



# The **St. John Eagle**

*Celebrating more than 100 years, 1904 - 2009"*

*Member Congregation of the ELCA and LCMC*



Volume 10 Number 4

June 2009

## ***St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church***

Ellsworth Road at King Street

Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

Church Tel: (978) 531-1731

Rev. Raymond H. Phyles Tel: (978) 531-2264

Internet: <http://www.stjohnpeabody.org>

### **From the Pastor's Pen Macintosh**

Several years ago, as most of us are aware, the congregation elected to pay the bulk of our benevolences directly to mission and outreach ministries designated by us. One of the recipients we help support is the Eastern European Missions Network, which sponsors and supports Christian witness in Eastern European countries. As a form of report to the congregation, I am using this Pastor's Pen to present an abridged "Open Letter to the Churches from Pastor Valery Hryhoryk," who is a pastor of the Belarus Lutheran Missionary Fellowship. The letter is dated September 2008 and is titled "A Battle to Fight." I think you will find that it speaks for itself and speaks to each of us.

The Republic of Belarus is a landlocked country surrounded by Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, and Ukraine. Its capitol is Minsk and its population numbers less than ten million, the majority of whom are Eastern Orthodox, with a very small Protestant minority. Pastor Hryhoryk writes:

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! For some of you it is a new thing to learn about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belarus (ELCB) because you did not even know such a country as Belarus. In a way it is possible to say that there is no such thing as Evangelical Lutheran Belarus on the map of the world Lutheranism. However, it is the Lord's will for such Lutheran country to appear on this map. Did you know that Belarus Lutheran Church is almost 500 years old? Its history goes back right to the sixteenth century when Martin Luther started the great reformation in Germany. It then spread to Poland, Scandinavia, the Baltic States and Belarus. Belarus in the sixteenth century was a Protestant country!

"It is so great to know about this. However, during these 500 years the enemy tried to destroy the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Belarus four times and the last time such an attempt was made was during the communist regime. When the communists came to power they tried to completely destroy the Evangelical Lutheran Church. They demolished almost all the church buildings of the ELCB. Some of the church buildings were turned into state buildings like museums, archives, warehouses and cinemas. However, some eight years ago by God's grace an attempt was made to revive ELCB and the Lutheran parishes started appearing throughout Belarus. This was the time of revival of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

“However, the time of joy was not long. An attempt is being made to destroy the Lutheran Church again. The early 90s was an amazing time throughout Eastern Europe as country after country broke free from the Iron Curtain of communism. Across the region there was rejoicing in the streets. For Belarus, the joy lasted but three years before it once again lost its freedom. Alexander Lukashenko was elected president of Belarus and re-established many of the trappings of communism. The churches that are not Belarus Orthodox, which includes Evangelical ones, are specifically targeted.

“So, a new baby is born in a severe situation and that is Belarus Evangelical Lutheran Church! As a new helpless baby it needs care and attention more than any other elder brother or sister. Such countries around Belarus like Russia, the Baltic States, Ukraine, when freedom came, had established their Lutheran churches and right now are concentrating on their strengthening and development. We are just beginning and have almost nothing.

“So, shall we wait and see the ELCB being destroyed for the fifth time? With the Lord’s help we are prepared to stand and fight. This is a spiritual battle, which is far more important than any other war or battle on this planet. We as Christians are dealing with everlasting, spiritual things of God that are far exceeding any human life in body. Our Lord tells us that if we are Christians the first thing that should matter for us is our Christianity and that is of the spiritual realm. Such notions as nationality, sex, and our political interests come after our Christian spiritual status.

“So, that battle is going on for the Evangelical Lutheran Church: to be or not to be, or, what shape the Church will take in the future—these are the questions that we ask here. Will it be just another religion or a life-changing faith? This all depends on us, Christians living in this historical moment in time. So, my prayer to our God is that he would give you understanding of this historical moment and open your hearts to get involved in this spiritual battle. The Lord needs you most in Belarus, get involved as you feel led by the Spirit to help. May the Lord keep you and bless you for his everlasting glory!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Valery Hryhoryk  
Belarus Lutheran Missionary Fellowship”

### **Budgetary Notes**

---

This is an indication, as a percentage, of how our offering income compares to where we need to be for our budget to balance at the end of the year. Currently, we have income amounts that are 5.98% below our anticipated budgeted amounts. These percentages include all income received through April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a specific budget question, please feel free to talk to Fred Faust or Steve Gemma.

### **Please Recycle**

---

In an effort to do our part to help with the environment, we ask those that do not take home their weekly church bulletins to recycle them in the recycle bin located downstairs. In addition to used bulletins, any clean paper at the church should be recycled. Every little bit helps toward a greener environment.

## **Serving St. John with our Time and Talents**

---

### **During June**

#### **Ushers**

Linda Berg  
Judy Othote

#### **Lay Assistant**

6/7 Steve Gemma  
6/14 Church Picnic  
6/21 Sue Reed  
6/28 Angie Cornwell

#### **Custodial**

6/7 Dancewicz  
6/14 Bott  
6/21 Reed  
6/28 Phyles

#### **Lector**

6/7 Fred Faust  
6/14 Church Picnic  
6/21 Fred Faust  
6/28 Linda Phyles

#### **Childcare**

6/7 Chip & Shannon  
6/14 Church Picnic  
6/21 Heather Phyles  
6/28 Rick & Cheryl

#### **Coffee Hour**

6/7 Lydia  
6/14 Church Picnic  
6/21 Linda & Becky  
6/28 Mary & Bert

### **During July**

#### **Ushers**

Fred Faust  
Tom Knowlton

#### **Lay Assistant**

7/5 Linda Phyles  
7/12 Fred Faust  
7/19 Steve Gemma  
7/26 Sue Reed

#### **Custodial**

7/5 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
7/12 Gemma  
7/19 Faust  
7/26 Dancewicz

