

SHALOM

Volume 12 Number 8
(405)321-1584

University Lutheran Church and Student Center
914 Elm Ave., Norman, OK 73072

September 2009

www.ulcsc.org
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WELCOME STUDENTS

Centerpoint: *New Beginnings*

And Jesus said to the disciples, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

--Matthew 13:52

This month marks the beginning of my fifth school year here at University Lutheran. Can you believe it? Time passes so quickly! During our first four years together, there have been successes and failures, areas of growth and things that still need work. I think, overall, our congregation is a healthy, thriving and vital community of faith. Not perfect (this isn't heaven yet), but a very good place to be.

I truly believe that it is people, guided by the Holy Spirit, who make a congregation what it is. As I reflect on the past four years, I am grateful for all the new people who have joined us, and mindful of those who are no longer with us. We are blessed with a lot of dedicated, faithful, caring people who want to make this community of faith the best it can be. For that, I regularly give thanks in my prayers.

For me, September is always a time for new beginnings. It feels more like "New Years" to me than the calendar date in January. I am always filled with new hope,

new excitement and new energy as the students flood back into Norman, school and church schedules resume and the pews refill as people return from vacations and other summer activities. September is a time to try new things, even as we celebrate the return of the tried and true.

As we begin again, I am excited about a number of new and renewed ministries and programs:

SOUL: This is the beginning of my 19th school year as a campus pastor and if I've learned anything in all that time, it is that campus ministry is always changing. Every few years, you have to change your approach. So, this year, we have changed the way we are doing Peer Ministry. Our new "campus minister" is being given a lot more responsibility to plan and lead our programs. I think the new approach is already bearing fruit.

Building Program: Over the next months we are going to talking a lot about our plans for renovating and expanding our facilities. We are also going to be talking a lot about how we are going to pay for it! Bringing this long-time dream to reality is going to be a challenge for us. But, I think it is very do-able. I am convinced that the proposed additions and expansions are going to help us in ministering more effectively to

the Norman community, the campus and the people of our congregation.

Stephen's Ministry: We are continuing to make plans to introduce this important care giving ministry to our congregation. We are patiently waiting for the next training session to be held in our region so we don't have to pay to send people half way across the country. This ministry will greatly expand our ministry to our elder members and others who are in need.

Really, Really Free Market: This is a new program being put together by the evangelism and social ministry committees. If it "takes off" it will be a wonderful outreach into our community that both meets people's needs while extending God's grace and love.

Of course, we are continuing all sorts of familiar ministries and programs. Worship, fellowship, education, service and other opportunities abound.

My encouragement to everyone is: get involved! We need YOU because without you there would be no University Lutheran.

Peace,

Pastor Mike

From the DCE

Thanksgiving in September?

We had a great Gathering, Abigail has moved on to being a one year old, I like my job (or even have one, for that matter), my family is healthy... I've spent a good bit of time this past month thinking of how many things I have to be thankful for. I really am blessed, but even so, it takes an effort to remember what I have to be thankful for.

I think people are not naturally thankful, or at least I don't know any. People have to be reminded to say thanks, give thanks, be thankful and remember the good they have in their lives. Everyone has seen a parent recite the line to their child, "Now what do you say?" Have you ever seen a parent encourage a child to complain? Or ask for something? Or write a list of what they are lacking? What is easier to write, a wish list or thank you notes? We are so bad at being thankful we've created a Thanksgiving holiday just to keep ourselves accountable!

Ok, so maybe I've gone a little overboard but surely Thanksgiving isn't only a once a year thing.

1 Thessalonians 5 tells us "...In everything give thanks...". Now, I'm not so naive as to advise you to give thanks for EVERYTHING. In a devotional I came across once the writer says "It is so much easier, however, to focus on what is wrong than on what we have to be grateful for, and it takes effort to refocus ourselves." So maybe the point is not what we give thanks for but that we give thanks. That we make thankfulness our focus rather than grumbling. Give thanks and praise to our Lord!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the piles of school supplies delivered this fall. The counselors at each of the schools were thrilled with our show of support. Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board across from the office.

