



2010

That Pleasant Spirit!

Monthly newsletter

Blessed to Welcome, Worship and Serve



At the Table with Christine

From the earliest days of my relationship with Christine, it was clear that food was important to her. We began our dating life when I met her as a guest on her parent's resort. Even though she wanted to spend time with me, I recall waiting for her on the cement step outside of her home for her to finish dinner with her family. Couldn't she rush it? Why in the world was it taking so long just to eat? Didn't she know I was out here? Waiting! Eventually I learned that she wasn't simply consuming food, but was in the process of being a family around the table. There would be no shortcuts there.

Christine needs food. Don't we all? When I first met her she was a wisp of a person: ninety five pounds in the summer, ninety eight in the winter. There was not much to fall back on when she needed nourishment. I quickly realized that when she endured the long bus ride from the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire to Carthage to visit me for the weekend that she'd be hungry (and a bit crabby if she was *really* hungry) when she got off the bus. I made it a point to have a Twinkie in my pocket and before I said hello, I presented it to her. A guy has to do what a guy has to do.

At our wedding reception, we fed each other with the ritual piece of cake. It was to be our only taste. We were so busy greeting guests that we never got a full piece and the leftover cake was stored in her parent's freezer next to the frozen bluegills. You understand? Fishy wedding cake – ah, no thank you. The wedding cake sharing ceremony is important to Christine and she expects couples to kindly feed each other the cake and she can get a bit churlish if they smear each other's faces with it. Feeding each other with dignity through the years is a good symbol that should not be cheapened for a few wedding reception laughs.

I enjoy sharing food with my wife. Just now I am sitting on the couch writing after having made and eaten what we call: "Door County Stew." We ate in the dining room, with candle light. Stew, by candlelight? Why not? We relished the setting as the light eased itself out of the world and car head lights traced shining paths across the snow. The birds were coming in at dusk, Ma and Pa Cardinal sharing seeds before night fall. I have two feeders. At dinner both are occupied by pairs of cardinals – sometimes three for the evening meal.

Beginning in 2005, Christine and I started having breakfast together regularly. Oh, Christine always had breakfast, but I skipped it. I had extra pounds on my bones and I never felt hungry right away in the morning. I headed to the office on an empty stomach, and mid morning took a walk to the grocery store and gobbled down a couple of donuts and chased them with chocolate milk and wondered why I was positively famished by noon. If I would have paid attention in my high school health class (which I now think is one of the most important offerings in the curriculum), I would have learned that those fast burning foods leave you very hungry very quickly and sap you of energy as well. When I started eating well, I was stunned by how good I felt. The key component for this wellness was sharing breakfast at the table with Christine each morning. I even published an article on it once. To this day, we eat together every morning possible. We eat a sprouted grain cereal (Ezekiel 4:9 made by Food for Life) with a banana and milk. In the summer we add a melon and in the winter it's grapefruit – without sugar. This breakfast gives us all the energy we need until lunch. It wasn't until I began eating breakfast that I started to lose those extra pounds. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and we eat the same one 95% of the time, together. Why change what truly nourishes?

There is the additional *benefit*, of sitting across the table from my wife and seeing myself through her eyes. In those moments I learn if my hair is combed, my beard trimmed, if I have on matching clothes, all kinds of fascinating pieces of information. She is quite observant.

"I've never seen you do that before," she observed just last week. "What are you doing to your grapefruit?"

Before she asked I'm not sure I even knew what I was doing. Some people write books on 'mindfulness.' I could write one on "mindlessness." Why was I spooning sections of the grapefruit onto my plate, stacking it up, instead of eating it outright? Clearly, I am a mystery to her. She expected an answer. I could see the questions form behind her eyes: "Is he actually playing with his food? Is he losing it? What?" Then I saw her eyes narrow. She had seen there was something wrong with this practice, now it was up to me to figure out what.

