

Walk In the Park



As soon as the weather improved, people began walking, running, and biking past our house in great numbers. My goal, when I back out of my driveway, is not to hit them. I am especially sensitive about this since my son was run over a while back when he was running (he's on the mend, by the way). Driving tip of the month: As a runner I spend about half my time running facing traffic. (Running tip of the month: be sure you run both with traffic and against traffic to balance out your legs due to the cant in the road way). Back to the driving tip, when I am running facing traffic, a driver turning right usually has their eyes focused on the vehicles coming from the left. If they begin the turn without looking right they could run right over me. That's what happened to my son, and that's what nearly has happened to me three times since March. There will be at least one more "tip" in this column but you'll have to find it for yourself.

As the people begin streaming past my yard, I noticed them. There were a couple of middle aged identical twin women swinging their arms in unison. I checked my glasses, banged my head, and there were still two of them so I concluded they were twins. There are at least three people who walk the same set of three dogs, or are the dogs rotating their people? There are any number of children on bikes, runners, dog walkers, and baby stroller pushers.

One night I sat in my front yard to watch the passersby. This is very relaxing. Go ahead try it! Move from the backyard to the more sociable front and see what is going on. (Yeah, that's a tip, too, maybe there will be one more – but again, I'm not pointing out anymore tips). I especially remember the dads pushing their babies -- because once upon a time, I was one of those dads. Sitting in my chair, drinking a Diet Cherry Pepsi, I was taken back twenty some years when my little darlings were propelled by me on a walk. I am thinking of Anna with her little blond curls. I am thinking of David with his little blond curls.

I really enjoyed the one on one times with my children. They loved the stroller rides, especially if I was taking them to the park. During the entire outing they sought to engage me in conversation. They peppered me with a solid line of questions. Asking questions is the primary way a child engages his or her parents. Children do not usually come out and say: "Hey, Dad, let's discuss the stock market and its implication for a long term recovery." Neither do they ask: "Hey mom, when you factor in the cost of environmental damage, it would be interesting to compute the real cost of oil. This would be a fascinating number when we are thinking about rebuilding our nation's energy infrastructure." More likely they'll ask: "Why is that bird red?" "Why is the grass green?" "Why can't I have ice-cream?" Sometimes they asked the "what" questions, but what really intrigues them is *why*. Aging never changes this. We are always focused on the why of things. *The why of my life*. (That's actually the fourth tip – meaning is how we answer the why – but again, I'm not really pointing these out anymore – remember?)

I loved hanging out with my little children and focusing on their world. You know how it is. We live up here, and they live down there, nearer the ground. It's good for us to get down there on all fours. Slow down and hear their "whys." Once I gave my little boy a camera and he took a roll full of pictures. When I had them developed it was revealing. They were all from his perspective, what he found valuable. A number of shots were of our now long deceased calico cat, Kallie. There were pictures of his sister, and the pictures of his parents were the most telling. We towered over him as he looked up to us and snapped the shutter. Those one-on-one walks were ways to connect with that smaller world. Their little voices were music to me especially when they said the cherished word: "Daddy." My daughter still calls me Daddy, and I still melt when she does and instinctively grab my wallet.

So I rejoiced as the parade of strollers goes by the house, until I noticed something troubling. One of the dads was talking on his cell, in animated discussion. His daughter was in one world – enjoying the ride – he was in another – talking business while taking care of business. Two worlds. Two separate worlds. One down *there*. The other up *there*, but the *theres* did not intersect with conversation. Same space. Different realities. No "why" questions. All the *theres* in the world cannot produce a *here*. "I am *here* with you. I am *here* for you."

And there were moms with headphones as well – hard to spot at first with those small little wires that snake the phones into your ears. Parent and child out together while staying apart. When I answered those *why* questions of my children, we connected – even if the answer was: “Honey,” I still call my children honey, “I don’t know.” And then they’d ask: “Why?”

