

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

Vol. 35, No. 5

May 2008



IPLC

Inviting in God's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for others

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

This month, we will host a Saturday retreat here at IPLC to talk about vision. Vision is a big deal in the greater church these days, as people are seeing dwindling attendance and a general apathy among their neighbors about what God is doing in the church. Gone are the days when people went to church because that is what "normal" people did! Churches are now realizing, sometimes a bit too late, that what was at one time the center of cultural life has now moved to the margins. The average person, even if they believe in God, does not attend worship services during the week. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_the_United_States#Church_attendance)

Several years ago, the ELCA did a study about what keeps growing congregations growing. Out of the results they learned that growing congregations have three things in common: 1) a clear sense of purpose and vision 2) an openness to change and new ideas 3) strong leadership. IPLC is intent on growing, not because we are hoping to be a little less worried every time the budget comes around, but **because we want to join with other people in this neighborhood and city to do the work of God.** God is doing something in the world, and we get to be a part of God's work. There is nothing more exciting than being part of the in-breaking of the kingdom of God in our world today!

We will gather on May 10th beginning at 9am to pray together, study scripture together, dialogue with one another, and in the midst of all of this, begin to discern what God's purpose is for us in this place. We will develop a purpose statement and a set of principles behind that purpose, knowing that a clear sense of our purpose and God's vision will help us to continue to be a vibrant part of this community. IPLC has something to offer the world; we are a congregation richly blessed by God. Please join us, whether you have been to IPLC once or hundreds of times, because all voices are important as we prayerfully discern our purpose!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brooke Petersen

Book Lovers Unite! IPLC is starting a women's book group, to begin in June. We will have our first meeting at the parsonage (4108 N. Harding Avenue) on June 5th at 7:30pm. We will be reading "Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith" by Anne Lamott, and hope that you will join us for conversation and snacks! Please RSVP to the office or pastorpetersen@iplc.org.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

In case you were wondering ... the proposed book about the IPLC letter writers from World War II still is a work in progress. We wish we could report that the progress has been significant, but that would not be accurate.

The staggering amount of material to sort through has only been matched by the author's staggering lack of free time to devote to writing. Family matters, full-time employment and the daily grind has left the author longing for a few 36-hour days to get everything accomplished.

Sadly, as the months fly by, a few of our letter writers have passed away. But while we've lost a few, we're still adding to the list of "found" letter writers, which now stands at 96. The latest "found" letter writer was the late Clarence D. Billburg, a member of the Confirmation Class of 1929. His letter was returned to a great nephew in California.

The updated list of letter writers that we're still hoping to find can be viewed on the IPLC Web site, www.iplc.org.

-- Ralph Greenslade

What does a growing Congregation have?

A Clear Sense of **Purpose** and **Vision**



Openness to **Change** and **New Ideas**



Stong Leadership

What does all this mean?

Please join us for a **Vision Meeting** and find out!
All members are invited

In this important task, we will revisit our current mission statement, pray together, study together, and talk together, in order to help us stay connected with God's purpose for Irving Park Lutheran Church!

Saturday, May 10th
Beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.,
Victory Hall

Refreshments for breakfast will be served, and lunch will be catered by **Smoque!**

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call
Pastor Petersen at 773.267.1667

FIRST COMMUNION

This past month, we celebrated First Communion with four young members of our congregation. Joshua VanEssen, David Hall, III, Sarah Clausen and Emma Helgeson all took part in this special day. These four attended classes at IPLC with their parents, and learned quite a bit about what Lutherans understand the sacrament of Holy Communion to be about! We hope that you will take time to congratulate these four, as well as ask them a few things they learned about Holy Communion.

During their classes, each child was asked to write their own prayer that they might pray silently while waiting to participate in communion for the first time. They are reprinted below:

Dear God,
Thank you for raising me as a son. Amen
-David Hall III

Dear God,
I pray that God will help me to understand the full potential of myself and to learn to show more compassion for others in the world.
-Sarah Clausen

Dear God,
Thank you for giving me food, a family and a place to live. Help me to remember that you love me, and thank you for all my friends. Amen.
-Emma Helgeson

IN MEMORANDUM

John B. Greenslade (1915-2008)

The family of John Greenslade would like to thank everyone at Irving Park Lutheran Church for the kindness and support extended to their family after John passed away on April 6.

