

Pastor's Annual Report—2007

“My children, our love should not be just in words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”

I John 3: 18

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is hard to imagine that we have been in a partnership of ministry for a little less than two years. The Lord has blessed us with many opportunities of ministry and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are showing growth and depth in the ministry here at St. Paul. I have attached to this report the “Trend Report” of our congregation from the ELCA. Most of the statistics included in this report date back to 1999 and some even further. This year our growth in membership will show a two percent increase; we will also show growth in the areas of worship attendance and giving. All of these positive growth areas are directly related to our faithful response as a congregation in mission and is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

During the past year I have offered several opportunities for learning and enriching one's spiritual life. We continue with our weekly Monday afternoon Bible Study and we are currently finishing the Book of Matthew; our next scheduled area will explore the subject of Angels. During the week of Vacation Bible School I taught from a resource written by the founder of Stephen Ministry. This study dealt with the issue of how we are to relate to those who have experienced loss within their lives. I am currently teaching a class on Sunday mornings exploring the meaning of Lutheran Identity. I would like to highlight just a few of the many areas of ministry that has taken place over the past year. If I have not mentioned a certain ministry or person please know that all our ministries have contributed greatly to the faithful response to Christ's call on our life as the body of Christ known as St. Paul.

The Stewardship Committee, under the leadership of Tricia West, has passionately led us into a deepening of our call to be good stewards in all that we do. Roger Smith, a deployed resource person for the ELCA, worked with this committee as they brought to us a stewardship emphasis over the past year. We are looking forward to the continued work of this committee into the future.

The Christian Education Committee, under the leadership of Rachel Rhine and Joe Tomkiel, continues to revitalize this very important ministry here at St. Paul. New programming has included the development of a woman's study group, Wednesday evening teaching opportunity in conjunction with our Contemporary Worship Service, and the development of a new approach to our Confirmation program. We look forward to the expansion of our Vacation Bible School with added inclusion of our immediate mission field.

The newly formed Apartment Ministry Committee has given us a new approach to our involvement with church-owned apartments. The residents of our apartments are now related to us as a ministry of this church. Under the

direction of Jimmie George, this ministry is supported by numerous congregants who are passionate about this opportunity for a caring ministry.

The Mutual Ministry Committee has been very active during this past year and has developed a list of projects for the coming year. Under the leadership of Dale Cross, this committee has worked with every staff person and has developed new and accurate job descriptions for each position. We have also developed an Employee Handbook with employee procedure and policies.

During the past year I have participated in several continuing education events. During the summer, Bill Hemminger and I attended the Worship Jubilee Workshop in Chicago. I came away from that experience with a better understanding of where the ELCA is headed with worship and a sense of affirmation with what God has been doing with us here at St. Paul in regard to worship. Last winter I had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Lancaster dealing with Eschatological (end time) Issues with reflections from Jurgen Moltmann and Barbara Rossing. During the Fall I attended the Bishop's Convocation, heard a presentation and led a discussion group based around the ONE movement.

I continue to attend our monthly West Cumberland Conference meetings. This fall I began attending the Carlisle Ministerium meetings on a regular basis. I was elected to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Council at our annual Spring Assembly. This year our voting members from St. Paul were Rachel Rhine and Bill Suchocki and I thank both of them for their time and faithful attendance.

Our Wednesday evening ministry continues to grow and flourish as a significant outreach. The meal is currently serving 100 plus participants and our worship is averaging between 40 and 60. With our involvement with CARES and the responsiveness to a mid-week worship service in a contemporary format, the Holy Spirit has led us to a growing and faithful new ministry. With the initial help of Bill Hemminger and the continued work and support of Nick Fox, we are venturing into areas of technology never before attempted at St. Paul. The inclusion of our youth has opened another area of participation and relevant ministry for this vital and challenging age group.

We have reinstated our involvement with the Vicar program from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. Our current vicar, Joe Leavengood, has brought a new aspect to our staff and has given me the opportunity to be a mentor.

God has truly blessed us and I thank God for the call to be your pastor here at St. Paul. May God continue to bless and guide us in this partnership of ministry.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Tim

The Rev. Timothy W. Sadler
Pastor