Chris

Sept	12	Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest, 9:00 am
	13	First day of Sunday School
	26	Oktoberfest, 6:00 pm
Oct	03	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 am
	04	CROP WALK
Oct	06	Education Committee, 7:30 am

Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest!

Cleveland County CROP Walk to STOP Hunger is sponsoring a Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest for kids and families Saturday, September 12, 9-1130am at the Santa Fe Depot, 200 S Jones St. The theme is Helping the Hungry~Making a Difference. There are lots of prizes for the kids as well as prize drawings for moms! The entry fee is peanut butter or tuna for food pantries across Cleveland County. More information is posted on the Youth Events board.

Save the Date!

This years CROP Walk will be October 4 with registration starting at 130 at Food and Shelter for Friends. There is pre-walk entertainment and a post-walk party with live music! Dogs are welcome to walk and water stations will be available for them along the route. More information is posted across from the office or visit www.clevelandcountycropwalk.org/

Keep your eyes open for sponsorship packets Available Soon!

ULC STAFF

Pastor Michael K. Girlinghouse

Cell phone (405) 313-7268

Director of Christian Education

Chris Lee

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Sammie Olkinetzky

Organist

Cindy Pullin

Secretary

Marti Hunnicutt

Accountant

Debbie Downey

Custodian

Alem Gidey

Council President

Jane Douglass

SHALOM

October

Shalom Deadline:

Sept 22

Send submissions to

shalom@ulcsc.org

If you have a submission for the Shalom, please e-mail them to shalom@ulcsc.org. For questions, comments or suggestions, contact Heidi Somers. Note: I cannot acknowledge your email from the shalom address, as I cannot respond. If you would like a confirmation for our submission, copy your email to hsomers@xxxxxxx.net or hidela@xxx.com. Text in an email is just fine, or I can accept any Microsoft Office 2003, or 2007 document, rich text or html.



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Attention Needle Crafters

As summer ends and we enter into our fall routine, I invite you to consider using your gifts and skills to provide warm loving gifts to others. Past projects have included prayer shawls for many occasions and scarves for students who are in the "Bridges" Program. These young people are expected to be enrolled in high school (and maintain their grades) while also working and living on their own for a variety of reasons.

This year we would like to expand our projects to also include "lapghans" - small

Afghans for those who may be in nursing homes and/or wheelchair bound. I'm sure there are other great projects. So please come to our first meeting with your suggestions and favorite pattern(s).

The meeting schedule is being adjusted to once a quarter. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 2nd right after choir practice. If you have projects that are already completed please bring them so we can bless the fruits of our labor with prayer. Ideas for gift giving will also be discussed.

You say you don't know how

to knit or crochet, but you want to be part of this ministry. This would be a good time to learn and instructions and patterns will be provided. Individual help sessions/lessons can also be arranged. Turn TV time into a time of multitasking and share your love through a needle work project.

If you have questions or want more information please call Carol Hoadley at xxx-xxxx. Or leave a message at the church office and I will call you.

September Birthdays

1	Mary Jane Gastgeb, Bellvue, PA	15	Lee Savage
5	Kenneth Gastgeb, Carnegie, PA	15	David Sullivan
7	Luke Gastgeb, Norman, OK	16	Michael White
7	Scarlett Metseff	16	Jenna Lang
8	Pam Wallace, Charleston, WV	22	Peggy Strom, Stratford, OK
9	Theresa Balan	22	Doug Gransberg, Miles City, MT
11	Kelsey Busking, Walsh, CO	25	Steve Livesey, San Fernando, CA
14	Casey Kudrna, Norman, OK	25	Cole Singleton

September Anniversaries

3	<i>Helmut and Gretel Fischbeck</i>	15	<i>Richard and Tamara Swenson</i>
12	<i>Keith and Sheila Weyenberg</i>	21	<i>Doug and Gwen Gransberg, Corvallis, OR</i>
12	<i>Mark and Heidi Somers, Sayville, NY</i>	23	<i>Kristen and Lon Ocker, Wichita, KS</i>

