

# SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

• Published Monthly by Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109 •

February 2009

Volume 67, Number 2

## TRANSFIGURATION

### *Groping towards the light*

This piece is by Matthias Grunewald. Drawn with black chalk on brownish paper with a little white to create highlights, Grunewald depicts one of the three apostles who accompanied Jesus on his journey up the mountain of Transfiguration. Whether this is Peter, James or John, I don't know. It seems like an artist's sketch made in preparation for the actual work itself.

The drawing is stark. It depicts the moment immediately following God's command echoing from the overshadowing cloud, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!"

We know that the apostles all had the same response to those words—they fell to the ground in terror. It portrays that fear.

Yet I see something more than mere fear resulting from an awesome (in the true sense of that word) encounter with the divine. I see a kind of struggle, perhaps even a crawling forward. The apostle seems to be reaching for something. (Or is he trying to ward off something terrible, to defend himself from something unknown and unknowable?) He looks to be groping around blindly. It's hard to say for sure.

Epiphany is the season between Christmas and Lent. It is intended as a time of growth—spiritual growth. It is a season of light and enlightenment. It begins with the celebration of the journey of those unknown wise men who were drawn to the light of the newborn King of kings. It ends in the blinding light of the Transfiguration. It is all about the manifestation—that is, the making visible, real and known—of the "true Light that was coming into the world."



Matthias Grunewald, c. 1511.  
An Apostle from the Transfiguration  
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden

How do we make the light of Christ shine in our lives? How do we manifest the love and reality of God to those about us? Most of us, and I include myself here, grope about for meaning and understanding in a world too complex to be fully understood.

Perhaps the answer is that we begin *by* groping and reaching and *yearning* for fuller understanding. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:26 that "the [Holy] Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

We search in the darkness of our ignorance, but we are never alone in that search. If we ask, our Lord will indeed reach

out, touch us gently, calm our fears, lift us to our feet and guide us into his light, love and life.

I think I now know what the apostle is reaching for—Jesus' own outstretched hand.

*Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer*

## NEW MEMBERS' CLASSES

**Sunday, February 8 at 12:15PM**

*(2nd Class at a date and time to be determined)*

Pastor Hugh will be offering two classes for those who would like to explore membership at St. Paul's Church. The first date is Feb. 8 following the late service, this class will last approximately 1 hour. The second class will be scheduled at the first at a time most convenient for those in attendance.

If you would like more information, or if you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Pastor Hugh or the Church Office as soon as possible.

## RENEWING OUR VISION . . . TOGETHER

As we should all know by now, St. Paul's has begun a very exciting discernment process that we are calling, "Renewing Our Vision Together." The sole purpose of this 4-month journey is to ask the question, "Where is God calling us as a congregation?"

At the heart of this journey will be three types of gatherings: Home Meetings, an Afternoon of Historical Discovery and Celebration, and an Evening of Decoding our Secret Handshakes. At each of these gatherings members of the Vision Team will be responsible for drawing deeper meaning out of these and drawing together a list of proposed goals to address the most important issues raised. Later on, when we have all gone through the various congregational gatherings we will all have an opportunity to discern which of the goals are central to the future health and vitality of St. Paul's.

**Have you signed up for a Home Meeting yet?** If the answer is "yes," then we, the people of St. Paul's Church thank you. If the answer is "no," then we urge you to reconsider and find a meeting that you can go to.

Why is this so important? Because we believe that there has never been a more important time in the life of St. Paul's for all of us to pool our faith and our wisdom and look honestly at ourselves and toward our future. Listening to the "still small voice" of God is not something we can best do as a

community, united by faith and a passion for Christ's mission. If you have not signed up yet for a home meeting, you will be contacted by someone and urged to do so. If, in searching the available days and times, you have not found one convenient to you, you will be asked when such a day and time would be most convenient. We will do all we can to create a meeting tailored to your needs.

### **Dates for Discernment**

**Home Meetings:** For day, time and places for Home Meetings, please contact the Church Office or look at the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Again, these options do not exhaust what can be available.

**Afternoon of Historical Discovery and**

**Celebration:** **Sunday, March 1, 2009, from 12 noon to 3PM.** Please mark your calendar now and join us for a potluck and celebration. Leading us on this date will be the Rev. Paul Krampitz, of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Bristol, CT.

