

Ministry Update

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



January 2008

Communication

Pastor Mark Shockey

OVER-communication is rare – UNDER-communication is unfortunately more often the case. We find this is true in families, in workplaces, and also in the church! This is an effort to try to change that. We want you to be in the know. You should know. Please take the next few moments and read through this document from cover to cover. I'm confident it will help.

We have a variety of different communication tools. Your leaders thought that one more might be helpful. Here are a few means that come to mind:

1. **Weekly Announcements** (a.k.a. The Bulletin) published and presented with the order of worship each Sunday which includes current events, a weekly financial and participation update, prayer requests, and other paragraphs of interest.
2. **Website:** www.stpetersedina.org. By far, the fastest growing communication tool of our ministry. People look at it 24/7 – it has quickly become the first place people go to learn about St. Peter's.
3. **Alive in Christ Newsletter** – a story driven, seasonal document prepared to be distributed beyond the members of St. Peter's. This is the very colorful document.
4. **Rock Solid News** – our weekly school newsletter sent jointly by the Principal and Early Childhood Director via e-mail to all school families. This is posted weekly on the Kiosk and on the home page of our website for all to see.
5. Did I say **Kiosks**? Those two rolling bulletin boards have a wealth of info on them.
6. **Brochures** – colorful short pieces that are produced in-house and updated frequently intended to tell newcomers about St. Peter's and to announce Bible classes, etc.
7. **St. Peter's Today** a semi-annual school newsletter geared toward alumni and friends of St. Peter's Lutheran School.
8. **Member Connect:** a internet based database that includes the official calendar, Ministry Team descriptions, meeting minutes, a variety of official documents and password protected sections that include a directory and e-mail system for communicating with teams, groups, boards, or the entire congregation. Get to it through the website church page by clicking "Member Connect".
9. **Phone Tree** – occasional telephone announcements made to members of various events.

(continued on page 2)

Thank You

Harland Kuhlman

Allow me this opportunity to thank each of you for your support and encouragement during my tenure as president of St Peter's congregation. It has been two years now, nearly to the day. I said I would (with God's help and guidance) try to bring peace and unity back to our beloved St. Peter's church and school. It was a wild roller coaster ride; hot & cold and times of deep sorrow and times of great joy.

I want to leave the office now, as my time is in more demand at home and my strength is waning. I think St. Peter's is now positioned to move forward; ready to look at the many opportunities that are everywhere. We have been blessed with young, vibrant members in our midst to grasp the baton and move St. Peter's Church & School forward into new uncharted area as yet unknown to us. Where will these uncharted places be? Only God has that answer.

(continued on page 8)



Reaction? Do you blog? Got an opinion? Ha! You know you do... we all do. Why not share a few thoughts? Go to the website to try our new blog.

We also want to include a Q&A section in the next Ministry Update. Send your St. Peter's question to: newsletter@stpetersedina.org

You can also drop it in the office and we will answer in the next edition.

Inside this issue:

GRACED WITH DISSATISFACTION	2
BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION	3
BOARD OF ELDERS	4
BOARD OF MINISTRY LIFE	5
SCHOOL BOARD	6
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT	7
MILITARY MEMBER UPDATE	8



CAN YOU TELL
WHAT THESE
ITEMS ARE AND
WHERE THEY ARE
LOCATED?
TRY TO GUESS!
ANSWERS ARE
ON PAGE 8.



Communication, cont. *(from pg. 1)*

10. **Mailboxes** – a place for personalized information for individual recipients.
11. **Marquis Sign** out on France Avenue to communicate with the community.
12. Last and least... those few **verbal announcements** from your pastor, congregational president, or other leader on Sunday mornings.

I know there are a number more. I simply want you to know we are trying our best. So what do you have in your hand? It is a "ministry" update that will include board communication, pastoral mission updates, details of which members should be aware, financial info, etc. This information has been limited in our more story driven newsletter (we will still produce our colorful *Alive in Christ* newsletter that goes to a larger audience and has more of an outreach flavor.) I think our members will appreciate more direct, more regular, more complete communication. I hope you agree. Look for it quarterly. We plan to hand this out, to put it in mailboxes, and also send this out via e-mail. Some prefer it that way. If you would like it to be delivered by your friendly postal deliverer give us a call and we will put a stamp on and send it directly to you.

When you get to the root of it, communication is really a problem of sin. Remember the Tower of Babel?

(Genesis 11) 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

The problem was using communication in a way that they no longer depended upon God. God solved that problem. Yet communication is still a of major sinful consequence, especially when used against one another. May our communication always be clear, accurate, and be used to build one another up and spread the Kingdom!

