

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2007

September Surge

Each September is like a new year. The start up of schools, the air turning brisk - perhaps the threat of snow? – ya, this is Minnesota!

This September is more somber in the light of the I35 bridge collapse; continuing presence of Minnesotans in Afghanistan, Iraq, Louisiana; southeastern floods. Our prayer lists are full.

Yet, in the midst of all kinds of changes we are affirmed that God's presence is near. One close to home is the first reading of the reVisioning report by session. Session will act upon it at their September meeting. So, another new beginning in September.

Sunday morning classes at 9 a.m. will also begin a new study of how the Bible came to be. We will use a DVD presentation "Battle for the Bible." In October we will share together the presence of God in the midst of human societies of past, present, and future. Another new beginning.

As we give thanks to God for another year, we celebrate the living presence of Christ in our midst - in worship, through the sacraments, through the scriptures, through our prayers in common, through the sermons, and through the opportunities to give and serve.

May God's blessings fill us to overflowing this September of 2007.

In gratitude for God's presence and love in all seasons and times of life,

~ Wayne

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor
and Moderator of Session

2007 Session

Class of 2007: Bill Fischer
Joyce Tesarek Petrik
Barb Wilson

Class of 2008: Terry Gilberstadt
Gary Johnson

Lisa Phillips Johnson

Class of 2009: Sue Hensel
Diane Hansen
Dick Gross

Presbytery Commissioners -
Bill Fischer, Sue Goodspeed
Dennis Johnson – Clerk
Butch Goodspeed - Treasurer

Staff:

Jan Johnson – *secretary*
Andrew Crow – *choir coach**
Andrew Tessman – *organist*
Rodney Seek (Best Way) – *custodian**
*(contract position)
Editor - Sue Goodspeed

Committees of Session: Administration (Gary, Dick), Worship (Sue, Barb), Membership (Lisa, Diane, Joyce), Education (Bill, Terry), Personnel (Terry, Lisa, Dick).

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, interests or *anything* you'd just like to share, please talk with a Session member!

Board of Deacons: The Deacons function as a unit, sharing responsibility for visitation and ministries of presence with those in transition. Members are: John Bixby, Butch Goodspeed, Sue Goodspeed, JoAnne Hansen, Aleta Isaacson, Bobbe Larson, Georgia Mroska, and Marg Saxrud.

MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC

In gratitude for God's great love,
freed by the forgiveness we know in
Jesus Christ, and convinced by the Holy
Spirit of our need for Christian community,

we join together as a community of faith
to share Christ's love through worship,
sacraments and prayer;
to grow through education and mutual
support;
to prepare and receive empowerment
for faithful living.

and we go out into the world
to share the joy of God's love;
to open our faith community to others;
to work in the world for justice,
healing, and peace.

Prayer Network

We have been called to communicate with God through prayer. God encourages us to pray for one another and has promised to answer. To enable us to pray effectively for one another and for our church, the LNPC Prayer Network has been organized. Call Pat Erickson, coordinator (612-925-4418) with prayer requests.



A NEW SEASON OF EDUCATION

Coming to Adult Ed at 9:00 each Sunday, beginning September 9th: Curious minds want to know...

"What, exactly, made possible the translation of the Bible into the language of the common men and women of the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries? How, in a Europe dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, did the Reformation emerge that would question the very foundations of the Church? The answers to those questions are complex, but we can identify a few changes -- in political thought, in scholarship, and in technology -- that helped make possible the events chronicled in *BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE*."

We open our season with the PBS series "Battle for the Bible" – Through the month of **September**... Then, **October through November**, we will view and discuss the ideas in Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, using another PBS DVD series, and also look at the book *Collapse*, also by Jared Diamond. *Collapse* explores how the Mayans/Incas/Easter Islanders and other civilizations become great societies? What took them down? Could it happen to us? [This book is available in paperback.]

A team of loving teachers will serve any and all children to the stories and creative activities of the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum. We will again teach during the education hour, 9:00 to 10:15, in a 'one-room classroom' format.

THANK YOU...

*For the congregational participation in supporting our troops through contributions in the narthex collection box. Thanks to all, and to Lee Sorenson, the **three boxes (!)** have been filled, wrapped and mailed to soldiers in Afghanistan, on the border of Pakistan. We will continue this project as long as there is interest in doing so. The collection box is located next to the office near the cloakroom. Along with the suggested items on the list, it is suggested that we also send individual notes of support and thanks, cheerful cards, and prayers. We continue to pray for troops.*

May God bless them.



*LAST CHANCE! The church directory is in the process of being updated. We would like to have as many ways of communicating as possible, which means we need to collect **phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and e-mail addresses**, as you are comfortable sharing. The more ways we have of communicating with one another, the more we will be able to connect with one another.*

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER ~

It is with gratitude that the Worship Team recognizes those who led us in worship during the summer: Wayne, or course, but during his continuing education weeks, Sue Hensel and Bill Fischer stepped in. During the annual Glacier National Park weeks, Rev. Susan Marvin (who we now know was one of Wayne and Rose's family babysitters) shared her gifts with us.