Now I wasn’t always good about being connected and who knows how good I’d do in today’s culture. My children grew up back in the day where your world could not follow you 24/7. That was a world where you were not connected with the universe from any spot you happened to be if you were so equipped. The world of electronic connectedness was just beginning and I too strayed into it. The first foray into the media everywhere world came with the invention of the Sony Walkman. This was an amazing, what will they think of next, invention: a portable stereo cassette deck with headphones. At least once, I wore one of those while on a walk with my daughter (I was pushing the stroller) and my wife. It was a lovely spring day during our first few years in ministry. I had been studying for the comprehensive examinations that would give me my second master’s degree in philosophical theology. I was anxious about the exams coming up and needed to get away from it all. So we went for a walk, and I listened to music, pushed the stroller, and smelled the spring lilacs in near downtown Waukesha and stayed in my own world – a parallel existence. I must not have done that too much because I remember what I listened to. Three pieces of music: Khachaturian’s “Violin Concerto,” Copeland’s: “Appalachian Spring,” and Ives’, “Three Places in New England.” So maybe those folks walking by the house in their own worlds, isolated spiritually from their children were only engaged in a brief aberration of parenting, but it is something to think about given today’s temptations. I’m willing to bet eventually I’ll see grandma and grandpa out with the grandkids and they too will be wired – I mean how can you hear the ice cream truck?

I was running to a nearby park this week and a person did not look right when they turned and almost made me part of the pavement. I survived and took a little loop around the park. There I saw a mom pushing her child on the swing and then running around in the front to grab at toes, to evoke laughter for her bubbling little girl – with golden curls. “Mommy, why did that bird swoop down like that?”

“Because it is a swallow dear, and they catch bugs to eat for themselves and their babies.”

There was a dad who pushed his toddler high by actually running under the swing to get that magnificent push, just like my dad once did for me.

“Daddy, why won’t the swing keep going high, why does it slow down?”

“Well, son, it’s something called gravity . . .”

A park filled with children. A park filled with questions, some *whats* but mostly the *whys* of life. The *whys* of life are what make connections – to understand each other, differing perspectives. The *whys* have a way of bring the *theres* together into a *here*.

“Mommy, why do butterflies flap like that?”

And then I passed a mother whose child’s swing had run out of momentum and came to a stop. “Mommy.” The child called.

Mom was there, but was pushing some buttons, her eyes focused on a little device in the palm of her hand.

“Mommy, Mommy.”

No response from Mom.

“Mommy! Mommy! Mommmmmmieeeeeee!”

“Just a minute, I have to finish this text.”

The world is filled with questions, mom. It isn’t about the “what” you are texting. It’s about the “why.” Why?

David L. Echelbarger



Next Healing Service on July 27

In the months of January, March, May, July, September and November, we will have a Service for Healing on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Intended for any who suffer from infirmities of body, mind or spirit, the service will include an opportunity for prayer and anointing for the person attending or on behalf of another. The service will also include scripture, corporate prayer, hymns, and music.



I can't thank you enough for the wonderful celebration of my 10 years of ordination and my 10 years at MPLC. I wish there could have been more time for me to talk to everyone who came. It is a blessing to have been a part of the ministry of this place for the past ten years and I'm looking forward to new adventures in the years to come. I'm also looking forward to using that gift certificate you gave me to the Artist Gallery. It will be wonderful to have another piece of art in our home that will remind us of our MPLC family. ~ Pastor Kara



Keeping the Conversation Going Did you Know . . .

. . .that the website for the ELCA (www.elca.org) is a good place to look for resources on Racial Justice and Anti-Racism work. Click on *Multi-cultural Ministries* and you will find information for the different ethnic organizations and the work they do, resources for congregations to study the issue of race, and a link to the ELCA social statement entitled *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture* (adopted in 1993 at the churchwide assembly).



Word and Season Devotional Contribution by Holly Hess

I am delighted to announce that Mount Pleasant's Faith and Life staff person Holly Hess has written a number of devotionals in the current *Word and Season Devotional* that we make available in the Narthex. We are most fortunate that Holly shares her gifts with us at Mount Pleasant. Congratulations! Pastor Dave

JOYFUL JAMMERS Jam Session

Join us at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church for JOYFUL JAMMERS music jam session! We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 12.

