

Inside Parkside

Parkside Lutheran Church

December 2009

Parkside Council News

Dear Friends,

We wish you health and happiness as we move into another busy holiday season at Parkside. Let us remember in the hustle and bustle of the season to take a few moments out for prayer each day and to remember our many blessings.

We have much to be thankful for at Parkside. With that in mind, we are actively engaged in our Stewardship campaign and encourage each of you to prayerfully consider your support of Parkside. This is an important time for our church and congregation and we hope that each of you will give thought to your personal stewardship and return your pledge card as soon as you can.

The Council and Finance Committee have worked diligently in preparing what we feel is a responsible and attainable budget for 2009. We have worked to try and further reduce our dependence on endowment withdrawal, yet move us closer to being able to once again support a full time pastor. We will still be functioning at a deficit and your generosity and financial support is crucial to Parkside's success.

Worship service was discussed and a decision was reached to discontinue the 8:30am service at this time. We will be returning to one service on Sunday beginning December 6, 2009 to be held at 9:30 am. The feeling was that picking a time between the two might best serve the needs of all, a little later for the early birds and a little earlier for the like- to- sleep in

crowd. The early service was sparsely attended and we think it will feel good to have the church a little fuller at a single service. We appreciate the congregation's flexibility and willingness to change as we fledge forward and try to find what will work best for all.

The new committee structure is working well. Meetings are taking place for the most part on the first or second Thursdays of the month. Many thanks to the committee chairman who have stepped forward with their fine leadership. We look forward to much accomplishment in the coming year. If you are interested in serving on a committee contact the church office, speak to a council member or call the committee chair. Your ideas and help are always welcomed!

Many fun activities are planned for the Holiday Season. The annual horse drawn hay ride is set for December 13, 2009 at 4:30pm followed by Frank's Famous Spaghetti Dinner with Meatballs. You've got to taste it to believe it! Please come and bring your friends and family!

Orders are currently under way for Christmas wreaths. They are lovely and made fresh by a local greenhouse and grower.

We are encouraged and energized by the feeling of commitment and community present at Parkside. We need to continue bringing visitors, inviting friends and family and encouraging our current members to attend worship! We challenge you all to keep the momentum going!

Thanks and Blessings:

Lorri & Drew Hagner- Council Co- Presidents

2009 Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Parkside Congregation:

Let this be notification that the Parkside Lutheran Church annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 17, 2009 immediately following the 9:30am service in Atonement Hall. The congregation will vote on the 2010 budget. Please plan to attend.

2010 Draft Budget Review:

Copies of the 2010 draft budget will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday December 6th for review by the congregation. Informational "talk backs" for questions and discussion regarding the proposed budget are scheduled on Sunday December 13, 2009 and Sunday January 3, 2009 following worship service. Council and Finance committee members will be present. Please bring your questions or concerns to one or both of these meetings.

Additional Council News

Other Council business included:

Many exciting things are happening at Parkside and we invite you all to “Fall Back” into church as worship, music, Sunday School and activities are again in full swing.

Did you know the goal has been set to have 100-125 worshippers in church every Sunday! Certainly a challenge, but not impossible if we all invite a friend, neighbor or family member to come to Parkside.

At the September Council meeting much time and effort was spent in restructuring our committees and how they are to function. Having strong, empowered committees assisting the council in leadership are essential for Parkside to move forward and grow.

The following changes were made:

- ❖ Five (5) main committees and chairpersons were appointed.
- ❖ Chairpersons are members of council and will report monthly.
- ❖ Thursdays are dedicated to “Church Night” at Parkside, which means that Council and all committee meetings will be scheduled on a Thursday evening. Council will meet on the third Thursday and committees will meet on the first or second Thursday evening to be announced.
- ❖ Committees and leaders who graciously agreed to serve were established:
 - 1) Worship/ Music...Annie Wachob
 - 2) Finance/Stewardship...Janet Stout
 - 3) Christian Education...Becky Amann
 - 4) Evangelism/Hospitality...Vince Harzewski
 - 5) Property/Building Usage & Maintenance (B.U.M.)...Fran Ball

Council encourages each of you to consider service on a committee of your choice and interest. You need only serve on one. So... take a deep breathe, a fresh look and dive in! Get involved! Parkside needs you and there is something for everyone! Fresh ideas and many hands make for light work and lots of fun! We even have dinner prior to the meetings! Please contact the committee chair if you are interested in serving or for more information. With God’s help, prayer and much guidance from Pastors Bang, Olsen and Katterman we will be successful!

- ❖ Approval of bid for repairs on the Linden side terrace, also to include replacement of some cracked and dangerous sidewalk sections found on each side of the church.
- ❖ Beginning discussions regarding budget preparation and Stewardship for 2010.
- ❖ As you know, we have been without a church Treasurer for several months. Our deepest gratitude to Terry Kinney for her acceptance of the church Treasurer position. Terry brings expertise and insight to this position as we move Parkside forward in utilizing “Church Windows”, a new computer program which will enable us to keep better and more accurate records as well as stream line our financial and book keeping functions. Many thanks to Terry!