Graced With A Deep Dissatisfaction

At the Voters' Assembly last November, Pastor challenged us to consider this statement:

"God has been gracing us with a **deep dissatisfaction** so He would get our attention."
No more "our way"
No more "old way"
Now it is "God's way." I want to tell you how excited I am because now comes the powerful moment of watching God act faithfully as He has promised.

When our ideas / plans / fixes / advertising / goals come up empty... watch... for:
God is refreshing our ministry.
God is rebuilding our ministry.
God is refocusing our ministry.

We must return our ministry to the Lord. It is His.

A ministry that reaches families is nothing new. It has been reaffirmed. We have young people coming into the building daily! It would be wonderful if they would just come right in and sit down in the pew. But that rarely happens. Rather it seems God wants to reach them:

- one life at a time
- one family at a time
- one sin at a time
- one problem at a time
- one child at a time

So the deep dissatisfaction with how things are prepares us and energizes us to be used by God in a powerful way. May our Savior so grant it.

Board of Administration

Sunday Voters' Assembly The February Voters' meeting is intended to be an update on progress on our annual Ministry Plan. This will take place on Sunday morning following worship on February 24, 10:30am. We encourage all to attend (everyone is invited - you just must be a member to vote!) We will make the format informational and applicable to you.

Finances We have been blessed with several IRA distributions from individuals taking advantage of 2007 tax incentives. In December, our payables exceeded \$116,000 and as we had reported, we had maxed out all sources of short-term credit. The board is committed to not going any further into debt. We are very thankful for the way that God has worked in the hearts of so many individuals who have increased their offerings by just a few dollars or by a significant amount. Together we are building the Kingdom - one life at a time!

Budget Revision St. Peter's fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30. This year we have had so many changes in both income and expenses that a new 6-month budget (January 1 to June 30) has been prepared. This will help us understand cash flow so we are able to see if we are on track. So what changed? Here are some examples: special gifts of over \$100,000 received, 1/2 time principal, less elementary teacher salaries, additional early childhood staff, no more Director of Ministry Life salary, somewhat less student tuition, additional Early Childhood income, change in Gala plans this year, infant center opening, etc. The new budget will be brought to the Voters on February 24.

Early Childhood Education Center Expansion Harland has once again put on his building supervisor hat! He is a middle man in working with our architect and various tradesmen. And Karl is worth his weight in gold and always ready to do what is asked! Here are some of the next steps we have taken toward opening:

- Met with Jack Ovick, our building architect from Construction Consultants, Inc. over two months to work on plans, dreams, and a budget. We have split the job into two phases:
 - 1) an immediate phase to open the infant center quickly (includes equipment purchase, minor construction: Dutch door – additional sink for bottle/food prep – counter raised – white boards removed – room preparation). We will be able to care for up to 12 infants. The addition of the door (considered a second exit) also enables us to increase the maximum number of toddlers from 10 to 14. Cost of the immediate phase: approximately \$19,500
 - 2) a second phase will include a toddler sized bathroom to be constructed between rooms 103 & 105 with access to both classrooms. Room 107 already has a child sized bathroom. These rooms are filled with children that are in the midst of potty training – quick access is very important! A crib room will be constructed with a door and windows in the infant room. Cost of the second phase: approximately \$35,000
- Stop and look at the plans posted on the door of the new infant room #101.
- So how will we afford this? We already have received a gift of \$10,000 toward the infant room immediate phase. Gifts to the *Rock Solid Future Fund* will enable the additional expansion to take place. Watch for a “baby shower” as a way to come together for socialization and to meet some of the newest families to St. Peter's.
- We had a gracious donation of a brand new washer and dryer to launder bedding. These will be installed behind the elevator on the main level.
- Child height railings will be added in the two main stairways for the safety of the littlest of God's precious children.
- Licensing requirements with respect to procedures and policies, equipment, space, and staffing needs to be met.
- A web based security camera system will be installed so parents can check on their infant all day long from work.
- We are beginning to look for someone to be the lead care-giver for this room. Reality is forthcoming!
- All of this work is worth it when we hear a single story like that of a mom, who recently said, “We are not Christians, but because of this school, our child is now a Christian and we would like to start attending your church.” Praise be to God!

