, Chuck Matthies and Fred Kuzel. Children put on Puppet presentation, and we also heard from our youth who attended the "Appalachian Service Project" who were kind enough to share their experiences with us. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed the fun and fellowship.

October-

Jr. Choir sang twice this month, "Why We Sing" and "Standing in the need of prayer". Some of our Sunday school children helped to raise funds for the annual "Crop Walk".

November-

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, seven students were confirmed. A reception hosted by Missions and Outreach followed in the dining hall. The Ladies Altar Guild presented each of the confirmands with a prayer book and Missions and Outreach presented them with a crucifix. Our Jr. Choir sang "I will do my best for Jesus". Puppet presentation- "Telling the Truth". Pastor Lauritsen gave a children's sermon before our annual "Thanksgiving Feast" in the dinning hall. We all filled up on some delicious food provided by the Sunday school families. Thanks to Tad & Cathy Dabrowski for their help in the kitchen. Toward the end of this month; the children started working on learning their songs and lines for the Christmas Pageant. We also decorated a Christmas tree in downtown Riverside which was sponsored by Riverside Foods.

December-

The children continued to work on their lines for the Christmas Pageant and also learning the words to all the songs. The Christmas play was titled: Cesear Network News-"Good News" Thanks to Dale, Jane and the Sunday school parents, our children did a wonderful job!! Also, a big thank you to Carol Melnyk who painted our "manger scene", which was absolutely AWESOME!!

I would like to thank Pastor Lauritsen for teaching our children every Sunday morning. The children love that time with their Pastor! Also, thanks to John Kostelny and crew for setting up our sound system when needed for our puppet presentations or singing. And finally, I would like to thank our Sunday school parents who bring their children every Sunday and to all our beautiful children of God who come to learn about Jesus and his amazing love for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheryl Hallmann, Sunday School Coordinator

### **2010 Annual Report for Preschool and Summer Camp**

On July 22, marked the end of our 14th summer camp here at Sts. Peter and Paul. Time really flies! The camp continues to be a wonderful experience for both me and the children. There were approximately 12-15 campers, many of them session repeaters ranging in age from 3-5. There were three two-week sessions. The hours of camp were 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Along with having a lot of fun, we also did some learning too. No field trips were taken.

Preschool began in September a little differently this year. Due to financial cutbacks, two classes are currently being run.

3 Year Old  
Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

4/K-Readiness  
Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Seventeen students are enrolled in these programs and all are adjusting quite well. We spend our days doing calendar, crafts, simple academics, story time, gym and learning centers. Snack time is always a favorite. It's a wonderful feeling watching them come to preschool each day and growing both socially and academically.

Miss Patty Stachnik is here 9 hours per week as per DCFS regulations. She is well liked by students and parents alike.

Thank you for remembering to save the Campbell soup labels. Your support is appreciated. Our little preschool yet small in numbers, remains a wonderful outreach to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Tuidor  
Preschool Director/Teacher

## **2010 Annual Report for Maintenance**

The budget situation for 2010 dictated that the maintenance efforts be focused on higher priority items and minimizing expenses. With this in mind, only minor maintenance and needed repairs were undertaken.

The boilers were started up at the beginning of the winter season by Kroeschell and all checked out fine. It was recommended that an air vent be installed to eliminate air trap and loss of heat to sanctuary. Service calls are required to bleed trapped air to allow for heat flow. Pricing will be evaluated for adding a vent over the summer.

The remaining wooden exterior doors on the church were sealed by Brian, our on-call maintenance person. Brian also made repairs to a downspout and replaced a broken door lock at the parsonage.

The fire alarm passed inspection with the exception of the heads in the ceiling of the gym. Some work may need to be done on them in the near future.

The elevator passed the state inspection. It seems to be working fine at this time except for the tank heater which is currently inoperative. At times we struggle with this elevator, but short of a new elevator we are limited in the improvements we can make.

The cleaning service continues to clean the church Monday through Friday.

The exterminator services the building every other month.

Our lawn service is contracted weekly, as needed, from May through October.

A fire rated steel door was installed and painted by Brian on the boiler room. This door was required by the State Fire Marshall for compliance with DCFS this past July when our preschool was up for relicensure.

Brian Kulaga, our on-call maintenance person, continued to change bulbs and ballasts in fixtures in church, classrooms, exit lights, etc. He again this year covered the church's stained windows with plastic to restrict cold air coming into church. Brian has repaired toilets and urinals, sinks, and replaced many floor tiles throughout the building. Brian is very efficient and attentive to our needs. We are grateful to have him available to us when we need him. He has been very cost effective for the Church.

