

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

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Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
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December Messenger  
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed November 21, 2008

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Each year the altar is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, please fill out the form below and enclose a check for \$18.00, made payable to "LCOS Altar Guild." The poinsettias are delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents on Tuesday., Dec. 26. Deadline is Sunday, December 14.

In memory of\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Return to church office by Dec. 14.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER, 2008

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROUNDTABLES

Discuss 9:15 Proposal - Nov 30 & Dec 7

In the October issue of *The Messenger* a proposal for moving Sunday Church School (SCS) from 10:30 to 9:15 was provided by the Christian Education and Worship and Music Committees of Our Savior. The proposal addressed some key concerns affecting both areas of ministry.

·Recruiting teachers is difficult as most candidates don’t want to give up worship in order to teach.

·Many children are unable to participate at all or in part in SCS due to sports or other activities now being scheduled prior to noon.

·Children miss the opportunity to learn from an early age how Lutherans worship since they are in Sunday Church School during that time.

·There is no time slot available on Sunday morning to offer adult small group discussions focusing on faith formation issues for parents of school age children.

The proposal recommends that Sunday Church School be moved to 9:15-10:00 with additional Focused Fellowship classes offered specific to parents with children in the home. During the 10:30 worship children in grade 3 and younger would be dismissed after the Prayer of the Day (as they currently are for SCS) to the Parish Hall for singing, a children’s sermon by the pastor not preaching upstairs, and possibly an activity depending on time. This is similar to the practice that was in place during the summer months some years ago. Children would then return to worship as the offering is brought forward to participate in the Meal and Sending or the Prayers and Sending depending on which Sunday of the month it is.

While the committees and pastors believe this proposal addresses the concerns listed above the real concern is whether this will benefit or hinder a family participating in worship and faith formation on Sunday mornings. In order to find out what the parents of children in SCS think of the change, hear their concerns, and listen to any suggestions they have there will be two Roundtable Discussions held from 9:15-10:00 in the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 30 and December 7. Childcare will be provided in both the Nursery for toddlers and infants and the Youth Room for older children.

For more information or if you would like to offer your input and are unable to attend the Roundtable Discussions please contact either Pastor Wayne or Englehardt or Christian Education chair Deb MacBride. The input of parents is vital as it makes no sense to change the current format if participation will go down rather than up as a result. The goal of the proposal is to provide a better format for worship and faith formation of all ages in the congregation, and the leadership hopes to hear all of your thoughts and concerns on November 30 or December 7 at 9:15.

CONFIRMANDS &  
CONGREGATION  
DECK THE HALLS  
DEC 14 AT NOON

Ever wonder who helps decorate the sanctuary for Christmas each year? This year it could be you! On Sunday, December 14 shortly after the conclusion of the late worship, the confirmation class, along with any other parishioners and friends, are invited to assist the Worship and Music Committee in decorating the sanctuary and narthex for Christmas. Lunch will be provided at noon and the three large pine trees will be put up, strung with lights, and decorated with the handmade Crismons immediately following the meal. Pastor Wayne will be coordinating this yearly effort and will explain the symbolic meaning of the crismon decorations for any who are interested. Contact the church office if you plan to attend to insure enough pizzas are ordered. Homemade Christmas cookies are always a great treat to share if you would like to bring some.

*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.*



“CHRISTMAS IS A SERIOUSLY RIDICULOUS CELEBRATION”  
By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Have I got your attention yet? Last month I attended the National Youth Workers Convention in Pittsburgh put on by Youth Specialties. The theme and logo for the year was rather odd. The theme was “Seriously Ridiculous” and the logo was one of a chubby little baby boy that looked of Middle East descent with an aura or halo behind his head. The point was simple, yet perplexing the more you thought about it. When God chose to become incarnate, to be “in the flesh”, God did so in the baby Jesus.

The fact that the God of Israel chose to become human is not so ridiculous. What is ridiculous is that God became flesh in the infant Jesus. When the gods of other faith traditions became incarnate they didn’t come as helpless newborns. They suddenly appear as a blue multi-armed warrior goddess like Kali or with the head of an elephant like Ganesha of Hinduism. Such gods might look “cool” and impressive to the average person and even fit with our expectation of what a god should look like when it comes in the flesh. That the God who created the heavens and earth and everything in between would choose to become flesh as a babe in a manger, born to a teenage “unwed” mother is not only ridiculous, it’s seriously ridiculous.

But isn’t that how God has always worked? God chose the usurper Jacob, who tricked his brother Esau out of his birthright and father out of Esau’s blessing, to be the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. God chose a guy with a speech impediment to be God’s mouthpiece to Pharaoh in freeing the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery. God chose a shepherd to be his anointed king over Israel. And when it comes time for God to be revealed “in the flesh” he doesn’t choose a powerful Israelite family with the finest credentials. Instead God chooses a carpenter and young girl to be the parents of the Son of God. That’s seriously ridiculous, I don’t care who you are.