For 67 years, John was the husband of Elizabeth (Friberg). The Greenslades were married by Dr. Joshua Oden at IPLC on March 1, 1941. Their four children, Jay (Debbie), Paul (Toni), Ralph (Karen) and Judy (Sam), all were baptized and confirmed at IPLC. Elizabeth has been a lifelong IPLC member since she was baptized by Pastor Oden in 1917.

John also is survived by eight grandchildren: John M., Rita, Katherine, Robyn, Jeff (Julie), Jamie, Jessica and Elise.

Pastor Brooke Petersen officiated at the memorial service for John at IPLC on April 11.

Vision Frequently Asked Questions

Do we really need a vision? Aren't we busy enough already?

The ELCA did a study of congregations hoping to discover what it is about growing congregations that keeps them growing. Surprisingly, it is not programs- both struggling and growing congregations have similar programs. The study revealed that growing congregations have:

- **A clear sense of purpose and vision:** This is not a vision centered on what new things we want to start- it is a vision centered on what GOD is doing in the world. We, as children of God, are invited to be a part of that vision. God has a mission for the world- and we get to be a part of it!

- **An openness to change and new ideas:** When we put God front and center in our purpose and vision, things often have to change. Sometimes, that change can be painful. Sometimes it means letting go of things that are difficult to part with, but setting our minds on God's purpose means we are willing to let go of whatever keeps us from our purpose.

- **Strong Leadership:** Over the history of IPLC there have been many different pastors, but it is the people of this congregation that are here for the "long haul!" From Moses to Jesus, biblical leaders don't work alone, they work in teams. Strong leadership helps the congregation to take ownership of the vision and to us a variety of gifts to join with God's work in the world.

IPLC is an amazing congregation- blessed with gifts beyond measure. Developing a purpose and principles statement will help us to continue to be the vibrant congregation we are! IPLC is a busy place, but the "busy-ness" isn't the point- God's work is. Purpose and vision will help us to connect with what God is doing in the world.

Why can't Pastor Petersen just make up a vision for us?

God is doing something at IPLC, and it involves MUHC MUCH more than just the pastor! If we don't invest ourselves in bible study, prayer and dialogue, than our purpose and vision aren't *ours*. IPLC should **own** the vision, and that can only come from members working together, praying together, reading scripture together, and talking together. Every member of our congregation should know what our purpose is and what the principles behind that purpose are, it should inform all the decisions made by our congregation.

I thought we did this already, why are we talking about this again?

When we develop a purpose statement and principles behind that purpose, it is always a working draft. Vision is not something we can do and be done, vision is a way of life as the people of God. God's work is certainly not done- and so we continue to revisit our vision, prayer and study together, and keep checking back, making sure that we are asking ourselves what God is doing and how we can be a part of it!

I like IPLC exactly the way it is, why do I keep hearing people talk about change?

God's work is going to be done whether or not we are ready or willing to take part in it. "Transformation is a serious step in the life of a congregation. It is born of the awareness that 'more of the same' is leading to death. It draws on the discernment of the membership and leadership that the congregation is called by God to continue to work in a community that desperately needs to hear the Word of grace made real because Christ is alive and working in our midst." (<http://www.elca.org/outreach/renew/abouttransformation.html>) The cycle of life always leads to change, though that change is not always easy. Together, with prayer and discernment, we step into God's future. Sometimes this is easy, sometimes this is painful, but we are the people of God called by God to do the work of God in the world, and God has and will continue to bless us with the gifts and the strength to do this work.

What is our current mission statement? Are we just going to throw this away?

