



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ANCHOR

MARCH 2008

WHAT ARE WE SELLING?

Rick Sullivan is a homebuilder by trade. But the former chairman of McBride & Son developers was appointed by Missouri governor Matt Blunt to serve as the CEO of St. Louis public schools. The appointment of a businessman to oversee a not-for-profit institution like a public school system has some people concerned. Why? Because, they argue, a school is not a business.

What's less of a business than a school? The Church. Unless, of course, you ask church marketing gurus.

There's a growing trend in Christendom to treat the Church as a business and the Gospel as a sellable commodity. There are marketing firms that cater exclusively to churches, offering advertising campaigns, promotional kits, and church growth guarantees. If you believe all they're selling, all you need to fill the pews and win more people for Jesus is a catchy tag line, a fancy logo, and an interactive website.

Even businesspeople are realizing the business prowess of church marketers. Rich Karlgaard, writing for Forbes.com names the most successful book on business: Pastor Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Church*.

But the whole notion of using a business model to grow the church is contrary to the Gospel. The Gospel of Christ crucified for sinners, St. Paul says, is a "stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (1 Corinthians 1:21-25). How in the world can you sell "foolishness?" You can't. Well, not without making it seem less foolish.

If you want people to buy your church marketing approach, you'll have to avoid Jesus' statements about taking up one's cross and following Him (St. Luke 9:23-25). And forget even talking about the Christian life being one plagued by suffering, like St Paul says (Romans 5:1-5).

If, on the other hand, we believe that "we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him" (*Small Catechism*, Apostles' Creed), if we believe that the message of Christ crucified for sinners is foolishness, if we believe that growth in the church comes only from God (1 Corinthians 3:6-7), then it's not up to us to worry about "growing" the church. And it's not up to us to make the outlandish message of a God who loved us so much that He was born with human flesh, lived a human life, and died a criminal's death more palatable or less foolish.

What is up to the Church is that she remains faithful. The Church exists as the place where God grows Christians. She exists as the place where He distributes the means of Grace. And she exists as a "mouth house" to proclaim the message that causes sign seekers to stumble and wisdom hunters to discover only folly, the message of Christ crucified *for you*. That's the Gospel.

When the Church is faithful to be a station where the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are administered, any growth that happens is entirely God's gift.

In Christ's Service,

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

MARCH ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
2 nd	/		
5 th	/		
9 th		x	x
12 th	/		
16 th		x	x
20 th	/		
21 st		x	x
22 nd	/		
sunrise		x	x
Easter		x	x
25 th		x	x
30 th		x	x



SERVING IN APRIL

Elders: Lead: Tim Butler
Asst.: Larry Decker

Altar Guild: Donna & Stephanie Straub & Jean Pinkard

Greeters
April 6: Dave & Karen Roth
April 13: Leroy & Ruth Stiles
April 20: Eric & Tina Trisler
April 27: Tim & Linda VanHoveln

Ushers
April 6: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
April 13: John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
April 20: John Lyming, Mike Roth, Jerry & Scott Summers
April 27: Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes
April 6: Garret Blasa
April 13: Taylor Eberhardt
April 20: Jordan Summers
April 27: Amy Straub

FINANCIAL REPORT

	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/20	3/21
Envlp	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Plate	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
SS	\$	\$		\$	
DebtFnd	\$				
Missions					
Bibles					
Hymnals					
Flowers					
Imprvmt					
Memorls					
Rental					
Parking					
Other					

	3/22	3/23	3/30	
Envlp	\$	\$	\$	\$
Plate	\$	\$	\$	\$
SS	\$	\$		\$
DebtFnd	\$			
Missions				
Bibles				
Hymnals				
Flowers				
Imprvmt				
Memorls				
Rental				
Parking				
Other				

NEWS & NOTES

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day the continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

- Acts 2: 42-47



YOUTH

Yard Sale on April 19th! Donations accepted—please place items on the new shelves in the church basement.

The kids in youth catechesis are finishing up their video projects and are gearing up for a retreat in May. Be sure to encourage them and pray for them—they’re working hard!

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

We’re still studying the book of Romans in Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. Don’t worry if you’ve never been before—there are no pop quizzes or memory tests, but there is plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Ask anyone who has been coming—we have some great conversations! It’s never too late to get in the habit of coming to Bible class.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

All men are welcome to join the ongoing study of the book of Colossians on Wednesday mornings from 7-8 a.m. to study the book of Colossians.

Morning Prayer, for everyone, continues on Wednesdays from 6:45-7 a.m. Don’t worry, we don’t make you sing that early in the morning, but the quiet and reflective service is a great way to get the day going. The service takes less than 15 minutes, so you can be on your way to Men’s Bible Study or whatever other adventures you have planned.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It’s springtime, and it’s always a good time to bring your children (and grandchildren, and neighbor’s children, and...) to Sunday school. The kids do age appropriate projects, learn songs and hear stories that teach them about the truth of the Gospel. Older kids have discussions about deep topics that are appropriate for their age. Check it out, and you’ll be impressed what these kids are learning! Of course, parents are still teaching their children Christian lessons at home during the week, but Sunday is the time we all gather to learn at church. Your kids may not want to get up, but they’ll have fun when they get there.

