



The Cornerstone

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
Saginaw, Michigan

GOD'S LOVE IS WORK!

Love is often horribly misunderstood. For example, a little boy grows up saying, "I love vanilla ice cream." Then he changes his mind and declares, "No, now I love chocolate ice cream."

And so goes his "love" life. For a while he loves Fords ... then he loves Chevrolets. He loves his pizza with pepperoni ... then he loves it later with sausage. And then the young man meets a girl ... and how he loves her! She is pretty and makes him laugh and happy. So, he marries her ... professing his love to her. But later she isn't so pretty and doesn't make him laugh and happy anymore.

So the man does what he has always done with his SELFISH love. He leaves his wife and family just like he left vanilla ice cream and Ford cars and pepperoni pizza. After all, selfish love (what's in it for me) is all that fellow ever knew or lived.

This month of February, with our Valentine's Day celebration, is all about love. This month and every month, though, Christians know and crave a special love ... God's love. God's love is a selfless love instead of a selfish love ... and very hard work. But it is a willing burden Christians take upon themselves, for the love described in the Bible is what the heavenly Father always has for us through his Son.

To see how much work God's kind of love is, let's read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a with "I" replacing the word, "love."

I am patient, I am kind. I do not envy, I do not boast, I am not proud. I am not rude, I am not self-seeking, I am not easily angered, I keep no record of wrongs. I do not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth. I always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere. I never fail.

That's a lot of work, isn't it? To forgive instead of get even, protect instead of persecute and persevere instead of bail out, will cost you greatly. You'll have to swallow your pride. You'll have to be selfless. Your love for others will not be a 50/50 commitment, but a 100% commitment on your part. The work and sacrifice will never end.

And so, get to work. Yours is the blessed work of loving each other as the Lord loves you. And as you struggle to love each other, find your hope and strength in this:

Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind. He does not envy, he does not boast, he is not proud. Jesus is not rude, he is not self-seeking, he is not easily angered, he keeps no record of wrongs. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Your Savior always protects,

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always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. The Lord Jesus Christ never fails.

Your Savior Jesus chose to love you selflessly. He lived, died and rose for you. Jesus rules now for your present and eternal good. Heaven and your Savior's endless love will be yours some day!

The love of your Savior will never fail you. Now Jesus calls you to love that same way (John 13:34-35). God's love will be work! God's love will bring blessing!

SUNDAY SERVICE INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

February 5th - Epiphany 5

No Matter the Problem, the Lord Takes Care of His Own

Readings: Exodus 14:13-22, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 8:23-27

February 12th - Epiphany 6

We Work Hard Because Of and Under God's Saving Grace

Readings: Exodus 34:4-10, 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5, Matthew 20:1-16

February 19th - Transfiguration Sunday

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

February 26th - Lent 1

Jesus Has Safely Separated Us from Satan's Grasp

Readings: Genesis 3:1-15, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11

2011 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2011 statements are available for pick up on the tables in the church basement. *Please take your statement even if you do not use it for tax purposes.* If you are a "snow bird" or otherwise out of town, just let us know and we will mail it to you.

OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS

AT HOME: Virginia Aldrich, Gladys Baumann, Gertrude Cooper, Lucille Lutz, William Patrick.

CARETEL: Beatrice Purkis, Theresia Walbert

HOYT HOME: Margaret Niederstadt

STONE CREST: Jean Meyer

SAGINAW SENIOR CARE & REHAB CENTER: Merlein Oehring

SHATTUCK MANOR: Elfrieda Borenstein, Malinda Jarzabkowski

THANK YOU FROM THE WLS FOOD PANTRY

The Seminary family expresses its sincere thanks to those who donated food and funds for our student food pantry. In what has become an annual event, a food-laden truck pulled into the Seminary on Tuesday evening (November 15th). The truck and its crew of volunteers had begun their long journey in Michigan earlier that day. They made stops at congregations in the Northern, Southeastern and Southwestern Conferences of the Michigan District picking up cargo as they went. They were met here by members of the Seminary family who unloaded non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies and other household items all destined for the married student food pantry. In addition, over \$7,170 in cash was also delivered. The food pantry manager will use these funds to buy gift cards at a local supermarket for our student families to use for meat, produce, and other perishable items.

The truck was a welcome sight for our students. The food bank helps bridge the gap for many of them as they balance everyday living expenses and the costs of schooling. Student families are very appreciative of the loving generosity shown by God's people during these challenging economic times. John Raasch, coordinator of the pantry, noted, "We want to thank everyone who gave so freely. Such a large and generous donation is humbling and we are glad to know that it will provide help for so many for quite a while."

