

Talking to Yourself

Pastor Caroline and I attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, where we both graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree or MDiv in seminary speak. A four year degree, the MDiv confers a certain expertise in all things divine; namely, the interpretation of Holy Scripture, proper use of the Law-Gospel dialectic, an understanding of the nature of sin and God's redemptive nature, and the like. What the MDiv doesn't confer is an expertise in all things practical. Who comes in first: the mother of the bride or the mother of the groom? Tap water or distilled water for baptisms? How do you set the folding machine for a Z-fold letter? Are there specific prayers for every conceivable pastoral care and counseling scenario?

Prayer and praying for people was the one practical thing that frightened me the most. All I had to go on was my own prayer practice; I prayed every night as I went to bed. These prayers felt like nothing more than me talking to myself. In fact, more often than not, these nightly prayers put me to sleep before I got to my big finish and Amen. Maybe you've had this experience, too.



"Whatever else it may or may not be," writes Frederick Buechner, "prayer is at least talking to yourself, and that's in itself not always a bad idea." He continues this thought when he writes:

"Talk to yourself about your own life, about what you've done and what you've failed to do and about who you are and who you wish you were and who the people you love are and the people you don't love, too. Talk to yourself about what matters most to you, because if you don't, you may forget what matters most to you. Believe Somebody is listening... Keep on beating the path to God's door, because the one thing you can be sure of is that down the path you beat with even your most half-cocked and halting prayer the God you call upon will finally come, and even if he does not bring you the answer you want, he will bring himself. And maybe at the secret heart of all our prayers, that is what we are really praying for."

At the secret heart of all our prayers, what we are really praying is that God will finally come.

The season of Advent is upon us. Advent means coming. In our worship these next four weeks, we will be preparing and waiting for God's coming to us again as the child in the manger. Each Sunday we will use a different prayer discipline as we talk about what matters most in our Advent observance.

So, go ahead. Keep talking to yourself. Keep beating a path to God's door, for one thing is certain; God will finally come.

You are in my prayers.

Pastor Brad



A CARTHAGE CHRISTMAS

Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with the Carthage community by attending "Sing, Ye Heavens, Tell the Story," a festival of readings and carols featuring the majestic sounds of the Fritsch Memorial Organ and Carthage Choirs. The concert is free but requires registration. To register, email ChristmasFestival@carthage.edu or call 262-551-5810.

On Friday and Saturday evenings the college offers a special Holiday Buffet between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. in the Todd Wehr Center. The buffet is \$15 per person. Reservations may be made by calling the Office of College Relations at 262-551-5705 or email mfisher@carthage.edu.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & RAFFLE

Sunday, December 4

Before, between, and after services.

Bring your Christmas shopping lists to church to pick up hand-made, knitted, and crocheted items. All proceeds will go to debt reduction.



COAT DRIVE

Christmas Coats for Kids

St. Paul's will be participating in the "Christmas Coats for Kids" drive sponsored by Thrivent. Please consider purchasing a new coat for a homeless child in Lake County. Most of the children are younger than fourth grade, but they will be happy to accept any size. A bin for collecting the coats is in the Gathering room until **December 18**. Thank you for supporting this important mission. Please contact Karen Papp (224-436-0893) if you have any additional questions.



Christmas Poinsettia Display

If you wish to contribute to the display of Poinsettias which will adorn our chancel and Gathering Room this Christmas season, please fill out the form in the Gathering Room and place it with your payment in the offering plate.

Suggested donation is \$15.00

Forms and payment must be turned in by **Sunday, December 11**.

Poinsettias may be taken following the Christmas Day Service or given to a hospitalized or shut-in member or a person of your choice.



Church Financial Report

The remaining 2009 deficit is now \$4,779.87. This number does not include Rummage Sale proceeds.

We continue to make significant progress on our 2009 remaining deficit. Once the Rummage Sales proceeds are reconciled, our 2009 deficit should be paid off! Congratulations on your diligent giving! You will also note that weekly giving was up significantly in October. We continue to make progress toward a better year than 2010. Remember too, that the budget we passed at the Annual Meeting included a potential deficit of over \$55,000. Great job on being good stewards. At this point, our income is better than expected AND our expenses are less than expected. This is in addition to paying back our 2009 deficit and continuing to support Extreme Makeover and Extreme Makeover Reload! Wow!

Thank you for all you do to support the work of St. Paul's.

Mary Ellen Modlin
Finance Chair



Children of Incarcerated Parents Christmas Gift Program

Your mission team is sponsoring the "Angel Tree" program again this year. You can help ensure that every child gets a gift this year, even those whose mom or dad is spending time in jail this Christmas.

The sad statistic is that a child whose mom or dad is incarcerated is 7 times more likely to be incarcerated themselves in a few years...unless someone like you shares God's love story with them. Here's one way you can help break the cycle.