"Well honey," I said clearing my throat, "the grapefruit is a bit cold this morning and my teeth are warm from coffee and since I'm in a hurry I'm stockpiling the grapefruit onto the plate to let it warm up and then I'll eat it in one gulp. It is efficient use of time."

I could see her continued scrutiny. It's a good thing to see your self reflected in the eyes of another. "I suppose there could be a problem with this behavior," I observed, "in that the parts I am going to eat are now in contact with the grapefruit peel which may not be clean?" I actually reasoned! I can do it! "Honey," I continued, "would you mind terribly if when we had breakfast I placed a bag over your head?" Now she was laughing, or trying to laugh, in such a way to keep the grapefruit in her mouth."

So we share the food experience. We sit down. We make space and time to reflect on our lives, our relationships, our values, our faith, and see ourselves in the eyes of the other over a table. We have found this to be powerful, unifying.

There is another meal we share. We often give it to each other in front of you. We are all there at the table and we are fed by Christ. We see ourselves reflected in his presence there. We gather around the table, bathed in candlelight to receive a gift, our food for life, and fortify relationships with Christ and each other.

As this new year deepens, let us deepen our relationships with each other around The Table. Dine on grace, mercy, love, and experience peace. This is a food that unifies. I find so much meaning in being at the table, with you.

Pastor David L. Echelbarger



Haiti

Within the last two weeks, our congregation has raised over \$6,000 for the Haiti Relief Effort! Thrivent Members can go online and download a form for matching funds! <https://www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti/>. This is what the ELCA is doing in Haiti:

- 2 **water** purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000.
- Emergency **food** and **medical supplies** to thousands.
- Blankets and tents to **shelter** 10,000 people who are homeless.

Funding, distributed through three partners, will increase as giving continues.

- \$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together (ACT). The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake.
- \$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid.
- \$150,000 has been sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials.

In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States. Praise God for caring people!



Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Ash Wednesday, February 17, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Lent is a moveable season, dependent on the date of Easter which varies over a 35-day period based on solar movements. The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is the most solemn day of the year. During the Ash Wednesday service, we use penitential Psalm 51, are given the opportunity to receive individual absolution of sin and imposition with ashes made from last year's Palm Sunday palms, and we celebrate Holy Communion. *(There will be no Lenten potluck preceding the evening service. Those meals begin the following Wednesday, February 24.)*



This year's Lenten offering will go to support The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and Hispanic Ministry Program at Emmaus Lutheran. LSTC offers educational programs to those seeking calls to ministry as pastors, youth workers, college professors and more. The Hispanic Ministry Program at Emmaus Lutheran is lead by Jhon Freddy Correa, a student at LSTC. The ministry kicked off there in the fall of 2009 and currently has 180-200 people in worship each week. There is a variety of other programs going on throughout the week for young adults, youth, small group Bible Study and more. We will have guest preachers here from both of these ministries during our Wednesday Lenten Services.

Lenten Potlucks - Begin Wednesday, February 24



- 5:00 p.m.-** Youth Bell Choir
- 5:30 p.m.-** Potluck Supper
- 6:30 p.m.-** Lenten Vespers
- 7:30 p.m.-** Senior Choir

These meals will be hosted each week by various Mt. Pleasant groups. The first Wednesday potluck on February 24 will be hosted by the Tuesday Bible Study group. (Please note that there is NO Wednesday service or dinner on March 31, during Holy Week.)

The main dish will be provided by the church, and the congregation provides the rest (salad, rolls, casserole, dessert, etc.) Plates, bowls, silverware, and beverages are also provided.

There is always more than enough, so please feel free to stop in at the last minute empty-handed and enjoy the food and fellowship. *** If your MPLC group would like to volunteer to host a meal on one of the Wednesday nights during Lent, please contact Gina Bartel at (262) 634-6816 or ginabartel@wi.rr.com.**



April 4, 8 - 9 a.m.

