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FEBRUARY, 2008

Newsletter of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Haddonfield, NJ

ASH AND ASH-LESS WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OFFERED FEB 6

Lent is one day shy of the earliest it could ever begin this year with Ash Wednesday on February 6. Two worship opportunities will be offered at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, one at noon where ashes will not be imposed, and the other at 7:30 where the imposition of ashes will be offered to those who wish to receive them. While Ash Wednesday has long heralded the beginning of Lent, it has only been since the Liturgical Renewal movement in the last three decades or so that the imposition of ashes was reintroduced to the worship liturgy. It has not been a practice of this church until last year, but as you discern whether to receive them here are some thoughts to reflect on and prayerfully consider as you do.

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These are the words spoken by the pastor as an ashen cross is smudged on the brows of those coming forward on Ash Wednesday for the imposition of ashes. Like the words spoken at a funeral committal, ashes are a reminder of our mortality and finitude. They remind us we cannot escape death, no matter how hard we may try to keep it at arm's length or deny its reality in our lives.

Ashes offer another reminder. Long ago ashes were oftentimes used as a cleansing agent, where rubbing ashes on one's skin eliminated hard to remove dirt. Lent is also a time of cleansing and renewal. We pray along with the psalmist to "create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me", and the ashes imposed remind us of God's cleansing Spirit of renewal.

Finally, because the smudged cross is made with ashes mixed with oil, we are reminded of the mark with oil placed on our brow at baptism. We remember the promise we were given, "Child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever." In the waters of baptism we have been joined to both the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And while the ashes remind us of our eventual death, the smudged cross reminds us death does not have the last word. As people "of the smudge" we are people who trust in the resurrection to new life it offers through faith in the risen Christ. In Lent we journey both toward the cross and the empty tomb. And this gives us hope.

AFFIRM MARRIAGE VOWS on Sunday, Feb 10 or at Valentine's Day Worship

Last year on the weekend prior to Valentine's Day the Lutheran Church of Our Savior provided and opportunity for husbands and wives to affirm their marriage vows during Sunday worship. This was done because in a time of the year when many spouses are thinking about their love for each other it is fitting the church provide an opportunity for them to affirm their vows of love and faithfulness exchanged on their wedding day. In the wedding service we pray that God use us as members of the body of Christ, to support married couples in their lives together as husband and wife. We acknowledge that because of sin the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden. We also remember that God continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support through the faith community of which they are a part. The affirmation was so well received it was decided to offer it again on Sunday, February 10 at all three worship times with the hope husbands and wives will take the opportunity to renew their vows following the Hymn of the Day.

And since this affirmation service was so well received by our congregation it was decided to make it a community wide service on Valentine's Day itself. In doing so our congregation will lift up the importance of living out the vows couples make on their wedding day and our support of it to our neighbors and friends who may not worship with us on Sunday. Invite them to include a short half hour worship and marriage affirmation service that begins at 6:30 as a part of their Valentine's day celebration along with the chocolates, flowers, and dinner out. After all, chocolates go stale. Flowers wilt. The ambiance of fancy dinners fade. But the gift of one's lifelong word of love and faithfulness is what sustains every marriage. Join us for what is hoped to be an annual Valentine's Day celebration opportunity.

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.



Run The Good Race of Faith, and Pass the Baton of Leadership

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

As a high school and college student I threw discus and javelin on the track team. I enjoyed being a part of a team where even though no one got to participate or even see everyone else compete in every event, we each knew we were contributing toward reaching the goal of winning the meet, not just our event. Some competed in one event only, but were often very good at it. Others were good at running, jumping, vaulting, or throwing and may have competed in several events. The point was that each person contributed toward reaching the goal of winning the meet with what they were best gifted to do. No one would have asked me to run any length of race, but with a discus I could score points for sure.

The ministry of a congregation is a lot like a track meet. There are usually a lot of events that are going on at the same time. No one person can participate in every event, no matter how much they might be gifted to do so. Each person gives of their particular talent in an effort to reach the goal of bearing witness of the good news of Christ crucified and risen. We might not be able to participate or even see the work that others are doing, but we trust just the same their efforts are contributing toward the goal of being a part of God's kingdom and will breaking into our lives and that of the world. Each person faithfully does their part, giving their gift of time and talent and treasure in a ministry that offers them meaning and joy.