As a man Jesus would say and do seriously ridiculous things as well. He chose fishermen and tax collectors and skeptics to be his inner circle of friends and disciples. He hung out with sinners of all kinds, defiled himself by touching the sick and possessed, ate with the outcasts, and broke the moral code of the day all the time. According to the Pharisees the thought of Jesus being the long awaited Messiah was seriously ridiculous. “Blessed are the poor”... seriously ridiculous. “Love your enemies”... seriously ridiculous. “The greatest of all is to be the servant of all”... seriously ridiculous.

To follow Jesus is to follow a Savior who calls his disciples to live in such a way that many times appears seriously ridiculous to the rest of the world. So in that Spirit how might our celebration of Christmas this year be one that others perceive as seriously ridiculous? Instead of buying gifts to wrap and put under the tree how seriously ridiculous would it be to buy a cow, chicken, or pig from the Heifer Project in those people’s name? How seriously ridiculous would it be to invite someone you don’t really like but has no church home to join your family for Christmas Eve worship? How seriously ridiculous would it be to volunteer at a shelter, ring a bell by a Salvation Army kettle, or bake homemade cookies for New Visions or Urban Promise in Camden instead of for family, friends, or teachers who probably have an overabundance of the same from other sources?

I don’t know if I’ll do any of these things. But I wonder how my celebration of Christmas and the incarnation of God in the infant Jesus might be different if I did. Would the Christmas gospel I’ve heard my whole life have new meaning? Would the carols I’ve sung since childhood speak to my heart more deeply? Would the gift of grace offered in the wafer dipped in wine be more precious than any gift wrapped under the tree? This Christmas, whenever possible and if you do nothing else, think of how seriously ridiculous it was for God to come in the flesh as a helpless babe in a manger the next time you see a pregnant woman or newborn. The miracle of Christmas is not just that God came in the flesh, but that God became fully human so that he might one day save us from death itself. That’s seriously ridiculous, and I thank God it is so.

COUNCIL APPROVES JAZZERCISE CLASS  
IN PARISH HALL  
to Start in January

At its regular monthly meeting in November the Congregation Council approved the building use request for Jazzercise classes to begin being offered in the Parish Hall in January. The classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 PM and later during the season of Lent, as well as on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM. In addition to providing an opportunity for the community to maintain physical health, like the Tai Chi classes currently held on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00PM, it will also become a regular financial resource outside the offerings and grants that comprise the majority of planned income for ministry.

In other council action there was discussion of how to use the One Call feature for conducting a survey of the congregation as to who and how many in the congregation would be interested in a Saturday evening worship if offered. This is a topic that has surfaced for some time and likely be one of the topics covered in the Vision Committee’s development of a strategic plan for mission in the next few years. They also discussed the open invitation offered by youth member Ethan Quanci to assist him with the development of a potential Eagle Scout Project. The Council hopes to be able to offer a viable option that will not only enhance ministry at Our Savior, but provide a service to the various groups that also use the church for meetings or events.



ATTENTION SENIORS!  
SENIOR GAME DAY  
NEXT DATE IS:  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT NOON  
BINGO PINOCHLE BRIDGE ~  
COME OUT AND HAVE FUN!  
FOOD AND DRINKS (SODA) SERVED  
BEST OF ALL . . . IT'S FREE!  
RSVP: 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)  
[www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org](http://www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org)  
**Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM**  
**Nursery Provided at 9:15 & 10:30 AM**

CHURCH COUNCIL	
Rich Amme	Worship & Music
Kim Anderson	Youth
Brian Bell	Property
Jack Berrigan	Treasurer
Bill Cowan	Secretary
Charles Coleman	Christian Education
Mike Fallon	Congregational Resources
Larry Friant	Vice President
Dale Kredatus	Financial Secretary
Betsy Kuehn	Social Ministry
Deb MacBride	Christian Education
Bobbi Newsham	Fellowship Development
Juhan Runne	Personnel
Kathy Simpkins	Seniors
Hans Underwood	Youth
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, Office Administrator  
Cindy Randall, Office Assistant  
Eric Ebbenga, Organist  
Patricia Shaw-Green, Dir. of Music  
Linda Powell Cherub Choir  
Bob Knight, Custodian  
Jeff Gross, Night Lockup  
Shirley Bramble, Nursery Care  
Beth Hill, Altar Guild  
Bonnie Richards, Sunday School Supt.