Once again our Mt. Pleasant youth will be hosting a wonderful Easter Breakfast. Come down to Fellowship Hall to enjoy delicious egg bake, muffins, and fruit cups... all being served by our youth. A free-will donation will be taken to help support their summer trip to Toronto, Canada. Please sign up in the narthex.



Easter Garden

Our Easter decorations this year will include lilies, tulips, azaleas, daffodils, cyclamens, begonias, hydrangeas and gerbera daisies. You may contribute towards one or more of these beautiful plants as a gift, in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. If you wish to take one of the plants home, the cost is \$12. If you would like one of our home-bound members to receive it, any amount may be donated.

Please return your payment, along with the order form on the back of this newsletter, to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 28.



How About a Date for Valentine's Day?



On Sunday, February 14, at 7 p.m., Brent Mitchell will perform songs about sin, grace, and faith. His songs wrestle with theological conflicts such as reason and faith, innocence and suffering. Brent has lived as a singer-songwriter for more than thirty years, but this is the first time he has put all of his songs about faith together in a single program designed for a church audience. A collection will be taken during the performance designed to benefit two programs in a small community in Guatemala. One program is to establish a scholarship fund for members of the community who desire to study at the nearby university, but who lack the approximately \$250 per year in fees they would need to enroll. The second program is to fund a group of women who call themselves the "Promotoras." The Promotoras devote their weekends to traveling to other impoverished communities in the region, where they offer workshops to other women on topics such as non-violence towards women, self esteem, and the importance of education for girls as well as boys. Please join us!



Sean Knudsen to give Senior Recital

MPLC's own, Sean Knudsen, will be giving his senior organ recital on Thursday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Carthage College. Sean is a very talented organist who has prepared a wonderful program...we hope to have a large Mount Pleasant presence in the audience to cheer him on! Those wishing to car-pool to the event are asked to please sign up in the narthex.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Sundays During Coffee Hour 10:00 - 10:40 a.m. *Shaping the Gift that Is You Concludes February 7*



God has created us with gifts. How do we discover these gifts? How do we allow God to shape them? How can we become a gift to others and God? There are ways to discover the wonder of our personal stories. God's Gift to the world, is you! Fill your cup and sit back for a little personal discovery time.

Join us on:

February 14 for a Valentine Extravaganza: *Love, Love, Love* - a one time session on Biblical Love.

February 21 and 28 -*Arctic Dreams: Journey to the Spiritual Pole* with Pastor Dave: Lent is arriving and with it a new adult educational experience. Let's think of our spiritual journey as a physical/spiritual adventure to the very edges of our experience. Remote, yet incredibly near, this will be a unique way to look at our spiritual journey, using insights from writers Annie Dillard, Barry Lopez, and others.



Tuesday Bible Study...will take a recess following the February 9 session during Lent.

Mount Pleasant is in the Process of Planning a Trip to Dead Sea Scroll Exhibit in Milwaukee. Stay tuned for details!



Summer Camp Opportunitites

Elementary students...are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Lutherdale Bible Camp has many fun options for you! There are family camps, mini-sessions, and week long adventures. For more information, please take a brochure from the hospitality center.

Vacation Bible School . . . Save the Date



The week of August 2-6 has been reserved for Vacation Bible School 2010. Save the date and invite your friends!



Team . . . We Need YOU!

LOTS of advance planning is required before 150+ children arrive at Vacation Bible School in August! Please consider joining the 2010 VBS Planning Team. All input and ideas are welcome and appreciated. Stop at the narthex sign-up table to indicate your area(s) of interest: Crafts; Snacks; Storytelling; Music; Recreation; Sets/Decoration; or As Needed. You may also indicate if you are most interested in planning for preschool, lower elementary or upper elementary. If you have any questions about VBS, please contact Carol Holtz or Laura Kozenski at the church office (634-6669).



