

Minutes of the Church Council

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, and Jodie Torkelson. The meeting was called to order by Council President Smith at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Carl Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Interim Pastoral Services

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Pastor Carl Hansen to discuss on engaging him as an interim pastor. He is newly retired and would like to preach no more than three Sundays per month. In addition, he would like some flexibility on sharing pulpit duties with his wife, retired pastor Mary Hansen.

The council discussed expectations with Pastor Hansen for pastor support such as visitation and communion for the homebound, visits to the hospitalized, attending church council meetings, providing guidance to confirmation instructors, and pastor counseling as needed.

Rude will contact Bishop Wohlrabe for synodical salary guidelines.

Pastor Hansen left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Auchenpaugh presented the Treasurer's report for August 2011. Expenditures were \$6,416.72 (including a parting gift of \$3,000 for Pastor Cuppett) and Income was \$4,908.25. The checking account balance as of August 31st was \$7,818.01. The savings account balance was \$20,326.82 and total assets were \$77,505.20. It should be noted that total assets have increased from \$73,227.75 as of January 31, 2011.

Rude made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Torkelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was unavailable.

Old Business

Smith indicated that she signed the necessary paperwork to transfer the money held at Thrivent on behalf of Pastor Cuppett to Pastor Cuppett's account.

Auchenpaugh placed the weekly church notice in The Times and will continue to do so on a monthly basis.

New Business

A decision needs to be made on the pulpit stand. This will be discussed at a later date.

A nominating committee will need to be organized in the near future to work on filling vacancies on the church council for 2012.

A motion was made by Auchenpaugh to hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2011 following church services to review the Task Force's final report and recommendations. The congregation can then take whatever actions it chooses to take on those recommendations. Rude seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on October 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and Pastor Hansen will be invited to attend if an interim pastor agreement has been signed.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

Motion by Rude to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting

October 30, 2011 – 11:20 a.m.

A Special Congregational Meeting was held at 11:20 a.m. on Sunday, October 30, 2011 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Wahna Smith, council president, called the meeting to order and informed the congregation of the two items on the agenda: setting worship times during the Christmas holiday and any action or follow-up to the Final Report of the Task Force. On behalf of the congregation, Smith thanked the task force members for all of their time and hard work on helping the congregation formulate a plan for our future.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Services

In the past, St. Pauli has alternated with Calvary on worship times for Christmas Eve. The general preference in the past has been for Christmas Eve services at 5:00 p.m. Now that we no longer alternate with Calvary, we can set the worship schedule.

In addition, this year Christmas Day falls on Sunday. In the past when we have had Christmas Eve services, Calvary has had the Christmas Day service.

The question posed to the congregation was whether St. Pauli would have Christmas Eve services only or Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Initially the congregation was split on the question but following discussion where several members expressed an interest in having the option of attending either service if that worked for Pastor Hansen, a show of hands indicated a preference for services on both days.

Task Force Report

Arlo Rude, Task Force Chair, shared a summary of the Task Force's work and led discussion on how St. Pauli moves forward as a congregation, primarily with regard to pastoral leadership.

Specific questions posed to the congregation included:

Has it worked to have a set time for services and Sunday school? The consensus of the congregation was that a set time for worship services works well and no one shows up at the wrong time now.

Does it matter to the congregation whether we have an ordained or lay pastor each Sunday? St. Pauli has

an agreement with Pastor Hansen through December 31, 2011, that may be extended upon mutual agreement, to be our Interim Pastor.

Questions were posed by the members on the various types of arrangements available. Zion and Silver Creek have a purchased services agreement whereby Silver Creek pays one-fourth of the cost of a pastor, approximately \$15,000, to Zion. Black River and Redeemer have a more traditional parish relationship. Some questions were raised on whether a purchased services agreement was as stable a relationship as a parish relationship. Pastor Hansen stated that he felt a parish relationship tended to offer more stability because parish agreements are open ended and contractual agreements are usually 1-2 years in duration.

What is the amount of financial support that St. Pauli would be willing to offer to another church? We currently have \$23,000 in the budget for pastoral services. We may be asked for more. Is this doable? Because Silver Creek pays only \$15,000 for pastoral services, some felt we may not need to come up with more than what we currently budget.