GEOGRAPHY BEE RESULTS

Each year, all the students in grades 5-8 take the Geography Bee put out by the National Geography Society. The top ten scorers in the initial rounds become the finalists for the school championship.

Congratulations to this year's "Top Ten": 8th graders – Mitchell Baumgartner, Keith Brassow, Shianne Cox, Sara Suchodolski and David Vlassis; 7th graders – Aislinn Eddy and Josephine Pollick; 6th graders – Katie Gray and Nathan Spaude; and 5th grader – Haley Martin. In the finals, 7th grader Aislinn Eddy won the school championship. A "**well done**" to Aislinn and to all the finalists!

MLS FOUNDATION AUCTION AND DINNER

This year's Foundation Dinner and Auction is set for Sunday, February 12th at 4:00 p.m. at Sullivan's Black Forest Restaurant in Frankenmuth. Tickets are \$30 per person, and \$10 of that ticket price is a direct donation to the Foundation. Attendance is limited to 200, so get your reservation in early by calling 793-7511.

OWLS

The next meeting for OWLS is Friday, February 10th, with the potluck dinner starting at 1:30 p.m. All seniors, 55 and older, are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Our speaker will be local historian, Thomas Mudd, presenting "A Study of Abraham Lincoln".

SPL DAYS OFF IN FEBRUARY

Parents, please remember that there is no school on Monday, February 13th, and on Monday and Tuesday, February 20th and 21st. The office will also be closed those days. Originally, the 13th was supposed to be the Winter Pastor/Teacher Conference, but a special conference was held for the entire District instead in January. Since the date was already on our school calendar, it was not changed back to a school day. The 20th and 21st are the dates of our annual "Winter Break".

MONDAY EVENING SERVICES

As is our custom at St. Paul's, Monday evening services are not held during Advent and Lent. The last Monday evening service until after Easter will be Monday, February 13th.

WOMEN SERVING CHRIST

All members of our congregation are invited to join us for our meeting this month on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. Eric Jyhla will present, "The Saginaw Valley Involvement in World War II". We hope to see you there!

LENTEN WORSHIP

"In His Passion Christ Lives the Fruits of the Spirit" is the title of our series of Lenten and Holy Week meditations this year. The midweek service times are 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. The Lord's Supper (IC) will be served in both services on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

February 22nd (IC) -	His Gentleness	John 13:3-5
February 29th -	His Patience	Matthew 26:36-46
March 7th -	His Faithfulness	Matthew 26:47-56
March 14th -	His Goodness	Matthew 26:57-68
March 21st -	His Self-control	Matthew 26:69-75
March 28th -	His Peace	Matthew 27:11-24

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Our Church Council met on Tuesday, January 10th. The following membership changes took place. ADULT CONFIRMATION: Daniel Miller. RELEASED BY REQUEST: Mario and Jocelyn Pignatelli (Taylor, Madison, Abby, Preston, Landen and Xander.)

The next Church Council meeting is on Tuesday, February 7th.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2011

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>St. Paul's Ministry</u>	<u>Synodical Ministry</u>	<u>PIF</u>
BUDGET			
<u>ACTUAL</u>			
2011 Totals			
	<u>End of year total offering as percentage of budget</u>		
% for 2011	92.2%	93.1%	115%

LENTEN SUPPERS

As of the deadline for information for this issue of the Cornerstone, we have information about two Lenten Suppers this year, both served by the ladies of Women Serving Christ. The dates for the suppers are February 22nd and March 21st. The suppers will be served in the school lunch room from 4:30-6:00 p.m. those nights. A freewill offering will be taken for the cost of the suppers.

KINDERGARTEN NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

A letter will be mailed out soon to those members who have children of Kindergarten age for the 2012-2013 school year. (If you think you should receive a letter, but do not, please call the office (799-3271) and give one of the secretaries your child's birthdate and year and a letter will be mailed to you.) An informational meeting will take place on Thursday, March 1st. Please watch the bulletins for more information.

PTG PICNIC

On Sunday, March 4th, at 12:30 p.m., St. Paul's Parent Teacher Group will have the 20th Annual Winter Picnic at our school. Please join us for fun, fellowship and food. A freewill offering will be taken to offset the cost of the meal. Donations will be used to purchase a new safety mat for the gym. Anyone interested in donating towards the cost of the picnic or helping with preparations can do so by contacting Jennifer Martin (799-8523). A wish list of items needed is available at the school office. See you on March 4th!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The Annual Voters' meeting was held on January 15th. Approximately 55 voters were in attendance. At the meeting the annual reports were presented, read and approved.