Bean Soup Mixes for Hunger



The confirmation youth in Middle School Sunday Church School donated dried beans and worked together to assemble “Bean Soup Mixes in a Jar.” As they are learning about living a life filled by the Fruit of the Sprit, the youth are using this project to address hunger in Racine. The soup mixes will be for sale in the narthex for a suggested donation of \$5. All money collected through the sale of the bean soup mixes will be given to the food pantries of Racine. Please stop in the narthex to purchase a soup mix (for yourself or a gift) in support of the middle school youth.

Confirmation News



The Apostles’ Creed Quiz Bowl for sixth, seventh and eighth grade confirmands will be Wednesday, February 10.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17, confirmands and their families will attend mid-week worship on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent. When attending Lenten mid-week worship, confirmands should complete and submit the purple Worship Response Form.



WELCA

The WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, February 23, in Mygatts Corner. Bibles and study materials are provided. Fellowship is 9-9:30 a.m. with the study from 9:30-10:30. If you have any questions, or would like to join us, please contact Mary Moore, at 637-7083.

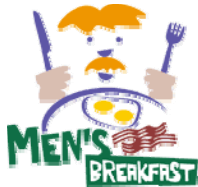
Financial Peace University Returns **Classes start Thursday, February 11, 6:15 p.m.** **4th Grade Classroom**



Financial Peace has been offered here at MPLC for five years. Over 100 people at Mt Pleasant and in the community have learned how to achieve peace in their financial lives. It is a life-changing program on personal finance. It's designed to empower people to manage their money better, eliminate debt and build wealth. All material is biblically based and taught via entertaining video by Dave Ramsey.

Class cost is \$98 per family for materials and lifetime membership. Sign up in the narthex, or contact Gary and Carla Kovacs at cjkovacsrn@yahoo.com or 886-2720.

Remember, if you have attended Financial Peace in the past you are a lifetime member and can attend at no cost.



The Disciples: Their Spiritual Journey **Four Saturday's in Lent - February 20 & 27, March 20 & 27** **Fellowship Hall, from 8 - 9 a.m.**

This Lenten opportunity for men will feature a sumptuous breakfast, fellowship, and a brief study. Pastor Dave will lead an exploration into the spiritual path of the disciples of Jesus and connect it to our journey as men.

Pastor Dave and friends will be cooking breakfast in Fellowship Hall, complete with his fresh roasted coffee. The breakfast will last from 8 to 9 a.m. Anyone wishing to be one of Pastor Dave's "friends" and help him prepare breakfast, please give him a call at either home (456-1325), or the office (634-6669).

So we can plan, please sign up by calling the church office or by emailing Pastor Dave at DEchelbarger1952@gmail.com by the Thursday prior the study (February 18).

Consider taking advantage of this opportunity to deepen both your spiritual journey and your connection to other men in our congregation.

Library Corner



Many new books have been added to the Library through donations from Carol Holtz and Pastor Samuelson, as well as others that have been dropped off. Please stop in and take a look at some of books as we try to change the display to coincide with the church year. The Secret Keeper Girl Series has added "T" is for Antonia, Just Call Me Kate, Danika's Totally Terrible Toss, and Yuzi's False Alarm. The Library continues to grow... and books donated to commemorate a birth of a new baby, a birthday, a special event, or something that you find to be helpful in your Christian life are always welcome. If you are donating a book, please leave a note with the book as to the event be honored – a book plate will be added to the inside cover. If there is a title that you might like to see added, please leave a note in the office or in the library basket. When checking out a book, just sign the card located in the pocket in the front of the book and place in the small basket on the library counter. When you return the book, place it in the basket on the counter. Enjoy the new books and have fun reading!



Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for your kind donation of 9 quilts to The Salvation Army. Your support is greatly appreciated. Without your help, we would not be able to assist the less fortunate of our community. Our programs can only continue because of you and other caring people in our community. Thank you again; we pray that God will continue to bless you.