Every track meet ended with the running of the quarter-mile relay, or 4x400 meter relay. It was amazing to watch. Usually all other meet events were completed and all the participants of each team were able to gather to cheer on their respective runners as they ran their leg of the race around the track. Each team had a lane and the baton could only be exchanged within a prescribed distance in that lane. Runners practiced matching their strides and arms rhythmically to insure a smooth hand off from one runner to the next. Drop the baton and you were out of the race, and trouble befell the exchange where the runner coming in was either too eager or reluctant to let go of the baton to the runner next to run.

I wonder if sometimes the transition of leadership can be like a relay race as well. St. Paul referred to living our faith like "finishing a race" and I wonder if he had a relay in mind as he considered his own transition of ministry from himself to those coming after. In several churches I've served the comment is often made by those who have "run their leg of ministry's race" faithfully for years that it was time to "pass the torch (or baton) on to the next generation." The problem was when the next generation tried to take hold of it, the one who had finished their leg of the race often wouldn't let go! What would that look like in a real relay race? The same as it does in the congregation; awkward. Like a track meet, every person who runs their leg of ministry's race must trust the next person will run their leg as faithfully as they did. You can't hold on to the baton, but you can cheer them on and offer encouragement with all the gusto you've got! We've all been blessed by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the waters of baptism. We've all got gifts to share and a time in which to share them. Let us faithfully run our leg of the race when it's our turn to run, jump, or throw with the gospel of the risen Christ, and trust those whose turn it is next. God calls us all to participate in the breaking in of His heavenly kingdom. Let us serve the Lord.

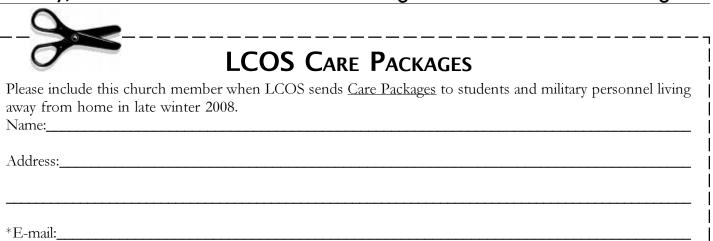
FASTNACHT MOVED UP TO 6:30 PM ON TUESDAY, FEB 5

While Lutherans are long known for their emotionless demeanor (except when the coffee runs out and then we pitch a fit) and reputation for being God's "Frozen Chosen" on the eve of Lent they let it all hang out at Fastnacht, a tradition passed down from our German immigrant ancestors. Along with feasting on powder covered diamond shaped authentic German Fastnacht donuts (blessed at 5:00 am that morning by Pastor Wayne himself at the bakery in Northeast Philly) the congregation gets a chance to ham it up on stage in the Parish Hall. Got a song you'd like to sing? Got a skit your group would like to perform? Know any good jokes? Plan to come out on Tuesday night, February 5, at 6:30 to share in the food, fun, and frivolity known as Fastnacht. Bring a friend. It will be one of the few times they see Lutherans acting silly.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON "THE ANCIENT ROOTS OF OUR WOR-SHIP"

We begin by studying ancient terms like temple, shrine, devotion, altar, and even the word 'worship' as we compare Biblical understandings with other religions. We then move forward to the One God Yahweh and the covenants he established with the 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

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*Pastor Wayne would like to send weekly thoughts/prayers via e-mail as a part of this ministry.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

SENIOR GAME DAY

Please return this form by February 17, 2008.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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

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.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856)429-5122 <u>(voice)</u> (856)429-7245(fax) www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Edythe Austermuhl Worship & Music Property Brian Bell 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 Christian Education Deb MacBride 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.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Kathy Ellis, Linda Powell Counters: Jeff Wenzel

February 3

Coffee Hour: Church Council

Readers: 8-Kristine Monsen 10:30-Betsy Kuehn

Communion Assistants: 10:30-Rich Amme, Juhan Runne

Ushers: 8-Alan Super & Eric Woltz 9:15-TBA

10:30-Bill & Susan Remphrey

Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Brie Zschech 9:15-Ethan & Noelle Quanci 10:30-Sarah Barrett, Allison Gensel, Ricky Tredinnick, Ken & Kyle Carpenter

February 10

Coffee Hour: Worship and Music Committee

Readers: 8-Laura Oakes 10:30-Cathe Bare

Ushers: 8-Alan Super & Eric Woltz 9:15-TBA

10:30-Bill & Susan Remphrey

Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Jeffrey Proko, Brian Gensel 9:15-Holly & Kelly Harrington 10:30-Kelly Haswell, Chris Heinze, J. Maniaci,

