

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

# *the steppingstone*

Pastors: James A. Woodruff & Larry Johnson

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February 13, 2007

## Lenten Pilgrimage

Pastor Jim and I would like to invite you to join us on a Lenten pilgrimage as we journey to Jerusalem with Jesus. Lenten worship at St. Stephen will be both similar and different from years past. We will continue to use the popular and beautiful Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays, get a glimpse of several different views of Jesus based on Brian McLaren's book *Generous Orthodoxy*, and hear from several members of the congregation as they share their views of Jesus. (see theme schedule inside)

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, February 21 - Worship Service at 6:15 p.m.  
No meal, choirs, confirmation, etc. (except for Sr. Choir at 7)

### Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

- 5:00 - Soup & Sandwich Supper
- 5:30 - Captured Spirit Choir
- 5:45 - Bell Practice
- 6:00 - Puppet Ministry
- 6:15 - WORSHIP SERVICE
- 6:30 - Children's Choir
- 7:00 - Confirmation (varied schedule)
- 7:00 - Senior Choir
- 7:00 - FW Friends

### Wednesday, April 4 – (Holy Week)

NO MEAL - NO WORSHIP

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Jim Woodruff installed as Lead Pastor

## LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

### Wednesdays of Lent

- February 21 Ash Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“The Road of Humility”
- February 28 Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“The Jesus of Conservative and Pentecostals” -  
My view of Jesus by G. T. Getahun
- March 7 Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“The Jesus of Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox” -  
My view of Jesus by Cheryl Grasmoen
- March 14 Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“The Jesus of Liberal Protestants and Anabaptists”  
My view of Jesus by Bob Bathen
- March 21 Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“The Jesus of Liberation Theology”  
My view of Jesus by Kate Spilman
- March 28 Wednesday – 6:15 pm  
“Generous Orthodoxy”  
My view of Jesus by Don Tarr

### Sundays of Lent

- February 25 Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road of Truth”
- March 4 Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road of Danger”
- March 11 Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road of Judgment”
- March 18 Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road Back Home”
- March 25 Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road of Anticipation”
- April 1 Palm Sunday – 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Road to Calvary”

### Holy Week

- April 4 NO Wednesday Evening Worship
- April 5 Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm
- April 6 Good Friday – 7:00 pm
- April 8 Easter Sunday – 7, 8, 9 & 10:30 am – “The Journey Begins Anew”

## Children's Ministry Calendar

February 21– Ash Wednesday  
**No FaithWeaver Friends**

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### Toys for Iraqi Tots

We are still collecting new, or gently used, toys for our soldiers to give to Iraqi children. Any toys are welcome, however if you have any beanie babies or soccer balls to donate they would especially be appreciated! On Sundays, you may place your donations in the box by the piano. At other times please leave your donations with the Children's Ministry Director, or in the church office, labeled "Children's Ministry" or "Toys for Iraq."

Thank you for your wonderful response! We already have four boxes that are going to ship in February.

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### Shoes for Iraqi Children

We recently discovered that the Iraqi children are desperately in need of shoes! In response, we are going to collect not only toys but also shoes! If you have any slightly used sandals, tennis shoes, or dress shoes, that your children have outgrown, please consider donating them to Children's Ministry.

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### Minnesota Food Shelf

Thank you to all of you who continue to donate non-perishables to the Food Shelf. In March, we will again be participating in the Minnesota Food Share Drive. This means that we make an additional effort to meet a special goal for the month of March. Please contact Deb Nelson, Children's Ministry Director, if you are interested in helping with this month long project.

## ELCA WORLD HUNGER

During Lent, we will be participating in the ELCA World Hunger Relief. We will be distributing 40-day hunger calendars and World Hunger Appeal coin banks to the Sunday School children. The children invite the adults of the congregation to join us in this endeavor. Calendars and coin banks will be available, for all ages, at the information center.

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### Wednesday Evening Worship

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? Please consider joining the Wednesday Worship Team. You do not have to commit to every week, as we would like to have several teams. (All ages are welcome!) Please leave your name and phone number with the church office or speak with Deb Nelson, at the piano, before the service begins.

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### Attention Summer Bible Campers

A couple of important dates to keep in mind:

February 25 (less than 2 weeks)

Last date to sell or order popcorn. All popcorn order numbers (#'s) need to be turned in.

March 11 (Less than a month away)

All camp registrations and deposits need to be turned in.

Any questions talk to Paul Schultz (651-426-9128).

Our prayers and condolences go to the family and friends of Curt Leibel who passed away on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

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Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Jim Woodruff will be installed as Lead Pastor here at St. Stephen by Bishop Peter Rogness. There will be a reception between services.

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## QUILTS FOR CHARITY

Quilting days continue in February and March. How about coming and helping make quilts for charity. The days for making quilts are:

Thursday & Friday - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
February 15 & 16

Thursday & Friday – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
March 8, 9, 15 & 16

We need to get those sewing machines humming. See you there. Questions? Call Caroline Felland (651)777-7622.

