

The Ev. Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Avenue
Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
Permit No. 55

January Messenger
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed Dec. 20, 2007



JANUARY, 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR, HADDONFIELD, NJ

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27

Immediately following the late worship service on Sunday, January 27th, the congregation of The Lutheran Church Our Savior will gather in the parish hall for a lunch prior to the Annual Meeting. This year’s meeting will prove to be an interesting one as eight new Congregation Council members and two new members of the Memorial Gifts Board will need to be voted on by a quorum of the congregation. Additionally, 2008 Financial Plan for Ministry will need to be approved.

Last year the congregation approved a balanced budget that included financial support from the Endowment Fund to insure mission and ministry programs and events would not be in jeopardy of being cut or diminished due to lack of resources in the General Fund. That decision has proved to be extremely fruitful as at no time during 2007 was ministry reduced due to lack of funding. The Memorial Gifts Board also received an accounting of the funds provided to insure they were used specifically for ministry rather than salary or physical plant operation costs. Additionally, despite some concern expressed by some at last year’s meeting that such Endowment support might well result in a decrease in envelope offering the giving has increased 4% over last year as of November. Therefore, the council has again petitioned the Memorial Gifts Board for Endowment support to insure funding for ministry in 2008 as it is consistent with the charter. In anticipation of similar questions being raised from last year the council will host a forum during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall prior to the Annual Meeting.

In addition to these regular business items of ministry handled at the annual meeting the council appointed Vision Task Force will present their proposal for the creation and implementation of a vision and strategic plan for ministry over the course of the next four years.

BAPTISMAL MEDALLIONS GIVEN

Sunday, January 13

On Sunday, January 13, the Church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord. It is also the day The Lutheran Church Our Savior celebrates the baptisms of all the children who have been baptized in the previous year. At the 10:30 worship service parents and sponsors will renew the promises they made at the child’s baptism, the children will be given a blessing by the pastors as well as a gift of a pewter baptismal medallion. The medallion has the space to engrave the child’s name and baptismal date as a permanent reminder of God’s gracious act. Parents who will be participating in the service were asked to confirm their attendance by contacting the church office or returning the postcards sent out in December.

UNDECK THE SANCTUARY WALLS

Sunday, January 5

With the arrival of Epiphany comes the removal of the various Christmas décor from around the church sanctuary. The Altar Guild and Worship and Music Committee would appreciate any help that is available on Saturday, January 5, beginning at 9:00 to carefully remove the Chrismons and lights from the trees, take down the trees and carefully store them in their respective closets in the church. Please contact Pastor Wayne if you are able to help.

YOUTH SUNDAY IS JANUARY 28

Our Senior High Youth with needed help from our Confirmation students will be leading worship at all three services on this day. Always bringing energy, enthusiasm, and a fresh perspective the youth will help us enjoy God's presence in ways that are somewhat unique, yet consistent with our Lutheran tradition. Please join us at any of our regular worship times: 8, 9:15, or 10:30.

The Youth will be hosting a youth fair in the parish hall during the coffee hour (9-10:30 AM) on Sunday, March 9; this will give everyone ample opportunity to see displays of youth activities through LCOS. More details will be forthcoming.

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord,
proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs,
and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.*



JUST WHAT IS AN “EPIPHANY”?

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

There’s an old saying you may have heard about the season we are now entering into. “I’ve had an epiphany.” But just what is an epiphany and what is the significance of this season in the Church year that follows Christmas? According to the Sundays and Seasons resource we use for worship preparation;

“The festival of the Epiphany arose in the churches of the eastern Mediterranean some time in the second century. It was a feast that had little to do with Matthew’s account of foreign visitors coming to a backwater town in ancient Judea. Rather, the Epiphany emerged in the East as the festival of Christ’s incarnation, inspired by the hymn prologue to John’s gospel: the Word, or logos, of God, through whom all things are created, now takes human form in Jesus of Nazareth. But in addition to celebrating the appearance of the Word, Eastern Christians also celebrated on the same day the baptism of Christ and his transformation of water into wine at a wedding in Cana. All these events – of Word becoming flesh, of the private Christ becoming a public figure, of natural water changed into festive drink – spoke of the transforming power of grace: grace as an energy that would, throughout one’s life, transform the baptized into the “fullness of Christ,” their growth into their baptismal identity as sisters and brothers of Christ.”