Marching On For HIS Glory,
Robert L. Edmonds, BCPC
Major
Corps Officer

To the members of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church,

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of these, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
Matthew 25:35*

Jesus' message to us could not be clearer; we are to minister to those in need. Your congregation's ongoing and virtually perpetual support of the food pantry at Holy Communion Lutheran Church is absolutely awesome and incredible. It allows us to continue playing a significant role in feeding the less fortunate in our community.

Thank you so much for your continued support. Your donations have been wonderful and is truly a reason to praise God for his blessings.

Yours in Christ,
Sharon Wilczynski, Food Pantry Coordinator

Dear Mt. Pleasant Congregation,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us the use of your church hall for our annual Christmas party for our Volunteers and Littles. The generosity of all of you at Mt. Pleasant Church has made it possible for us to provide a wonderful Christmas party for our Bigs and Littles.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we depend on the generosity of church groups like yours to help us provide service to the many at-risk children in our community.

We were able to serve a record number of children in 2009 and you played an important role in helping us make that happen.

Sincerely,
Tom Weiss, Executive Director
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Racine & Kenosha



Environmental Stewardship

By: John Berge

Recently I had the opportunity to see a friend’s renovated kitchen with all LED (light emitting diode) under cabinet and other lighting fixtures. What a pleasant and energy saving way to be good environmental stewards! A 6-watt LED generates more light than an 11-watt CFL (compact fluorescent lightbulb) or a 40-watt incandescent (Thomas Edison’s old invention) while using 45% less electricity than the CFL and 85% less than the incandescent. If every family in Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church replaced just one 40-watt incandescent that is on for an average of six hours per day with a 6-watt LED, we would keep more than 33.5 tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere each year. LEDs generate about 97% less heat than incandescent bulbs and so are advantageous in enclosed fixtures and other heat sensitive places. CFLs last about ten times longer than incandescents - 6,000 to 15,000 hours vs. 1,000 to 2,000. But LEDs last around 50,000 hours – nearly 23 years if used six hours per day or more. They still are initially expensive, about \$35 for a 6-watt bulb, so I don’t expect many will fit out their entire house or church in LEDs until the price comes down... but why not try *one*?



Cluster Annual Meeting Tuesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m. at OSLC

The ELCA Cluster Church in Racine will be having their annual meeting at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23. The time together will begin with worship (Jhon Freddy preaching and Pastor Denise Mbise, presiding). There will be an update from the Hispanic ministry at Emmaus and the Meal Site Coordinators. Other business includes electing/nominating a lay male for the 2011 National Assembly, and a “Farewell Pastor Jeff/Welcome Bishop Jeff” reception. All members of the cluster churches are invited to attend.



On Sunday, February 7, there will be two NFL teams playing for the championship. On that same exact day, there will be 35-million households in the United States considered food insecure, which would fill up 500 NFL stadiums. We can do our part by participating in **Souper Bowl Sunday**. Bring a donation for the food pantry when you come to church that day, or bring your spare change to be a part of the Noisy Offering. Our first Noisy Offering back in November was a great joy to many. We will continue this wonderful tradition with a Noisy Offering on Souper Bowl weekend.

Blood Drive – January Results



We were able to provide 25 units of blood during our January blood drive. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, provided food, and donated. The next drive will be Wednesday, June 2 from 1-6 p.m. Watch for the sign up starting in May. A donation of blood is the gift of life!



2007 Lenten Offering Update Guinea Worm

The following article about the African Guinea Worm was in our April 2007 newsletter: “This horrid Sub-Saharan Africa disease, in which 2 to 3-foot long worms emerge from human hosts, can be eradicated within five years if enough people buy portable pipe filters. Your \$30 gift can pay for 100 filters for nomadic tribes’ people, a gift that will be matched by the Gates Foundation for another 100 filters.” ...We have already received more than \$1,905 since Ash Wednesday, which represents 12,700 water filters.” MLPC members donated over \$4,500 to this worthy cause during Lent in 2006.