**An Evening to Decode our Secret Handshakes:**

**Saturday, March 28 from 6 to 9PM.** Again, Pastor Krampitz will lead us on this journey to identify our congregation's "norms"—the unwritten rules that determine why we do things the way we do them.

Please be sure you have marked your calendars. We will soon post a sign-up sheet for each of these events.

Remember, your participation will ensure that it is God's voice that we are hearing, and not merely that of a select few. With all of us working together, we will gain a clear vision for our future.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**HOME MEETINGS:** *Through Feb. 17*

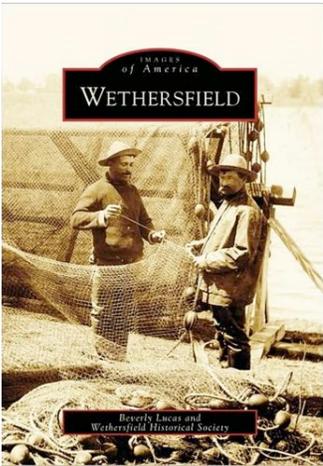
If you haven't found one that fits your schedule, let us know and we'll do what we can to meet your needs!

**DISCOVER AND CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY:** *Sunday, March 1 from 12 to 3PM*

**EVENING TO DECODE OUR "SECRET HANDSHAKES":** *Saturday, March 28 from 6 to 9PM.*

**WETHERSFIELD BOOK FOR SALE**

The Arcadia Book on Wethersfield written by Beverly Lucas and the Wethersfield Historical Society the book contains two pictures of the history of our church, St. Paul's. One photo shows the congregation at one of our first services in 1942 at the storefront which is now Leo's Pizza on Wolcott Hill Road. The second photo's our newly constructed church building, built during 1957. Our



first service was on New Year's Day 1958, with fold-up chairs, concrete floor, and heat coming through big flowers in the unfinished building.

The book also has a photo's of Carole and Garrett Hughes at the W.H.S. senior ball in 1955, Anderson Farm, and Janet Vasel's daughter Rachel at the nature center during a Girl Scout field trip.

The book can be purchased at the Old Academy (Tues. - Fri. 9-4) for \$19.99 or Borders, & Barnes & Noble.



Dear St. Paul's family,

*Here I sit in a new day, a new year and a new me reading for one last time all the many cards and notes I received during my hip/bone surgery only now do realize how comforting and truly thoughtful these messages of goodwill and healing have meant to me. Prayers were offered on my behalf, calls of concern and caring were made and foods delivered to heal my weakened body all from my second family of St. Pauls.*

*Did I mention the visits of Pastor Hugh and the biggest surprise of having Lois Woy quietly walk beside me unexpectedly while in rehab. I am so grateful to be able to start this new year fully healed, rid of the pain and ready to march forward again with a quickened step and a full heart of thanks to everyone who made it possible.*

Love,  
**Louise Lostocco**



**Stephanie A. Lohmann** has graduated from the International Institute of Cosmetology and passed her test for the State of Connecticut license. Stephanie will be serving clients at Safari Salon and Tan, 740 Silas Deane Hwy. Wethersfield.



Youth Bake/Candy Sale  
**Sunday 2/8/09**  
After the 10:30 service.  
Please support  
the Youth trip  
to the National Youth  
Convention.



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Glen Warstock    | 22 Kyle McDonald   |
| 2 Sandra Colpitts  | 23 Diane Bayek     |
| 5 Peter Lupoli     | 24 Joyce Piecewicz |
| 8 Doris Bunnell    | 25 Robert Prill    |
| 8 Debbie Viola     | 27 Sandra Schultz  |
| 16 Kyle Parsons    | 28 Sara Colpitts   |
| 17 Federico Preuss | 28 Walter Rupparr  |
| 18 Winnie Sawrun   |                    |

## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL

(The painting that has recently been put up in the Fellowship Hall between the windows looking out on Wolcott Hill Road, is a lithograph of **The Head of Christ**, by Warner Sallman, painted in 1940. The painting was donated in memory of the Rev. William and Helen Ruppard by their family. The following article is adapted from Wikipedia.)