So to say, “I’ve had an epiphany” is really to say, “God’s divinity has been revealed to me in the ordinary.” And this is good news both to us and for others through us. During Epiphany we listen to lessons of God’s divine presence revealed to the world in the most ordinary and elemental means available. In Epiphany we remember this wasn’t a one-time occurrence either. God continues to reveal the Word made flesh in the ordinary people and elements of our lives, including us! Christ is revealed in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Christ is revealed in the loving actions expressed between husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors, coworkers and classmates. Christ is revealed in a hymn sung, a poem written and read, or even in a beautiful sunset, snowfall, or morning rustling of the leaves.

In addition to our church home, Christ is revealed in our family homes as well. I encourage and invite you to use the Epiphany Home Blessing liturgy available at Our Savior after January 1 to be used in blessing your home during Epiphany. Christ is also revealed in our meal table conversations, bedtime reading of the Bible and prayers, or even in casual conversation during the commercials. This Epiphany, be attentive to the many ways the grace of Christ is revealed in the ordinary means and people of your lives, and be open to being that ordinary means toward others who seek the light and hope our risen Lord offers.

BLESS YOUR HOME DURING EPIPHANY

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother” (2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5) or another day during the season of Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing of the home by using a model provided in handouts available after January 1 and throughout Epiphany at Our Savior. It’s relatively simple. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing inscribed with white chalk about the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 08. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing Christe mansionem benedica, which means, “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Those who would like to have Pastor Wayne come and bless their home need to email or call to schedule a time to do so. There were one or two people he never made it to last year so be sure to schedule quickly as Lent begins February 6 this year leaving only a month to bless the home in Epiphany. It will assist him in becoming better acquainted with the congregation as well as provide those in new or renewed homes a chance to bless their whole dwelling.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON “THE ANCIENT ROOTS OF OUR WORSHIP”

Praying, singing, hearing God's Word, confessing, making offerings, lighting candles, focusing on an altar, responsive liturgy, Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, our gathering space. These and other parts of our worship experience have ancient roots, some even pre-dating the established Temple worship of the Old Testament Israelites. Explore with me the connections between "back then" and now. Join us on Monday nights at 7:30 PM or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM for about an hour and a half each week. We begin the week of January 28 (28 and 30) and end the week of March 10 (10 and 12). Pastor Englehardt

INFORMATIVE LCOS BROCHURE IN THE MAKING!

As part of an Evangelism project, an informative tri-fold brochure about LCOS is in the planning stages, but we need your help! There are several pictures on file that we would like to include. Please let us know if you DO NOT WANT YOUR PICTURE to show up in the final copy of this document. The pictures we have on file represent about 20 adults and over 50 kids from our congregation. It is pictures like these that will help a visitor see our church as a welcoming, lively place to worship. Please e-mail Pastor Wayne at pastorwayne@oursaviorhaddonfield.org or Heather Vaughn if you DO NOT want us to use your picture. Thanks!

INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

New Year’s resolutions are easy to make, yet hard to keep. If one of your resolutions for 2008 is to get more involved in the community, let Interfaith Caregivers help you to make it happen! Volunteer drivers are needed to take Interfaith Caregivers clients in Haddon Heights and Haddonfield to an appointment, grocery store, or other places for which they need transportation. If you have an hour a week or a month, consider helping your neighbors who are elderly or disabled. Please attend Interfaith Caregivers one-day training session scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2008 from 9 am to 12:30pm at the Mabel Kay Hospitality House, 24 Walnut Street (next to the Acme), Haddonfield. For more information, please call the office at 354-0298.

SIMPLY GIVING

A Simple Choice - A Generous Response

Simply Giving is an automated giving program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. It's designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry.

By participating in Simply Giving, you can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering to our congregation.

To learn how you can participate in Simply Giving, contact Monica Ebbenga in the church office.

Let Simply Giving help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into a generous response.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 12 PM

One calling the church office between these hours can generally expect to reach a church staff person to talk to.