Which church is the preference to contact first, second, third? It was noted that being affiliated with a church within the same school district is beneficial because of schedule coordination for the youth. The consensus was to contact the three Thief River Falls churches, Redeemer, Zion and Trinity first and then go from there if those contacts are unsuccessful.

Who would be willing to serve on a committee to contact other churches? Smith suggested that it be two from the council and two from the rest of the congregation. Faye Auchenpaugh nominated Arlo Rude and Jodie Torkelson to be on the committee from the church council. After being asked, Chad Torstveit and Cindy Cedergren both agreed to serve from the congregation. The nominations were approved by consensus.

The meeting concluded at 11:50 a.m. with the singing of the Table Grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodie R. Torkelson
Church Council Secretary

St. Pauli News in Detail

NOVEMBER



Greeting and Ushering

- Nov. 6 Jason Jensen
- Nov. 13 Nancy Jensen
- Nov. 20 Jim Johnson
- Nov. 27 Jim Kotz

Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

Altar Preparation: To be announced

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Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Through the generosity of our members, the following items have been made for the second shipment this year to Lutheran World Relief.

- 8 Quilts
- 25 School Kits
- 34 Layettees
- 15 Personal Care Kits

Community Thanksgiving Services



Wednesday, November 23rd
7:00 pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church

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November Milestones



Birthdays

- Nov. 15 Emily Lokken
- Nov. 28 Wahna Smith

Needed: Birthdays of our children and men, plus anniversaries of our couples.

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A huge THANK YOU to everyone who once again helped to make our Fall Supper a success. It would be impossible without the willingness of each one of you to give of your time and your efforts.



Singing with the Lutherans

by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you ever lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans, and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheran-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans, they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the 7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and

when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
10. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add just the right amount of color.
13. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

- It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;
- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;
- The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;
- When you watch a *Star Wars* movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you;"
- And, lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, "Good-bye."

May you wake each day with
His blessings,
Sleep each night in His keeping,
And always walk in
His tender care.

Making Pancakes

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

Just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking.

But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process!

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do.

That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to 'make pancakes' for God or for others.

Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried...and never stop 'Making Pancakes.'

AIN'T

He was just a little boy, on a week's first day,
Wandering home from Bible school,
And dawdling on the way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass;
He even found a caterpillar.
He found a fluffy milkweed pod
And blew out all the 'filler.'

A bird's nest in a tree overhead
So wisely placed up high
Was just another wonder
That caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zigzag course
And hailed him from the lawn;
Then he asked him where he'd been that day
And what was going on.

"I've been to Bible School," he said
and turned a piece of sod.
He picked up a wiggle worm replying,
"I've learned a lot about God."

"M'm, very fine way," the neighbor said,
"for a boy to spend his time.
If you'll tell me where God is,
I'll give you a brand new dime."

Quick as a flash, the answer came!
Nor were his accents faint.
"I'll give you a dollar, Mister,
If you can tell me where God ain't."

Notice

Please contact Faye Auchenpaugh with any suggestions or news items, articles or announcements that should be published in the weekly church bulletin or monthly newsletter. Please give her a **hand written note or send an email to** auchenpaugh@gmail.com

If you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please email your name and address to info@historicstpauli.org or mail your request to Faye's attention at: St Pauli Church, PO Box 944, Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Lutheran African peace activist

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Leymah Roberta Gbowee, a Lutheran Liberian peace activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The announcement came Oct. 7 from Oslo, Norway. Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, is responsible for organizing a non-violent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia.

Gbowee was awarded a scholarship from the International Leadership Development Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2006-2007 to support her study in peace building at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

The ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Liberia are members of The Lutheran World Federation -- a global communion of 140 member churches in 79 countries, representing more than 70 million Christians worldwide.