L. Masclans, S. Peterson

February 17

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild

Readers: 8-Bill Neveling 10:30-Danielle Deery

Ushers: 8-Alan Super & Eric Woltz 9:15-TBA

10:30-Bill & Susan Remphrey

Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, M. Sehdev, R. Tredinnick **9:15-**Mike Wolf, Nicole Fallon **10:30-**Ethan & Noelle Quanci, B. & S. Bobo, Sarah Barrett

aran Darrett

February 24

Coffee Hour: Christian Education Committee Readers: 8-Alan Super 10:30-Ken Carpenter

<u>Ushers:</u> 8-Alan Super & Eric Woltz 9:15-TBA

10:30-Bill & Susan Remphrey

Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Jeffrey Proko, Brie Zschech 9:15-Alexander Fabian, Gianna Buonpastore 10:30-Ken & Kyle Carpenter, J.

DeBerardinis, Jackie Stillwell, John Finnerty

February 2008							
S	М	T	W	T	F	S	
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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		



Fri-Sat	1-2	Sr. High Ski/Tubing Trip to Poconos
Sun	3	Transfiguration Sunday
		Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Mon	4	Prayer Group, 7 PM
		Social Ministry Mtg. Rm. 112, 7PM
		Pastor's Bible Study, 7:30 PM
		Executive Committee, 7:30 PM
Tues	5	Fastnacht Celebration! 6:30 PM
Wed	6	Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 AM
		Ash Wed. svc. (no ashes), noon
		Ash Wed. svc. (ashes), 7:30 PM
Thurs	7	Working Arm, 9:30 AM
		Mother's Group, 10 AM
		Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Fri-Sun	8-10	Sr. High Retreat, Harvey Cedars
Sun	10	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
		Affirmation of Marriage, 10:30 AM
		Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM
Mon	11	Prayer Group, 7 PM
		Pastor's Bible Study, 7:30 PM
Tues	12	Lenten Service@Grace, 12:05 PM
		Church Council, 7:30 PM
Wed	13	Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 AM
		Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM
		Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM
		Lenten Soup Dinner, 5:30 PM
		1st Communion Class, 6:15 PM
		Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
		Memorial Gifts Board, 7:30 PM
Thurs	14	Mother's Group, 10 AM
		Valentine Svc. Aff./Marriage, 6:30 PM
0	45	Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sun	17	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
3.6	4.0	Confirmation Play Event
Mon	18	Presidents Day, Church Office Closed
		Faith Circle, noon
T	10	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	19	Lenten Service@Grace, 12:05 PM
Wed	20	Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 AM
		Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM
		Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM
		Lenten Soup Dinner, 5:30 PM
		1st Communion Class, 6:15 PM
Thurs	21	Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
THUIS	41	Mother's Group, 10 AM
Sun	24	Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sun	4 4	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Mon	25	Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM Prayer Group, 7 PM
MOII	43	
Tues	26	Pastor's Bible Study, 7:30 PM
Tues	20	Senior Game Day, noon Lenten Service@Grace, 12:05 PM
Wed	27	Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 AM
weu	41	Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM
		Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM
		Lenten Soup Dinner, 5:30 PM 1st Communion Class, 6:15 PM
Thurs	28	Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM Mother's Group, 10 AM
111015	40	Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
		ruut Chons, 1/0 FM

THE FIVE LANGUAGES OF LOVE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN IS OUR MIDWEEK LENTEN THEME

Parish Messenger

'To love and be loved; what could be more important? Each of us feels loved when others speak our primary love language. The love languages in human relationships are a reflection of divine love. Since we are made in the image of God, then we would expect to find all 5 love languages (and more!) expressed in the character and nature of God.' So we will be using Biblical texts to enhance our insights and discussion.

How do you (and those closest to you) experience and reflect love? Come and learn with us on the Wednesday nights in Lent (Feb. 13, 20, and 27; March 5 and 12); schedule is as follows: 5:30 PM Lenten Soup Dinner (includes hot dogs for children) 6:15 - 7:00 PM Lenten Program (5 love languages) children and adults will be learning in separate areas while Pastor Wayne is giving First Communion instruction to 6th Graders.

The soup dinners (which include rolls, hot dogs, chips, and beverages) will be coordinated by team leaders. If you would be willing to help team leaders to provide this supper, contact Pastor Englehardt or Christian Education Chairperson Deb MacBride.