ATTENTION SENIORS!
SENIOR GAME DAY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, AT NOON
BINGO PINOCHLE BRIDGE ~ COME OUT AND HAVE FUN!
FOOD AND DRINKS (SODA) SERVED
BEST OF ALL . . . IT'S FREE!
RSVP: RUTH IACONA, BETTY KEENE,
OR ELEANOR GAINES

THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR
204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033
(856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245 (fax)

Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Nursery Provided 9:15 & 10:30 AM

| CHURCH COUNCIL | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Edythe Austermuhl | Worship & Music |
| Brian Bell | Property |
| Jack Berrigan | Treasurer |
| Holly Dreher | Social Ministry |
| Mike Fallon | Congregational Resources |
| Larry Friant | Secretary |
| Linda Harrington | Property |
| Dale Kredatus | Financial Secretary |
| Betsy Kuehn | Social Ministry |
| Deb MacBride | Christian Education |
| Lorraine Miano | Senior Ministries |
| Bob Mirabello | Vice President |
| Bobbi Newsham | Fellowship Development |
| Juhan Runne | Personnel |
| Heather Vaughn | Evangelism |
| Eric Woltz | Worship & Music |
| Dave Wyche | Communication |

| MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cathe Bare | |
| Jack Berrigan, ex-officio | |
| Paul Clark | |
| Paul Knauer | |
| John Laughlin | |
| Bob Mirabello, ex-officio | |
| Laura Oakes | |
| Stacey Shaw | |
| Elizabeth Woltz | |
| Wayne Zschech, ex-officio | |

| STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Wayne Zschech, Senior Pastor | |
| Glenn A. Englehardt, Associate Pastor | |
| Monica Ebbenga, Parish Secretary | |
| Eric Ebbenga, Organist | |
| Patricia Shaw-Green, Dir. of Music | |
| Linda Powell Cherub Choir | |
| Bob Knight, Custodian | |
| Jeff Gross, Night Lockup | |
| Shirley Bramble, Nursery Care | |
| Eleanor Gaines, Acolytes | |
| Beth Hill, Altar Guild | |
| Bonnie Richards, Sunday School Supt. | |

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Teresa Vitale, Arlene Stolarick, Beth Hill
Counters: Frank & Renate Genieser, Jeanne & Tom Grimes, Michele Ragnauth

January 6

Coffee Hour: Adult Choir
Readers: 8-TBA **10:30-**Dave Wyche
Communion Assistants: **10:30-**Linda Harrington, Larry Friant
Ushers: 8-Linda and Kristine Monsen **9:15-**TBA
10:30-Eric and Betty Woltz
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Morgan Sehdev, Ricky Tredinnick
9:15-Mary Pat and Robbie Reiter **10:30-**Jackie Stillwell, Chris Stein, Ben Swan, Rebecca Windle, Dan Wolf

January 13

Coffee Hour: Memorial Gifts Board
Readers: 8-TBA **10:30-**Walt Haswell
Ushers: 8-Linda and Kristine Monsen **9:15-**TBA
10:30-Eric and Betty Woltz
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Jeffrey Proko, Brie Zschech
9:15-Mike Wolf, Noelle Quanci **10:30-**Sarah Barrett, Brianna and Shane Bobo, Gianna Buonpastore, Kyle Carpenter

January 20

Coffee Hour: Social Ministry Committee
Readers: 8-Laura Oakes **10:30-**Colleen Gross
Ushers: 8-Linda and Kristine Monsen **9:15-**TBA
10:30-Eric and Betty Woltz
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Brian Gensel, Joseph Kiernan
9:15-Morgan Sehdev, Scott DiCrescenzo **10:30-**Justin DeBerardinis, Emily Donovan, John Eckert, Paul and Michelle Miller

January 27

No Coffee Hour - Annual Meeting following 10:30 AM service
Readers: 8-Alan Super **10:30-**Cathe Bare
Ushers: 8-Linda and Kristine Monsen **9:15-**TBA
10:30-Eric and Betty Woltz
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Brie Zschech, Mary Pat Reiter
9:15-Alexander Fabian, Nicole Fallon **10:30-**John Finnerty, Allison Gensel, Karen Graeber, Jessie Gralish, Julia Gross