Statistics - July 2009 Worship Attendance

Sun	7/05/09	7/12/09	7/19/09	7/26/09	Average
8:30	53	62	58	100	68
11:00	74	68	58	73	68
2009	127	130	116	173	136

FOOD AND SHELTER FOR FRIENDS

Please note the RED SIGN in the narthex over the collection baskets for Food & Shelter for Friends. The samples of different kinds of large food donations have been delivered. Just remember that the large or small cans of food plus any personal items you wish to give can be used all of the time. If you read the Norman Transcript article about the people living under the I-35 bridge just south of highway 9 you know that the people who cook for and take care of the homeless are in need of more not less help. Since this is fall and our lives get back to "normal" note the red sign as a reminder to help the Norman hungry.

Bible Study
Monday, September 21st
7:30 p.m. at church

"To God's Beloved:
Paul's Letter to the Romans"
Session 1: "Be Mutually Encouraged"



We begin our new fall Bible study, and it looks like another good one. If you'd like more information about it, go to this web site:
<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Lutheran-Woman-Today/Bible-study.aspx>

All women are cordially invited to join in the fellowship and good discussions.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to invite anyone who is interested to join our committee as we gear up our busy time of the year. We usually meet at 10am in the choir room but if you can't make that time, there are plenty of other tasks that you can help with. Please contact Keith Weyenberg at kweyenberg@xxx.com for more details.

Volunteers Needed

We need some additional volunteers for Early Service communion set-up and team leaders. If you can serve, please see Pastor Mike or call Bob Metz at xxx-xxx-xxxx, cell xxx-xxx-xxxx or e-mail him at metzofdavis@xxxxx.com.

Worship Highlights Bible Readings Schedule

Pentecost 15 – Rally Day September 13, 2009

Isaiah 50:4-9a
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Theme: We are called to teach the world, and especially our children, who Jesus is even if there is resistance.

Pentecost 16 September 20, 2009

Jeremiah 11:18-20
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Theme: How do we make our church more child friendly... whether that child is 2 or 102?

Pentecost 17 September 27, 2009

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Theme: God's power is not limited to the community of faith nor by the community of faith.

Pentecost 18 October 4, 2009

Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Theme: We were created male and female so that we might care for one another.

Following this schedule, you can read through the Bible in about a year and a half. This month, we are reading from the Prophets.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Sunday	Amos 1-3	Isaiah 1-3	Isaiah 20-22	Nahum
Monday	Amos 4-6	Isaiah 4-6	Isaiah 23-25	Habakkuk
Tuesday	Amos 7-9	Isaiah 7-9	Isaiah 26-29	Zephaniah
Wednesday	Micah 1-4	Isaiah 10-12	Isaiah 30-32	Jeremiah 1-3
Thursday	Micah 5-7	Isaiah 13-16	Isaiah 33-35	Jeremiah 4-6
Friday	Obadiah	Isaiah 17-19	Isaiah 36-39	Jeremiah 7-9
Saturday	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Jeremiah 11:18-20 James 3&4 Mark 9:30-37	Numbers 11 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50	Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 1&2 Mark 10:2-16

Sunday Adult Forum

At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, a new social statement on Human Sexuality was passed, along with new policies regarding the ordained service of gay and lesbian individuals in "publically accountable, life-long, committed, monogamous relationships". During September, we will continue our discussion of these decisions and what they mean for University Lutheran and the ELCA.

Adult Forum meets between services on Sunday mornings from 10-10:45 AM. Grab your breakfast and bring it over to the Student Center (Triplex). The Forum is led by Pastor Mike.

Sermon Talk-Back

Sermon Talk Back is a weekly bible study group that discusses the Sunday Morning bible readings and the sermon theme of the day. The group meets from 7-8 PM on Sunday evenings. The conversation is always lively.