If you play an instrument or just enjoy singing, come for a night of merry music making! Please bring your instrument, (OPTIONAL: a music stand) and song copies. BRING A FRIEND! (If you would like to bring a song to share, please include lyrics and chords and 10 copies to share.)

If you have questions please call Linda Steffensen at 939-1976 or email joyfuljammers@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



I want to thank Mt. Pleasant Church for letting me have my Graduation Party at the church. God Bless, Paul Schowalter



Vacation Bible School!

Be part of God's great get-together in Africa under the giant Baobab tree at BAOBAB BLAST Vacation Bible School the week of August 2-6. Please make every effort to REGISTER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY SUNDAY, JULY 18. (Advanced registration makes planning much easier.) Our new, on-line registration makes it faster and easier than ever to register your family for VBS! **Just go to www.mplc.us, click on the VBS link, and enter the required information (under *registration*)**. You can also find registration forms under the Baobab tree in the narthex. Each family who registers will receive a VBS music CD in your narthex mailbox in July.

VBS Volunteers: MANY volunteers are needed to make our large Vacation Bible School a success. Additional adult and teen volunteers are still needed and welcome in specific areas **Whether you can help one day – or all five, go to www.mplc.us and click on the VBS link and enter the required information (under *volunteer*)**. You can also sign up in the narthex or contact Holly Hess (hhess@mplc.us or 634-6669) for more information.



Confirmation 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Save the Dates!

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade families, please save the following fall dates on your family calendar for the kick-off of another year of Confirmation:

Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Small Group Guide Meeting — Mygatts Corner

Wednesday, September 1, 6:30-8 p.m.

6th/7th/8th: Confirmand/Parent Kick-Off Information Meeting

A kick-off session to be attended by confirmands, parents and small group guides in the Sanctuary



Confirmation 9th Grade Save the Dates!

Ninth Grade families, please save the following fall dates on your family calendar for the kick-off of another year of Confirmation:

Sunday, September 19, Noon – 1 p.m.

Lunch for Parents and Students with Orientation

Sunday, September 19, 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Review Retreat with serving of Community Meal at Our Savior's

Sunday, October 24

Confirmation Banquet

Saturday, October 30, 9-10:30 a.m.

Confirmation Rehearsal

Sunday, October 31, 11 a.m.

Confirmation



Environmental Stewardship

By: John Berge

It was recently suggested that I review the Environmental Stewardship articles we have written over the past five years and pick out the ten best suggestions. Here are my picks (in no particular order.)

1. “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” -- to which we can add “rot” (that is compost), “swap” and “donate” (to the church’s rummage sale).
2. Drive a higher mileage car and reduce the total miles driven by walking, biking, carpooling, and limiting idling. If we all averaged 40 mpg, we would save 3 million barrels of oil and 3.15 BILLION pounds of CO2 -- per day.
3. Insulate, weather-strip and caulk the leaks in our homes and install a programmable thermostat, set no higher than 68 in the winter and no lower than 76 in the summer.
4. Be a “locovore” (eat locally grown food) as much as you can. Buy at local farmers’ markets and make adjustments in your grocery store buying habits.
5. Replace hot, inefficient, incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light emitting diodes (LEDs).
6. Use reusable shopping bags, NOT paper OR plastic.
7. Try “Meatless Mondays” to save energy, water and calories. It takes 1800 gallons of water to raise one pound of beef vs. about 100 gallons per pound of fruit or vegetables.
8. Keep household hazardous waste out of our landfills and ground water by taking the appropriate items to the collections on the third Saturday of the month and medication drop-offs twice a year.
9. Support renewable energies -- solar and wind -- rather than polluting fossil fuels -- coal and oil.
10. Plant natural areas in your yard which will reduce herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer use; install rain barrels and rain gardens to reduce runoff.

Social Ministry Committee



Flip Flopping through Lent, our drive to collect flip flops for countries and organizations that are members of the World Toilet Organization (WTO) resulted in 294 flip flops collected at MPLC and 4,000 throughout the Greater Milwaukee Area. Why WTO? Because dysentery and diarrhea which are completely preventable and curable, kill more children than AIDS and malaria combined.