February, 2008

"YUTE" TUBE EVENT IN POCONOS FEB 1-2

On Friday, February 1 the Senior High Youth Group will travel to Big Boulder to stay at Pastor Wayne's Pocono home, fondly known as St. Brigid's, for day of tubing, skiing, or snowboarding. The group will leave from the church at around 6:00 so people can get a bite of dinner before driving up and return on Saturday night between 8:00-9:00. St. Brigid's can sleep 13 in beds or pullouts, so some may be on the

floor in sleeping bags. Adult drivers and chaperones all always welcome even if you don't ski, board, or tube (which anyone can do.) The cost will vary depending on what winter activity you want to do and you can check out the rates and area at jfbb.com online. Tubing is \$25/3 Hour session (recommended) and \$45 for all day. Lift snowpass for skiers and boarders is \$46/\$36 for adults/youth and rental is \$29/\$25. Plan on an additional \$10 for meal costs. Contact Pastor Wayne if you plan to attend. Don't be afraid to invite your friends.

1ST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN FEB 13 AFTER LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Page 3

Sixth grade youth and their parents are invited to participate in a five-week preparation class for receiving their first Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, March 20. The classes will be held each week on Wednesdays in Lent from 6:15 to 7:00 following the Lenten Soup Supper at 5:30, beginning February 13. Both sixth grade youth and their parent(s) will gather in Room 112 after the meal for classes that will cover the basic understanding of what Holy Communion is and its meaning in the life of a Christian disciple. Parents who intend to have their child participate need to contact the church office or email Pastor Wayne who will be leading the class. If you have additional questions you may contact Pastor Wayne at your convenience either by phone or email.

Noon Community Worship Focuses on "7 Last Words"

Every Tuesday in Lent

This year the Haddonfield Council of Churches will host the Lenten mid-week worship on the theme, "The Seven Last Words from the Cross" starting February 12 at 12:10 and each Tuesday in Lent through March 18 at Grace Episcopal Church. While this is the same theme for the three hour community worship on Good Friday at the Methodist Church the suggestion was made that some are unable to attend that service and would value it being covered throughout the weeks of Lent. The worship is about thirty minutes long with hymns, scripture reading, sermon reflection, and prayer. It makes for a great way to keep one's focus on God in Christ during a time when the Church reflects more deeply on our faith in the crucified and risen Jesus. Take time in Lent at lunch to keep your day centered in the Lord as we journey toward the cross and resurrection of Holy Week and Easter.



Mission Statement Monthly Focus:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that SERVES HUMAN NEEDS...

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

"The worship had ended. Let the service begin." That's how one Lutheran congregation ends their worship each Sunday. It helps to frame their understanding of what is really going on in worship. They have gathered with others of the baptized faith community to worship Jesus as their Lord. They have heard God's Word proclaimed and shared through the reading of scripture, exhortation of the sermon, singing of the hymns, and receiving it in the bread and wine of the communion meal. Now they are prepared to serve the needs of others as a part of God's work in the world through the people of his Church. Saving grace leads to service in the name of our Savior. Faith has feet, and those feet lead from worship out into the world, or at least the world in which we live.

The faith of this congregation has feet. Our pantry is stocked by members and friends and distributed to local families in need. At Christmas we provide for the needs of others through the Advent Giving Tree. We weekly make meals for teenage girls in counseling at My Father's House, and periodically provide a space for them to host "family meals". The women of our Working Arm sew dozens of quilts a year to distribute through Lutheran World Relief to those who have no means of keeping warm. Our Lutheran World Hunger Lenten Self Denial offering and youth 30 Hour Famine donations provide food for those who hunger in foreign lands. Our youth will again participate in a summer mission trip where they help build houses for the homeless through Habitat for Humanity while others older members travel abroad to lead church camps in Bosnia. This year even three of our children were inspired to reach out to serve the needs of those ravaged by the California fires when the Remphrey children, Hayden, Savannah and Ava, organized "We Three Care".

All this shouldn't be surprising. Of all the outreach agencies in the world Lutheran Social Services has a greater combined budget than the United Way or other more prominent relief agencies. When the tidal wave hit Indonesian the Lutheran Disaster Response was one of the few agencies allowed to work in the area due to its reputation for meeting the needs of the people. Indeed, it is often said that by the time you are seeing the news of a disaster on CNN the Disaster Response teams of the Lutheran Church are already in the air responding to the needs of those in crisis. It is no wonder then that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior serves human needs when it comes to understanding our mission as a faith community.