The outdoor lighting on the grounds around the church, with the exception of the northeast corner, was restored in October by Jim and Jeff Triska. The Church is very thankful for their highly visible efforts.

The bathroom in the apartment is still in need of renovation, but the Council made a decision in 2009 to defer this work as we do not have a tenant in the apartment. This will remain on the list of future capital work, and should be done before any future occupant would move in. The motor in the boiler flue draft inducer seized preventing the boiler from firing. The motor will need to be replaced. We will also investigate the feasibility of re-connecting the apartment heating with the main boilers.

My work schedule leaves me little time to perform my duties adequately, and Pastor and Karen Rouleau expend a large effort keeping an eye on all of the day to day maintenance activities, set-ups and security

of the building, and coordinating all of the inspections, meeting with contractors, coordinating Brian's work, and overseeing the cleaning crew. Both Karen and Pastor's help is indispensable to the operation of the facility, and I am deeply grateful for it.

If there is anyone in the Church who would like to take an active role in the maintenance of the building, up to and including taking over leadership of the committee, please let myself or the Council leadership know.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Boyancheck  
Maintenance Chairperson

### **2010 Missions and Outreach Committee Report**

During the year 2010, we worked on the following projects and events:

1. On January 16<sup>th</sup> we hosted a "Pizza Party" from which the proceeds amounted to \$642.00. Much thanks to Susan and Dennis Martinek for their gracious donation of the pizza and to Anne Bulir and her sister Alena for their gracious donation of the salad.
2. Hosted a Lenten "Soup and..." supper along with the church choir.
3. Gave Easter gifts of \$175.00 to missionaries Rev. Arden and Jana Haug in Slovakia. This money was part of our 2009 Mission Giving Tree monetary gifts which amounted to \$585.00. The Synod allows only \$175.00 to be given at one time. Thank you to all who so generously gave. A donation of \$175.00 will be sent again in June and our final donation of \$235.00 will be sent at Thanksgiving.
4. Hosted our Annual Mission Dinner on May 2, 2010. Our beneficiaries were St. Thomas Hospice, our Youth Group and the Appalachian Service Project. Our sincere thanks to all who came out and supported these missions. Thank you also to Ann Kmet and Co. for preparing our delicious meal.
6. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> we hosted a welcoming reception for the new Sts. Peter and Paul members and presented them with wood crucifixes.
7. We served refreshments on Memorial Day, May 31<sup>st</sup> at Riverside's Guthrie Park after the Memorial Day Service.
8. In June we had a Missions and Outreach group luncheon outing at the Chew Chew Restaurant in Riverside.
9. On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted a social hour following the Covenant of Churches church service.

10. Missions and Outreach organized the CROP Walk in October at Sts. Peter and Paul. Our congregation collected \$1,120.00. Way to go!
11. Held a food drive for much needed non-perishable food, toiletries, etc for the Riverside Township Pantry. This was a great success and much appreciated.
12. On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> we held a reception for our new confirmands and families. We presented our new confirmands with wooden crucifixes.
13. In December we participated in Riverside's "Trim a Tree" in Centennial Park. Riverside Foods graciously sponsored our tree and our thanks to the Sunday school students for decorating it.

May Jesus, the true gift of Christmas, bless you with His love and peace in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Wood, Secretary, and Ruth Bakalich, Secretary Pro Tem

**Sts. Peter and Paul  
Worship and Music Committee 2010 Summary Report  
January, 2011**

The Sts. Peter & Paul Worship & Music Committee met several times during 2010 for planning and discussion of issues relating to the worship services at Sts. Peter & Paul.

The primary focus of discussion for the beginning of the year was planning of the services for the Lenten season and Holy Week. Among the issues discussed:

- Midweek evening vespers were held during Lent, which were preceded by a soup supper.
- After the vesper services, a Bible study series relating to the Gospel of Mark was held.
- Our Holy Week services included a dramatization entitled "Were You There?" during the 7:00 Good Friday services. Thanks to all those who participated in this program, and special thanks also goes to Dale Hawes for directing/coordinating it.

Meetings during the middle of the year dealt with planning for the outdoor services that were held late summer and early fall. These services included:

Puppet presentations and special sing-alongs, along with special musicians. A special thank you goes out to Sunday School Director Sheryl Hallman for coordinating the puppet presentations.

Meetings during the later part of the year were used for planning the Advent and Christmas services. These meetings revolved around the following:

- For the second year in a row, a late afternoon vespers service was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- This year's Advent vespers service was preceded by a recital of the Young Musicians of Riverside. We wish to thank Kristine Boike for coordinating the recital.
- A festival reception was held after the Advent vespers service.
- The Sunday School presented "Breaking News: Baby Born in Bethlehem" during the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Special thanks to Jane Lauritsen for directing/coordinating this

program.

