

Pastor's Note (Feb-08)

Greetings in Christ,

You know the old adage 2 heads are better than one; well we put that to work for God's plan at Saint Paul this year. The planning retreat on 11 & 12 January at Mountain Top Lodge was a great success. This took place in a beautiful cabin provided by: Cabin Fever Vacations, at only the cost of the cleaning fee, (Our thanks to Cindy Miller and Cabin Fever). We had 12 people spend the night and a total of 22 on Saturday in this luxurious cabin, where we had time for great devotions, planning, relaxing and growing together.

We were able to experience some very important relationship building amongst our leadership. This time also enabled us to separate ourselves from our everyday lives and plan out an active and mission focused calendar for 2008. I feel this time given to the purpose of serving God was well spent and will produce much focus, and enthusiasm for us in the spreading of the Gospel through our congregation this year.

Here is just a taste of some of the things God has in store for us this Year. As you know we have committed to support 17 ministries or service organizations this year. We have identified dates to have eight of them come and make presentations about what they do. We have a number of Fellowship items scheduled for the year as well; some new, some old favorites, so mark your calendars; Coffee and Donuts will be served in the narthex after church on the last Sunday of every month, A Seder experiential bible study meal will be served @ 5:30 on the 20 of March, Easter Breakfast between Sunrise service and Easter service, Food will be collected and blessed on the second Sunday of each month, The lunch Bunch will meet a noon on the 4th Tuesday of each month, Red White & Blue BBQ on 6 July, VBS "FRINDSHIP TREK" 21 to 25 July, Round-Up Sunday 7 September, a chili cook off and much more.

The fun does not stop there besides planning out the year this energetic group of people came up with and discussed over 50 ideas to help us reach out to the community. These ideas will be reviewed buy the council and distributed to the appropriate committees and boards for the purpose of review and prayerful deliberate discussion. We will seek recommendations on how we might best make use of and incorporate as many of them as possible in a most God pleasing way.

The Elders, Discipleship committee, Trustees & Council will have their agendas full of business this year. The council has already taken action on some of these recommendations; they will be seeking some one to fill the role of "Volunteer Coordinator" for the purpose of coordinating our volunteer efforts in the community as part of the Discipleship committee. Almost half of the Ideas had to do with how we might best deal with our current level of growth. Because of this our Council has established a committee to consider future facility needs. This committee will discuss the ideas submitted in the light of three very important questions.

1. Should and can we expand our current facility.

(If we can not expand, or it is not good stewardship to do so)

- 2 Should we consider relocation?

3. Also should we consider planting congregations in Kodak, Newport or some other nearby community that is not served by a confessional Lutheran Church?

As you can see 2008 will be a very busy year. The people you have elected to ponder these important decisions will need you to keep them in your prayers and will need your encouragement, so make sure let them know how much you appreciate them giving of their time.

In His name

Pastor Portier