Almost 3 billion people, 40% of the world, do not have adequate toilet facilities and defecate in the open. Toilet facilities as defined by the U.N. are anything from a slit trench on up. This practice contaminates the water and food supply and is spread by flies and dust.

World Toilet Day is November 19. Watch for more coming from your Social Ministry Team, and visit www.worldtoiletday.com for more information.

Tom Waldoch



Argentina Partnership Team

The group that is planning to visit our brothers and sisters in Christ at Cristo Salvador in February are meeting to plan for the trip. They are discussing upcoming fund-raising for our travel and work with Cristo Salvador to complete the two rooms they will use for ministry to the community. We continue to hear the words of Gordon Olson that the people of Cristo Salvador are waiting to be in community with us. Watch for ways you can support this ministry that takes us beyond our walls.



Blood Drive Results

On June 2 we collected 23 units of blood. That could potentially help up to 159 people! Thank you to everyone who donated blood, food, and time. The next blood drive will be on January 14, 2011, from 1-6 p.m.



Neighborhood Camp Meals

The week of July 19-22 we will be providing the lunchtime meals for the ELCA Neighborhood Camp at Our Savior's. We have partnered with OSLC for several years to support this ministry. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex with the food items needed for each day. Food needs to be dropped off at the MPLC kitchen by Sunday, July 18. Volunteers will also be needed to prepare and serve the food Monday – Wednesday. On Thursday a volunteer is needed in the morning to make sandwiches. Contact Pastor Kara at kbaylor@mplc.us, or 634-6669, with any questions.



St. Patrick's Community Meal Thursday, July 15

Food for over 150 people will be prepared on Thursday, July 15, at 12 p.m. Come to help chop, grate, mix, and clean up; or bring a cake for dessert that will be served, along with the meal, later that evening. You can also help serve the meal by meeting Burt Blomgren (835-2088) at MPLC at 4:30 p.m. If there is more than one in your family, the whole group is welcome.



Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church recently received a reimbursement check for \$208.45 which we forwarded to Our Savior's Lutheran Church Food Pantry. Remember to use your Advantage Card, that has been registered to Mt. Pleasant's number **522750**, for every purchase every time you shop at Pick'n Save. Thank you to all who contribute to this important program.

Campbell's Labels for Education



As you continue to use Campbell products throughout the summer months, please continue to bring them to church and deposit them in the box on the hospitality center in the narthex.



The extra rows are planted and fresh produce will soon appear on the table in the narthex. You are welcome to take what you need. If you can, please make a donation for the food pantries. Monies collected will be used by the pantries to purchase meats, eggs, butter, etc. A special THANKS to all who are growing and bringing in the fresh produce.

Created to be Creative



The *Created to be Creative* series at MPLC invites you to draw nearer to God and explore your faith through non-traditional, creative programming. For more information or to share programming ideas contact Faith and Life Director, Holly Hess, at hhess@mplc.us or by phone at 634-6669.



MPLC Writer's Group Thursdays, July 8 and 22

Do you enjoy writing or is it something you'd like to try? Do you enjoy being in a creative and nurturing environment? If so, join us for the Writer's Group at MPLC. The Writer's Group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in the High School Youth Room. Each meeting focuses on a different topic. Please bring a notebook or journal and something to write with. No experience necessary. Come and see what we're all about! For more information contact Faith and Life Director, Holly Hess, at hhess@mplc.us or by phone at 634-6669.

MPLC Photography Group Thursday, July 1



Do you enjoy photography or is it something you'd like to try? Photographers of all skill levels are invited join us the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in Mygatts. The "focus" of this group is on seeing God through the lens of a camera. For more information on this group or the *Created to be Creative* series contact Faith and Life Director, Holly Hess at hhess@mplc.us or by phone at 634-6669.



Afternoon Adult Fellowship

The Afternoon Adult Fellowship will have time out for the summer. We will meet again on Wednesday, September 8. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in September. If you have any questions, please call Gloria Peterson at 886-5122.