Take a child's name from the Angel Tree beginning Today. Contact the family to confirm information about the child, then buy, wrap and deliver the gift no later than Sunday, December 18. If you do not want to deliver the gift yourself, contact Rick Riddle at 847-377-4088 (work) or 847-662-6144 (home) and he will make sure your gift is delivered.

Please choose your "Angel" child from the Angel Tree in the Gathering Room and share the spirit of Christmas.

Financial Recap	October
Weekly Giving	\$33,616.73
Monthly Income	\$34,652.98
Monthly Expenses	\$35,154.39
Monthly Shortage	(\$501.41)
Year-to-date Shortage	(\$24,444.40)
Debt Reduction Giving	\$3,557.60

Extreme Makeover Fund:

Extreme Makeover Fund Balance	
Total Received	\$257,449.57
Total Expenses	(\$315,568.97)
Oct. 2011 Ending Balance	(58,119.40)

Reload Pledges as of 10/31/11	
Total Pledges	\$40,340.00
Pledges Received	\$9,957.50
Pledges Outstanding	\$30,382.50



LESSONS & CAROLS

the festivities, so invite your family and friends! If you would like to help with setup for the potluck please contact Eleanore Sorenson at 847-395-2783.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Join us for a service of carols and lessons to celebrate the Advent of our King. Stay afterward for a potluck dinner. You don't have to be a member of St. Paul's to join

WOW Worship on Wednesdays

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

◆ Dinner (\$3) followed by WOW Groups KFCs, M&Ms, H2H & JCrew

Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

◆ JCrew

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

◆ H2H Service Project or Fellowship Event

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

◆ Family Dinner (\$3) followed by H2H & JCrew

Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

◆ JCrew



Sunday School Pageant

**Sunday, Dec. 11,
10:30 a.m. service.**

Invite your friends and neighbors!



Candlelight Services

Saturday, Dec. 24, 5:30 & 10:30 p.m.

5:30 = Praise Band & Youth Choirs

10:30 = Pealers & Sanctuary Choir



Christmas Day Service

Sunday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m.



We need YOU to be an usher!

We have a few vacancies in our usher rotation. Would you consider being added to the list? The usher commitment adds up to about 1 Sunday per month and is an essential part of the service. We'll gladly train you - it's easy! If you can be a regular usher, please email Becky at newsletter@splcwaukeeگان.com or drop a note in her inbox.

USHERS PLEASE NOTE: We will need ushers for Advent Lessons & Carols and the Christmas Services. Please sign up on the board in the Gathering Room.

We will have normal worship services at



To journey with Christ, each other
and the neighbors God gives us.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2012 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			Nov-30 10 am Women's Study 6 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm WOW Youth 7 pm Pealers	1 12 pm Bulletin Buddies 6:30 pm Praise Band 7 pm Overeaters Anon	2 6:45 am Men's Breakfast @ Sunset House 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo 6-8 pm CmJ Rehearsal	3 Altar Guild Breakfast and Meeting 10 am Iglesia de Cristo
4 9 & 10:30 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Study 10:30 am Sunday School & JCrew 12 pm Iglesia de Cristo worship 4:30 pm Advent Lessons & Carols	5 1 pm Knit & Crochet 6:30 pm Angels & YPCs	6 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo 6:30 pm Women's Study 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 10 am Women's Study 6:30 pm H2H 6:30 pm ARE Steering Team 7 pm Pealers	8 12 pm Bulletin Buddies 6:30 pm Praise Band 7 pm Overeaters Anon 7 pm Finance	9 6:45 am Men's Breakfast @ Sunset House 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo 7 pm Council Planning	10 10 am Iglesia de Cristo
11 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Study 10:30 am Sunday School Pageant 12 pm Iglesia de Cristo worship	12 6:30 pm Angels & YPCs	13 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo 6:30 pm Women's Study 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	14 10 am Women's Study 6 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm H2H & JCrew 7 pm Pealers	15 6:30 pm Praise Band 7 pm Overeaters Anon 7 pm Council Meeting Newsletter Deadline	16 6:45 am Men's Breakfast @ Sunset House 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo	17 10 am Iglesia de Cristo
18 9 & 10:30 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Study 10:30 am Sunday School & JCrew 12 pm Iglesia de Cristo worship 12 pm Worship Planning Meeting	19 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Knit & Crochet 6:30 pm Angels & YPCs	20 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo 6:30 pm Women's Study 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	21	22 9 am Newsletter Assembly 12 pm Bulletin Buddies	23 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo	24 10 am Iglesia de Cristo 5:30 pm & 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship CHRISTMAS EVE
25 10 am Christmas Day Worship 12 pm Iglesia de Cristo worship MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo	28	29	30	31 HAPPY New Year!