Looking ahead ~

Sunday on a Stick!

Can't get enough of the State Fair? Join us in extending the summer!

We move from season to season on Sunday, September 9th. Education, for children and adults, meets at 9:00. Worship - on-a-stick - is at 10:30, with Fellowship - on-a-stick - at 11:30.

Not sure what all that will look like?
Come and find out!

Meal Time!

LNPC is scheduled to serve at the main shelter **Sunday, September 16th**

(busy weekend!) The shelter has had unexpectedly large crowds on Sundays this summer, so we'll need all the hands we can muster! If you've served before, you know how fun and significant a ministry this is. If you haven't served before, consider joining the crew!! Meet at the shelter (28th and First) at 6:30 p.m., or talk with Sue Goodspeed about a ride)

A sign-up sheet will be available to offer food. Watch for it!!



The Membership Team is sponsoring the use of Just Coffee during Fellowship Time - grown, roasted, and ground in Mexico through a collaboration with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship.



Drip-ground coffee is available for purchase for \$8/lb.

Talk to Sue Goodspeed and take a pound home!

GOOD HEALTH TO ALL...

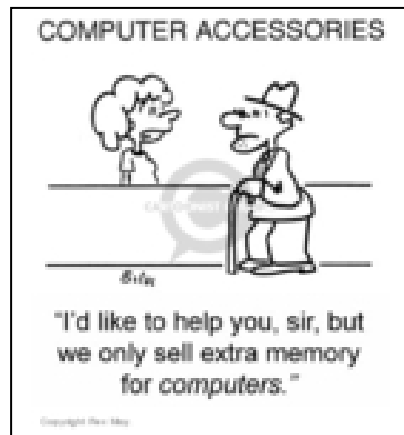
Hello! It's been a busy summer and I have neglected to do my monthly topic. Well, this time I chose *Laughter is the Best Medicine*. Julie Andrews sang this for a celebration on her 69th birthday and I think it's funny and great. I hope you enjoy this as much as I do. [It's done in the tune of *My Favorite Things*...] These are the lyrics she used:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting, walkers and handrails and new dental fittings, bundles of magazines tied up in string, these are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses, poli-dent and fix-o-dent and false teeth in glasses, pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings, these are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad.
I simply remember my favorite things, and then I don't
feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions, no
spicy hot food or food cooked with onions, bathrobes and
heating pads and hot meals they bring, these are a few
of my favorite things



Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin', thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin', and we won't mention our short shrunken frames - when we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had, and then I don't feel so bad.

Have a good healthy month and hope you enjoyed this as much as I. God Bless you.
Respectfully - Kathryn L. Sathre LPN

Membership Team updates ~

Partnering with Worship and Education Teams, Membership has been planning outreach events for our membership and the community. We have several fun events in the month ahead ~

We are very excited about the use of our *ART SPACE* in the narthex. We had several artists respond to our "Call for Art," asking artists to display their work at LNPC. We will host our first artist, photographer Jimmy Ray Ostgard, from September through October. There are postcards available advertising his work and we will sponsor a wine and cheese opening for him on **Friday, Sept. 7, from 7-9 pm**. ArtSpace will be the satellite gallery for Susan Hensel Gallery's "Leap of Faith3" exhibit in November and December. We will continue to host art shows in our *ARTSPACE* for the benefit of the artists.....the community..... and us!

You will soon see a "*BIG SCREEN*" in the library to show our DVDs and other educational materials for Sunday adult ed times and for the evening events we host our community. It has arrived, and Aleta and Alan will mount it in the library in early September.

AND----we plan on having a booth/display at the neighborhood "*Fall Festival*" event at 48th and Chicago on **Saturday, Sept. 15 from 11 am -4 pm**. We will have a presence there to get the WORD out about LNPC and our church family. Please contact Lisa Johnson or Joyce Tesarek if you can people the table!

AND---- we will be going to a *TWINS* game (against Detroit) as a church group on **Friday, Sept, 14**; game starts at 7:10pm. Sign up is in the church library. The cost is \$12 for ticket, a pop and hot dog. The seats are in the family section, so if you are a die-hard fan, bring your binoculars. This will surely be a fun time! Contact Diane Hansen by the weekend of the 8th if you are interested in tickets. We plan to park at Diane's house, 3723 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, and all take the train together around 5:30-6 pm. They are walking distance to the station. Alternative transportation is fineJUST PLAN TO COME!