- The Christmas Eve service included selections from “Candles and Carols: A Service of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love”, performed under the direction of Parish Musician David Richards. Thanks to David for directing this program, and special thanks to all of you who donated funds to help offset the cost of obtaining the music materials.

An advance notice is being given to the congregation that Sts. Peter & Paul will again have the privilege of hosting the Lutheran Choir of Chicago for a concert on March 19, 2011. A reception will follow the concert. More details of the concert and reception will be provided in future issues of the newsletter and weekly bulletins.

As always, our thanks go out to Pastor Dennis Lauritsen for his steadfast leadership of our services, and to Parish Musician David Richards for leading the music ministry of the congregation. Finally, thanks to everyone who has participated in one or more lay leadership roles during our services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Matthies, Chairperson

**Sts. Peter and Paul  
Choir 2010 Summary Report  
January, 2011**

Choir members: Sue Skudrna, Shirley Kostelny, Ramona Suffern, Pastor Dennis and Jane Lauritsen, Phil and Linda Painter, Tom Myers, Tom Michaels, Karyn Bute, Vera Borysek, Carrie Watkiss, Kristine Boike and Anna Bulir.

Helping with holiday participation: Brandon Michaels, Katie Painter and Dot Myers with John Broussard and Ann Pennino, narrating.

The choir rehearses on most Wednesdays from Labor Day through Pentecost at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings before service at 9:30 a.m.

The choir participated in 33 services. New anthems in 2010 included:

February 14 <sup>th</sup> :	O Lord, How Excellent Thy Name
March 21 <sup>st</sup> :	Pie Jesu
April 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Jubilate, Alleluia
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	Alleluia, Alleluia
August 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Alleluia, Alleluia
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Rejoice and Sing
October 10 <sup>th</sup> :	How Lovely are the Messengers
October 31 <sup>st</sup> :	My Hope
November 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Gather by the River to Pray
November 14 <sup>th</sup> :	Our Hope for Years to Come

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Candles and Carols Cantata

Two major purchases were the Candles and Carols Cantata (with CDs and orchestration) and Requiem by John Rutter. We will sing a second excerpt from this piece this year. Individual anthems were purchased including two sung for the first time in 2011. One anthem was loaned by another church.

The choir was glad to sing as requested for Deanna Oklepek's memorial service on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Choir participated with Missions and Outreach in preparing soup for the Lenten "Soup and..." supper.

We are always looking for new voices to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richards, Parish Musician

### **2010 Report for the Social Ministry Committee**

The Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund provides funds to be used for needy and destitute people. Contact the church office if you know any people who are in need.

Disbursements from the Good Samaritan Fund for the year 2010 included the following:

Groceries/Fuel and Pharmacy Gift Cards:	\$580.00
Medical:	\$500.00
Utilities:	\$100.29
Preschool Scholarship:	\$100.00

During the past year we sent out birthday, wedding, anniversary, Valentine, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas cards to members and those who are shut-ins. Joanne Sefara continued to mail cards to congregation members and shut-ins during 2010 and is doing a wonderful job. If anyone has not been receiving cards, please let Joanne or the church office know of your wishes.

We take food donated monthly by our parishioners to the Riverside Town Hall Food Pantry throughout the year.

In the meantime, may you all have a healthy, blessed, and peaceful new year!

Yours in Christ,

Nicholas Sasuta  
Social Ministry Chairperson

Joanne Sefara  
Co-Chairperson, Social Ministry

### **Community Life Committee Annual Report 2010**

The Community Life Committee (CLC) had a busy year in 2010 -- both in terms of providing fellowship opportunities as well as by providing financial support for the church and for its programs and for the community. We tried a couple of new things and brought back some of Sts. Peter & Paul favorites.

The CLC tried a new event this year -- BUNCO Night which was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We had a tasty dinner of sloppy joes and then played 3 games of 6 rounds each. The sound of the rolling dice on the dining hall tables was deafening. Clearly, everyone was having a great time. Winners won Target gift cards. We had a good turnout and have had many requests to repeat the event. Thanks to the support of the event, the CLC was able to make a \$500 donation to the church.

In May (and every Sunday until November 14<sup>th</sup>), the CLC placed a coin jar in the dining hall as the kick off for our "Your Change Can Change a Child's Life" to benefit the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in LaGrange. This organization helps children facing abuse, abandonment, and neglect; family difficulties; suffering from depression; and poverty among other issues. The Illinois Masonic Children's Homes' mission is to provide a positive and safe living environment for the children they serve. At the conclusion of the campaign, we received \$105. The CLC also made a contribution and our total donation to the Illinois Masonic Children's Homes in LaGrange was \$150.00. Their director was very appreciative to receive the donation.