Board of Elders

St. Peter's Spiritual Plan The Board of Elders has the responsibility of being concerned with all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. At the end of 2007 considerable time and prayer was spent in providing specific focus areas for planning. The Elders presented the Boards with the following Spiritual Plan which connects well with our congregational mission and vision:

<i>Spiritual Plan Focus</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Vision</i>
Ministry – connect with God and others around the word and prayer	Teach	Alive in Christ
Outreach – supporting, community, intentional contact	Grow	each going out
Mentoring – training, developing, leading	Model	to share God's gift

St. Peter's has a unique God given assignment. God has brought together the current group of brothers and sisters to accomplish a specific task. We are unlike any other congregation! Our desire is that three areas of spiritual focus will be of assistance in helping us know what *not* to do, so we can be about the most important tasks and be able to quickly identify the type of ministry we are uniquely equipped to effectively carry out in our community. The Boards and staff will utilize these focus areas in working toward a 3-year ministry plan for 2008-2010. In early February, each of the four Boards are taking the first steps in developing their Ministry Plan. All four Boards will come together again as a Vision Council (responsible for developing the annual and long range plans) in mid - February to begin to coordinate ministry efforts and keep looking further down the road. Then, later, we will ask the membership to confirm that we are headed in the right direction.

Elder Board Appointment The Board of Elders has asked the Congregational President, Jim Ravell, to appoint Todd Crouch to serve in a vacant Elder position. The By-laws give the President the ability to appoint members of the congregation to fill vacant Board roles with the exception of members of the Board of Administration who must be elected as they serve as the legal trustees of the corporation. There is still one vacancy on the Board of Elders and one on the School Board.

Worship Survey Summary In September 2006, St. Peter's moved to a single "blended" service. An extensive survey was distributed to members to gain understanding and to offer a St. Peter's worship format that truly would bring glory to God and also speak the heart language of our membership. Over the summer, a one year follow-up survey was taken. The Elders appreciate the comments and thank everyone for their time to provide thoughtful and useful responses. They reviewed the responses with the staff. Some of the common comments are listed below with actions for future implementation:

Sound We need a sound board staffed by an operator located in the sanctuary (to be located in the Southwest corner of the sanctuary in cabinetry to be built). We will need volunteers to be trained.

Singing When we sing unfamiliar songs that are not in the hymnal we will try to provide music (at least the melody line) in the bulletin and/or have vocal leadership.

Communion We will continue to use two teams, but we will give a full dismissal to each table rather than only a general dismissal at the end.

Liturgical Sequence Consistent with our heritage we will continue to use a liturgical sequence, but will be free to try new variants.

Lay Participation We will increase lay participation in the worship service, but we will do so only when and in a way that does not diminish the high quality of the service presentation. We will thoroughly train persons for their assigned duties.

Children's Messages We will encourage lay participation, but also train appropriately gifted persons so that the message is consistent with the scripture theme for the service and is of high quality.

In both surveys there were about 15% who felt they wanted a more liturgical format and 15% who strongly prefer a more contemporary praise format, but most people felt their needs were being met with our current Sunday order of worship. Time was more often a concern with some wanting a service earlier and some later than 9:00am. If every individual or family would bring one additional family, we would easily add a second service! If you have further questions or comments about our worship, please feel free to have a discussion with one of the Elders.

Board of Ministry Life

Ministry Teams Several years ago, St. Peter's started to identify and empower "Ministry Teams". These are groups of individuals who gather together to serve, to grow, to build friendships, etc. Some are very organized and meet regularly while others only get together once or twice a year. The last 2 years we have instituted bimonthly Salt and Light Summit meetings to better facilitate communication between the Board and Ministry Teams. We have had positive success. However, our board has evaluated these meetings and feels we are now at a place where there is more of an understanding of how the Board and Ministry Teams work together. Communication is done indi-

vidually or Ministry Team representatives can simply come to one of the monthly Board meetings. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or information you have on your Teams:

- Norm Ruthenbeck oversees Worship ministry teams
- Jim Grimm oversees Mission ministry teams
- Melinda Krueger oversees Mission and Service ministry teams
- Sarah Kolbo oversees Service ministry teams
- Becky Beeskow oversees Fellowship ministry teams
- Nancy Axelson oversees Discipleship ministry teams

It is our privilege to serve the congregation and appreciate your prayers of support. Our minutes are posted on the website after they've been approved at the next meeting, so you can keep up with all that God is doing through us at St. Peter's, which is A LOT!

