

CHURCH CHAT — FEBRUARY 6 & 7

DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF COMPASSION? Would you consider being a St. Paul's Hospital Caller/Visitor? Hospital Callers visit members of the congregation who are hospitalized within the Omaha area bringing thoughts and prayers from their St. Paul's family. *If you are interested, contact: Karla Neemann, Coordinator, at 496-4796.*

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES are Sundays, Feb. 28–March 28 12:30–1:45 p.m. Please plan on attending as a family, we LOVE families and love when families journey together. If your child is ready to learn about Communion and desires to be a part of this community, and you, as a parent, have taught them well, contact Janette about attending the class. Please place this in your schedule to attend all of them. *If you and your child will attend class, contact: Janette, 895-3366 or jsanne@crossandheart.org.*

INTERESTED IN SERVING UP FELLOWSHIP? Help wanted at the AMEN café. Stop by the AMEN café after services on Sunday or during AWANA on Wednesday evening for more information. *If interested, contact: Darcy Cottone, darcycottone@hotmail.com.*

NEEDING 4 INGREDIENTS: One to two daytime hours a week, familiarity with a computer, an organizing mind and a joyful serving attitude. Stir gently, toss in a pinch of flexibility and a dash of initiative, top it off with some good training and voila! You've got a wonderful administrative assistant for the Worship Music and Arts ministry! *Interested? Contact: Gene Fox, 895-3366 or gfox@crossandheart.org.*

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN REVIVING THE WOMEN'S SPRING TEA? We have tentatively set May 1 for the date if there is enough interest. If you are interested in helping, such as setting a table, being on the committee, etc. *If interested, contact: Sid Rames, 895-2484.*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!

- Older, wiser and willing to learn something new. I need 6 people for Joseph's part. My hope is a few retired men will step up. It is about 1½ hours in the morning and evening, June 6–12. Can you help? *Contact: Janette, 895-3366 or jsanne@crossandheart.org.*
- We are in need of a photographer or two, family leaders, shopkeepers, decorators, a few singers and a drama coach. I also need a team to put this together with me. The need is double because due to the morning and evening events. *If you can help, contact: Janette, 895-3366 or jsanne@crossandheart.org.*

MISSION QUILTERS meet Mondays at 9 a.m. (after exercise) in Room 213 in the Education Wing. Newcomers welcome! *Contact: Sid Rames, 895-2484.*

MONDAY EVENING QUILTERS now meet Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m. and the 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Quilters will meet in Room 213 of the Education Wing. Beginners will receive instruction to help with the projects. Looking forward to new quilters! *If you have questions, call Carolyn Rothery-Badtke at 896-1123.*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY—

- Some 4th and all 5th graders will move into a room called "Bible Busters" to grow deeper in their faith walk, get to know each other better and deepen their understanding of God's Word. Feb. 14 is our launch date! We will start in Gathering Time to meet God and to sing a new song to Him. We are excited to see your child be all they can be for Jesus!
- Looking for what in the world is happening in Children's Ministry, look right here and it will show you. <http://stpaulslutheranyoungdisciples.blogspot.com/>
- Parents—your child is more than welcome to bring their friends to church and to Awana, anytime.

- Family Friday Movie Night: Feb. 12 6–8:30 p.m.; “Great Men of God” series. Dinner is at 6; movie starts at 6:30. Come see how God worked through ordinary men and women. Everyone is welcome!
- Our 11:00 Kids’ Church has embarked on Acts. Then we will glance at Chronicles.

VALENTINE’S DAY BAKE SALE— Share love with our loved ones, as well as those in need in our church family, by participating in Love Circle’s Valentine’s Day Bake Sale. The sale is the weekend of February 13 and 14. All proceeds will go to St. Paul’s Caring Touch. Donations of baked goods would be appreciated. Please bring baked goods to the church by 5 p.m. Saturday, February 13 or by 7:30 a.m. Sunday, February 14. Thank you for your caring participation.