October 3rd found our Sanctuary filled with beautiful music as the Parkside Concert Series presented “It’s a Romantic Evening”.

On October 4th even the dogs were singing as Pastor Olsen led a “Blessing of the Pets” service in honor of St. Francis of Assisi day. Inclement weather did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Grilled hotdogs and a visit from “Chilly Billy’s” ice cream truck with treats for all rounded out the afternoon.

We have many open Sundays over the next few months for hosting a coffee hour. Everyone really enjoys this fellowship after service so please consider hosting or sponsoring a coffee hour. The refreshments can be as simple or as varied as you would like! Coffee, tea and juice are provided. Use your imagination and surprise everyone! Please see Vince Harzewski or Lorri Hagner any Sunday after service if you would like to help.

Stay tuned for announcements and activities as we head into the holiday season. See you at church!

Committee News

Christian Education

The Christian Education committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 6PM. Our current committee members are Joe & Hilary Baran, Shannon Boswell, Jessica Finch & Kim Walek.

We oversee the following programs: Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Children making their first communion, Adult Education and the Youth Program.

The Children's Christmas Pageant is planned for December 13th during the 9:30 service.

We will continue to use "SPARK" for our Sunday School curriculum for the winter months.

Worship & Music Committee

The Worship & Music Committee has been meeting to figure out ways to enhance the worship experience at Parkside.

There are little things we can all do to help! For instance, have you ever thought of becoming an usher? Or serving as part of the Altar Guild? Parkside is starting a new group of adult Acolytes who will be assisting our worship the first Sunday of every month.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact Annie Wachob after church one Sunday, or at 310-4683. Also, don't forget to sign up to donate flowers for the worship service!

Choir

The choir at Parkside has started preparing special music for Christmas Eve. The pre-service music will include vocal and instrumental solos, chant, traditional carols and contemporary pieces. The format for the worship will be based on lessons and carols, with communion and will conclude with the traditional candle lighting and singing of "Stille Nacht/Silent Night."

It's not too late to come and learn the music. The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30PM. Come and join in!

Finance & Stewardship Committee

Stewardship: The Church Council has sent a letter to over 125 members and friends of Parkside Lutheran Church following the October 15th Council meeting. By November 10th, we have received 25 pledges totaling \$45,904 with an average of 1,836 per giving unit. A follow up contact will be made by Council members after the November 19th meeting. Without **your pledge**, it is difficult to develop a spending plan for church expenses. Therefore, we look forward to receiving your pledge as soon as possible.

Finance: The finance committee has requested from each committee: **Worship & Music, Property & Building Usage, Christian Education & Personnel**, a list of proposed expenses. A spending plan is in progress and will be presented to the full Council on November 17th for their review. On December 3rd a meeting is scheduled for the whole congregation to review spending plan options depending on resources available.

The future of the congregation is in your hands. The current spending plan requests add up to \$120,750, including a \$60,000 pastor's salary. At this point, we need more giving units or more units giving more money, time and talents. The answer is up to each individual and the congregation as a unit. Can we, will we, do we want to survive as a congregation? Can you find \$1 more per day and increase your pledge by \$365 or \$5 per day \$1,825? If 50 people gave \$1,825 or added it to their existing pledge, we would have more than enough money to meet the needs as requested by our committees (\$91,450). "Stewardship is an attitude of the gratitude."

Advent & Christmas Events at Parkside 2009:

- ❖ Semi-annual church cleaning event, Saturday, December 5th at 10am. Many hands make light work and more fellowship.
- ❖ Annual "Greening of Parkside" Saturday, December 12th at 10am. There will be tree trimming, wreath hanging, garland placement and more. There will be refreshments and perhaps a carol or two may be sung. This event is strictly fun, so be sure to stop by!
- ❖ Annual Hayride, Sunday, December 13th, 4-6PM admission is free. Stop by for hot cocoa and horse and buggy ride throughout the neighborhood.
- ❖ Spaghetti Dinner, Sunday, December 13th at 5:30PM. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children (10 and under)
- ❖ Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24th at 9PM.
- ❖ Christmas Day Service, Friday, December 25th 10:30AM.



Altar Flowers

Please consider donating flowers for the Altar for our Sunday services. A flower chart is located in the Narthex on the wall nearest the Carpenter Room. Pick a Sunday of your choice, complete an order form and place it on the desk in the office or mail it to Parkside. Cost of flowers is \$25.

For your convenience we have included an order form in this month's newsletter. If you have any questions please call the church office at 836-1361.

Name of Donor as it would appear in the bulletin:

In loving memory of or in honor of (circle one)

Date desired: _____

Alternate date if date desired is taken: _____

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