MEN'S SOFTBALL Tuesday nights at Cliffside Park (6-Mile & Michna Rd)

Our men's team is doing very well. Thanks for all your support and cheers. Our record is 2 wins, 2 rain-outs, and 1 Bye (not much action in June!). We have two games to play yet in June as of the writing of this article, and we're hoping to get those in and that Mother Nature doesn't win them.

In July, we start with make up games, and then continue with a second round of games.

July 6	vs A & D Biker Ministry	7 p.m. (SW)
July 13	vs Trinity Lutheran	7 p.m. (NW)
July 20	TBA	
July 27	TBA	

Check the bulletin each week, or call Rich and Naomi Miller, 632-8579, for verification of times and diamonds.



The women's softball team is off to a great start this season, winning their first game 10 to 9 in extra innings! We would like to thank our fans for all their support. Come out to Cliffside Park on Thursday evenings to enjoy the fellowship, as a player or a fan!

2010 Schedule

June 17	8:30 p.m.	vs. Fellowship Baptist Church
June 24	7:20 p.m.	vs. Grace Church
July 1	6:10 p.m.	vs. Calvary Memorial Church
July 8	8:30 p.m.	vs. Calvary Memorial Church
July 15	8:30 p.m.	vs. Racine Bible Church
July 22	7:20 p.m.	vs. Faith Community Church
July 29	8:30 p.m.	vs. Fellowship Baptist Church
Aug 5	6:10 p.m.	vs. Grace Church
Aug 12	6:10 p.m.	vs. Grace Church



Adult “Dining Out” will be taking a summer recess. We will meet again on Sunday, September 26. Watch your newsletter and bulletins for our next destination.

**Save the Date!
Sunday, August 22**


**Young Adults
Picnic**

If you are in your 20's and 30's and want to get more connected to other's at MPLC, then this is an event you won't want to miss! We will be having a picnic on Sunday, August 22 from 3-7 p.m. Watch the bulletin and August newsletter for more information.



Project Night - Friday, July 9

Who: Anyone who has nagging unfinished projects or would like to start a new one. It is fun and you can bring a friend along.

What: A night to work on just about anything... scrapbook, paint, stitch, organize paperwork, stamp, work with clay, etc.

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Friday, July 9, 6:30 - 11 p.m.

There is no need to sign up, just come and enjoy the fellowship!



Crafter's Corner

We are continuing to craft during the summer months. In July we will meet on Thursday the 1st and 15th at 9 a.m. in Mygatts Corner. If you have some free time and enjoy crafting, come join us!



Results of 2010 Relay for Life

Thank you to everyone who participated in Racine's Relay for Life on June 11-12. Whether you walked, gathered pledges, or made a contribution to this worthy cause, it all makes a difference. Our team raised over \$2,000! We also purchased 30 luminaries in honor or memory of a loved one who has had cancer, and 2 sets of angel wings to honor the cancer patients' caregivers. This is terrific especially in light of the challenging economic times.

Summer Trip 2010 – On Our Way

We will be on our way to Toronto, Ontario, Canada on Friday, July 23 and will return to Racine on Saturday, July 31. There are 16 youth and 3 adults going on this mission trip. We look forward to telling you all about it during worship on August 7 and 8. Thank you for all your generous support!



Summer Trip (July 23-30, 2011) – Puerto Rico

The dates are set and our spots are reserved. There is room for 25 youth and 4 adults (plus Pastor Kara) on the trip. If you missed the first informational meeting – there will be another one on July 11 after the 10 a.m. service. The first 25 to sign up with a \$100 deposit by August 29 will secure their spots. If you are interested in being a chaperone on this trip, please contact Pastor Kara at 634-6669 or kbaylor@mplc.us.

Car Wash

Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



This is the last youth fund raising for the trip to Toronto. A free-will offering will be taken. Tell your friends and your family to come and support our mission trip.



The Youth Want Your Aluminum Cans!