Many Thanks to Outgoing Council Leaders, Welcome Newly Elected!

With the passing of another Annual Meeting comes also the grateful thanks to those going off council and welcome to those newly elected. Since this article is written prior to the meeting The Lutheran Church of Our Savior cannot officially welcome personally those who have agreed to be nominated for the vacant positions on the Congregation Council, but know we look forward to your leadership.

To those going off we truly have appreciated your time of leadership and witness by example. Those being recognized at the Annual Meeting who are going off and not returning this year are Bob Mirabello –Vice President, Holly Dreher – Social Ministry, Edythe Austermuhl – Worship & Music, Heather Vaughn – Evangelism, and Linda Harrington – Property. Well done you good and faithful servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the congregation of Our Savior.

THE ANCIENT ART OF TAI CHI

Study with Jack Poupard, Martial Arts Instructor (and local barber for some of us.)

The ancient art of Tai Chi will give you a total body workout without experiencing the after effects usually associated with intense physical exercise. The soft slow movements of Tai Chi help to release tension, thereby reducing the effects of stress on your body. Health improvements will become obvious.

We are thinking of offering this on a late afternoon (4-5:15 PM for example) such as a Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday. There will be a nominal fee charged for the instruction. Please contact Pastor Englehardt if you are interested in participating.

Musings From the Corner by Susan Underwood

February, 2008

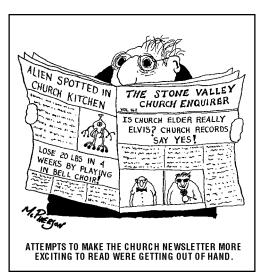
By now the Christmas excitement and rush has died down, the trappings have been neatly stored for next years use and most likely the New Year's resolutions have already been broken and feelings of guilt and defeat have replaced the well intentioned and lofty goals.

Parish Messenger

Resolutions seem to fit into one of three categories. They involve 1) habits we are trying to totally obliterate- ie: smoking 2) those we are trying to modify- ie: diet and 3) ones we are trying to create- ie: being more patient during traffic jams. No matter how you slice it, it becomes a battle of self imposed reforms. I used to make New Year's resolutions and being a rather stubborn learner I would repeat the same process year after year and expect different results! Kids today would say "DUH!"

I'm thinking that REFORM is a good thing-simply limited in it's application. Perhaps where we need to be setting our goals is by praying to be TRANSFORMED. That way Christ will become the power behind our resolve. What comes to mind is Isaiah 55:8-12. For my thoughts are not your thoughts ,neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace and mountains and hills will burst forth in song before you, and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.

Now there's a resolution that inspires me! What about you?



DELAYING TODAY'S GRATIFICATION FOR TOMORROW'S REWARDS

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Americans don't follow the sage advice of Benjamin Franklin: "A penny saved is a penny earned." Savings rates in our country have hit an all-time low - for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2005, Americans' personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was negative 0.5 percent (Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Dept., February 2006). Getting started is relatively painless when balanced against the rewards it holds for future goals. Start by setting long-term goals like saving for a family vacation, for a down payment on a home, car or boat or a home improvement project. Making the commitment to forgo morning coffee from the neighborhood coffee shop or lunches out with coworkers all can contribute to your monthly savings goal. Think about how those outings add up over a month. Spending \$5 each morning at the coffee shop adds up to \$25 a week and \$100 a month. Ten dollar lunches twice a week add up to \$80 a month. Over one year by forgoing both you can easily save more than \$2,100! Now that's a great start towards a wonderful reward.

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.

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!

www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org



To the Audio Visual Team [Pat Reiter and Greg Gitzes]:

Many thanks from Grandma and Grandpa Q - who weren't well enough to travel to see their grandkids on Christmas Eve service. The DVD of the children singing and ringing was the best Christmas present!

Lisa Quanci

To Linda Powell and Pat Green for the most beautiful and inspiring music for all the Christmas Eve services - and a big thank you to all those who share their wonderful voice with us.

Lisa Quanci

Just a note to thank the Altar Guild for including me in the poinsettia delivery. It truly brightened by holiday table.

Also, thank you to all the members for their thoughts and prayer during my hospital stay in November. It felt good to have them during my recovery.