Warner Sallman (1892–1968) was a Christian painter from Chicago. His portrait of Christ, *The Head of Christ*, of which more than 500 million copies have been sold, is better known than he is, however the New York Times in 1994 called him the "best-known artist of the century".

The Head of Christ originated as a charcoal sketch entitled *The Son of Man* done in 1924 and sold to be the cover of the *Covenant Companion*, the denominational magazine for the Evangelical Covenant Church. In 1940 he was asked to reproduce that painting by the students of North Park Theological Seminary. The Baptist Bookstore initially popularized the painting, distributing various sized lithographic images for sale throughout the southern United States. The Salvation Army and the YMCA, as members of the USO, handed out pocket-sized versions of the painting to American servicemen heading overseas during World War II. After the war, groups in Oklahoma and Indiana conducted campaigns to distribute the image into private and public spaces.

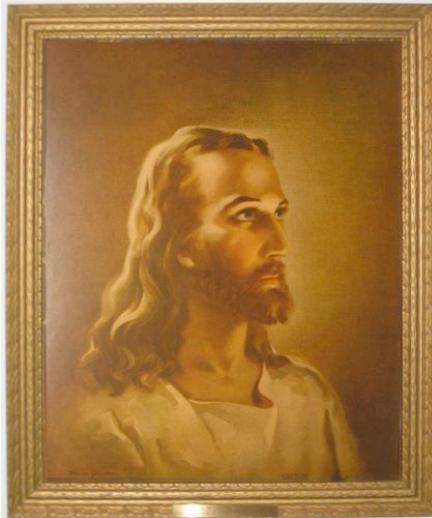
Warner Sallman is also well known for his rendition of the popular image *Christ at Heart's Door*. Other popular images produced from 1942 to 1950 include *Christ in Gethsemane*, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, and *Christ Our Pilot*.

(Warner Sallman. (2009, January 26). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.

Retrieved 16:37, January 29, 2009, from

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner\\_Sallman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Sallman))

Also, in our Fellowship Hall is an **altar cross** also belonging to the Rev. William Ruppard, donated by his family. We are grateful for their generosity.



### NEW STEWARDSHIP LENDING LIBRARY

During the past year our church has been working with St. Mark and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches to learn more about charitable giving, how to educate our members about this subject and how planned gifts like bequests in wills, annuities or trusts can give us all an opportunity to make an extraordinary gift that will strengthen our congregations and further our missions.

This two-year charitable giving education program is about to end and has been funded in part with a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. One of the projects the three churches agreed upon was to establish a lending library at each church. A bookcase would be placed in each church and would contain books, DVD's, brochures and other information on a number of topics including planned giving, inspirational writings, scriptural interpretations, tools for our Stewardship team, movies with inspiring stories, and other resources that will help us to deepen our response to the gifts with which we have each been blessed.

All members are invited to examine the materials that are there and to check them out.

If you have a book or movie that you feel would be appropriate and wish to donate to this library, please place it in the cabinet below the shelves with a note to tell us who donated it so we can acknowledge you properly.

If you have any librarian skills and would like to help us better organize and develop our libraries, please talk with Pastor.



# **2009 New England Synod South Central CT Mission Area Assembly**

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Grace Lutheran Church

46 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

8:30 – 3:30

Registration Fee: \$10 includes lunch and workshops

Registrations requested by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> but registrations the day of the assembly will be accepted.

Workshops: "Leading Change in the Local Congregation" – Pr. Jim Hazelwood  
"Book of Faith" Bible Study and Discussion  
"Mission Project Working Session"

*Last year many good mission area projects were discussed –  
this year we are ready to come together as one and go to work!  
Come and be part of a mission area team that makes a difference!*



*God's Work  
Our Hands*



For a registration form or for more information see your Pastor or you may call  
Sarah Brisson @ 860-882-4253



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# ***ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR February 2009***

## **ACOLYTES:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Feb 1 - Jamie Piscitello  
8 - Katie Grottke  
15 - Kaitlin Anderson  
22 - Jay Viola  
25 - Celia Cheyney