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

**Altar Guild:** Eva Shaw, Carol Larro, Shirley Webb  
**Counters:** Bob & Sue Evans, Russ & Susan Barrett, Alice Gerkins

December7

**Coffee Hour:** Christian Education  
**Readers:** 8-T. Cheney **10:30**-Eric Woltz  
**Communion Assistants:** **10:30**-Bobbi Newsham & Hans Underwood  
**Ushers:** 8- Joe & Peggy Hartman    **10:30**- Eric & Betty Woltz  
**Acolytes:** 8-Rob LeBarge, Kelly & Holly Harrington  
                  **10:30**-Emily Donovan, Nicole Fallon, Rebecca Windle, Melissa Olt, Carri Killian

December14

**Coffee Hour:** Communications Committee  
**Readers:** 8-A. Stolarick **10:30**- C. Bare  
**Ushers:** 8- Joe & Peggy Hartman    **10:30**- Mike Stolarick / TBD  
**Acolytes:** 8-Rob LeBarge, Joseph Kiernan, Stephen Woltz  
                  **10:30**-Karen Graeber, Jackie Stillwell, John Finnerty, Melissa Olt, Nick Heinze

December21

**Coffee Hour:** NO Coffee hour, Christmas Program  
**Readers:** 8-J. Wentzel **10:30**-D. Derry  
**Ushers:** 8- Joe & Peggy Hartman    **10:30**- Bob Mirabello / TBD  
**Acolytes:** 8-Rob LeBarge, Samantha Prepsel, Brie Zschech  
                  **10:30**-Noelle & Ethan Quanci, Melissa Olt, Shelby Cain, Luisa Mascalans

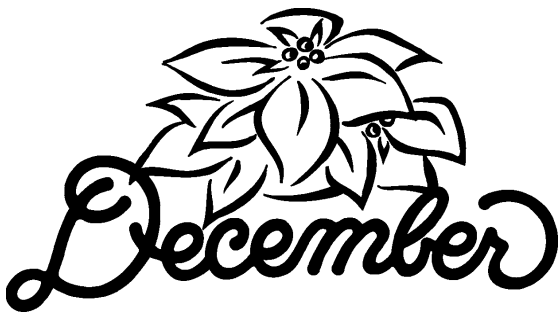
December24

**Readers:** TBD  
**Ushers:** - **5** - Eva & Stacy Shaw  
                  **7** - Jim & Jane Evans  
                  **9** - John & Laura Oakes  
                  **11** -Rich Amme & Dave Wyche  
**Acolytes:** **5**-Melissa Olt, Nicole Fallon, Sam Lyons,  
                  **7**-Shelby Cain, Hayden Remphrey,  
                  **9**-Carri Kilian, Nicole & Ethan Quanci,  
                  **11**-Brie Zschech, Morgan Sehdev,

December28

**Coffee Hour:** Faith Circle  
**Readers:** 8- TBD    **10:30**-K. Carpenter  
**Ushers:** 8- Joe & Peggy Hartman    **10:30**- Bob Mirabello / TBD  
**Acolytes:** 8-Rob LeBarge, Jeffrey Proko, Alex Fabian  
                  **10:30**-Dan Wolf, Michael McLaughlin, Robby Reiter, Daniel Leverick, Andrew Shaw

December 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			



DECEMBER

Mon	1	Prayer Group, 7 PM, Altar Guild, 7 PM Rm 112
Tues	2	Social Ministry, 7 PM Executive Committee, 7:30 PM
Wed	3	Children's Bell Choir, 3:45 PM Tai Chi, 4 PM Choir: Children's 4:15 PM; Cherb 4:30 PM Youth Bells, 7 PM; Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	4	Working Arm, 9:30 AM, Adult Bells, 7 PM; Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sat	6	Youth Drop -n-Shop 9 AM - 1 PM
Sun	7	<b>Worship 8 &amp; 10:30 AM Reflections, 9:15 AM Focused Fellowship, 9:15 AM Christmas Brunch @ Bare's 12:30 PM; Advent Dinner 5:30 PM Confirmation Huddle 6:00 PM Advent Giving Tree</b>
Mon	8	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	9	Church Council, 7:30 PM
Wed	10	Children's Bell Choir, 3:45 PM; Tai Chi, 4 PM Choir: Children's 4:15 PM; Cherb 4:30 PM Youth Bells, 7 PM; Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	11	Adult Bells, 7 PM; Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sun	14	<b>Worship 8 &amp; 10:30 AM Reflections, 9:15 AM Focused Fellowship, 9:15 AM Deck the Halls 12 Noon Confirmation Learn 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Advent Giving Tree Gifts Due</b>
Mon	15	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	16	Senior Game Day, 12 Noon
Wed	17	Children's Bells, 3:45 PM; Tai Chi, 4 PM Choir: Children's, 4:15 PM; Cherub, 4:30 PM <b>Children's Church, 7 PM</b> Youth Bells, 7 PM; Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	18	Adult Bells, 7 PM; Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sat	20	College Reunion & Dinner, Angel Tree 6:00 PM
Sun	21	<b>Worship 8 &amp; 10:30 AM Reflections, 9:15 AM Focused Fellowship, 9:15 AM SCS Chrsitmas Pagent, 10:30 AM Christmas Caroling, 2 PM</b>
Mon	22	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wed	24	<b>Christmas Eve Services 5, 7, 9, 11 PM</b>
Thurs	25	Christmas Day (Office Closed)
Sun	28	<b>Worship 8 &amp; 10:30, Reflections 9:15 AM Focused Fellowship, 9:15 AM Youth Group, 7 PM</b>
Mon	29	Blood Drive 1:30 - 7:30 PM Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wed	31	New Year's Eve