So how does a member get involved? It is simple... hop right in! You are always invited. Ministry Teams serve in the areas of worship, service, fellowship, discipleship, and mission. *Nancy Axelson, Chair*

Sanctity of Human Life January is a month to celebrate "life". Life is a precious gift of God at all stages. Here is what our life observance included:

- Baptismal Remembrance that included the baptism of 3 children from our school. Eternal life through Christ is the greatest gift of life we can receive!
- Baby Bottles distributed *"Every good and perfect gift comes from above."* James 1:17. Contributions support free pregnancy testing, decision-making counseling, ultrasound, maternity and baby clothing and supplies, and other support to a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy through one of the local Minneapolis family life centers. *(Please bring the bottles back next Sunday.)*
- Health Fair It is important for people of all ages to pay attention to health. Tables were set up to challenge worshippers to think good nutrition, bicycle safety, blood pressure and blood sugar levels, healthy exercise habits and more. Thanks to our "medical" folks who pulled this together: Judy & Keith Zesch, Sarah Kolbo, Jill Brace, Jacob & Dawn Anderson, and Julie Anderle.



The Bible asks, *"How can a young man keep his way pure?"* and answers, *"By living according to your word."*
(Psalm 119:9)

Youth Ministry Jump Start: Youth Ministry to us, is an opportunity to help the youth grow in their faith, deepen their relationship with Christ and live their lives according to God's word and have fun while doing it.

We plan to use elements that the youth can directly relate to such as videos, music, movies, games, and youth gatherings/outings. We are committed to showing them how everything can be done for God's glory. Our hope is to expand the youth group in numbers and grow with the youth we are already blessed with. In the future we plan to take the youth group on retreats and other youth events to coincide with the ministry we already have in place. Please pray that God will continue to use us for his work and that the youth will continue to be open to his message.

In His service,
Jason Solie and Amy Fowler

School Board

What’s the best thing you can do for your children?
Pray for them!

Growth Prayer Partners – Growing our children in prayer and faith in Jesus Christ.

*“And the children continue to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God is upon them.”
Luke 2:40*



Each of our elementary students has a Growth Prayer Partner at St. Peter’s. It is a blessing to know that our children are lifted up in prayer each day. Please remember to contact your prayer partner family/student, offer prayer for any concerns, offer prayers of thanks, and celebrate the family of St. Peter’s.

Wheat – gathered together in prayer, we are strong!

A single grain of wheat does not stand up against much, you can easily break it in your hand. Bind this wheat together in a group and it is not even bendable.

Each week the parents of St. Peter’s Lutheran School and the congregation of St. Peter’s Lutheran church are asked to prayer for one classroom and the administrative staff. These are noted in the Rock Solid News and in the Sunday bulletin. Please lift our faculty, classrooms, and staff in prayer. God is doing amazing things here and he hears our prayers.

Faculty prayers for students – How awesome are the prayers of teachers for their students!

Each week our faculty will be praying for individual students. These will be noted in the Rock Solid News and the Sunday bulletin. The love of our faculty for their students is so great – how fortunate are our children.

God is hearing the prayers from everyone at St. Peter’s. We were created to give him glory and honor. Our God is an AWESOME GOD!! *Julie Anderle, School Board Chair*



St. Peter’s PTL graciously supplied us with 3 new office computers and a networking Media Vault. Computers are an indispensable tool for the administration of a Christian School.

They also provided a new scanning library system downstairs in the children’s library. A team of workers spent a lot of time culling our books, organizing items for our youngest readers, and applying a colorful fresh coat of paint.

If you haven’t stopped down there lately, be sure to do so!

New MOPS group forming: What is MOPS? You will begin to see the word or logo for MOPS more and more. MOPS is an acronym for *Mothers of Preschoolers*. It is an international organization whose mission is to provide support and ministry to moms. Kelly Daenzer and Jill Brace, two of our preschool parents, have been asked and consented to be a part of the leadership team. Let them know of your interest or share this good news with parents who might be interested.



Mom’s Day Out: This month we began offering a “Mom’s Day Out” program. This program gives stay-at-home moms/dads the option to drop off their children for a few hours each week so that they can have some time to themselves and their children can socialize with other children. This allows us to fill in some openings that we have during a few blocks of time each week. If you know of a parent who might be interested in dropping off a toddler or preschooler for a morning or afternoon a week, invite them to contact us.

Principal's Report

Let's "Grow" our school: At the January School Board meeting a commitment to work diligently to "grow" our elementary school became a priority. We have continued to experience growth in the early childhood center (ECEC). We started the year providing child-care and preschool to 59 children. We are now at 66 and will be adding more before March 1st. Some of these new students are the result of our new "Moms Day Out" program.