In July, the CLC ventured on its first motor coach trip to the town of Utica, Illinois, and to Starved Rock State Park. Response to our trip was very good and ticket sales went quickly with 37 of the 40 available tickets sold. All details were arranged, but Mother Nature was not on our side. Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, was the day of one of the worst rains and floods in recent history. Eleven of our guests were unable to even arrive at church and hence, cancelled at the last minute. Our bus arrived at the church late and had some damage to the door because the driver had to drive through some standing water enroute to the church. A new bus had to be dispatched to the church, but in an effort to save time, we would "pick up" the new bus at our pre-arranged stop for several guests at a hotel at Weber Road and the Stevenson Expressway. We were finally on our way and played bingo enroute to our destination. Although the temperature was 87 degrees with a heat index in the mid 90s, our spirits would not be dampened. Our itinerary included a stop and wine tastings at the Illinois River Winery before arriving at Starved Rock Park where we enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon at the Lodge. Did anyone have the German Chocolate Cake? On the way back to the church, we made a shopping stop in Utica and

enjoyed a wine tasting at the August Hill Winery. Our final stop was at the Cottage Boutique with wine tasting at the on-premises Cattails Winery. It was a very full day, but one that was enjoyed by all.

Our always-popular, Crazy Dice event was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Although we had fewer members and friends in attendance, everyone had a great time. As always, Joan's chili was a hit and the CLC members enjoyed watching everyone unwrap their treasures.

As the holidays approached, the CLC hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner so that the holiday could be celebrated with our church family. The catered dinner which included turkey, stuffing, ham, sweet potatoes and all the trimmings was delicious. We played several Thanksgiving-themed games with prizes for the winners. It was a great way to kick-off fall and the holiday season.

The Community Life Committee again purchased a tree for Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic Event. We decorated our tree at the zoo with ornaments that we had made. Our theme was angels, snowflakes, and wreaths. We were assigned tree #35 out of approximately 400 trees. As always, the committee had a great time decorating the tree even though the weather was cold and windy.

During Advent, the CLC set up a small Christmas tree in the dining hall on which envelopes were hung so that members of the congregation could make monetary donations to the Hinsdale Humane Society. The donations received along with a donation from the CLC, allowed us to provide the HHS with a \$300.00 donation to help care for homeless dogs and cats.

Throughout the year, the CLC also made donations to the following worthy causes:

- Lutheran World Relief for the Earthquake in Haiti
- Hinsdale Humane Society (sponsored two walkers in annual HHS Pet Walk)
- Bishop Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund
- Riverside Food Pantry
- Crop Hunger Walk
- Lutheran Child & Family Services (purchased Christmas gifts for two children)

As we closed out 2010, we reflected on the events of the past year and it was with great pride that we realized the many contributions that our small group has made -- to our Church and its programs, and to the community.

We look forward to seeing you in 2011.

Submitted by Ann & Marty Pennino  
Co-Chairpersons  
Community Life Committee

CLC Members include: Ruth and Rich Hurbanis, Beverly and Steve Podzamsky, Joan Triska, Donna Tuider, and Sue Waldman.

**Dorcas Society's Annual Report  
Congregational Meeting  
January 30, 2011**

The Dorcas Society meets the last Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon. After the meeting, a social hour is held with "coffee and..."

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Dorcas Post Holiday dinner was held at Old Warsaw Restaurant in Broadview. The attendance was very good and everyone enjoyed the buffet and commuradity after the hectic holidays.

The Dorcas Society hosted the traditional Palm Sunday "Coffee and..." on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We are grateful to all those who donated the wonderful food items and helped us with this event.

We have purchased plants for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. We make memorial donations for our deceased sisters. This year we lost our dear sister Deanna Oklepek.

Most of the year our focus was on our annual Craft and Pantry Fair which was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A big "thank you" to all the congregational members and friends who assisted us with their donations, help the day of the Fair and their attendance. The success of our Fair enabled us to give a \$4,000.00 donation in December to the church.

At baptism the baptized children are presented with a baptismal cloth and candle. On their first birthday we give them a gift.

Over the years our membership has declined. We welcome you to join us so we may be able to continue our work for the Lord and our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Kostelancik  
President

A report from Ladies Altar Guild, the Treasurer's Report and the 2011 Proposed Budget are included with the hardcopies which will be available this Sunday at the meeting.