CALL FOR PHOTOS FROM YOUR COLLECTION

Membership is creating a *PHOTO DISPLAY* to be in the library this fall. We are planning on obtaining an aerial photo of our part of town from the City of Mpls and hope to get some historical photos of the Twin Cities area. **More importantly, we would LOVE to display any vintage photos you may be willing to loan.** We prefer photos of the area: the Lakes -- landmark buildings -- noteworthy streets like Chicago and 48th or Nicollet -- Minnehaha Falls -- little kids in 1950 snow suits enjoying the sliding hill on the parkway by Cedar -- the old farmland areas -- old skiing photos -- whatever you may have. We would especially be interested in any photos of the street cars or full street photos where some current area landmark can be recognized. We are looking for both large and small photos, especially if they are framed larger ones (to keep cost down) from 1950s and before. We think this will be a FUN project for us and for our community / neighbors. Please let Sue Goodspeed, Joyce Tesarek, Diane Hansen, Aleta Iaascson or Lisa Johnson know if you have any photos to share. They will be returned after the display.



SALVAGING BEAUTY

Photographs of
Jimmy Ray Ostgard

*Opening reception ~
Friday, September 7, from 7 - 9 p.m.*

ArtSpace Exhibit exploring the intersections between the environment and humanity ~

The Gallery is open during office hours, Tues-Fri 9-2, during neighborhood and congregational gatherings, or by appointment.

Coming to ArtSpace in November:

LEAP OF FAITH 3

a show of faith,
whatever that might mean!

In conjunction with Susan Hensel Gallery, we will serve as a satellite gallery for this annual exhibition.

Opening ~ November 9, 5-9pm
Susan Hensel Gallery-
3441 Cedar Ave S.- and LNPC.

A national invitational show devoted to the concept of faith, whatever that might mean to the artist.

The **Revision** Leadership Team has written a Vision Statement and developed Three-Year and One-Year goals, based on outcomes of the eight reVision small-group sessions last winter-spring. These proposals were presented to Session in August for a first reading. Session will act on the proposed Statement and Goals in September, and a congregational presentation (with food) will follow. As always, please share any comments, ideas, dreams, (concerns) with Session members (see page 2) or the ReVision Task Force - Bill Fischer, Sue Hensel, or Sue Goodspeed.



Prayers of the People

Prayers of Thanksgiving - thanks to all our staff and volunteer helpers who do such an outstanding job of keeping us focused on Christ, who leads us on the upward path in our lives at home, at church, and in the world.
- Bobbe Larson

Many congregations of our presbytery, and many more of the John Knox Presbytery (Western Wisconsin) were affected by the flooding in SE Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Presbytery office has surveyed all the PTCA congregations: a few in the area have water in basements, and the basements of member's homes. *[the editor has a note out to the congregation in LeRoy, potentially hard hit.]* Ken Meunier, executive of John Knox Presbytery, writes "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Representative, Jim Anderson from Duluth, Minnesota, has met with leaders from the Minnesota area of flooding and has observed the destruction from the storm.... We do have a church in Rushford with major damage to its basement. Utica, Lewiston and Chatfield also had some damage in their church basement along with basement damage in many homes." Information in the narthex will show ways we can put our concerns into assistance.

Thanks be to God for the work, nationally and internationally, of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

Let us hold all God's children in our prayers...

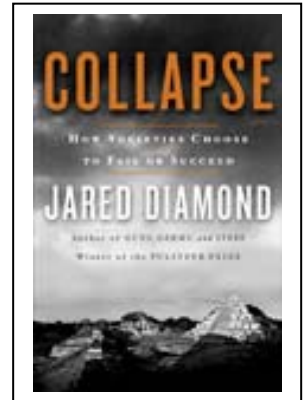
... from the Administration Team (and congregation) to Dick Gross and Butch Goodspeed for their help with the drinking fountain and for painting the grooms' room door and the front stoop. We look so fresh and clean!



Bring your friends and neighbors:

What is our responsibility to our environment? How do choices we make today effect the health of our society into the future? Jared Diamond has grappled with similar questions in his most recent books, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *Collapse*.

LNPC will be hosting a series of discussions based on a DVD series inspired by *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, and the book *Collapse* - Wednesday evenings beginning in October, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.



Stewardship meets public policy - something for everyone!!

How much is enough?

G.K. Chesterton has suggested that there are two ways to have enough: one is to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less. Graceful living is about finding an answer to the question, 'How much is enough?' The answer grows out of our love for God, neighbor and for all of God's creation. It means letting our faith and the values derived from that faith drive our consumption patterns - not advertising or the spread of global capitalism that seem to put the dream of 'the good life' - measured by material possessions and social status - within easy reach.

While most of us will continue to experience the tension created by living in a consumer society while trying to live as the people of God, it is possible to deal with that tension and resolve it to a large extent in the decisions we make about our lifestyles. How we spend, save or give away our money, our time and our God-given gifts reflects our faith and values.

Graceful living begins with an alternative vision of how you'd like to live. Now is the time to dream a dream of your own. What is 'the good life' for you and your loved ones? How much of what you want for yourselves is part of the American Dream and how much is related to the Dream of God?

What would it be like to opt out of excessive materialism and develop a lifestyle that reflects the core values of your faith?