CRAZY TALK WORD OF THE MONTH:

Eschatology \ehs-kuh-TAH-luh-jee\ n.

Let’s face it. Pastors and the Bible often use theological terms that sound, well, crazy. Who uses those words even though they describe key understandings of the Christian faith? Thanks to Rolf A. Jacobson, author of *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms* there is hope for understanding once confusing theological terms. Each month a new word will be featured to help the average “Joe Christian” understand some not-so-simple theological terms. Since eschatology and the season of Advent go hand and hand we thought this would be a good word to begin “crazy talk” definitions.

Eschatology is “the study of the way things get worse before they get better when all reality ends.

Those who make a career of speculating about ‘the end of times’ are theological proctologists, interested in how everything will come out. Who can help but love such excited and hopeful people? Eschatology is the study of theories about the end times. Good eschatology helps make sense of the present in light of what we know about how God wants things to end. Bad eschatology reads the Bible’s verses as if they are tea leaves, trying to learn from them what Jesus says on one knows except God – when it will happen, who will be saved (see Matt. 24:36)”

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

“Drop n’ Shop” on December 6, 2008 from 9am to 2pm.

Parents enjoy a day of shopping while the youth group watch your children. All ages welcome! The kids will enjoy crafts, games,snacks , and a special visit from santa. Free will donations appreciated.

Faith Formation

The youth group will be meeting on December 14 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. The topic will be “Rain: The thunder-storms of life”.

Ice skating December 28th

The times and cost will be posted at a later date. Keep an eye on the youth bulletin board for more information.

NATIONAL YOUTH WORKER Convention Well Worth Memorial Gift Support

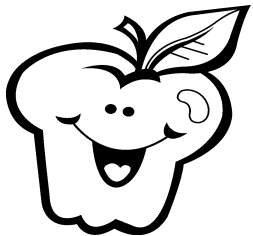
Pastor Wayne, Kim Anderson, and Hans Underwood all battled Phillies Parade traffic and Halloween trick-or-treaters walking the streets to travel to Pittsburgh for the National Youth Worker Convention held from October 31 to November 2.

Their attendance was made possible through funds authorized by the Board of the Unre-stricted Memorial Gifts Fund, and by their experience and knowledge received was money well spent on developing a stronger youth ministry at Our Savior.

In addition to hearing nationally known speakers in youth ministry they also attended a variety of seminars including *Church and Culture, Style and Substance: Understanding the Trends that Shape the Way You Reach the Next Generation, From the Ground Up: Developing,, Growing, and Building a Healthy Youth Ministry, Twittering, Blogging, Podcasting: New Ways to Communicate and How to Do It, The X Factor: A Transformational Youth Ministry Model, God’s Will, God’s Voice: Helping Students Discover What to Do With Their Lives, and The Sacred Way: Developing Spiritual Practices with Teens (and Youth Workers).*

The time away also provided an opportunity for the three to deepen their own relationship with Christ as well as each other, which will greatly enhance their ministry with the youth at Our Savior.

Currently the Senior High Youth Group has anywhere from 12-16 youth attending on meet-ing nights with many participating from other churches or who have no church affiliation at all. With such evangelism from our youth and nurturing of those who lead and model faith to them it surely will not be long until it will bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.





# SIMPLY GIVING

## Provides Automatic Contribution to Anyone

No Christian will deny that giving toward God’s work in the world through the ministry of the congregation is important. In fact, the ELCA theme for 2008 is “God’s Work, Our Hands” and reminds all Lutherans that God’s work is accomplished through the actions of our hands and the resources that make it possible. The weekly and monthly offering of the congregation plays a large role in providing the resources for our hands to do God’s work. So naturally the offering each member or member family provides is a priority among the various financial commitments for each month.

One simple method of insuring our commitment to giving God our “first fruits” is one offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called, “Simply Giving”. What’s more, you don’t have to be a member of Thrivent to participate. During the months of December and January the Congregation Resources Committee will be providing the congregation an opportunity to participate in the Simply Giving program by filling out a Member Enrollment and Authorization Form. Once the form is filled out it can be returned to the church office with a voided check or savings deposit slip for new enrollments or changes of bank accounts from which the donation is withdrawn. Participants will even receive a sheet of Simply Giving stickers they can place on their envelope to symbolize their participation in the regular offering during worship and indicate to the Counting Team they have contributed through direct withdrawal.