Yours in Christ,

Margaret Gensel

Dear Lutheran Pantry:

Thank you very much for the gift cards and food. They made for a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sincerely,

Karl Foley

Dear Cheruh Parents:

Thank you so much for the generous gift certificate for shopping in Haddonfield. I will have so much fun using it!

Love,

Linda |Powell|

Many thanks for the lovely poinsettia. It is really thriving and we continue to enjoy its presence. Along with the plant, we were very pleased to have a very enjoyable visit with the delivery person, Hans Underwood, a real bonus.

Sincerely,

Ingrid and George Hager

Thank you! Thank you!

The pastors, the committee, the Altar Guild, parents and, of course, the acolytes, who made this day possible (December 23, 2007.) I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

The reception was very special: the acolyte plaque, the special book for everyone to sign, the cake, the letters, cards, and just seeing so many of my former Acolytes and those who are serving today.

I have so much to be thankful for and all the kind wishes. They will remain with me forever. My thanks again and God's blessing to all.

Eleanor Gaines

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TO RETURN IN APRIL

Page 8

There will be no Children's Church services in February and March—believe it or not, Lent and Easter are coming soon, so instead of joining us for Children's Church, you can join us for the Wednesday night soup suppers during Lent!

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS now to plan to attend Children's Church on Wednesday, April 16 from 7:00-7:30pm. We hope to see you all then!

RAINBOW OF HOPE SILENT AUCTION

Rainbow of Hope is a Lutheran based agency that has been in operation since 1995. They have assisted many homeless women and children in the transition to independence and have been successful due to the support of churches in Burlington and Camden counties.

Rainbow of Hope is planning a Fastnacht Coffee and Tea with Silent Auction on Feb. 10 at 2 PM at the Maple Shade Lions Club located at 38 N. Lippincott Ave in Maple Shade. Or you can assist Rainbow of Hope in this fundraiser through a \$10 contribution toward the purchase of supplies.

Contact them at 17 Margaret Ave., Maple Shade, NJ 08052; phone 856-667-4735.

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.



LCOS CARE **PACKAGES**

Twice a year (late winter and fall) this ministry of our church (now coordinated by the Social Ministry Committee) provides boxes of goodies to students away at college

and our military members to let them know that we are thinking about them back here at home.

These goodie boxes include such things as food items, tissues, stamps, a prayer booklet, gum, and the current month's Messenger, as well as a pastoral note saying how much they are missed and how we are looking forward to seeing them soon.

If you are interested in helping contact Eva Shaw or Pastor Englehardt. A form for offering names of those to receive packages is found on page 11.

Where's the Font in Lent? (Reprinted from February 2007)

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a time when we walk with Jesus in the wilderness of our lives, longing for the waters of new life offered in the baptismal waters of Easter. We long to sing the "alleluia" of praise for our Lord's resurrection; absent in worship since Transfiguration Sunday, and now must wait until Easter Sunday morning to sing it gloriously again. We practice the disciplines of Lent, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to the poor. And finally, just as the early Church catechumens prepared for baptism into the community of faith during Lent, we too will participate in Lenten midweek worship and study. And, just as they waited until Easter to provide the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we too shall abstain from baptisms until Easter Sunday.

As a visible sign of our journey through the wilderness of Lent, the baptismal font will be removed from the front of the sanctuary and placed in a visible part of the narthex. No baptisms will be scheduled during this time of preparation. Its absence from our worship space will heighten our anticipation of its return at Easter, and the life-giving waters it offers in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Like the veiled cross that we await to lift high for our Easter processional worship, so too we will await the life-giving waters held by the font of baptismal blessing.

Member Pledges Up for 2008 by Dale Kredatus, Financial Secretary

This year pledge drive was an outstanding success thanks the generous response from the congregation. The drive started out slowly due to delays in third class mailing of pledge requests which we will file under lessons learn. The campaign was still receiving pledges over the holidays, which was cause by the delayed mailings. The average pledge per member was up over last year and included many new names. We also had a good response from the youth members which part of a program started last fall. These funds will support the many missions of Our Savior and ensure the work of Our Lord.

We had some concern about meeting the 2007 budget, going into the last quarter but had record breaking November and December to bring the funds up to full commitments. Christmas giving alone was up 40% over last year, which was amazing. The generosity of Our Savior members and the response we received when funding requests are made, are truly a blessing.

