



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

"All God's Children Joyfully Celebrating God's Transforming Grace"

Established 1852

915 Federal Av. Saginaw, MI 48607

989.754.0489

Grace and Peace to you all,

As the season of Epiphany, the season of Light, continues, I'm moved by the events of the last few weeks. If the nightly news was our only source of information, it would be increasingly difficult to find any signs of light. Tragedy is so evident in the daily reports. Whether it is the effects of the forces of nature so powerfully demonstrated in the devastation caused by earthquakes and floods, or if it is seeing how human nature drives people we once expected better behavior from, to act in ways that cause us to be disappointed once again. All these things make me glad to be able to look to the source of hope and light.

People need the Lord!

In a few days will again participate in the ancient practices of Ash Wednesday, the day that begins a period of introspection and self examination, a period to attempt to be fully aware of all that our Savior suffered for us. It is comforting to know that when all around us seems to be full of despair and inconsistencies, those long held traditions of "repentance, prayer, fasting and works of love" which have shaped us into people of God, continues to call us to confession, and today are as important as they have been for thousands of years. It is through these practices that we can hear God's direction for our lives. There has never been a time more important for the church to be a strong presence in the world. It is for such a time as this that we are called to take an even more courageous and Christ-like stance.

People are hurting in Haiti, in California, and even in Saginaw. There are so many people who have no hope for the present, let alone for a future. People aren't raised with

someone who can stress the importance of being a Christian, but too often our children are so caught up in TV, cell phones, and computers, that they are virtually raising themselves. They need to hear a word about why on Ash Wednesday; we proudly wear that smudge of ash on our foreheads. They need to see it as a reminder of how Christ bore our sins to the cross and suffered humiliation and death as a way to lay claim on our futures. People need the Lord! People need something to hold on to when everything around them is dark and scary. People need joy and they need to know how much they are loved. And how will they know if we fail to show them or tell them?

As we begin another Lenten journey together, I can't help but reflect on how many of our brothers and sisters are no longer here with us. I can't help but feel the urgency for all of us to be busy, doing what we can to build the kingdom, not just this congregation, but to help rebuild the CHURCH. It feels like this is the year that we each should be seriously doing what we can to draw nearer to God. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us. We must work while it is day. You've heard all those scriptures before, but this year I feel like we had better do all we can, while we can, to reach someone who hasn't yet made a commitment to serve the Lord. And we can take this Lenten period to get our lives in order.

My prayer for us is that God's grace allows us to draw closer to the will of God and help us live with no regrets for what we might have been able to do.

Peace!

Pastor Paulette



**ST JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
915 FEDERAL AV
SAGINAW, MI 48607

Rev. Paulette L. Cummings

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8am-2pm

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989.754.0489 Office
989.754.4029 Fax

EMAIL
OFFICE: office@sjlc.us
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WEB SITE
www.sjlc.us

NEWSLETTER
Deadline: 02-20-10

Submit To:
news@sjlc.us

The family of Bob Bremer would like to thank you for your prayers and support during our dad's illness and his subsequent passing. The cards, phone calls and memorials were all appreciated.

**Sue Oliver
(Bob Bremer's daughter)**

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE BOARD

I am pleased to be able to report that the year end financial report shows we have ended 2009 with a substantial amount of money in the church checking account. Although this was not unexpected due to the several large legacy gifts we received during the year, plus the generosity of all of you, as well as lower than expected expenses, it is comforting to know that we should be able to enjoy 2010 without constant financial stress.

Although I am thankful to be able to share this good news with you, we must continue to be good stewards throughout the year, giving generously of our time, talents and means as best we can. The Lord has blessed us in many ways during 2009 with the opportunity to maintain St. John at it's present location where we can best carry out our mission of outreach and service to the community. What we do with this opportunity will continue to be dependent on each of us.

Bob Morgan, Chair

Memorials...

In memory of **Robert Bremer**, given by Eugene H. Miller (*Camp Maint. Fund*).

In honor of **William Parth**, given by William & Marguerite Schuetter (*Music Fund*).

In memory of **William Parth**, given by Class of 1948 Chairman S.H.S. James Dawson, Elaine Rosin, Dr. Ken & Sue Suppes, Fred & Barbara Housner, Herbert Volz Jr., Arlene Roenicke, Val Grimaldi, Jane Scherzer, Herman Frisch, Elizabeth Frisch, Walter & Delores Noble, Arnold & Bernice Schoen, Art & Kathryn Menapace, Robert & Alice Morgan (*Music Fund*). Elizabeth June Johnson

(*Breakfast for the Hungry*). Jacqueline Wyman, William & Marguerite Schuetter (*General Fund*). Larry & Lori Roenicke (*Heating Fund*).

In memory of **Charles Howell**, given by Elizabeth June Johnson (*Breakfast for the Hungry*). Walter & Delores Noble, Elaine Rosin, Cyd Pasterz, George & Becky Meeker, Audrey Edmond, John Balderas, John & Judy Dallas, Arlene Roenicke, Nelson & Leona Beck, Dan & Karen Engelhardt, Dr. Max Foster, Alice Holec, Warren Martin, Walt & Jackie Pockel, Tom & Betty Giard, Marsha Marcoux, Ernst Wuckert, Gertrude Wuckert, Martha Mettee, Arnold & Bernice Schoen, Robert & Sally Loesel, Jean King, Harry & Rose Marie Nawrock, John & Cathy Pelletier, Larry & Sharon Farmer, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Smigiel, The Richardson Family, Val Grimaldi, Suzanne Steve, Robert & Alice Morgan, Dr. Ken & Sue Suppes, Herman Frisch, Elizabeth Frisch, William & Marguerite Schuetter, Janice Cohee, Pat Kuck, Arla Basner, Rick & Darlene Ahlberg, Herbert & Lena Volz, and Fred & Helen Rehfeld (*General Fund*). Larry & Lori Roenicki (*Heating Fund*). Art & Kathryn Menapace (*Camp Roof*).

Gifts...

A donation was given by **Roger & Pauline Winterstein** (*Summer Day Camp*).

A donation was given by **Lois Herbage** (*Christmas Gifts*).

A donation was given by **Herman Frisch & Elizabeth Frisch** (*Camp Roof Fund*).

HOSPITALIZED

Bob Jahn, Lois Herbage, Kathryn Menapace, Bob Chicky, Ralph Pearce, Ruth Busch, Betty Shelbrock

DEATHS

William Parth
Charles Howell