## **FINANCE:**

*Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793*

- Feb 1 - Helen Peterson  
8 - Lois Woy  
15 - Harriett Fritsch  
22 - Betty Lamo  
25 - Betty Lamo

## **ALTAR GUILD:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Feb 1 - Anderson's  
8 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe  
15 - Mary Procyk & Cindy Seip  
22 - Anne French & Winnie Sawrun  
25 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo

## **LECTORS:**

*Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939*

- Feb 1 - Jeanette Serafine  
8 - Lillian Doerschler  
15 - Winnie Sawrun  
22 - Joan Kratzer  
25 - Lillian Doerschler

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

*Coordinator*

- Feb 1 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00  
Jerry Vaillancourt - 10:30  
8 - Art Bruce - 8:00  
- Jim Newmark - 10:30  
15 - Patty Bengtson - 8:00  
Bill Fischer - 10:30  
22 - Jim Newmark - 8:00  
Mary Procyk - 10:30  
25 - Jim Newmark - Ash Wed.

## **NURSERY:**

*Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245*

- Feb 1 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois  
8 -  
15 - Julie & Matt Perry  
22 - Julie & Matt Perry

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

*Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776*

- Feb 1 - Jim Newmark  
8 - Lillian Doerschler  
15 - Walter Rupp  
22 - Joan Kratzer  
25 - Sue Agne

## **TAPING MINISTRY:**

*Coordinator*

- Feb 1 -  
8 -  
15 -  
22 -  
25 -

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:**

*Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588*

- Feb 1 - Joanna & Allen Piscitello  
8 - Debbie & George Howe  
15 - Mary Procyk & Tracy Newmark  
22 - Ann Baledes & Ann French

## **USHERS:**

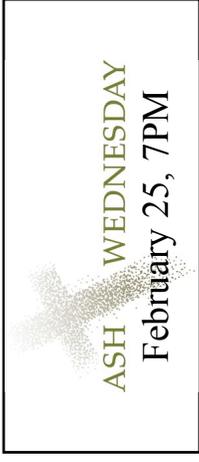
*Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066*

*Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079*

- Feb Brian Beckwith - 8:00  
1 - MaryAnn Meade & Mark Olson - 10:30  
8 - Art Bruce & Mark Olson - 10:30  
15 - Russ Bengtson & Mark Olson - 10:30  
22 - MaryAnn Meade & Mark Olson - 10:30  
25 - Mark Olson - Ash Wednesday

Have you signed up for a Home Meeting yet? Your participation is absolutely essential!!

# February 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Outreach Meeting 7 PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>4</b> Youth Pot Luck 5:30 PM Conf. Class 6:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>6</b> AA 10 AM	<b>7</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>8</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Youth Bake/Candy Sale after 10:30 Service New Members' Class 12:30PM	<b>9</b> Scouts downstairs 6-9 PM	<b>10</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>11</b> Conf. Class 6:15 PM Scouts 6-8 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>12</b> Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>13</b> AA 10 AM	<b>14</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>15</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM <b>Epistle Deadline</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> <b>No Confirmation Class</b> Vision Team 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>20</b> AA 10 AM	<b>21</b> <b>2009 Mission Area Assembly:</b> <b>8:30AM-3:30PM</b> <b>at Grace, Htfd</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>22</b> <b>Transfiguration</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> OA 7:30 PM Par. Adm. 6:30 PM Council 7:30	<b>25</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>No Confirmation Class</b> AA 7PM Ash Wed. Service 7 PM Choir 8:15 PM	<b>26</b> Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>27</b> AA 10 AM	<b>28</b> AA 7:30 PM

**SAINT PAUL'S Epistle**

*SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH*

*371 Wolcott Hill Road*

*Wethersfield, CT 06109*

*www.stpaulswethersfield.org*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM  
SCS & Adult Ed. at 9:00AM

**OFFICERS AND STAFF**  
Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....Office: (860) 529-5397  
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360  
*pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Office Manager .....Janet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Council President.....Rick Seip  
Treasurer .....Tom Grottke  
Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk  
Minister of Music .....Melissa Cheyney  
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupp

**REMINDERS:**

**Sign up to attend a "Home Meeting!"**

**Wed., Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday Service at 7PM**

**February 2009**