Treasurer's Outlook

by Jack Berrigan

After a weak October, concern was expressed here about balancing our budget and urged the Congregation to increase contributions in November and December. If you recall, it was suggested that we needed more than \$120,000 in contributions over the last two months to make budget. And, history was not on our side. Over the last two months of 2006, contributions were \$31,150 in November and \$63,308 in December for a total of \$94,458. While I expressed optimism, deep down inside I felt it would be a stretch for the Congregation to increase contributions over the last two months by almost 25%. After all, the economic news was gloomy. Christmas retail sales were expected to be significantly below 2006 and, as it turned out, most retailers did in fact experience between a 4 and 8% decrease in November and December sales.

Well, I am in awe. The generous response from our Congregation is absolutely amazing! While November contributions were \$39,127, December contributions soared to \$78, 537 for a two month total of \$117,664. With this late surge, we ended the year with \$479,471 in total income which is only about \$3,000 less than our original budget of \$482,493.

The news is equally good on the expense side of the balance sheet. With a little luck and prudent management of expenses by Linda Harrington, our expenses for the year ended \$9,447 below budget at \$473,046. With Council approval, the surplus of \$6,425 will be used to support Dedicated Accounts that include Pantry, LCOS Cares, Youth Mission Trips, Local Outreach, Holiday Food Drive, and Advent Giving Tree.

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Evangelism 101: Inviting Someone to Worship

One of the seven Faith Initiatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to "Invite Others into a Relationship with Christ." We all know that from the waters of baptism our Lord calls us to bear witness to our faith and trust in the gospel of new life offered by Christ's resurrection. We know and have experienced the hope this promise has brought us in times of despair and when we were afraid of death's dark shadow as we clung to our faith in the risen Jesus, our Savior. But how do you invite another person into that same relationship? How do you get others to believe and trust in the God who has made a difference in your life through Christ? Here are five easy steps to practice as you begin the work of an evangelist.

- 1. Identify and discern three people you know in your life who do not have a relationship with God in Christ at all. These are typically people who do not have a church home, but may also be lapsed members of another congregation.
- **2. Invite** them to worship with you when you witness them going through a tough time in their lives. You might even pray that God reveal it to you when it happens.
- 3. **Include** them in your car rather than meeting them at church. In addition to insuring they actually come it saves them the trouble of finding on street parking.
- 4. Interest them to join you for lunch or brunch afterwards, your treat! This can be a real deal maker. They might be inclined to turn down worship, but most folks don't turn down a free meal with a friend or colleague. Make sure you include this part when you initially invite them.
- **5. Inform** your friend of how your faith and this congregation have made a difference in your life. Let the Holy Spirit do its job of "enlightening" your friend to the good news. Don't worry about having all the answers. Only God does so it's okay to say, "I don't know."

Try out these five steps to inviting someone to worship or another ministry event during the month of February and March. Who will you invite to join you for Holy Week and Easter morning worship? Just remember, the Holy Spirit is already preparing these very people for your invitation, so half the job is already done. All you need to do is follow through with the invitation. God bless!

COUNCIL APPROVES CHILD PROTECTION TASK FORCE CREATION

At the January meeting of the Congregation Council Linda Harrington provided members an overview of the Synod sponsored seminar on child protection practices and policies for congregations. It was led by Jason Reed, Director of Synod Youth Ministry, who provided information on the risks involved with not having either a practice or policy for screening adults who work with children and youth as well as an orientation for how adults are to appropriately work with them in ministry. "Adults are not be socializing with the children and youth they work with, but be the mentors, models, and guides for their faith formation. They need to point the way toward an intimate relationship with Christ rather than the adult," was a comment Linda shared with the council.

Pastor Wayne Zschech had previously provided Linda with two different child protection policies he has been a part of creating in two previous congregations, one of which was adopted and the other on the verge of adoption before he left. After healthy discussion a motion was made to create a Child Protection Task Force that would examine the various aspects of creating a written policy or set of practices The Lutheran Church of Our Savior would institute with respect to recruiting adults to work with youth as well as the behavior they are to exhibit while working with them. Even though Linda Harrington goes off council this year she agreed to be on the committee and others were asked to contact her if they would like to participate as well.

Other council actions included the approval of the 2008 Financial Plan for Ministry (Budget), which is only slightly higher than 2007. Some highlights of the previous year were that while average attendance was down (218 from 243) the giving in the offering was up by 4%. Also, while the congregation pledged 10% of our offering income toward Synod Mission Support and we budgeted 11% we were able to give 12% by the end of the year. The council also approved the nominees for Congregation Council and Memorial Gifts Board, as well as the 2008 Nominating Committee.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth group will be going on a ski weekend to Pastor Zschech's pocono house on feb 1st & 2nd. Skiing & tubing are optional and at the youth's expense. Please email kim if you are planning to attend.