To see an update on how the African Guinea Worm has “almost” been eradicated, visit:

http://www.cartercenter.org/health/guinea_worm/mini_site/index.html.



Empty Bowls 2010 Monday, March 1

Help fight hunger in our community by attending one of the two sessions of Empty Bowls. **This year the event is again being held at the Masonic Temple (enter 1012 Wisconsin St.) from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.**

For \$15 you will have the opportunity to choose a handmade ceramic bowl (to keep!) and fill it with wonderful soup prepared by Racine’s finest chefs. For \$7 you can skip the handmade bowl and still have great soup (even take it to go!). Children’s (under 10) meals without a keepsake bowl cost \$5. Help fight hunger in our community!



Bake Sale Saturday & Sunday February 27 & 28

The Senior High Youth will be hosting a Bake Sale before, between and after worship services the weekend of February 27 and 28 to help support this summer’s mission trip to Toronto, Canada. Please stop by and pick up a sweet treat and support our youth!

We Care



Please continue to use your card on every purchase you make at Pick ‘n Save, large or small. New members, please register your card at the service desk to our account #522750. The money we receive back is used by the Holy Communion Church food pantry to purchase needed items to feed the hungry. Thank you for your participation!



Campbell's Labels for Education

Sadly, the pre-school at Holy Communion church will be closing their doors at the end of this school year in May. Thank you to all who have been supporting their program by saving and bringing their Campbell's labels to Mt. Pleasant.

In lieu of their closing, we will now be collecting and sending our labels to our "partner" school, Westridge Elementary, to help support their art, athletic and academic programs. Help them earn much needed supplies, products and merchandise by continuing to save your Campbell labels. Don't forget that this also includes products with the following names: Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego V8 and Splash.

Make sure the UPC with the little logo and point value remains intact, and place them in the box on the hospitality center. Thank you so much for participate

The Youth Want Your Aluminum Cans!



This month we received another \$13.78 for the aluminum cans that have been donated. (The GRAND total received so far for aluminum recycling is over \$1,111!) If you're not in the habit of taking your cans to the recycling center, our senior high youth will gladly use them. Please bring your bagged cans to church and place them in Fellowship Hall by the soda machine. All money received goes towards the senior high summer trip.

Newer Member Night

If you are a newer member to Mount Pleasant Lutheran, we invite you to join us for a newer member pizza and family fun night.



Friday, February 26
6 – 8 p.m.
Fellowship Hall,

Please register by calling the church office at (262) 634-6669.

Dining Out



Good food, good wine, good fellowship, and hints of a warm and sunny atmosphere in the midst of winter in Wisconsin was all it took for our "Dining Out" travelers to pick Villa D' Carlo for our February 28 destination. This Italian family owned restaurant has been a landmark of the Kenosha waterfront district for almost fifty years. A menu and map will be with the sign up sheet in the narthex. We will meet at the restaurant at 4 p.m., or for those wishing to carpool - here at MPLC at 3:30. This event is open to any adult member, friend, or visitor who enjoys trying different ethnic restaurants along with the fellowship of old and new friends. We would like to encourage you to join us!



Quilters

What do tying a knot, fellowship, and 9 a.m. have in common? That's all that is needed to join our group on the second and fourth Monday of the month! In February we would love for you to join us on the 8th and 22nd.

Do you love to sew? Do you have an hour or two to help the quilters at home? We have sets of large squares ready to go – no cutting needed – just arrange and sew! We also need volunteers (either male or female!) to cut squares. Do you love finishing projects? We have assembled tied quilt tops, batting and quilt backings that need to be finished!

The quilters are also looking for new or gently used color or print sheets (flat or fitted) to use as quilt backs. Please put them outside the 'Quilter's Room' on the Fellowship Hall level.

If you have any questions, or are able to help in any way, please call Gen Goldsworthy at 633-9576.