| January 2008 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



| | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Tues | 1 | New Year's Day, church office closed |
| Wed | 2 | Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Executive Committee, 7:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Thurs | 3 | Working Arm, 9:30 AM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Sun | 6 | Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM |
| Mon | 7 | Prayer Group, 7 PM |
| Tues | 8 | Social Ministry, 7 PM Church Council, 7:30 PM |
| Wed | 9 | Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Thurs | 10 | Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Sun | 13 | Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Baptismal Medallions Confirmation Huddle, 6 PM |
| Mon | 14 | Prayer Group, 7 PM |
| Tues | 15 | Senior Game Day, noon |
| Wed | 16 | Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM Children's Church Supper, 5 PM |
| Thurs | 17 | Children's Church, 7 PM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Sun | 20 | Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM |
| Mon | 21 | MLK Event, Confirmands, 8 AM Faith Circle, noon Prayer Group, 7 PM |
| Wed | 23 | Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Thurs | 24 | Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Sun | 27 | Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Youth Sunday Annual Meeting, noon Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM |
| Mon | 28 | Prayer Group, 7 PM |
| Wed | 30 | Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM |
| Thurs | 31 | Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM |

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

JANUARY 20

Sponsor Program Initiated

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church of our Savior is a faith community that... welcomes all people...” After attending New-comer Orientation Classes in December the congregation will be receiving the following new members at the worship services they normally attend. Their photos will be taken and prominently displayed so current members can better acquaint their names with faces so they might welcome them when they see them. A brief background will be available on that day in the bulletin announcements. We welcome; Danielle Deerey, John & Joyce Drew, Ken and Betty Gravener, Jennifer Kiewal and her children (name), James & Christine Shah and their children (names), Kristin Pensebene and her daughter Kathleen, and Doug Gebhardt who is the husband of Lauren Frazier Gebhardt. Welcome new brothers and sisters in Christ to the congregation of Our Savior!

In order to better assist these new members in getting to know the congregation as well as become integrated into the ministry at Our Savior Pastor Wayne Zschech will identify and invite potential sponsors from within the congregation for each family joining. Sponsors will be asked to periodically worship with the new members, participate in ministry events together and possibly share a meal in one or the other’s home once in the year. If possible, it would even be great if sponsors could stand behind the new members when they come before the congregation for the Affirmation of Baptism service wherein they formally join the congregation. Pastor Wayne hopes this renewed aspect of evangelism goes a long way to helping our new members become fruitful members of our faith community.

Visitors who would like to know more about the ministry of The Lutheran Church Our Savior are invited to attend a Newcomer Orientation. One is regularly held on the last Sunday of the month, except in summer, from 1:00-4:00 in the parlor on the second floor. The seminar will cover a brief history of Our Savior, teachings of the Lutheran church, ministry opportunities at Our Savior, and an opportunity to fill out a new member form if you plan to formally join.

CHERUB CHOIR, CHILDREN’S CHURCH, AND SUPPER IN BETWEEN!

Join us for this fun evening of family and fellowship on Wednesday, January 16! Children’s Church this month will be preceded by an adult and child-friendly supper in Parish Hall. If you have Cherub Choir until 5:00, plan to join us and then go straight to Children’s Church! (a quiet homework room will also be available for any older children).

- The schedule for the evening is as follows:
- 5:00-5:45 Organized activity/playtime
 - 5:45-6:30 Blessing and supper (a homecooked meal!), dessert
 - 6:30-7:00 Organized activity/playtime
 - 7:00-7:30 Children’s Church!

You may attend at any point in the evening. In order to plan the food for the meal, you must RSVP number attending by Wednesday, January 9.

Please call Bobbi Newsham or Heather Vaughn.

NEW BUILDING USE POLICY

Last spring, the New Jersey Synod, at its Conference on Congregational Ministries, urged its member churches to review and update their building use policies for non-church related events. The Synod suggested that the review consider whether the church is recouping the true cost of allowing its facilities to be shared. Examples of such costs include heating, air conditioning, lighting, cleaning, maintenance, and use of amenities including the kitchen, elevator, pianos and organ. If these costs are not being recouped, the church is, in effect, supporting the missions of the group or individual, at some loss to the furthering of the church’s own mission. The Synod recommended that while the church may choose to absorb some of these losses for purposes of evangelism or community service, the church do so knowingly.

The Church Council undertook a study of our building use agreement, and the way in which we share our church with others. As a result of that study, a new usage policy was put in place by Council. It clarifies the rules for use of the building for non-church events. The agreement contains an increased fee schedule, which remains low in comparison to other churches in Haddonfield. At the recommendation of the Synod, the use agreement also calls for the individual or group to provide insurance protection to the church.