The Winter youth retreat in Harvey Cedars is february 8th-10th. Youth will be leaving friday the 8th at 4pm from the church. You will need to pack warm clothes, sneakers, bathing suit, towel, toilettries, pillows, and blankets.

Any questions please contact Kim Anderson. The only youth group meeting in February will be on the 24th @7pm. Topic for the meeting will be announced at a later date.

THRIVENT NEWS

In 2007 our congregation, with the help of the Social Ministry Committee, participated in three fund raisers under Care in Congregations. Under this program we were given \$1600 to be used for our activities.

Our first activity was in May and was for Bosnia. The congregation gave \$796 which was matched by Thrivent Financial with a \$500 donation. Our second activity was LCOS Cares for care packages to college students. The congregation donated \$910 which was matched by Thrivent Financial with a \$410 donation. Our third and last activity was our Holiday Food Drive. Our congregation responded with \$1230 in donations matched by Thrivent Financial with a \$690 donation.

By using our \$1600 under this program (Care in Congregations) we should be approved once again in 2008 for the same amount. Social Ministry will determine how this money is to be used by reviewing the effect of past activities and evaluating ideas proposed by members of the congregation.

If you have suggestions for a fund raiser or hands on activity please let us know. Any questions or for further information please contact your Thrivent Coordinators, Jan Amme, Betsy Kuehn, or Maureen Bell.

WORLD HUNGER SELF-DENIAL COIN BANKS AVAILABLE IN LENT

Fasting and almsgiving are two disciplines of Lent. Going without food for a day is not only meant to keep us focused on the goodness God provides in the daily bread of food, but it also cleanses us bodily of the impurities we often build up. Almsgiving is the offering we make above and beyond our regular giving toward the needs of the poor and disenfranchised. But fasting as a faith practice and starving as a circumstance of life are two different things, and in Lent The Lutheran Church of Our Savior focuses on both through almsgiving.

Coin banks provided by ELCA World Hunger will be made available starting Feb 3 in preparation for Lent. Members and guests are invited to fill the bank up with change and currency throughout the season of Lent and return it by Palm Sunday or on Easter. You might even consider fasting for one day in Lent and offering the cost of food for that day in your Lenten coin bank.

If you wish to have your almsgiving recorded as a part of your regular giving members will need to write their name and/or envelope number on their coin bank. With the anticipation of a strong participation from the congregation the Financial Secretary anticipates an overwhelming increase to the work of the regular counters responsible for the month of March. As such, if you are willing to help in counting the World Hunger Lenten Self-Denial coin bank offering to alleviate this extra burden to the counters please contact Dale Kredatus whose contact info is in this newsletter.

From what will you fast as you offer your alms toward the poor blessed by the ministry of ELCA World Hunger? May the Holy Spirit give you the strength to be faithful in your journey through Lent.

THANK YOU!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to extend a warm thank you to the following people for their generous contribution by helping prepare the weekly meals for My Father's House:

Sue Underwood, Larry Friant, Ingrid Hager, Jane Evans, Martha Ostertag, Jamie Fallon, Mark Bare, Dave Graeber and Cub Scout Pack 3179, Jan Amme, Bertha Healy, Maureen Bell, Molly Smith, Colleen Gross, Junior High Youth Group, Connie Haswell, Connie Wolf, Lisa Quanci, Kate Zscheck, Charles Coleman, Michelle, DiGirolamo, Holly Dreher, Carolyn Lichter, Pat Van Cleve, Monica Ebbenga, Peg Riley, Pat Reiter, Ed Nace, Eva Shaw, Stacey Shaw, Nancy Frazier, Jeanette Jelonek, Confirmation Class

Special thanks also go to **David Hartzell** for his commitment to deliver the meals from the church to the My Father's House location each week. Please contact **Jan Amme or Maureen Bell** if you would like to volunteer.

Special Thanks to Kris, Kathleen and Robbie Pensabene, Jane Evans, Hans Underwood, Eva Shaw and Sue Tharp for helping Beth Hill to deliver the beautiful Christmas poinsettias.

Special Thanks to **Sue Tharp** for her continuous sharing of her talents to fill our sanctuary with spiritual adornment.