(Please note: The reports of our Pastors, School Principal and Sunday School Principal have been included with this newsletter. Copies of other reports are available upon request from the office.)

The following recommendations were approved:

- 1) Request from the pastors for \$700 to be used for hospital brochures, children's Bibles, and devotional books.
- 2) Request by the church and school maintenance staff for a 300 lb. capacity folding platform hand truck to be used to move student desks and other large items at the church and school. The approximate cost is \$50.00
- 3) Request by the school maintenance staff for a Bissell Quick Steamer Deep Cleaner. It would be available for immediate use when children spill milk in the Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms or anywhere else needed. The approximate cost is \$100.00
- 4) An amendment to the General Endowment Fund document (dated October 10, 1993 as amended October 9, 1994) as follows as an addition to the last paragraph: If in any year all the distributable income has not been requested for disbursement, then transfer the remainder in January of the following year to St. Paul's Ministry Fund (General Fund).
- 5) An amendment to the Ministerial Education Endowment Fund document (dated October 12, 2003 as amended July 11, 2005) as follows: Raise the distribution amount from up to \$500 to up to \$1,000.

The Voters also voted to set the date for the April Quarterly meeting. It will take place on *Sunday, April 15, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.*

PASTORS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

"Members of His Church" - the Lord Jesus put it this way: "*Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*" (Matthew 18:20).

Since November of 1851, the Lord has gathered his flock together in this congregation by means of His gospel in Word and Sacrament. With the Apostle Paul we thankfully acknowledge that "*Christ is the head of the*

church, his body, of which he is the Savior." (Ephesians 5:23). For the blessed past and looking forward we are confident that His work will continue here by His grace for the present and eternal benefit of His lambs and sheep.

Dr. Luther stated it this way in a sermon: "Now the church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people; one must hold to them, and see how they believe, live and teach; they surely have Christ in their midst. For outside of the Christian church, there is no truth, no Christ, no salvation." (taken from Luther's Church Postil)

As we briefly review His blessed work among us, it is noted that His truth was preached in some 195 worship services over the past 12 months. Included in that number are the Sunday and Monday services, special services, and weddings and funerals.

May we never take for granted the privilege we have as members of His Church. Rather, we join the Apostle in his song of praise: "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that it is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

FOURTH QUARTER

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	<u>2011</u>	+ / -	<u>2010</u>
Weekend Worship Average	541	- 50	591
Special Services Average	429	+ 20	409

BIBLE CLASS ATTENDANCE

Sunday A.M. Average	91	+ 1	90
Wednesday A.M. Average	12		12
Wednesday P.M. Average	17	- 2	19
Youth Average			16

COMMUNION ATTENDANCE

October: 490	November: 543	December: 827
Fourth Quarter Total: 1,860		
2011 Total: 6,570	2010 Total: 7,071	

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

RECEIVED: 5 by transfer; 4 by profession of faith; 4 by adult confirmation; 14 were changed from baptized status to communicant status through youth confirmation. 8 new baptized members (infant baptism); and 1 additional baptized (under confirmation age) by transfer.

RELEASED: 26 communicants by transfer (plus 5 baptized members);

18 by death; and 18 communicants were released by request/or unable to serve (plus 6 baptized members).

PRESENT ST. PAUL'S MEMBERSHIP:

Communicant: 1,001 Last Year: 1,036
Baptized: 1,236 Last Year: 1,287

PASTORAL ACTS FOR 2011

BAPTISMS: 21 (2010 - 27)

WEDDINGS: 7 (2010 - 4)

FUNERALS: 16* (2010 - 9) *There were 18 deaths in the congregation, and 16 funerals.

STUDENTS ENROLLED AT SYNODICAL SCHOOLS **FIRST SEMESTER**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary - 30 Martin Luther College - 10
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary - 3

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2011 Annual Report

St. Paul's Lutheran School exists to bring glory to the Triune God who created us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us. St. Paul's proposes to bring glory to God first by following the Scriptural principle stated in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom", and by observing the admonition of Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." As a result, the objectives of St. Paul's Lutheran School in 2011 were:

- to strengthen the faith of each child,
- to provide diligent instruction in God's Word,
- to teach all secular subjects in the light of God's Word,
- to strive for excellence in teaching and elementary curriculum,
- to support Christian parenthood and home life,
- to teach children to use their time, talents, and treasures to glorify God in a life of faithful service,
- to encourage children to be decent Christian citizens of our community and country, and
- to strengthen the congregation and the church-at-large.