So, if you've ever had a question about the sermon, wanted to go into greater depth on the context and setting of the lessons (beyond what Pastor Mike gives each Sunday) or explore the meaning of the texts further, *Sermon Talk-Back* is for you! New participants are always welcome!

PRAYER LIST

August 23, 2009 Please keep the following in your prayers:

Members who are homebound:

Dave Alvis, Dorothy Thompson, Paul Brinker, Genia van Leursburg

Members who are sick and recovering:

Kirstin Schwandt	Tamara Swenson	Doug Gransberg
Rich Reynolds	Dorothy Iverson	Ingrid Robbins
Bev Turner	Renita Escobar	Julie Giuliano

Friends and family members who are sick and recovering:

James West	Son of Len and Andy West
Taiyoko Payton	Friend of Doug and Gwen Gransberg
Ari Williams	Friend of Roger and Debbie Bain
Anna White	Mother of Richard White
Lony Birkert	Friend of Ingrid Robbins
Sue Ledsford	Friend of Donna Shaw
Anthony Martin	Son of Angela Carr
Hollianne O'Rear	Friend of Carrie Atherton
Wilma Eakins	Aunt of Bob Metz
Helga Martin	Mother of Heidi Somers
Betty Armstrong	Mother of Jessica Gwinner
Jim King	Friend of Gary and Mary Sue Schnell
Family of Stan McLaughlin	Friends of Donna Shaw
Lyrisa McCoy	Daughter of Debbie Nelson-McCoy
Arlet Johnson	Mother of Steve Johnson
Ching-guo Wang	Dan Carr's sister-in-law's father
Nellie Michael	Mary Sue Schnell's aunt
Linda Bruner	Daughter of Deb & Roger Bain
Jim Ault	Friend of Duane and Jane Winegardner
Travis Fast	Grandson of Wilhelmine Folks
Josh Kirchoff	friend of Cathy Cook
Trish Parham	friend of Donna Shaw
Vickie Lykins	friend of Dale Metz
Tina Gibbons	Sister of Tamara Swenson
Betty Quinlan	Sister of Dorothy Brinker
Vera Hrabak	Sister of Vivian Jacobson
Robert Grass	friend of Randa Shehab
Bob Armbrust	Brother of Jolene Kudrna
Bruce Barber	Brother of Cindy Sewell

Those in the military who serve in harms way, including: Justin Smalley, Barry Roche, Tony Seymour, Matthew Haddon, Gene DeLarm, Jon Lawson, Owen Lasater, John Stroud, AnnetteMessinger, Pablo Martinez, and Michael Finch.

Missionaries of the church, especially:

David and Alicia Brondos, in Mexico, and Herb Hafermann in Tanzania.

For all those who grieve the death of a loved one, the families of Cass Petre, Ken Cagle, Elizabeth Payne, Wanda Buckley, and Ron Heimsoth. May the hope of Christ's resurrection bring you comfort in your loss.

For our residents of East Main Place, Denise and her 3 year old daughter Liani.

For the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

The Tour de Revs Challenge 3 Guys, 1 Bike, 100 Days, 13,000 Miles, 65 Cities

Change that to 66 cities, for on July 29th the three ELCA pastors, riding their three-man bamboo bike rode into Norman and shared their mission with ULC & SC members during a luncheon hosted by the Social Ministry Committee. Their goal—raise awareness and raise money to help eradicate hunger around the world. The three West Virginia pastors, each over 60, also share a commitment to wellness and encouraged people along the way to set personal health and wellness goals.

Along their 13,000 mile trek around America they encouraged contributions to support the ELCA's world hunger activities with a goal of \$5 million as a part of the broader ELCA World Hunger Appeal goal of \$25 million.

Members of ULC & SC still have time to contribute to the Tour de Revs challenge. The Social Ministry Committee challenges each family to give just \$5 a month during September, October, November and December to help combat hunger and malnutrition around the world. ELCA World Hunger Appeal envelopes are included in the Shalom and in the pew card slots.