Afternoon Adult Fellowship

The Afternoon Adult Fellowship will meet Wednesday, February 10, 1-3 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. Coffee and tea will be provided, with soda available. Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Gloria Peterson at 886-5122.



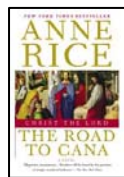
Young Parent's Valentine's Day Date Night Sunday, February 14, 3-6 p.m.

Parents of young children, take some time for yourself to relax or to nurture your relationship with your spouse. Leave your child(ren) in the care of trusted adults and teens at MPLC while you have dinner, see a movie or just talk. Sign your child(ren) up for February 14, 3-6 p.m. childcare in the narthex.

O.W.L.S. We've Been Invited!



The St. Andrew O.W.L.S. have invited us to participate in their potluck and to learn from the speaker about risk management, strokes, and vascular issues. The date is Friday, February 12, and the time is 5:30 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan on attending so that they can plan better for that evening.



Annual All Women's Read 2010 February 21, 6-8 p.m.

This year's book is Road to Cana by Anne Rice. This is the second in her series on the life of Jesus. In this book we get to encounter Jesus in his hometown with his family, and we witness his baptism and his first sign that he is the Messiah from the Gospel of John. Do you agree with Rice and her interpretation of his times? Come and discuss this wonderful book. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex.



SAVE THE DATE!
Lent Event
Friday, March 5, 6 p.m.

Bring your family for a fun night of preparation for Lent and Easter. There will be activities for our very young children all the way through 5th grade. The fun will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner being provided.

Crafters Corner



In February, the crafters will meet on Thursdays the 4th and 18th at 9 a.m. in Mygatts Corner. Those of you who indicated an interest in crafting during the recent church survey were contacted and we extend another invitation to join this awesome group.

The crafters could use your spare buttons and ladies belt buckles. Please drop them off at the church office or put them in Donna Mullikin's mail box. Thanks for your continued help.



Project Night on February 12
6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for fun and fellowship on February 12. This is a GREAT opportunity to get some stamping, scrapbooking, painting, stitching, etc. done!

4th-5th Grade: Share the Love
Sunday, February 21, noon – 4 p.m.



4th and 5th graders, it's time to shower some people with love at St. Mary's hospital downtown! We'll grab some lunch at church and then take a shopping trip to buy items like stuffed animals, candy, and slippers. After that we'll go to the hospital to hand give our gifts to people who need a little love to help them feel better!

Bring a friend, and a few dollars to chip in, and sign up in the narthex. Parents, share your love and sign up to drive!



6th-8th Grade: Paint and Play
Friday, February 19, 6-9 p.m.

We have bookshelves that need to be painted for Cops and Kids, and we have a projector we can hook up for some Wii-tastic fun! Come in clothes that are ok to get paint on, and after we finish with the shelves we'll compete to see who is the best at Wii bowling, hula hooping, or whatever else we can think of. You are welcome to bring your Wii games and your MP3 player (we can hook some music up to our sound system in Fellowship Hall). Parents, you too can be a bowling champion... sign up in the narthex to hang out!



High School Sunday School: Good Sex Continues

We will be concluding our look at *Good Sex: A Whole Person's Approach to Sexuality* in the month of February. The discussions have been great and everyone is invited to be a part of this important conversation. In February our topics will be: Boundaries, Responsibility and Do-Overs. Food and Beverages will be provided.

Seniors – Save the Date



Senior Recognition Sunday will be on May 9 at the 11 a.m. worship service. Please save one of your senior pictures for MPLC and watch for your invitation in the mail in March.



Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Braden and Carrie Halverson on the birth of a daughter, Jenna Beth, on January 15.