The blessings of striving for these objectives were, by God's grace and

the work of the Holy Spirit, very evident at our school in 2011. Some of these blessings are listed below.

ADMINISTRATION

- We began the 2011-2012 school year with an enrollment of 119 students taught by eight teachers (a ratio of about 15 to 1).
- The faculty again has received strong support from our two pastors and our excellent staff of secretaries, kitchen workers, and custodians.
- The Board of Education faithfully continued to oversee the policies and procedures of St. Paul's Lutheran School.
- Over a hundred volunteers helped the school's programs run smoothly and have helped keep the school property in good repair and looking great. (Examples: library, hot lunch program, tutoring, office help, Project Read, chaperoning, driving, coaching, painting, cleaning, etc.).
- The students themselves helped the school operate more productively and safely by serving as safety patrols, peer tutors, cafeteria assistants, flag raisers, classroom cleaners, and so on.
- Members and friends of St. Paul's Lutheran School donated over \$2,000.00 to our school during 2011. It is truly wonderful to watch God's people respond to the love our Lord has shown them.
- Over \$3,000.00 has come into the school's gift account from monies received through several programs such as Thrivent Financial for Lutherans "Thrivent Choice" program, Meijer Community Rewards, General Mills Box Tops for Education, Target's Take Charge of Education, and others that reward the school for purchases made at their business by members of St. Paul's who have signed up for the programs.
- The Hot Lunch Program continues to struggle. If the program is to continue, it will need a larger percentage of the school's families signing up for these lunches.
- From October 5-7, St. Paul's Lutheran School hosted the 220 members Michigan District Teachers' Conference. The teachers put in hundreds of hours planning and preparing for this conference. The St. Paul's faculty, staff, and many congregational volunteers helped make this conference a success.

CURRICULAR

- The kindergarten's extended program continues to be very popular with 9 out of 15 students staying the full school day. Since participating families pay to have their children stay until 3:10 P.M.,

the program costs the congregation nothing.

- The performance of Grades 3-8 on the Michigan Educational Assessment Tests (MEAP) indicate that our students continue to receive an excellent education and the graduates are well prepared for their high school education.
- Our school continued its Educational Support Program (ESP) to help students needing individual strengthening in specific areas.
- Educational enhancement opportunities were again offered to gifted students in the areas of spelling, writing, geography, and mathematics.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- Our students were given the opportunity to improve their athletic gifts through full interscholastic and intramural programs. Building Christian character and glorifying God through physical, social, and spiritual strengthening continued to be the primary goal of both programs.
- The musical gifts of the students were also fostered in 2011. Students in Grades 6-8 were encouraged to join the St. Paul’s Chorus. Our Wildcat Band (Grades 6-8) and 5th Grade Beginners’ Band gave our young instrumentalists opportunities to develop their musical skills and to use these abilities in both school and church. Our students were encouraged to participate in the WELS Fine Arts Fair and the Area Lutheran Music Festival. These performance offerings, when combined with the musical work done in the classrooms, give our children many opportunities to grow in their musical appreciation and abilities.
- A love for and participation in theater and public presentations were also fostered in several grades by class plays and by visits to plays being offered in the Saginaw area.

PERSONNEL

- Mr. Dan Fein, who faithfully served as the school’s custodian for 23 years, retired the end of February. Mr. Mark Babcock and Mr. Greg Iles seamlessly picked up the maintenance and cleaning duties at the school. These men have been a wonderful blessing.
- Our sixth grade teacher, Mr. Matthew Groth, has earned his *Master of Education in Educational Technology*. He uses his newly acquired skills to help our St. Paul’s technology program and needs and has been assisting our Michigan District in this area also. Our fifth grade teacher, Miss Audrey Metzger, has earned a “Provisional Teaching Certificate” from the Michigan Department of Education.
- All faculty members continued to grow in their ability to better serve

their Lord and our children in the following ways:

- Daily Faculty Bible Study (Meets at 7:30 AM each morning).
- District teachers’ conferences and workshops.
- SPL workshop on how to better use technology in the classroom.
- Principal classroom visits as part of the synod’s Team Ministry Program and Teacher Assessment Program.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

1. A new 16-station piece of playground equipment from *Superior Play* was added in June. This \$14,000.00 piece of equipment was installed by 18 volunteers and paid for by the St. Paul’s PTG, our SCRIP program, and the school’s Gift Fund. A 50’ x 35’ expansion of our play area was needed to house the new equipment.
2. Many improvements and upgrades were made to the school and its equipment as will be noted in the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. Numerous teaching aids for the classrooms were added from gift moneys generously given to the school. Every item on the school’s 2011 “Wish List” was purchased thanks to generous donors. We thank God the Holy Spirit for moving our members to support our ministry to the children.