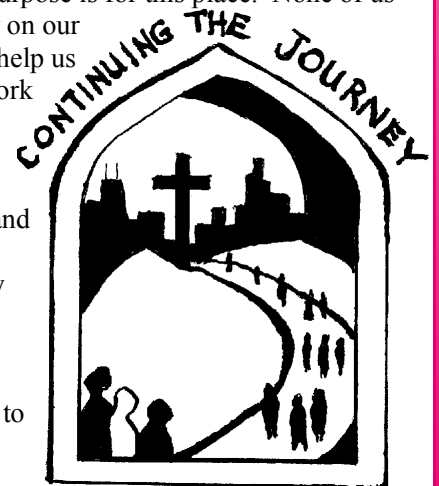
Our current mission statement is as follows:

- Inviting in Christ's Name
- Proclaiming the Gospel
- Living in Fellowship
- Caring for Others

We certainly are not throwing this away! In fact, it might be helpful to use our current mission statement to inform the work we do together. We will develop a purpose statement and several principle statements for IPLC, and we don't know how it will look when it is over, but our history and our future will help to inform our vision.

It seems to me we keep talking and talking and not DOING anything- can't we just skip this step and get on with it?

This is certainly a problem in most churches! We are doing this work together, because we need to discern together what God's purpose is for this place. None of us can do this completely on our own. This work will help us to "get on" with the work of God in the world! The church has to constantly stop and check in with what it and God are doing in the world- sometimes they are in line, sometimes that are radically off track. A purpose and principles will help us to have a framework to check back with what God is doing.



IPLC - MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, MARCH 10, 2008

Call to Order: Sandra Stumme called order at 7:34 p.m..

Devotions: Lee Stein presented two devotions. The first was called "Answer Me in Righteousness" and the second concerned helping the next person in need, showing kindness to ALL. She concluded with prayer.

Administration: Present: Pastor Brooke Petersen,, Phil Bole, Paul Clausen, Sue Geisler, Elmer Haneberg, Jill Hjelmgren, Eleanor Kepp, Karen Lurie, Noel Nape, Lynette Schroeter, Bill Sherlock, Lee Stein, Sandra Stumme, Holly Van Essen, Darcie Wadycki Excused: Bruce Anderson, David Hall

The agenda with adjustments was adopted and the minutes from the previous meeting with corrections (Eleanor Kepp refreshments, spelling of Helgeson) were approved.

Old Business: New Doors: **Bill Sherlock** presented a report on the progress of the door campaign. Fourteen of the sixteen council members have pledged. Thirty percent of the total cost has been pledged, nine percent has been received. Holly Van Essen has been sending out personal thank you notes. Bill will give a Temple talk and call members of the congregation to secure more pledges. A mailer will go out from the committee to all members detailing the program and soliciting contributions/pledges.

Demolition: **Paul Clausen** is working on getting quotes for the demolition of 4107 N. Pulaski and he will try to have them for next month's meeting.

New Business: IPLC Vision: **Pastor, Holly and Bruce Anderson** met to discuss the visioning process for IPLC. A large amount of time of next month's council meeting will be spent at on the visioning process and the council is requested to finish the book *Living Lutheran* by the meeting. May 10th has been set as a congregation wide retreat either at IPLC or another venue. The Council is being asked to be the leadership to the rest of the congregation encouraging, explaining and soliciting participation in the event.

Website: **Pastor** brought her laptop computer and showed a sample of the new website that is hoped to be up by the end of April. **Karen Lurie** will go through the current website to make a list of all groups and contacts referenced and mail the list to Pastor. Teams and organizations should turn in their website information sheets by March 30th.

Personnel Committee: With regards to an employee inquiry about compensation for unused vacation the personnel committee met. The following policy statement will be added to the personnel manual. **There will be no compensation for unused vacation. Employees are expected to take allotted vacation within the year it is issued.** The employee who did not take vacation last year will be compensated this one time only since the personnel manual did not include the above statement.

All personnel reviews have been completed except for Roger Bingaman's. The raise pool will be divided up upon the completion of Roger's review.

Correspondence: The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago sent a thank you for the \$250 scholarship for **Meagan Sherman-Sporrong**. A letter from **Noel Nape** stating her need for a leave of absence from council for three months was presented and accepted by council with wishes

for good luck as Noel pursues her ESL Endorsement. She will return to council in July.