The Board wants the same kind of growth to occur in the elementary school. For this reason, a decision was made to offer free kindergarten. The Board decided to take a "proactive" approach to grow, rather than wait until early summer to make decisions regarding staffing, classroom combinations, etc. Discussion relative to this decision had been ongoing with the faculty and the school board since November. Following is the rationale behind this decision:

1. Form the current 4/5 preschool population there are 3 St. Peter's member family kindergarten students. It will be very difficult to justify a kindergarten class of only 3 students. We weren't hearing of others.
2. I believe that most preschool parents are relieved when their preschooler reaches kindergarten age because then they will begin receiving a free kindergarten education in the public school.
3. I believe that many of these preschool parents would elect to continue their child's education at St. Peter's if kindergarten would be free.
4. Because of the educational value of a Christian education at St. Peter's, that they experience, I believe that some of those families would make a commitment to continue their child's education at St. Peter's.

This decision was first shared with Pre-K parents at a meeting with Mr. Timm and ECEC parents on Jan. 17th. The meeting date had been set in December to gain input from our parents about our day care and Pre-K program, and it provided a excellent opportunity to share the newly formed decision. Sixteen mothers and fathers were in attendance and provided us with many new or exciting ideas for future growth and improvement. Especially uplifting were numerous stories of our preschoolers sharing their faith in the home – they were so awesome!



During the final 3 minutes of the meeting I encouraged the parents to give consideration for our kindergarten program for fall. I then shared the decision of the school board. Understandably, there were many surprised and astonished families. I am happy to announce that we have received 5 new inquiries already this week about our kindergarten. Registrations will be taken beginning Monday, Jan. 28th

Faculty/Staff Retreat: In September we were invited to take advantage of a free offer to utilize Heartwood Retreat Center in Trego, WI. The offer was for our faculty and staff to use the facility absolutely free for two days and nights, along with three free meals. The center is owned by Thrivent and they offered to even pay part of our gas expense. We chose to go on the 14th of Feb. because there is no school on Friday the 15th. Pastor and I will treat everyone for the Thursday evening meal on our way to the retreat center, and we will return mid-day on Saturday. The opportunity will be used to celebrate God's goodness, team building, and planning for next year.



Teacherage: The congregation has offered to rent our house across the street to our kindergarten teacher, Miss Robbins as a teacherage. That way we don't need to rebuild the walls, empty the basement storage, or move the playground in order to rent it out to someone from the community.

During the past month Karl has joined me, along with other staff, parents, and friends to change it from a childcare facility back into a home. She is hopeful of moving in around the 3rd of February. We are still looking for a used electric stove. Dawn has always lived in furnished apartments and will be in need of other furnishings. If you have an item of interest, please give Dawn a call at the school office. 952-927-8400 x118

Members Serving in the Military



Ethan Nagel (*front right*) with his platoon in Iraq. May God grant them all a guiding hand of protection and effectiveness in carrying out their assignment.

Here is a brief update on the others:

- Simon Bordthausen – Marine serving in the Washington DC area – and now engaged!
- Tony Nagel – Marine headed to Afghanistan. Tony and Carrie are expecting!
- Chris Maziarka – on a 9 month assignment on a ship while his wife (Laura Lerum) and daughter (Katie) remain at home in Montana.
- Susie Bradshaw & Andrew Wasmund are both currently home in the states.

Stop at the military bulletin board near the coffee counter to get current address information. They would love to hear from you! We also have flat rate shipping boxes in the office. Thanks for remembering and caring.

MYSTERY LOCATIONS OF PICTURES ON PAGE 2:

Top: the new touch screen for parents to check their children in and out of our Early Childhood Education Center. This helps us maintain safety and facilitates accurate billing. It is located just inside the door in room 107.

Bottom: a literature rack filled with our new Mom's Day Out program brochures. These are located just outside the Discipleship Room where we host daily "Music Together" groups for toddlers and parents. We hope to make more of these families aware of our excellent Christian education program.

Thank-You, cont. *(from page 1)*



Bring Him into our hearts and follow the gentle tugs. Permit our imagination to soar so as to bring St. Peter's to a new level never before experienced. God has blessed each of us with a special talent. That talent used along with other talents will make and keep us strong.

When you feel that tug to move into the fray, you are never alone. You need only to ask for HIS help.

I think I have my last major assignment. For sure there will be other minor callings along the way. Pray for St. Peter's, the volunteers you have elected, the pastor, office staff and school & staff - the showcase of St. Peter's.

Thank you and may God bless each of you in His own special way. *Harland*