The Liberian women's movement led to the ousting of ex-President Charles Taylor and to the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as president of Liberia -- the first African nation with a female president. President Sirleaf also has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The war in Liberia began in 1989, but "the women's movement, our protest, didn't begin until 2003... The starting point of the women's movement was war fatigue, said Gbowee, a mother of six children. She grew tired of watching children die from hunger and "waking up every morning and not knowing whether a tomorrow was possible. You can't plan for the future." Along with thousands of other women from across Liberia, Gbowee wanted to dream of a better community.

She decided it was time to stop the war and called together women of all faiths -- Christian, Muslim, indigenous and others -- from across Liberia to "step out," recognizing that Liberian women can play a critical role in peace building.

"You always see your savior in someone else other than yourself," Gbowee said. "So for us women, having never been socialized to believe that we have powers to interfere in the politics of our country, were waiting for the bold men. (But) every time the bold men rose up, they rose up with guns and other things," she said, realizing that women needed to bring the much-desired peace "for ourselves."

But Gbowee does not take full credit for initiating and organizing the women's peace movement.



"There were other women who came before us, emboldening us to take a stand," she said. "And we didn't just start from nothing." Using the experiences of the women before them, Gbowee used prayer, picketing and silence to further their mission. Despite insults and other behaviors that came their way, Gbowee said, "We kept quiet because we had a sense of purpose and sense of direction." The women also put together statements of peace for African governments, engaged the media and initiated personal, one-to-one conversations with power brokers "to see how we could get the peace that Liberia was searching for," she said.

Gbowee's story is chronicled in the documentary "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." She has just completed her memoir, "Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War" -- a book that examines "the power of women and the power of faith in getting you (out) from the darkest place in your life," she said.

"Leymah Gbowee's life and leadership are a witness to the power of women to resist forces of violence and domination by creating a movement for reconciliation and peace," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson. "In Liberia, I experienced her passionate commitment to rebuilding a nation torn by civil war not by seeking vengeance, but through her faith to encourage dialogue and inclusiveness at all levels of society."

"The ELCA has been blessed by her prophetic voice. Leymah was the keynote speaker at (this) summer's Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, advocated with ELCA members at the United Nations and in Washington D.C., and inspired

participants in ELCA Global Mission events with her vision of God's peace for the world. She embodies a Christian faith that will not keep silent in the face of poverty and oppression," Hanson said.

"She sees the strength that comes when both women and men of different faiths join together in building a more just and peaceful world. When others may say there is no hope in the face of forces that divide and exploit, Leymah Gbowee gives a resounding 'yes' to the way of nonviolence and justice for all," he said. "This is a great day for women, for Liberia, for the world and for the ELCA, so blessed by Leymah Gbowee's courageous leadership and strong partnership."

Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director for Women of the ELCA, said Gbowee's call "to be a peacemaker came when she was president of the women's group at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Monrovia. Today that call has taken her to a Nobel Peace Prize."

"Women of the ELCA have been privileged to walk with Leymah in this journey, first publishing her story in our magazine in 2004. She inspired so many at our Triennial Gathering this past July as a

featured speaker. Her call there to move out of our comfort zone, rise up and reclaim our space will continue to inspire Lutheran women for years to come. We are so pleased for our Liberian sister," said Post Bushkofsky.

"The Nobel Peace Prize honors our sister, Leymah Gbowee, and all the courageous Liberian women who put their faith into action and their lives on the line in the prayerful, non-violent protest that helped end Liberia's brutal civil war," said the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive for Global Mission.

"These women showed the power of ordinary people who choose to stand together and say 'no' to violence and 'yes' to peace. The ELCA walked with Leymah and the Lutheran Church in Liberia, as they worked for peace in the darkest days of the Liberian civil war and for reconciliation in the years of reconstruction that have followed," he said. "It is a special joy to learn today that the Nobel Committee has recognized Leymah's amazing leadership of the women's movement that helped change the course of Liberian history and continues to build peace in West Africa.

* * * * *

When you go to Church this weekend be sure to smile as you go through your Hymnal!

- Dentist's Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn..... Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn..... There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn Standing on the Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapists Hymn He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

- 45mph..... God Will Take Care of You
- 65mph Nearer My God To Thee
- 85mph This World Is Not My Home
- 95mph Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100mph Precious Memories

BIG T BLOW BLE

(Genesis 3.1-13)



Things were going along nicely...