The change in policies is not meant to discourage or limit the use of our facilities by outside groups or individuals, but only to more fairly realize the costs incurred in sharing our church. In cases of hardship, the revised Space Request Form allows for the request of a waiver.

Outside groups will be notified of the policy changes in January. The new space usage forms are available in the office. Please see Pastor Zschech with any questions.



MISSION STATEMENT
MONTHLY FOCUS:
The Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Our
Savior is a faith com-
munity that WELCOMES
ALL PEOPLE...

Hospitality has always been an aspect and expectation God has for his people. Whether it was the Israelites welcoming the stranger in their midst to the Jewish Christians who welcomed the Gentiles into the faith community hospitality has been a standard. That means when the people of God at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior gather together for worship, fellowship, service, or education events we are expected by God to be welcoming to all who might also be there. Hospitality is all about welcoming the stranger or visitor in our midst.

This might be a challenge for some. It’s easy to gravitate toward the people we already know rather than the new face in our midst. Yet, with a few quick tips, even the most introverted person can be a welcoming face and person to the newcomer. First, identify someone you don’t know who is within eye and earshot. Next, walk up and introduce yourself using this simple phrase, “Hello, I’m ‘Name’. I don’t think I’ve met you before.” This doesn’t offend a long time member you just may not know and allows anyone to respond by introducing themselves. When they do you’ll find out whether they are visitor or current member and the conversation can go on from there.

Finally, and most important, make a point to seek out this person the next time you’re at worship or another ministry event. Nothing communicates feeling welcomed to a person than someone who makes the effort to say hello a second time. And if you really want to go the extra mile, introduce the person or family to someone you know who has similar interests or is in the same time of life. In doing so, the Lutheran Church of Our Savior truly will be a faith community that welcomes all people.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Each Monday night the LCOS Prayer group meets in the Library at 7 PM to pray for our congregation, our community, and the world. We invite all to join us for this brief time each week. If your schedule prevents you from joining us in person, we can include you in our e-mail prayer chain and you can pray at home. Just e-mail Connie.

This church year we will be praying for all of the members of our congregation. You will receive a postcard notifying you when we will be praying for you. Please let us know if you have specific prayers that you would like us to include.

Of course, your prayer requests are always welcome. In addition to calling the church, you can place a request in the box in the Narthex, or call or email Connie.

MUSINGS FROM THE CORNER
by Susan Underwood

There is a pervasive “all about Me” attitude today so common that it has become a cliché. It is easily evidenced every time I pick up a newspaper, turn on the TV or stand in the checkout line at the grocery store with the tabloid headlines screaming out for attention.

There are countless stories (where names and faces change but the themes remain the same) of (role model?) celebrities desperately seeking to remain in the forefront at exorbitant personal costs, sports figures (role models?) refusing to sign multi-million dollar contracts because they feel they are worth yet even more! and thrillseekers committing criminal havoc to be spotlighted for a moment of glory in time. We are becoming a society of “individual special interest groups all concerned for the common good of me”

It truly grieves my heart when I see these things happening.

That having been said I agree with the sentiment that it is “All About me.” The difference is perspective.

When I am convicted by God about my thoughts, actions and deeds He is looking at me and me only. He’s not asking me about mitigating circumstances. He isn’t justifying my responses because of something someone else said or did. He’s asking me how I am going to live my life-by His decrees or by the world’s expectations? There are no ‘hard luck’ excuses with God. He knows me (He created me-Psalm 139:13 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb”). He knows my history (He allowed it-Psalm 139:16 “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed”) I am precious in his sight (He tells me- Psalm 139:17 “How precious are your thoughts about me O God. “) He knows where He wants to take me if I am willing to be obedient . (Psalm 119:66-68,75, “I believe in your commands, now teach me good judgement and knowledge. I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word. You are good and do only good, teach me your decrees. I know ,O Lord, that your regulations are fair, you disciplined me because I needed it”)

It is indeed “All About Me!”
What about you?

TREASURER’S OUTLOOK

The Congregation continues to demonstrate a strong financial commitment to the ministries of Our Savior. Income for the month was \$39,127 which is almost 30% higher than November 2006. The news is also good on the expense side of the financial equation. November expenses were \$36,044 which is 10% below the monthly budget allocation of \$40,208.