Who benefits from using Simply Giving? The parishioner benefits from knowing their commitment and priority of keeping God first with respect to one’s finances is secure. In addition, our hands would be free to doing God’s work in the world due to a constant flow of resources when a parishioner’s ability to attend worship is hampered. As the New Year approaches you might consider not only what you give but how you give will be an expression of your faith and trust in the God who “gives us this day our daily bread.” Consider Simply Giving and check out the display in the narthex.



# CONGREGATIONAL ADVENT EVENT

## Sunday, December 7, beginning at 5:30 PM

A special multi-generational Evening Prayer (formerly Vespers) service led by Pastor Englehardt will be a show-and-tell understanding of all the different aspects of the season of Advent, using appropriate symbols, colors, etc. This child-friendly worship will be interactively similar to our monthly Children’s Church, but reaching all ages.

The service will be followed by a Pot Luck Dinner (please bring a favorite dish for you and yours with enough to share), and an ornament craft for the kids.

# MEDALLIONS HELP REMEMBER BAPTISM PROMISES:

## Blessing Service Jan. 11

A child’s baptism is a blessed event. In the waters the baptismal candidate is joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. When a child or infant is baptized the parents and sponsors make a promise to both teach their child about the Christian faith and to model it for them as well. It is both an awesome responsibility and a joyous task, and throughout the years the congregation of Our Savior provides resources to parents in keeping those baptismal promises.

One of them is to set aside the Sunday of The Baptism of Our Lord, this year on January 11, as a day for all parents who have had children baptized in the previous year to have the child blessed by God and renew those promises. During the blessing service the child will receive a baptismal medallion generously provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans with their name and baptismal date engraved on the back. Their parents will renew the promises they made at the font on the day of their child’s baptism, and the congregation recommits their support in helping them do so. Parents who intend to participate in this blessing service are encouraged to contact the church office to confirm your attendance on that day.

# DECEMBER SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

## By Betsy Kuehn

**MY FATHER’S HOUSE** - Thank you to all who prepare meals each week for the 14 girls at My Father’s House. Jan Amme is contacting those who have cooked meals for the girls this year to see if they plan to cook again in 2009. We hope that we will have enough volunteers to cook meals each week so that we can continue this ministry in 2009. Contact Jan if interested in preparing a meal.

**PANTRY NEEDS**

Help is needed to pack and deliver food for our Pantry families. Sign up sheet is outside the Pantry. We currently serve 11 families. Also a reminder to remember the Pantry when shopping and pick up a few extra items, do not need baby food. Contact Nancy Gulick and Charlie Coleman with any questions.

**LCOS CARE PACKAGES** – Social Ministry sent out 27 care packages to LCOS college students & military personnel in early November. We plan to do it again in late winter. Please send names, addresses, & e-mails of college students or military personnel to Eva Shaw.

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE** - The deadline to return bags was 11/23. Holiday food bags delivered to New Visions in Camden on Monday 11/24. Pantry families to receive Holiday food bags and turkeys. So far, we have received \$352 in donations for the 1<sup>st</sup> two Sundays in November. Final totals to be in a future article and my annual report. Cash donations will be matched by Thrivent, dollar for dollar, up to \$800.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** – The Advent Giving Tree will be in the Narthex thru Sunday 12/7. The deadline to return gifts is 12/14, as committee members will be organizing gifts in Parish Hall. Return gifts for Caring Hearts by 12/7. To participate in the Giving Tree: 1) take a tag from the tree, 2) sign the sheet next to the tree, 3) purchase item on the tag(limit about \$25), and 4) return the wrapped gift with the tag attached. Monetary donations are also appreciated in order to purchase gifts for tags that are not taken. Contact Larry Friant if any questions. Thank you.

**Meeting dates:** We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm. If anyone is interested in being part of our committee, please contact Betsy.

Thanks to the following people for helping with the panty in October: Ben & Gary Beahm, Danielle Deery, Juhan Runne, Eva Shaw, Andrew & Laura Vitale, **and Seniors and other congregation members** for donating canned goods.



Thanks to **all who cook meals** for My Father's House each Tuesday.

Messenger helpers: **Lynn Boyle, Eleanor Gaines, Jane Evans, Arlene berger, Dot Powell, Rose Marie Krauss, Jean Schroeder, and Betty Keene.**

Office Helpers: **Sue Underwood, Jane Evans, Ward Laubach, Jaime Fallon, Arlene Stolarick.**

# IN HARM'S WAY

**Lt. John L. Gaines**, aboard USS Vicksburg  
**SFC Donald Brandinelli**, serving in Iraq,  
**Colonel Richard Howley**, serving in Iraq,  
**Michael Miano**, stationed in Nepal.