We enter 2012 thanking our loving God for the blessings of the past year. By God’s grace, we can confidently look forward to the upcoming year as one during which we will continue to raise up the next generation of believers to proclaim the Gospel message. To God be the glory!

Submitted by Michael A. Hein, Principal

ST. PAUL’S TEACHING STAFF & OPENING ENROLLMENT

Kindergarten	(15 students)	Mrs. Nancy Borchard (AM)
First Grade	(11 students)	Mrs. Nancy Beyersdorf (AM) Mrs. Nancy Borchard (PM)
Second Grade	(16 students)	Mrs. Nancy Beyersdorf
Third Grade	(8 students)	Mrs. Linda Wiles (PM = 3 + 4a)
Fourth Grade	(15 students)	Mr. Kevin Needham (AM)
Fifth Grade	(9 students)	Miss Audrey Metzger (PM = 5 + 4b)
Sixth Grade	(16 students)	Mr. Matthew Groth
Seventh Grade	(15 students)	Mrs. Terri Elder
Eighth Grade	(14 students)	Mr. Michael Hein (AM) Mr. Kevin Needham (PM)

TOTAL 119 students

St. Paul's Lutheran School's
Financial Accounts Balances
 December 31, 2011

Administration/Book Fund	=	
Music Fund	=	
Library Fund	=	
Pre-Kindergarten Fund	=	
Other Funds	=	
(Includes the school's Gift Fund, Ed. Support Fund, Computer Fund, Yearbook Fund, Freedom To Learn Fund, Concession Fund, and 7 smaller funds)		
Total – All Funds	=	
		<i>Total – All Funds (12-31-10) =</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Those involved in the Sunday School ministry here at St. Paul's invite you to join them in thanking God for another year of blessings.

The Lord permitted us to serve 61 students (down 13 from 2010). The average attendance for this school year is 41 students. These students range from three years old through the sixth grade. They are served in the classroom by the following teachers:

- Mrs. Jennifer St. Onge - Preschool Age 3 (11 students)
- Mrs. Angela Brassow - Preschool Age 4 (11 students)
- Mrs. Carolyn Fein - Kindergarten (10 students)
- Mrs. Jeannie Bovee - First Grade (5 students)
- Mrs. Jeannie Bovee - Second Grade (8 students)
 (Mrs. Lorie Rux taught 2 weeks)
- Mrs. Joyce Schultz - Third & Fourth Grades (10 students)
- Mr. Ryan Busman and Mr. Scott Martin - Fifth & Sixth Grades (6 students)

The following assisted our regular teachers as substitute teachers: Mrs. Michelle Bannick, Ms. Renee Johnston, Mrs. Kay Retberg, Ms. Terry St. Onge, Mrs. Phyllis Squanda, Mrs. Janine Wagner and Mrs. Linda Wiles.

The following offered to be on the substitute teacher and helpers' list: Mrs. Jennifer Bovee, Mr. Matthew Groth, Mrs. Becky Iles, Mr. Kevin Needham, Mrs. Janna Needham, Mr. David Niederstadt and Mr. Daniel Westendorf.

Mr. James Roekle substituted for the Principal and helped in numerous other ways. We are very thankful to have such able and dedicated

teachers, substitutes and willing volunteers.

The Mission offerings from the Sunday School students during 2011 totaled \$ 95.97 (down \$42.53 from 2010). These funds were all forwarded (or will be) to these areas of Gospel ministry:

- \$ 37.00 (Easter offering) to Michigan Lutheran Seminary;
- \$ 32.47 (Mission Festival) and \$ 26.50 (Christmas) to Partners In Apache Learning (PAL).

As in previous years, the students proclaimed the Word of God in song at four of our worship services. This included singing for the Ash Wednesday Service, singing on Palm Sunday, singing at our Mission Festival service in November, and singing and reciting at the Sunday School Christmas Service.

With gratitude for all blessings and opportunities of the past, and with full confidence that we shall be enabled to serve the Savior's lambs in the future, I submit this report.