...there in the perfect place that God had made for Adam and Eve. But then one perfect, warm sunny day, Eve was walking through the garden. And there, in the middle of the garden, she met the serpent.

You need to know that the serpent was the one we call the devil, or sometimes we call him Satan. Satan is an angel who decided he didn't want to do what God said anymore. And so God sent him out of heaven. And from that day on, Satan became God's enemy.

And since people can't see angels - or the devil - the devil appeared to Eve as a serpent. "Serpent" is another word for snake. Except this snake wasn't like the snakes we know today, because he didn't crawl on the ground, and he could talk. Now, the thing is, Satan is a liar. He has always been a liar. And he is tricky too. And because he is God's enemy, he hates everything God loves, and does everything he can to ruin it.

So Satan said to Eve, "Did God really tell you that you couldn't eat the fruit from any tree in the garden?"

That's not what God said at all, and Eve knew it. So she said to the serpent, "God said we may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden - except the fruit from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If we even touch that fruit, we will die."

Well, that wasn't quite true either, was it? God never said anything about touching the fruit.

The serpent answered, "That's not true at all! You will not die! God only said that because he knows if you eat that fruit you will become like him. You will become wise. You will know what is good and what is bad."

And this is where Eve made her big mistake.

Instead of leaving right then, she stayed a while. She saw that the fruit on the tree looked very good. And she started thinking how nice it would be to be like God and know everything. But she also knew that God had said not to eat the fruit from that tree. Except now she was starting to think maybe it would be okay anyway. That fruit did look good. And the more she looked at it, the more she wanted it - and the more she forgot what God had said.

That is how temptation works. It is when you know something is wrong, but you want to do it anyway. And pretty soon the wrong thing you want to do starts to look good. And you think maybe just this one time it will be okay to go ahead and do it. You think the bad things that always come when you do what is wrong won't happen this time.

But they always do.

That's why things are wrong, because when you do them someone always gets hurt, sooner or later. But Eve wasn't thinking about that. She was only thinking about how delicious the forbidden fruit looked.

So Eve took some of the fruit, and she ate it.

And she gave some to Adam, and he ate it.

And all of a sudden they knew that they were naked.

Before that they were like little kids who run around naked and nobody cares - because little kids don't know any better. That's how Adam and Eve were before they ate the fruit God told them not to. Before that, they didn't know any better. They didn't know the difference between right and wrong. Now they did. Now they knew they were naked. And they were embarrassed.

Later that day...

God was walking through the garden in the cool of the evening as he liked to do. But when Adam and Eve heard him coming they hid from him in the bushes. They were embarrassed and afraid. God called to them, "Adam! Eve! Where are you?" (Of course, God knew where they were).

Adam answered from behind the bushes, "Right here, Lord... I heard you coming... so I hid from you... because I am naked."

"Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Did you eat the fruit I told not to eat?" God knew that he had. He always knows.

"It wasn't me!" Adam said, "The woman you gave me, she made me do it!"

So God said to Eve, "Is that true?"

And Eve said, "It wasn't me! The serpent made me do it!"

They were in big trouble now.



Next time...

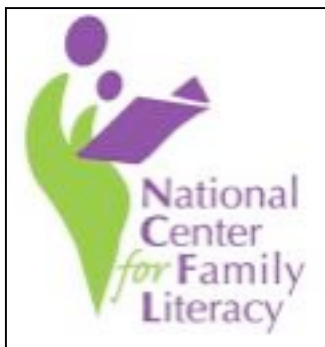
"A SAD DAY"

The Back Page

This month we have a different kind of test... “A Test on the Old and New Testaments”

Students at a Catholic elementary school were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The children wrote the following statements about the Bible. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
22. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marraige.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotomy.



November 1st is National Family Literacy Day!

First held in 1994, this annual event is officially celebrated on November 1st, but many events are held throughout the month of November. Schools, libraries, and other literacy organizations participate through read-a-thons, celebrity appearances, book drives, and more.

Use the fun, paraphrased installments of the Bible found in our monthly newsletters to read to your children or, better yet, have them read it to you.