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](http://www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org)

# PIPELINE...

## A Column for and about older adults, *By Lorraine Miano*

For many of us, the holidays afford time with family and friends – togetherness, sharing, laughter and memories. But... holidays can be filled with stress and sadness for some –for instance, those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer’s disease & their caregivers. The affected themselves may sense a feeling of loss during the holidays; the caregiver may feel overwhelmed with maintaining holiday traditions while providing care, too. Caregivers may feel hesitant to invite family and friends to share the holiday for concern of the changing behaviors of their loved one. There are strategies that can help.

A. Adjust Expectations: Be in touch with your family and be realistic about what you can do this year. Tell your family/friends what you can and can no longer do for the holiday. Perhaps you could write a letter or make phone calls with these thoughts to present. For example:“I am writing this letter to let you know how things are going at our house. While we look forward to your visit, we thought it might be helpful if you understood our current situation before you arrive” “You may notice that \_\_\_\_ has changed a bit since your last visit. Some changes you may notice are (maybe appearance; change in gait, restlessness, etc). Please understand that \_\_\_\_ may not remember you exactly and may call you by another name. Please do not be offended; he appreciates your being with us as do I. Just act as usual with a warm smile or pat on the arm to reassure.” This is not an easy task, but it will go a long way to set the expectations right.

B: Flexibility: Consider some changes like having brunch rather than dinner to avoid ‘sun-downers’ (Some folks with Alzheimer’s are most restless around sundown). You might consider serving an easier menu; allow others to contribute or use prepared foods. Preparations around meals can cause stress; try to make it easier.

C: Gifts: Encourage others to give gifts that are suitable – not tools nor mind games, but easy to wear clothing; music (CD’s), art items (paper & color pencils - ask caregiver first), or even a gift through the Alzheimer’s Assn (1-888-572-8566). For caregivers, families might offer a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant, a favorite book, a DVD the caregiver can enjoy with the ill person, or a family might arrange a respite from care-giving through a local home health agency (see Home Care in the yellow pages or call the Division of Senior Services for assistance at (856) 858-3220).

D. Involve the person w/Dementia: Find projects that the person can do to that are meaningful to them; maybe helping with cookie making or decorating or setting the table and perhaps attending a church service (after Christmas, the church is less crowded but carrolls are still sung). Maintain the person’s routine as best you can – taking on too many tasks can exhaust the caregiver as well as the client.Care-giving can be very difficult; caregivers should try to maintain contact with church friends & the Pastor for support. With some thought and preparation, the holidays can continue to offer happy times to care-givers with their friends and family.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

### December 22 1:30 - 7:30 PM

As this article is written the current blood supply available to hospitals from the American Red Cross is extremely low. The amount of days for which they have sufficient blood supply is O+ 2days, A+ 4days, B+ 3days, AB+ 7days, O- 0days, A- 3days, B-day, AB- 2days. While the economy may be preventing some to give the gifts they’d like to give almost anyone over the age of 17 can give a gift that could save someone’s life, a pint of their blood. It only takes about 30-45 minutes depending on the number of people donating at a given time and making an appointment ahead of time helps speed the process.

The Ev. Lutheran Church of Our Savior will be holding a blood drive on Monday, December 22 from 1:00-7:00PM in the Parish Hall. In the Sunday’s prior to the drive Nancy Frazier will be available to take sign-ups in the narthex as you leave worship. Even if you don’t sign up you can still come as a walk-in. With local hospitals needing up to 2,000 pints of blood each day to meet the surgical and emergency demands the hope for new and more frequent blood donors continues exist. Please consider being a part of fulfilling that need in this season of hope

## LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP

### Dec 28 at 8:00 & 10:30

Despite the fact some stations have been playing Christmas music since before Halloween (97.5 FM) the tradition of the Church is that Christmas doesn’t officially begin until Christmas Eve and then only lasts until January 6 when the season of Epiphany starts. During those twelve days the church takes any opportunity it can to sing the hymns and carols of Christmas lauding our Savior’s birth. On Sunday, December 28, at both the 8:00 and 10:30 worship there will be a “Lessons and Carols” service that features the various biblical texts associated with the birth of our Lord and appropriate carols to go with them. No sermon will be preached at these services so children may find this a worship they can participate in more easily. The Reflections Worship at 9:15 will follow the same format as usual, but will include carols in the liturgy. There will be no Sunday Church School offered on that day, but childcare will be available beginning at 9:00AM.