WEBSITE REMINDER

Have you been here yet? www.hopelcms.com The calendar is a useful, up-to-date tool, and there are other helpful resources there too. You can read past sermons and find links to useful sites. Updates are still in the works, so please let Pastor know of your great ideas for this tool.

Also, Pastor is beginning a new blog to discuss ideas and concerns. You can find him at hemmersphere.blogspot.com Read his ramblings and leave your own comments.

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND



The News From Unity
April 2008

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FINALLY, SOMETHING TO REPORT!

On the day of our last Prayer Vigil, February 29, we discovered a piece of property for sale which may be God's answer to our prayers for a new school! St. Patrick's Catholic Church and School, located four minutes from Unity, is for sale at a very reasonable price, less than \$500,000 for the entire complex.

The school, built in 1930, has eleven classrooms, cafeteria, gym, and several smaller work and storage rooms. The church, built in the '50's, seats 550, and is in very good shape. Also included are the Rectory, Convent, and three empty lots.

This possible purchase looks attractive for several reasons, including:

- Close to our current location.
- Significantly less purchase price.
- We could occupy by August.

There would be several concerns, as well. The school needs new windows, and heating and A/C. The church is too big for our needs. Our relationship to Unity Lutheran Church also needs to be resolved.

This week, we made an offer on the entire complex. Once our offer is accepted, we will have our engineers make all necessary inspections, and get an estimate of the cost of upgrading the buildings. At this point, we are "cautiously optimistic" about this possible move. There is an air of excitement, and yet many questions to answer. We continually need your prayers at this time, as we discern God's direction for Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School.

**FIFTH GRADE TEACHER NEEDED
WISH LIST**

- Air freshener spray
- Wet wipes
- Small toys or gifts to be used as prizes for good behavior.
- 15-passenger van or short school bus for class field trips.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 4

Time To Build Prayer Vigil #3, 9:00-10:30am. Join our students and teachers in continuous prayer.

Thursday, April 17

Time To Build Leadership Dinner, 6:30pm, Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville.

Proceeds to benefit our Capital Campaign. Master of Ceremonies is Rick Herman, President of Wheat Ridge Ministries; Keynote Speaker Rev. John Nunes of Lutheran World Relief; Unity Angelic Voices Choir to provide entertainment. Tickets are \$300/person; \$500/couple. Door prize – One week for two in Desert Plam, CA, including air fare. Contact the school office to make reservations before April 11.

Saturday, May 3

Draw Down Dinner, 7:00pm at Unity Lutheran Church Tickets are \$100 each, to include dinner up to four people. Sponsored by the Parents for Unity. Call the school office for info.

TIME TO BUILD MATCHING FUNDS

Please remember, all donations to our Time To Build Capital Campaign will be matched 100% during the next three years by the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis. There is a limit of \$10,000 per person. Thrivent also provides GivingPlus matching funds.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For God's guidance in our search for a new school.
- For a Fifth Grade Teacher.
- For an additional \$30,000 to complete our Scholarship Needs.
- For a successful Time To Build Leadership Dinner.

DON'T FORGET OUR STUDENTS

With all of the excitement surrounding buildings and dinners and everything else, our students remain the focus of our mission. They always surprise and delight us with their enthusiasm and joy. They are now proclaiming daily with the whole Christian church

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” –Romans 13: 8-10

PRAYER PARTNERS

This month, we pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Week of April 6:

Floyd & Kristi Greene, Karri, Jonathan, Joey, Jordan, Rebecca, and Hannah

Week of April 13:

Kerry & Rhonda Hall, Kourtnee, Kurt, & Khloe; Bob & Bette Hall; Georgia Hansen & Jacob

Week of April 20:

Bob & Yvonne Hartmann; Dennis & Patti Henneman; Eunice Hinson; George Hinson

Week of April 27:

Dr. Fred Husmann; Mary Ann Husmann; Bill & Rosemary Ivers; Tricia Ivers

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Kelli Eberhardt
Jamie Sharich
- 4/8 Ava Roberts
- 4/11 Jordan Summers
- 4/14 Grace Sharich
- 4/20 Lillie Purcell
- 4/21 Janet Gorecki
Katelyn Aldefer
- 4/22 Jon Greene
- 4/24 Richard Angel
Bethany Blasa
- 4/27 Tim Roth

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/1 Josh & Erinn Hileman
- 4/5 Joe & Gaylene McKennon
- 4/6 Jerry & Ethel Summers
- 4/14 Brian & Terri White
- 4/29 Tim & Sharon Butler

*“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”
1 Peter 2:17*



APRIL 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:00-6:45p Private Confession	3 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	4	5
6 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	7 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis 6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts	8 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	9 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Sunshine Circle 6:00-6:45p Private Confession	10	11	12
13 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	14	15	16 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:00-6:45p Private Confession	17	18	19 YOUTH GROUP YARD SALE
20 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	21	22	23 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Sunshine Circle 6:00-6:45p Private Confession	24	25	26
27 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	28 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis	29	30	<i>May 1</i>	2	3