This month we received another \$16.26 for the aluminum cans that have been donated for recycling. (The GRAND total received so far for aluminum recycling is over \$1,200!) If you're not in the habit of taking your cans to the recycling center, our senior high youth will gladly use them. All money received goes towards the senior high summer trip. *A special thank you is extended to everyone who has been donating your aluminum cans to the youth!* Please bring your bagged cans to church and place them in Fellowship Hall by the soda machine. (Please note that as a non-profit organization, we receive an extra 5¢ per pound for the aluminum that we recycle.)



The first Rummage Sale work session was great! We had some wonderful new people join us. THANKS! We are in need of medium to large empty boxes to use for packing sorted items. Please drop them off in the 16th Street entrance. We are also looking for rolling, hanging clothing racks. If you have one that we can borrow, please call Shirley Kerkman (634-6568) or Sharon Nyman (634-7818 or tsnyman@att.net).

We can always use more volunteers at our Tuesday morning work sessions. Please join us from 9 a.m. – noon to help sort, price and box all of the items coming in. We are especially in need of extra hands the week before the Rummage Sale (July 19-23).

Please do not bring any large items for the sale until the week of July 19-22.

Borrowing Church Tables



During the month of **August**, Mt. Pleasant has a number of six-foot tables that can be borrowed for events such as parties, rummage sales, etc. Contact the church office (634-6669) if you would like to reserve them. (Please be sure to check with the church office **before** borrowing them to make sure they are not already reserved.)



Have You Moved?

If you have moved recently, please remember to call the church office (634-6669), so that we can update our records. You could also e-mail the new information to kmartin@mplc.us. Thank you for your cooperation.

ALSO...



If you have a new e-mail address, or if your old one has changed, please let the church office know by calling 634-6669, or by e-mailing klong@mplc.us. THANK YOU!



“Vacation Envelopes” Are In Your Envelope Box!

Each envelope in your box can be sealed, stamped, and mailed to church just as it is. (No cash, please.) Many of our members find it helpful to use this method when they know they will be out of town. Please remember that mortgage payments, benevolence commitments, and current expenses still have to be met even though you may be vacationing away from church this summer.



New Arrival

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Chris and Danielle Waterworth on the birth of a daughter, Abigail Ruth, on May 7; and to Lori (Brewer) and Manuel Pedrosa the birth of a daughter, Hailey Sue on May 21.



We welcomed into our baptized membership on June 20, Vincent Michael Cecchini, son of Matthew and Nicole Cecchini. Vincent’s sponsors are Michael Cecchini and Heather Davis.




Our sympathy and prayers are extended: to Jo-Ann Goodyear, and family, on the death of her mother, Florence “Flo” Ashbaugh on June 8; to Herbert Kauth, Suzanne and Gary Cooper, and family, on the death of wife and mother, Lillian Kauth on June 9; to Suzanne and Frank Santalucia, David and Lynne Santalucia, Mason and Emmet, on the death of sister and aunt Jeannine Teets on June 12; and to Ethel Malvasio, Jack and Shirley Jaspersen, and John and Lane Hanson, on the death of sister and aunt, Viola Streuli on June 13.



HOSPITALIZED:

Wheaton Franciscan – Evelyn Borglin, Marcella Koenig, Peggy Svoboda, Jim Yates

Milwaukee Orthopedic Hospital - Helen Larson



We will be launching a new MPLC website sometime in July or August. We are excited about our new online look! We will maintain the current web site address: MPLC.US, but will add several more domain names as well, including one that is going to be easy to remember: Spaceshipchurch.org. Get ready, the new web page is getting ready to take off!

**Lincoln Lutheran Auxiliary
37th Annual Ice Cream Social ~ Save the Date!**



It will be Ice Cream Social time on Thursday, August 12 from 4-7 p.m.! A \$4 donation will allow you to enjoy delicious pie or cake, ice cream, and a choice of beverage. Brats, hot dogs and chips will be sold separately. You can find it all on the grounds behind our church!

All proceeds will be used to fund the Auxiliary’s projects which benefit the residents and program participants of Lincoln Lutheran with matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
 REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS JUNE 16

Please email your August newsletter articles to klong@mplc.us (by **FRIDAY, JUNE 16**), or drop off in the church office. Thank you!

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