# FACES OF LCOS

## Bares Bring Passion and Enthusiasm to Worship

“I am passionate about my job and I like to be around people; I guess you could say we are outgoing people,” Cathe Bare said. Quite the understatement. Cathe is a teacher and the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Clementon Elementary School. Her husband Mark is a Customer Leader for Kraft. Both are enthusiastic members of the Adult Choir at LCOS. Since joining Our Savior in the early ’90s, both Mark and Cathe have been on Church Council for six years each; Cathe serving as secretary for all six of her years. She currently is Chairwoman of Memorial Gifts Board and previously taught Sunday Church School. Mark, who once served as cafeteria and catering manager for Cooper Hospital in Camden, annually prepares and serves meals for the Congregational Luncheon and Congregational Picnic; regularly prepares meals for My Father’s House, including the Thanksgiving dinner for the 14 girls who are clients at the Gloucester City facility; and also assists Bobbi Newsham with the Fellowship Development ministry. Aside from their dedication and involvement at Our Savior, it is the Bares’ passion and enthusiasm that are most conspicuous. “The church is a large part of our life, spiritually and socially,” Mark said. “The Adult Choir is as vibrant a group of people as you will find. We worship with them, socialize with them, we vacation with them . . . they are our dear friends.”“Our Savior is definitely an integral part of our life . . . an enormous number of our close (friendships were) developed at Our Savior,” Cathe said. “The fellowship we get at church – soup dinners during Lent, or the congregational picnic, or Fastnacht, or what it has meant to our kids, or what we do in the choir. Mark and I both love to sing and it makes me feel good that it is a way we can contribute.” Mark Bare and Cathe Heston both grew up in Haddonfield, having graduated from Haddonfield Memorial High School. Mark and his family were members at Haddonfield Methodist. Cathe and her family were involved at Grace Episcopal in Haddonfield, where they were married. “I was never comfortable at the Episcopal Church, and Cathe was not that comfortable with the Methodist Church, so we went looking for a church,” Mark said. In 1989, the Bares purchased their current home on Rhoades Avenue, just a few blocks from Our Savior. Mark laughs about their eventual choice of Our Savior as “The Church of Our Most Holy Convenience.”“We had been going to the Episcopal Church and when we came to Our Savior, both times we visited, both Sunday mornings the members who sat in front of us turned around and said, ‘Welcome to Our Savior; it is nice to see new faces.’ I said this is the kind of church I want to join.” “I remember Lou Dunkle preaching and he was so dynamic in the pulpit,” Mark said. The Bares’ two children, Michael, now 27 and living in Cherry Hill, and Adam, 25 and living in Maple Shade, regularly attended Sunday Church School, were confirmed and served as acolytes at Our Savior. “One of the most memorable events for me at Our Savior was when our boys were in Youth Group and they had the haunted house, and it drew people from all over town. They had done a video like the “Blair Witch Project” and it was a fun thing for them. It was nice to see them develop relationships at the church.” Mark remembers performing “Amal and the Night Visitors” with the Adult Choir as one of his fondest memories as well as participating in the Search Committee to call a new pastor when Pastor Dunkle retired. “I was glad to be part of it,” Mark said. Both Mark and Cathe are tenors in the choir and have performed duets in the past, but this summer they had the opportunity to sing “I’ll Fly Away” together. “That was special because it is Cathe’s favorite piece,” Mark said. Cathe and Mark are unquestionably sincere in the role Our Savior plays in their lives, and how praising the Lord is at the center.Mark said it best: “The boys are grown and we may not stay in this house forever, but I don’t think we could leave the church. Our Savior is a strong draw for us.”

## WEEKLY NEWCOMER

### Classes Begin in January at 9:15

If you’ve been a worshipping visitor of Our Savior for a week or over a year you are invited to join Pastor Glenn Englehardt in January for four weeks of a Newcomer Orientation class in Room 112 near the bulletin boards on the ground floor near the Parish Hall. The classes will cover a brief history of the congregation, as well as the Lutheran church and its main beliefs, along with the various ministry programs and volunteer opportunities that are available. A tour of the building and a “meet and greet” with the congregation council will also occur.

Then prepare to learn some new faces and names in the congregation on January 25! New members will be received into the congregation of Our Savior at the worship service they normally attend with a photo taken of each family to help in putting names with faces. The Evangelism Committee along with Pastor Wayne will also have a member of the congregation act as a sponsor for the new members to help them continue to better know and grow in the congregation’s ministry. Take the time to welcome our newest members and introduce yourselves to them.



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY:  
Opening the Book of Faith

The Word of God speaks to me. The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ.

Together, as a community of faith, we speak to each other. We have a calling as the people of God. Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture.

Join me on Monday nights (7:30 PM) or Wednesday mornings (9:30 AM) during the four weeks of January, beginning on the 5<sup>th</sup>, as we recall or learn anew the Lutheran approaches to Scripture that have been so fruitful over the centuries.

We will be looking at four separate Bible studies (so each week stands on its own), but we will be applying a different method of approaching the Bible each week, so there is value in being able to attend all four.