\$5 a Month, 4 Months, 145 Contributors = \$2,900 for World Hunger

World Hunger Facts:

- 963 million people in the world are hungry each day
- 947 million people are undernourished
- 10.1 million children under age of 5 die each year (3/4 caused by malnutrition or related diseases)
- 1 in 6 people lack safe drinking water
- 35.5 million people in the United States experience hunger or risk of hunger

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.” Proverbs 19:17

Fishers and Followers

Follow me ...

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." -- Mark 1:16-17

Our discipleship starts with an invitation. Simon and Andrew were not looking for a job change. They were busy doing what they did every day: fishing, minding their nets, making a living. And then came the invitation: "Follow me."

For us, the invitation to discipleship comes as the water is poured over our heads in baptism. Whether that happened when we are weeks old, or when we were adults, as the water was poured we were chosen, claimed and set apart by God for our discipleship. As the blessing of Baptism was spoken over us, we were invited into a life of following.

But, what exactly do followers do? What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Andrew and Simon were invited to "fish for people". They were invited to join Jesus in his Kingdom work, proclaiming and embodying the reign of God in the world. We are invited to do the same. To follow Jesus means doing Jesus' work, continuing Jesus' mission and living in Jesus' way. Being a disciple means more than just showing up for worship occasionally. It means more than just acknowledging that we believe in God. Being a disciple implies a certain lifestyle. It is a way of life, a way of being in the world. It shapes how we engage the people we meet day by day, how we do our daily work, how we set our priorities, how we use our resources, and how we use our time. Being a disciple of Jesus is more about who we *are* than what we *do*.

But, Jesus didn't just invite Simon and Andrew to follow and then send them out. He spent three years teaching them how to be disciples. He promises to teach us as well.

Next Month: Disciples Gather Together

Come, Let us Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. --1 John 1:8-9

We begin our weekly worship with a confession of sin. That might seem like a real "downer" to start off a service. But, it is where our life of faith usually begins. We have to acknowledge that, without God, our lives would be missing something essential. Without God, we are broken people. Confessing our sins, therefore, is more than just listing all the bad things we have done in the week past. It is stating publically our need for God in our lives. The very God we will meet, praise and thank in the context of worship.

The Order for Confession and Forgiveness begins with an invocation of the Triune God. This invocation sets the context for the whole service. It is in God's name that we gather. It states that this service is about God and what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

The presiding minister then calls us to confession, reminding us of the importance of turning our hearts and our lives over to the grace and mercy of God. The silence that follows is not a time to list all our sins, so much as it is a time to personally reflect on our need for God. The confession itself lays out that need by acknowledging the ways we have turned our backs on God, on God's will and on the people God has called us to serve. Jesus said that the whole of God's commandments are summed up in our love of God and love of neighbor. We fail at both. Sometimes our confession of that failure is specific. Sometimes more general.

Finally, we hear the words of God's forgiveness. These words declare that the very grace and mercy we seek is already ours. That sets the tone for the rest of the service as we celebrate the Good News that we are loved, saved and sent to live as God's people in the world.

Next Month: Hymns, Songs and Other Music

Building Update

Who or what is *Kairos*?

Kairos is a consulting company that can help us make our building expansion and renovation dreams a reality. They are based in Minnesota, but have worked with Lutheran congregations throughout the country. If we choose to move forward with *Kairos* we would be working with John Cross, a Lutheran pastor with over 20 years of parish experience and over ten years experience consulting with congregations who want to raise money for major building projects.

Why hire *Kairos*?

Kairos can help us in two ways. First they can help us examine the feasibility of our plans through a resource assessment process. Second, they can help us design an effective capital campaign to help us bring those plans to fruition. Because *Kairos* brings their experience and expertise in the area of resource assessment and capital fundraising, they can help us accomplish our goals more effectively. Because they come from the “outside” they can be much more objective in helping us analyze our goals and develop our resources.

What is a “feasibility study” about?