Going into the final month, we have encountered an unexpected expense of about \$10,000 for a new boiler. This expense clearly places additional stress on the challenge of achieving a balanced budget. Nevertheless, I am confident that the Congregation will step up to the challenge.

I would like to sincerely thank the Congregation for its support of the ministry of Our Savior during the year as well as your commitment to legacy stewardship in 2008.

My first year as your Treasurer has been an education. Not only did I learn the strengths and weakness of our accounting program and member database but, I also acquired a solid understanding of the intent of donors and the use of various Memorial Gift funds. However, my most valuable lesson this year has been to appreciate the guidance and patience of individuals like Monica Ebbenga, Russ Barrett and Pastor Zschech as well as the Council and Congregation in this year of learning.

May God bless each of you with good health, happiness and prosperity in 2008!

BABY STEP YOUR WAY TO
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Have you ever watched a child learn to walk? First they learn to stand, then they grab onto the furniture and make their way around the room; then one day they just stand up and they are off. The baby steps children take when learning to walk are a great metaphor for beginning an investment strategy.

If you are only able to begin with \$25 a month – it’s a great start. Consider this – a \$25 monthly investment over 20 years at a hypothetical 8.5% annual rate of return will yield \$15,173, \$50 a month will yield \$30,346 and \$100 will yield \$60,692. Making the commitment to start investing is the first step and with increasing confidence you’ll be well on your way to financial independence.

This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only. It is not intended to represent the performance of any particular Thrivent Financial product. The example does not take into consideration any investment expenses, such as management fees or sales charges, nor does it take into consideration taxes due. The results would be reduced if they were included.

This information is presented as a public service by financial representative for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans George C. Welker, FIC. For more information call 856-546-0500.

Registered representative for securities offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55415-1665, 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836), a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Member NASD. Member SIPC.

WHEN IS THE RIGHT
TIME?

Have you been considering joining the Choir lately, but you’re not exactly sure when to do it? How about making a New Year's Resolution that January 2008 will be the best time to start singing or ringing in one of our choirs!

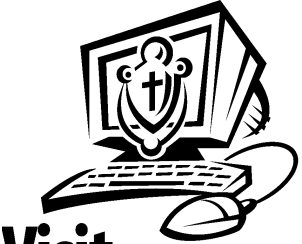
All of the choirs will be starting rehearsals afresh in just a few weeks. The schedule is January 2nd, Children and Youth, and January 3rd, Adults. If you like to sing, or have been thinking about learning to play Hand bells, we’d love to have you join us. It’s a great way to start the New Year!

NEW BOILER A BTU-TIFUL
BLESSING!

Much thanks needs to go out to both outgoing Property Chair, Linda Harrington, and the mechanics and owner of Hawks Heating and Air-Conditioning. When the hot water boiler had a sensor failure that resulted in the soaking of the combustion chamber and baffles with oil it turned out that what seemed and hoped to be a simple repair would cost almost a third of that to install a new boiler. That, coupled with the fact that the boiler was determined to be inadequate to the increased demand after the narthex addition project back in the 90’s thereby resulting in perpetually cold classrooms and narthex areas, made the decision easier for Pastor Wayne and Linda to discern. God blessed Our Savior with a new boiler available and able to be installed within a week or two from the Thanksgiving Sunday setback. Between the larger size and more streamlined piping to the various zones it appears our heating dilemmas have been resolved for some time.

IN HARM'S WAY

Lt. John L. Gaines, aboard USS Vicksburg
Keep all who serve our country and preserve
our freedoms in your prayers!



Stop by to
check the calendar,
read the *Messenger*
or just find out
a little bit more
about us!
Visit us on the Web
www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

GOD BLESS LCOS ANGELS

Advent Giving Tree Update

“I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least of these, you did it for me!”
(Matthew 25:40)

The generosity of the people of Our Savior never ceases to amaze. A huge thank you and well done from the Social Ministry Committee to everyone who took an Advent Giving Tree tag and bought the gifts or donated money to purchase gifts. Two hundred eight tags were taken and \$518.00 was contributed to the Advent Giving Tree fund which was used to purchase gifts for the remaining tags. A total of 266 gifts were given to children, teenagers, young adults, adults and families through the following organizations.