Wheaton Franciscan – Anthony Bausch, Kathy Heyse, Bill Mahnke, Vicki Niemczyk, Viola Streuli



Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Phyllis Kitzmann and family on the death of mother-in-law Matilda 'Tillie' Kitzmann on December 29; to Joyce Akin and family on the death of sister-in-law Margaret Akin on December 30; to Diane and Mike Kelly and family on the death of mother Jerrine 'Jerry' Doherty on January 12; and to Hollie (Brian) Nelson, Aimee (Shaun) Dennis, and Elizabeth (Brian) Wolf and their families on the death of grandmother Emily "Sue" Fritz-Schulz on January 24.



March newsletter articles are due by **Sunday, February 21**. Please e-mail to klong@mplc.us, fax to (262-634-6690), or drop off in the church office. Thank you!

Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church
1700 S. Green Bay Road - Racine WI 53406
Phone: 262.634.6669 – Fax: 262.634.6690
E-mail: info@mplc.us – Website: www.mplc.us

STAFF:

David Echelbarger (DEchelbarger@mplc.us)..... Pastor
Christine Thomas-Echelbarger (CThomasE@mplc.us)..... Pastor
Kara Baylor (kbaylor@mplc.us)..... Pastor
Eduardo García-Novelli (eduardo@mplc.us)Sr. Choir Director
Michael Becker (michael@mplc.us).....Organist/Accompanist
Holly Hess (hhess@mplc.us)Director of Faith & Life
Carol Holtz (caholtz@mplc.us)Co-Director of Christian Education
Laura Kozenski (lkozenski@mplc.us).....Co-Director of Christian Education
Laura Carpenter (lcarpenter@mplc.us) Youth Director
Karen Martin (kmartin@mplc.us)..... Office Manager
Rosie Johnson (rjohnson@mplc.us)..... Secretary
Krista Long (klong@mplc.us) Secretary
Sue Cawley Assistant Organist
Annie Blunt Sexton
Josh Martin..... Sexton
Bill Galis Assistant Sexton

CONGREGATION COUNCIL:

Jamie Rauth (705-6424 or jamierauth@mac.com) President
Brian Langendorf (498-7621) or brian@draeger-langendorf.com) Vice President
Dick Zimmermann (639-9209 or dkzimmer@sbcglobal.net) Secretary
Larry Berger (456-4779 or lwlkberger@gmail.com)..... Treasurer
Dave Cecchini (554-6107 or dcecchini@wi.rr.com) ...Financial Secretary
David Lumby (925-8875 or dlumby@tds.net)..... Worship & Music
Carol Wiechers (880-6160 or cjh1210@aol.com) Youth
Paul Orłowski (porlowski@stuart.iit.edu) Social Ministry
Barb Short (552-5331 or bshort@carthage.edu) Evangelism
Jerry Smith (554-8482 or Cheeriosluvr@sbcglobal.net) Property
Don Mathson (639-0866 or dmathson@sbcglobal.net) Stewardship
Sharon Anderson (639-3939 or s.anderson7777@sbcglobal.net) Parish Activities
Kevin Pearson (886-1942 or kpearson@prairieschool.com) .Christian Ed.

EASTER FLOWERS

Our Easter decorations this year will include lilies, tulips, azaleas, daffodils, and mums. You may contribute towards one, or more, of these beautiful plants as a gift, in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. If you wish to take one of the plants home, the cost is **\$12.00**. If you would like a homebound member to receive it, any amount may be donated.

Please return your payment and order form to the church office no later than **Palm Sunday, March 28.**

*Please make checks payable to **Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church.***

Your Name *(will also be listed in the bulletin)*:

Your Phone Number: _____

Number of Plants

\$ _____

Amount Enclosed

Please Circle one: I will take my plant home. **OR** Please give to one of our homebound members.

+++++

Please indicate the **names and relationships** for each plant ordered **(PLEASE P-R-I-N-T CLEARLY)**:

Circle one: In Memory - Honor - a Gift

Circle one: In Memory - Honor - a Gift

Circle one: In Memory - Honor - a Gift

Circle one: In Memory - Honor - a Gift