Jeff Goddard, Principal

ANOTHER MISSION MOMENT

Since the Supreme Court legalized abortion with their Roe vs. Wade ruling in January 1973, more than 50 million babies have been aborted in the United States. **50+ Million !!** That number not only equates to the combined populations of Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. It also stabs at the conscience and causes the Christian to cry: *Can nothing be done to reverse this madness?* Of course, things can be done.

During January, which is *Sanctity of Life* month, some churches will rouse their people to prayer by placing bouquets of roses and baby's breath on the altar in remembrance of these precious lives lost through abortion. The red rose symbolizes Life and baby's breath affirms that the baby is a miraculous gift of our Creator God. Indeed, the Scriptures plainly teach, *"In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."* Job 12:10

Our Pregnancy Counseling Centers in Flint and Saginaw are equipped to go still further. As needed, they use Law & Gospel to deal with the sin of abortion ... one heart at a time. Then too, they offer pro-life options, or post-abortion syndrome counseling, or material assistance to every client that walks through the door. And "praise be to God", during the first nine months of last year, the Flint center welcomed 40 clients per month on average and the Saginaw center an average of 56.

But what about me? How can I help? You may have already helped because St. Paul's set aside 15% of its Benevolence Fund offering for the support of our Counseling Centers, and this past year that totaled \$1,530 dollars. Granted, that doesn't begin to cover the 2012 operating budget of \$36,180. But remember, the Centers also receive support from sister congregations throughout the Saginaw Valley; and remember, too, individuals are always free to support the Centers directly with gifts over and above their Benevolence offering, and many do. You might want to consider doing the same.

There is something else you might pray about doing: supporting Christian Life Resources (CLR). Our Pregnancy Counseling Centers, along with 18 others, are linked to this national organization, which is based near Milwaukee, and endeavors to use life and family issues as bridges to convey the love of God and to share the message of salvation through Christ. To that end, it provides:

- a 24-hour helpline: 1-800-729-9535
- *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers*: www.homeformothers.com
- Online information and education: www.christianliferesources.com
- Christian medical directives/durable power of attorneys for Michigan
- *Clearly Caring*: A FREE Magazine addressing life & family issues

The CLR organization also operates a unique gift store ... unique because, 1) it offers a fine selection of often hard-to-find Christian gifts, at below suggested retail prices; and 2) because a portion of your every purchase helps to support the ministry of the CLR and *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers*. Visit the Family Treasures & Gifts store and see for yourself: www.FamilyTG.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS

This month we will send scholarship gifts to the young men and women who are studying at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Our students at MLC are: Jacob Bode, Alexander Jerry, Sarah Kuznicki, Marinda (Martinez) Ledermann, Tara Martinez, Lucas Proeber, Alisa Retberg, Amanda Wiles and Rebecca Wilkens. The members of our congregation at WLS are: James Roecker, Troy Schreiner and Bradley Snyder.

These gifts are an expression of joy and encouragement from our congregation. Yet these future pastors and teachers can use MORE than our monies! They can use our personal prayers and encouragement. We thank God for these blessings to his church!

CHURCH CAMPOUT

Yes, it is time to make reservations for the 2012 Church Campout! Please note that this year's dates are June 21-24, 2012 at Rifle River.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have a standing weekly order for our altar flowers with a local florist. The cost for two bouquets is \$30.00. To place flowers for a special occasion, please call Janet Roekle (793-4893) or the church office (799-3271). If you would like to keep the bouquets, please pick them up after late service on Sunday or after Monday's service. (Note: *Women Serving Christ* pays for any flowers that are not reserved as gifts or memorials.)

ON THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

Please be sure to take the time to look at the bulletin board in the church basement (located behind the coffee table.) A number of thank you letters have been received by those who received gifts from the 2011 Benevolence Fund distribution.

ON OUR WEBSITE

You are encouraged to go to our website, www.stpls.org to see all of the useful information it contains. Here are a few of the things you will find:

- Our church bulletins
- Our church calendar and monthly newsletter
- The previous week's church service, which you can watch on your computer (please tell friends and relatives about this as well!)
- Our school's weekly "Wednesday Note"
- Our school's lunch menu
- Our school's sports schedule
- Directions to the other schools for sporting events
- Our school's student handbook
- Pictures and videos
- St. Paul's History
- Links to other sites, including the "WELS Church Locator" to help you find a WELS church for Sunday worship on your next vacation

Our website is put together and updated by a volunteer in the congregation. Please make use of this helpful tool.