1. **Urban Promise** – provides Christian outreach programs for children and youth of Camden.
2. **My Father’s House** – a court mandated substance abuse counseling center for male and female teenagers and young adults.
3. **Caring Hearts Ministry** – provides support for individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families.
4. **Pantry Families** – families in our area who are regularly provided with groceries from the LCOS pantry.
5. **Garfield Elementary School in Collingswood** – young children from several needy families.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A big warm THANKS to all that helped to raise, decorate and stir up the Christmas spirit throughout the sanctuary and in the narthex ... thanks go out to **Susan, Jeffrey and Abigal Proko, Joseph Kiernan, Tom and Jesse Gralish, Patrick Brennan, Rebecca Windle, John and Eric DiCrescenzo, Susan and Gianna Buonpastore, Lisa Quanci, Shirley Webb, Betsy Kuehn, Connie and Daniel Wolf, Beth Hill, Pat, Mary Pat and Robbie Reiter, Brian Gensel, Holly Harrington, Chris Heinze, Pastor Wayne, Kate and Brie, Pastor Englehardt, Stephen and Briana Bobo, Sue and Emily Donovan, Sue Tharp,** and others that may have slid in and helped and slid out again. Thank you for your faithfilled work!

Thanks to **all of you who helped to deliver poinsettias** to the nursing homes, the shut ins and to our other special friends. Your assistance was most appreciated! Peace be with You

Thanks to the following people for helping with the Pantry in October and November: **Carol and Ben Beahm, Pat Reiter and family, Juhan Runne, Eva Shaw, Tyler and Candy, Andrew Vitale and family.**

Thanks to the **kindergarten,4th and 5th/6th grade classes** who prepared the Sunday School bulletin board for the Advent season. It’s a great big tree decorated with symbols of Christ’s birth and promise. The nativity scenes were made by the kindergarteners. Please go upstairs to check it out.

NEED HELP KEEPING YOUR RESOLUTIONS?

Check Out the LCOS Library

Resolving to improve your family life? Explore the many resources for parents including:

Adolescence Isn’t Terminal
The Power of Teachable Moments: Using Everyday Experiences to Teach Your Child about God
Dynamic Dads
The Home Team: Spiritual Practices for a Winning Family

Seeking balance in your life? Check out the Living Out Our Faith section including:

Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy
Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World
The Confident Woman
100 Ways to Simplify Your Life

Searching for a deeper daily relationship with God? Check out the many books in the Devotions section of the library:

Days of Healing, Days of Joy
Mustard Seeds
Breakfast with God
Nearer to the Heart of God

Dealing with difficult issues? The library can help with books such as:

Every Day is Saturday: A Christian Guide to a Fantastic Retirement
When Your Family is Dealing with Mental Illness
Christian Caregiving
Beyond the Crocodiles:Reflections on Being Divorced and Being Christian

These books and others will be available during January in the Parish Hall. Or come visit the library and see what we have to offer.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thank you for the gift card and the Thanksgiving basket and all the assistance you provide throughout the year. It is very much appreciated.
Kathleen Cunningham

Can't thank you enough for doing so much! Thank you.
Ketura and family

January Fellowship News

The year is just starting and already we are set to offer great ways to gather in fellowship and to meet new people. Plan to come to some of our events this year!

Senior Game Day

Game day in January will be held on TUESDAY, the 15th. Come play pinochle, play cards, bingo, or join in other games. A free lunch is always provided. Start the New Year off by bringing a friend! Just call Betty Keene, Eleanor Gaines, or Ruth Iacona to reserve your spot!

Children’s Church Dinner

Come out on WEDNESDAY, the 16th for a special evening. After Cherub’s, and before Children’s Church we will be having a “child friendly” dinner and activities.

Starting at 5 PM and ending at 7:30 PM. Call

Bobbi Newsham 609-828-5244 or Heather Vaughn 856-857-1257 for questions and to RSVP by January 9th.

“Come Together” Sunday

Join us on Sunday morning, January 20th for coffee hour from 8:45-10:30 AM. A great way for the congregation &

visitors to meet new people and see what is going on in the Church. We will offer “Come Together” Sunday’s once a month so that everyone can get acquainted. For more information, please call Bobbi Newsham,

609-828-5244. I look forward to meeting you!