#### **Lector**

7/5 Linda Phyles  
7/12 Susan Dancewicz  
7/19 Susan Dancewicz  
7/26 Phil/Sue Reed

#### **Childcare**

7/5 Kristin & Kira  
7/12 Chip & Shannon  
7/19 Heather Phyles  
7/26 Rick & Cheryl

#### **Coffee Hour**

7/5 Linda Berg  
7/12 Mary & Jack Plumb  
7/19 Judy & Cheryl  
7/26 Linda & Susan

### **During August**

#### **Ushers**

Rick Cormier  
Steve Gemma

#### **Lay Assistant**

8/2 Angie Cornwell  
8/9 Linda Phyles  
8/16 Fred Faust  
8/23 Steve Gemma  
8/30 Sue Reed

#### **Custodial**

8/2 Bott  
8/9 Reed  
8/16 Phyles  
8/23 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
8/30 Gemma

#### **Lector**

8/2 Phil/Sue Reed  
8/9 Tom Knowlton  
8/16 Tom Knowlton  
8/23 Judy Othote  
8/30 Judy Othote

#### **Childcare**

8/2 Kristin & Kira  
8/9 Chip & Shannon  
8/16 Heather Phyles  
8/23 Rick & Cheryl  
8/30 Kristin & Kira

#### **Coffee Hour**

8/2 Carole & Raunda  
8/9 Shannon & Angie  
8/16 Linda & Becky  
8/23 Mary & Bert  
8/30 Mary & Jack Plumb

***Please ask someone to fill in for you if you are unable to make it when you are scheduled. Phone numbers can be found in the church directory.***

## **Is Your Number Up?**

---

Precious moments can be lost while emergency personnel attempt to find a location in the case of an emergency when house numbers are not clearly visible or do not exist. You or your loved one could be in danger!

Massachusetts general law (Ch. 148s59) and most local ordinances require that all buildings have a street number that can be clearly seen from the road. All structures are required to have numbers facing the street. It is recommended that they be placed on the frame of the main entrance on the lock side. All numbers are required to be a minimum of 4", and should be reflective, block style, contrasting color. Numbers, not letters, should be used. Any senior citizens requiring assistance to comply with this important law should contact their local town or city hall or their local senior citizens center.

## **Haven from Hunger**

---

Ever wonder what the cardboard box in the undercroft marked "Haven from Hunger" is for? Throughout the year the Haven from Hunger is in need of canned goods and non-perishable food items (pasta, baby food, etc.). We deliver the contents of this collection box to Haven when we serve our meal there. If you would like to donate food to the Haven from Hunger, please bring the food items to service with you and place them into the box.

## **St. John News and Notes**

---

We ask for your prayer and concern for these members and friends of St. John:

Ellen Hepburn  
Dorothy Fender  
Bill Henderson

Sylvia Moynihan  
Gary Garaputo

David Fredrickson  
Anna Snow

Our volunteer lists need more volunteers! Please consider serving your church as lay assistant, lector, a cleaner, coffee hour host, usher, the list could go on and on! If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas in this regard, please speak with Pastor, Linda Phyles or Steve Gemma.

We are seeking more young people to serve as acolytes during our worship services. The role they play is important and is a form of service in the chancel. If you, or anyone you know is interested, please speak with Lisa Winsor.

We will continue to use Setting I of the liturgy for the Pentecost season.

## **Past Happenings**

---

Our annual Healing service was held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We extend a sincere thank you to Steve Gemma for bringing the message. A lot of preparation goes into providing the message, thank you for your contributions to our ministry. Your leadership is genuinely appreciated.

On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the sacrament of holy baptism was administered to Michael Lee Gustafson, infant son of Paul and Melissa (Goodwin) Gustafson. Michael Lee was born in Boston on January 9, 2008. We rejoice with him and his family now that he has been baptized into the household of faith.

Palm Sunday fell on April 5<sup>th</sup> this year, thus the beginning Holy Week. As we have done in the past, a Table of the Lord Service was held on Maundy Thursday. After sharing a light meal and then receiving Holy Communion we were given the opportunity to hammer the nails (received on Ash

Wednesday) into a wooden cross. This is a very meaningful way near the end of Holy Week to prepare for Easter.

On Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a festive Easter Worship Service held at 9:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated during the worship service. Special music for the service was provided by Margaret Knowlton and members of the church choir. After Worship our annual Easter egg hunt was held outdoors. This has been an annual event for a good number of years and everyone looks forward to it.

The annual spaghetti dinner was held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our sincere thanks to all who were involved with the planning, cooking, and cleaning. No one in attendance left hungry, and some discovered a hidden cake decorating talent.

We extend a special welcome to two of our fine young people who were welcomed to the Lord's Table on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Timothy Raymond Cormier and Hanna Lillian Quill received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. We rejoice with them and their families as they reach this milestone in their spiritual journey and begin their lifelong reception of the Sacrament.

In honor of Mother's Day, May 10<sup>th</sup>, our WELCA group presented geranium plants to all women who were present for worship. We joined with them in honoring the Christian family and in celebrating our mothers past and present. The men of the congregation participated in the celebration by serving the coffee hour.

### **Upcoming Events**

---

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Camp Naumkeag in Salem. You are invited to arrive any time after 10:00 a.m. An informal worship service beginning about 10:30 a.m. There will be no service at the church. Plan to bring your own lawn chairs plus salads and desserts for the pot luck. As we did last year, we are requesting a volunteer, no-obligation donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family to help cover costs.

*The staff of The St. John Eagle extends everyone our wish for a happy, safe, and fun filled summer.*