OUR APOLOGIES for a calendaring error on the Wednesday evening Bible Study. It was put on the calendar one week longer than was planned. Sorry that some folks showed up when there was no study. *Jan, Administrative Assistant*

UNO’S LIFE LONG LEARNING INITIATIVE is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning by providing stimulating and varied opportunities designed specifically for lifelong learners aged 50 years and older. Troy Romero will offer “Autobiographical Reading and Writing” held on Tuesdays, February 16–March 16, 6–7:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 and includes a one-year membership, free admission to program workshops, speakers, presentations, admission to social events and discounted tickets to UNO sporting events, concerts, theater productions and art exhibits. NOTE: Each additional class registered for is \$25. To register, visit <http://lifelonglearning.unomaha.edu> or call (402) 554-4897. Classes are being sponsored by St. Paul’s Healthy Living Ministry.

CENSUS JOBS AVAILABLE— The United States Census Bureau has many Enumerator jobs available to people in the Omaha area. These are temporary jobs that pay \$14 per hour and those hired will work flexible hours in their neighborhoods to assist in obtaining census information this spring. A brief test is required to qualify for employment and can be scheduled at several convenient locations by calling 1-866-861-2010.

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED— We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who is our neighbor? Anyone who needs our help. Please help to replenish our Food Pantry box. There is constant need for grocery items. Thanks for your help.

CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS? First Lutheran Church welcomes your used fall and winter clothing and shoes, especially men’s and kids. Please place these items in the box by the women’s restroom. Thanks for your support. **Contact: Eileen Holly, 895-6743.**

AFRESH ANOINTING OPPORTUNITIES— Are you looking for a one-time, monthly or quarterly project for your Small Group, Circle, Confirmation or Youth group? Or are YOU feeling called to reach out to others in need? Youth Safe Night is held every Tuesday 6–8:15 p.m. at Afresh Anointing Church, 4757 N. 24th Street. There are always volunteer opportunities available, ranging from providing meals to being “pew partners” and “dining partners.” **Contact: Mary Ann Beck, mbeck@tconl.com or 896-1528.**

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER PROVISIONS EXTENDED— Congress has extended an excellent charitable planning opportunity for both 2008 and 2009. House Resolution 1424 permits an IRA owner age 70½ or older to make a direct transfer to charity. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and this IRA rollover will exist for year 2008 and year 2009. In most cases, IRA rollover gifts will be a transfer from a regular or Roth IRA to a public charity for the general purposes of that charity. IRA Rollovers of any size up to the limit can be designated to the St. Paul’s Endowment Fund. They can also be used to pay your pledge or make a special gift to the Forward in Faith Building Fund or the General Fund to cover your pledge for regular ministry expenses. If you are over 70½ with an IRA, this is a wonderful opportunity to make charitable gift from an IRA. Check with your tax advisor to make sure how the provisions apply to you. Contact Lori

Graham, the Church Accountant at 895-3366, or Dick Lewis, Chairman of St. Paul's Endowment Board, for more information or to make the transfer.

RECYCLING NOTICE: St. Paul's was recycling items through the "Cartridges for Kids" program. Please notice that we are no longer participating in this program. Our thanks for all your cooperation.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR, IF YOU CAN. *Proverbs 3:28* Do you need help with minor household chores? The Chore Companion Ministry is here to help and can give you a hand. **Cal Wamre, 895-4017 & Bill Averman, 778-9304 Coordinators**

HOSPITALITY— To those who have contributed so kindly to the hospitality funds...thank you! Because of you we can continue to provide hospitality Sunday mornings. **Contact: Shirley Watke, 895-5270.**

HEALTHY LIVING MINISTRY TEAM

Cards in the Commons Tuesday, February 9 at 12:30.