If approved, *Kairos* will work with us for 6-8 weeks this fall helping us refine our vision, goals and plans for our building project, doing interviews and leading focus groups to discuss those plans, and analyze our congregation’s potential financial response to a capital appeal. At the end of the process, they will present us with a report that will give us a good idea of how we can proceed most effectively.

Does electing to do a “feasibility study” commit us to building?

No. Once the feasibility study is done, we will use the results to decide how and when to move forward with our building and renovation plans. The plan would be to bring a final proposal for the building, along with a resolution calling for a capital campaign to the Annual Meeting in January. That is why it is important for everyone to participate in the discussion *now*, so that we can make the best possible decision come January.

How much is this going to cost?

The feasibility study will cost us \$8,800 which covers all Pastor John Cross’ time, travel and expenses while working with us, as well as the production of the final report.

All Voting Members are encouraged to attend a **special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 27 starting at 10 AM** in the worship area.

We will be discussing the proposed building plans, and making a decision on the hiring of *Kairos* to do a feasibility study on our behalf.

Question and Answer Sessions

There will be two opportunities to ask questions about the building project, and the hiring of *Kairos*, share your opinions and ideas and hear what others are thinking. Everyone is invited to attend!

The sessions will be:

Sunday, September 13, at 12:15 PM in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM in the worship area.

Sunday, September 20 at 10 AM in the fellowship hall.

Members of the Capital Campaign committee, the Mission Advancement committee, and Council will be present to lead the discussion.

Please keep this process in your prayers in the coming weeks and months as we continue to seek God’s guidance for this project and for our ongoing ministry.

Really, Really, Free Market

Have you ever brought one dish to a potluck and gone away with a full belly and balanced meal? A *Really, Really Free Market* is like a giant potluck made up of usable items, skits, ideas, smiles, talents and many other things that we as a COMMUNITY can come together and share. RRFM MEANS 100% FREE! Everybody brings something and goes away with more.

- No money, no bartering , no trading.
- Everyone giving something.
- Bringing your skills, ideas objects, smiles, talents, friendship, excitement, discussion, etc.
- Community gathering where nothing is bought or sold.
- Bringing community together and providing more balanced and full lives for us all.
- Contributing by participating.

You are invited to Norman's first *Really, Really Free Market!* Saturday, October 3 from 9 AM – 1 PM here at University Lutheran.

Sign-up to participate in the Narthex at church. For more information talk to Cheryl Bredeson or Marilyn Brinker.

SOUL

Students Of University Lutheran

Community of faith



Community of service

September Events

SOUL Tuesdays

6 PM – Free Dinner followed by Bible Study and Worship.

Think-Fast Iftar

7 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 8
Oklahoma Union

Interfaith dialogue with the Muslim Student Association.

Make-up Bible Study

Wednesdays, 12 Noon
Wendy's @ Oklahoma Union.

Missed Tuesday night? Join us at the Union for a repeat of Tuesdays Bible Study!

Volunteer at Second Chance Animal Shelter

Friday, September 11 3 PM

Meet at the church to carpool for our first Service Project!

SOUL Food

Sunday, Sept. 13, 12:15 PM

Go out to eat on SOUL!

Football Parking

Sept. 12 and 19

Help with parking for home football games. Fundraiser for SOUL events!

For more information email Kristin at Kristin.h.reed-1@ou.edu or call 817-614-4261

New Member Classes

Orientation classes for those interested in joining University Lutheran will be offered on five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM starting on September 23.

We will discuss Lutheran theology and practice, as well as learn a little about how University Lutheran works.

This is for anyone interested in learning more about Lutherans! Even current members! Talk to Chris Lee to find out more.

New Members:

New members will be received at both services on Sunday, October 25. Please fill out a new member form. You can get them on the tract cabinet in the church entryway. You can also talk to Pastor Mike.

An Apology...

I am very sorry that this issue of the *Shalom* is so late getting to your mailbox. Between Rebecca going to college, the start of a new school year, a lot of pastoral care needs, some personal health issues, and a broken computer I just didn't get my writing done on time. It seems like it's always something! I promise we'll do better next month!

Pastor Mike