Pastor's Report: Along with her written report **Pastor** reported that **Erin Day** will take a leave of absence during her mother's illness. Prayers are requested for both Erin and her mother. An interim Youth Director is being sought. Contact Pastor with any leads. Let Pastor know whether you can attend the Maundy Thursday Seder or the LSTC conference the end of April.

Pastor passed out "The Checklist for Gym Use". Council is requested to look over the policy which will be discussed at the April council meeting. **MSC to accept the Pastor's report.**

Living Lutheran Renewing Your Congregation discussion of the first two chapters was held. Four groups were formed with each group discussing one of the questions on page 24. It was concluded that we can do much better in the areas of prayer and talking about how God acts in our lives. We need to be more mindful of God's vision for us by praying and reading the scriptures. The challenge for the month ahead is to weekly ponder and answer the question: "What did Jesus do this week for me?"

Treasurer's Report: **Sue Geisler** presented the Endowment report. Three transfers have already been made from the Endowment fund in 2008. One reason for the transfers was property taxes and property insurance. **Gordan Johnson** and **John Van Essen** have agreed to serve on the Endowment Committee which will meet in April. Council members who have worked as counters on Sunday mornings were thanked. **Sue and Eleanor will check out the Church Budget Envelope company to see if offering envelopes (boxed and mailed) can be purchased at a more reasonable price.**

MSC to accept Endowment report. The monthly treasurer's report was not presented.

Ministry Team Minutes:

- Learning Team: as written, **Lee** reported that one class of Magic Mushroom is full but not closed.
- Service Team: as written
- Property: The team has one quote on a new alarm system and will have two more by next month. The present ADT system is old and has been tripping itself causing repeated false alarms. The company has not been able to correct the problem. The team is working on its Vision Plan requested by the council in February and will present it in April.

The lack of a speaker in the church nursery resulting in young families using the nursery not being able to hear the service prompted the following motion.

MOTION: MSC-Property Team will install a speaker in the church nursery within a month.

Stewardship: Meets with Witness.

- Witness: as written
- Worship: Minutes were sent to church office but due to a glitch they were not copied for the meeting.

MSC to accept the team minutes.

For the Good of IPLC: the Women's Volleyball season, Pastor's Invocation at the Eagle ceremony, the two new Eagle Scouts, the Door's Committee, Girl Scout Sunday, Wednesday Night suppers and services

MAY 2008

READINGS FOR THE MONTH

- 1 The Ascension of Our Lord**
Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53
- 2** John 8:21-30
- 3** Psalm 93
- 4 The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-13;5:6-11, John 17:1-11
- 5** Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
- 6** 1 Kings 8:54-65
- 7** John 3:31-36
- 8** Numbers 16:41-50
- 9** 1 Peter 3:21—4:11
- 10** Psalm 99
- 11 The Day of Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23
- 12** Joel 2:18-29
- 13** Ezekiel 29:7-8, 21-29
- 14** John 7:37-39
- 15** Numbers 11:24-30
- 16** Romans 8:14-27
- 17** Psalm 104:1-9, 24-35
- 18 The Holy Trinity**
Genesis 1:1—2:4a, Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
- 19** Job 38:1-21
- 20** Job 38:34—39:4, 26—40:5
- 21** John 14:15-31
- 22** 1 Kings 8:10-13, 22-30
- 23** 1 Corinthians 12:1-13
- 24** Psalm 29
- 25 Second Sunday after Pentecost**
Isaiah 49:8-16a, Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 6:24-34
- 26** Deuteronomy 32:1-14
- 27** 1 Kings 17:1-16
- 28** Luke 12:22-31
- 29** Romans 2:17-29
- 30** Romans 9:6-13
- 31** Luke 1:39-57

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Michelle & Joseph Freels - May 2, 1987
Rachele & Anthony Raygor - May 2, 1998
Lynette & Gary Schroeter - May 5, 1973
Jan & Fred Glure - May 15, 1971
Sarah & Nicholas Connelly - May 19, 2001
Holly & John Van Essen - May 21, 1994
Catherine & George Tognazzi - May 27, 1940

BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Dana Buetow
- 3** Lucas Beltran
Nathan Beltran
Jessica Greenslade
- 5** Evelyn Erickson
Kyle Rogers
- 9** Marcella Klusack
- 14** Sara Anderson
Gary Schroeter
Sheneka Williams
- 17** Grace Stumme
- 19** Karl Grunst
Sarah Rogers
- 22** Erich Lenz
- 24** LaVere Hagedorn
- 25** Danielle Desecki
Heather Hjelmgren
- 27** Janet Carlson
- 28** Kathleen Taylor
- 30** Kristina Crook
Dorothy Fredrickson
Krista Grunst

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

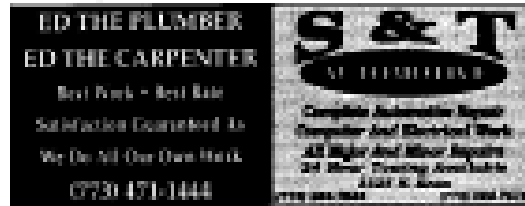
Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our house hold with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. Amen.

ADVERTISERS OF THE MONTH

Please support our advertisers. It is through their ads and support of IPLC that our newsletter is printed every month.



MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 am-Chapel, Sunday School, Adult Studies 10:30 am-Traditional Service 11:45 am-Ensemble rehearsal</p> <p>Please check weekly bulletins for any schedule changes.</p>				<p>1 3:00 MAP</p>	<p>2 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 A.A. 9:00 Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>3 10:30 Confirmation, Basketball</p>
<p>4 * Scout Pancake Breakfast 3:00 Swedish Cultural Society</p>	<p>5 3:00 MAP</p>	<p>6 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball</p>	<p>7 9:00 Jammin w/Julie 3:00 MAP 5:00 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells, Carlson 8:00 Chancel</p>	<p>8 3:00 MAP 7:00 Midweek</p>	<p>9 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 A.A. 9:00 Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>10 10:30 Basketball</p>
<p>11* <i>Mother's Day</i></p>  <p>Pentecost</p>	<p>12 3:00 MAP 7:00 Council</p>	<p>13 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball</p>	<p>14 9:00 Jammin w/Julie 3:00 MAP 5:00 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel</p>	<p>15 3:00 MAP</p>	<p>16 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 A.A. 9:00 Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>17 West Walker Garage Sale 10:30 Basketball Confirmation</p>
<p>18 * 3:00 Jupiter Lodge 6:00 Adult Ed. Chapters 13-15</p>	<p>19 3:00 MAP 7:00 Miriam Circle 7:30 Scout Committee</p>	<p>20 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball</p>	<p>21 9:00 Jammin w/Julie 3:00 MAP 5:00 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel</p>	<p>22 3:00 MAP 6:00 Potluck 7:00 Midweek</p>	<p>23 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 A.A. 9:00 Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>24 10:30 Basketball</p>
<p>25 *</p>	<p>26 MEMORIAL DAY</p> 	<p>27 3:00 MAP 6:00 Team Night 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball</p>	<p>28 9:00 Jammin w/Julie 3:00 MAP 5:00 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel</p>	<p>29 3:00 MAP</p>	<p>30 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 A.A. 9:00 Men's Volleyball</p>	<p>31 10:30 Basketball</p>

TIDINGS

MAY 2008, VOLUME XXXV, No. v
Visit our Website: <http://www.iplc.org>

Rev. Brooke Petersen, Pastor
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IPLC Office
office@iplc.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday:
9:00 am Sunday School, Chapel and
Adult Studies
10:30 Holy Communion

Midweek Worship:
Thursdays, May 8, potluck-May 22

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson	Phil Bole
Paul Clausen	Sue Geisler
David Hall	Elmer Haneberg
Jill Hjelmgren	Eleanor Kepp
Karen Lurie	Noel Nape
Lynette Schroeter	Bill Sherlock
Lee Stein	Sandra Stumme
Holly Van Essen	Darcie Wadycki

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Richard Wielock

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Custodians