SAFETY MEASURES

What safety measures have you instituted in your home for your protection? In case of emergency:

- Do you have emergency telephone numbers by the telephone: 911, rescue squad, fire department, physicians, poison control center, family members or significant others?
- Are your house numbers clearly visible from the street?
- When using a space heater, do you place it on a clutter-free surface at least three feet from any objects; and unplug it when not in use?
- Have you changed the batteries in your smoke or carbon monoxide detector(s)? NOTE: A good habit is to do this when you change your clocks to and from daylight savings time.
- Do you have exit routes selected should a fire occur in your home?

Prayer Requests

Thank You, Father, for faithful acolytes and their families. SCW & CH

Lord, help me not only open my ears to hear Your calling, but give me the strength to carry out Your calling.

Pray for peace and comfort for the Reick family and the Foxworthy family as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

Dear Lord, please help the people in Haiti. Show them that there is hope from You. Please help the little kids that aren't as fortunate as me but please help with Your great power. Amen.

Prayers for my parents.

Please pray for my future mother-in-law for a speedy recovery and a successful surgery.

I want to pray for my big brother, Joe Nicely, who has been serving our country for more than a year, currently in Afghanistan keeping the people of America out of harm's way.

Pray for my daughter-in-laws safety while serving as a nurse in Haiti. A.T.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make "Crusin' With the Son" so very wonderful. Kathy B.

Dear Lord, I have a basketball game today and need all of Your strength You can give me. I really want to win so much. It is at UNO. Please I need strength. Amen. S.N.

Lord, thank You for Your guidance. Help deep roots grow in faith journey's no matter where they are. Let Your voice be heard by open ears and hearts.

Pray for safe travel for Bill and Lynn as they return home.

Prayers for the young man who came in to pray in St. Paul's balcony Saturday, Jan. 30. God guide him. God bless him.

Prayers for Sarah Hall who is in Haiti as a nurse on a Creighton medical team doing relief work. Sarah is caring for amputees. Keep her and all members of the team safe, and give them the strength they'll need for the exhausting and emotional work ahead. *D. Snowdon*

Prayers for Susie Stieren's mother in Illinois. Please keep Susie's family in your prayers.

Prayers for Pastor Lou's brother-in-law who is battling illness. Please keep Lou's sister and brother-in-law in your prayers.

Thanksgiving for all the workers at yesterday's retreat.

Thank You, Lord, for my family. I could not help in events like the women's retreat without all their help and Your help. Thank You, also, for good friends. *Sue Schroeder*

I give thanks for the blessings of the women's retreat Saturday, Jan. 30. So much time and effort and prayer made it a great day.

Lord, help me to listen and yield to what You want me to do.

Lord, thank You, for Sid Rames for her years of WELCA leadership. She shares her gifts in so many ways, like making all the tote bags for the women's retreat.

Pray for our son, Mike, in Haiti to be helpful and safe. Help him to be compassionate.

I pray for all of the Haiti families who have lost a family member. Also everyone who is suffering. Amen.

Pray for Pastor Lou and his family.

Please help all to hear God's voices and answer His call.

Bless the Men of Armor as they learn the Biblical meaning of manhood.

Pray for healing for those in need. Thank you for a wonderful, moving, spiritual retreat and thanks for all the men who helped make it a success.

A prayer of thanks for a meaningful women's retreat on Jan 30! Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so faithfully to make it successful.

Give thanks for each sharing, caring person who brings food and clothing to St. Paul's that will be taken to First Lutheran for distribution to those in great need.

Please show us the way and I pray that we follow You.

Thank you to a fantastic team! You did an outstanding job for the women by providing a day of fellowship and love of Christ. *Cathy*

Thank you for a wonderful women's retreat. It was so organized, so inspiring and the food so delicious. Thanks to the leaders for all their work.

A prayer for my husband recovering from lung surgery and COPD, etc. *J.K.*

Prayers of healing for Connie D. for her physical health and the worry she has for her sister. Bless her for her caring and kindness toward others.

Prayers for Magen Kohles and her family.

Lord, watch over Pat as she prepares to go to Mayo Clinic. May the doctors have the wisdom to help her.

Thank You for all Your blessings. We are truly blessed.

Thank You for all of those that helped us "Cruise with the Son."