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## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month  
at 3 p.m.

beginning on February 4<sup>th</sup>.  
The group will be facilitated by  
Jackie Colaizy

If you have questions,  
contact Karen Schultz at 426-9128.

Mark your calendar:

St. Stephen Annual  
2007 Progressive Dinner  
Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

Watch for sign-up and more  
information!

Please consider hosting the main  
course or dessert. If you have  
questions,  
call Judy Gelderman, 651-770-5355,  
or Pam Prokosch, 651-748-3661

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## World Day of Prayer Celebration

Friday, March 2  
1:00 p.m.

North Presbyterian Church  
2675 Hwy 36 E, North St. Paul

The theme of the 2007 celebration is "United Under God's Tent" and was written by the women of Paraguay. The writers developed the theme as a way of imaging how God acts. "United Under God's Tent" is not only God's promise to us, it is an unmistakable call to action for a fulfilled life for all people.

The Paraguayan committee chose the *manduti*, a classic Paraguayan handcraft based on woven floral patterns connected by a single thread, as a symbol of that unity within diversity.

The next Steppingstone will go out on March 6. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

On January 28, we began a new journey when two hundred and twelve members of St. Stephen's came to the Congregational meeting. The most important issue was to call Pastor Jim Woodruff as our Lead Pastor. Our Constitution requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present. The vote was 199 aye, 12 nay, 1 abstain, a ninety-four percent majority!

We also elected new Council members Erik Christopher, Betsy Clark, Andrew Mendez, Lorna Peck, and Chuck Semrow, who began their work immediately the next evening at their first Council meeting. Welcoming them were President Bill VanEssendelft, and returning Council members Viki Bosin, Jerry Engen, Ted Field, and Karen Smith.

The Mission and Vision Statements were presented along with the four primary focus areas that came out of the visioning process: staffing, stewardship, leadership development, and levels of participation/involvement. These initiatives include:

- calling an Associate Pastor whose primary responsibility will be education and youth ministry,
- providing professional development training for Pastor Jim,
- joining Local Mission Partners,
- beginning a different approach to stewardship including a special drive to retire our mortgage,
- renewing the Stephen Ministry program to provide visitation ministry, and
- becoming a contextual education site for the seminary.

After some discussion as to whether the Mission and Vision statements should include the four focus areas, a majority of the congregation approved the entire statement.

A budget of \$444,162.00, with a projected deficit of \$11,065.00, was approved. It includes an increase of 3% in salary for most of the staff, and additional salary for Pastor Jim as Lead Pastor. Bill VanEssendelft is writing a grant proposal to Thrivent, which, if approved, would help fund some of the new programs.

The Call Committee was introduced to the congregation. Members are John Farmer, chair, Karen Smith, Council representative, Rob Allickson, Martha Clark,

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Steve Gelderman, Jeff Olson, and Cindy Scott. The Mission Profile has been updated and sent to the Synod. The Call Committee has met several times and has attended one training session at the Synod. They hope to begin meeting candidates soon, but don't expect to finish the process for several months.

The Council would like to thank the congregation for attending this very important annual meeting, and for their vote to affirm Pastor Jim and the initiatives identified in the visioning process. We would also like to thank all the people who participated in BUBOC and the visioning meetings, as well retiring Council members Dave Anderson, Jesse Davis, Brian Gilbertson, Kate Spencer, and especially past President, Marla Amborn, for their dedication during this transition.

### Statistical Report for 2006

Baptisms:	2006-25	2005-49	2004-37
Weddings:	2006-20	2005-15	2004-21
Funerals:	2006-18	2005-36	2004-25
Baptized:	2006-1113	2005-1115	2004-1117
Confirmed:	2006-829	2005-831	2004-840
Worship:	2006-377	2005-399	2004-393

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## Youth

### All-Metro 30 Hour Famine April 27 – 28

All Saint Stephen Youth are being invited to join with over 300 youth from the Twin Cities at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park, MN for the metro-wide 30-Hour Famine. We will not only fast together, but also rock together, laugh together (award winning Comedy Sportz will be there) and be educated together by speaker Shane Claiborne. The event is free, but all youth must fundraise (our goal is \$60/youth). For information and a fundraising packet talk to Sara!

### Service for Lent: A Reminder to Parents

Remember that **ALL** confirmation youth are required to attend at least 4/6 of the Lenten services. Just as in regular services, attendance will be recorded by the youth's completion of sermon notes (found on youth table by entrance).

### Spring Retreat: Reminder to Parents

**Spring Retreat:** Remember if your confirmand does not attend the Spring Retreat (Youth Quake) than they must make this up by either attending: 30 Hour Famine, Summer BLAST, Camp Wapo or another approved Christian camp.