The open-ended questions raised in these studies will challenge us on our faith journey.

I look forward to your presence and insights.  
*Pastor Englehardt*

"TEX MIX" FOCUSED FELLOWSHIP  
Spicy, Earthy, May Cause Heartburn

Join us for Stories of Earthy Mysticism with Tex Sample on DVD. You've heard of tall tales - Tex definitely has a few of those. But these tales are more on the order of deep and wide.

Tex Sample is a sociologist of religion, lecturer, author, and emeritus Professor of Church and Society at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. Tex is his real name, not a nickname. His father named him after Texanna Gillham, an African-American woman who was born in slavery and helped raise his father near Center, Texas.

**Join us Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Parlor:  
November 30, December 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

Coming in January: Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God. Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire.

For more information, contact Monica Ebbenga.

COLLEGE AGE YOUTH DINE  
& DECORATE  
ANGEL TREE DEC 20 @  
6:00PM

Home from college and looking for a way to reconnect with friends from home? Pastor Wayne Zschech invites all college age students (that includes graduate students too) to enjoy a dinner and fellowship at the church followed by decorating the Advent Giving Tree with angel decorations. Pastor Wayne will prepare the dinner. (Don't worry. He actually is a decent cook according to his family.)

Participants are asked to bring an angel decoration for the tree that stands in the Wood Lane narthex window that will be used from year to year in the future. Please let Pastor Wayne (pastorwayne@oursaviorhaddonfield.org) know if you plan to attend to insure enough food is prepared. He looks forward to hearing how your adventures in higher education or the School of Hard Knocks has been going and hopes he can continue the conversation via email in the new year. Regardless if you can attend he hopes to see you on Christmas Eve at one of the four worship times of 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, or 11:00.

ADVENT GIVING TREE  
Be an Angel, Take a Tag!

Beginning Sunday, November 23, the Advent Giving Tree will be set up in the second floor Narthex outside the sanctuary entrance again this year to help bring some Christmas joy to people in need in our area.

- If you would like to participate in the Giving Tree,
- 1) take a tag from the tree,
  - 2) sign the sheet next to the tree,
  - 3) purchase the item on the tag (limit each gift to \$25),
  - 4) return the gift wrapped with the tag attached.

Monetary donations are also appreciated in order to purchase gifts for tags that are not taken.

Organizations that benefit from your generosity include My Father's House, Urban Promise, Caring Hearts, and our LCOS pantry families.

The Advent Tree tags will be available for three consecutive Sundays, November 23, November 30, and December 7. Gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 14.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Friant. Thanks for your help!

CARE - GIVING

Talk to your parents before  
it's too late

Caught in the middle, many baby boomers are raising their children and managing their careers, all while caring for their aging parents. Talking to your parents about care-giving and end-of-life issues is important.

Many people put it off because of being uncomfortable. Reduce the stress and start discussing the location of information, not the contents.

One tool that can help is a financial inventory. The inventory, which you should update on annually, includes:

- **Legal documents:** property deeds, wills, trusts, living wills and health care and financial directives, birth, marriage and military discharge certificates.
- **Contact information:** attorneys, accountants, financial planners, physicians and anyone who provides financial, legal and medical advice and care.
- **Current account information:** type, number and institution for all financial accounts, including: checking, savings, retirement, investment, loans and insurance policies.
- **Valuables and collectibles:** location and description of any valuables such as jewelry, silver or gold and collectibles such as stamps and coins.
- **Instructions:** funeral, burial and obituary information and instructions.

This process won't happen in a day. By breaking the information gathering into small, manageable conversations, you can help ensure your parents wishes will be carried out.

For more guidance on talking with your parents, or other loved ones, contact George C Welker, FIC, at 856-546-0500 or george.welker@thrivent.com today or visit thrivent.com.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE  
Join us this Winter!

If you have not yet experienced this fun and meaningful worship experience for young children (through age 6 or 7), now is the time! So grab your pencil and your calendar and reserve these dates:

Wednesday, December 17, 7:00-7:30PM

Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 7:00-7:30PM

We hope to see you soon!



TREASURER'S OUTLOOK  
by Jack Berrigan

Given the considerable economic pressures we all feel, the ministries of Our Savior continue to be blessed by the generosity of our Congregation. Contributions in October were \$37,402, bringing our total income for the first 10 months of the year to \$376,711 which is \$2,446 ahead of where I projected we would need to be at this time to make our budget.

We continue to do an excellent job of managing expenses. October expenses were \$41,884. I should note that expenses for the month include a \$10,000 contribution to Mission Support which will be used to help among others, the victims of Ike as well as those who have lost jobs, homes and medical coverage. Even with this important benevolence contribution, our total expenses to date are \$7,484 below my projection for the first 10 months.

As we approach the final month of the year, the Church budget hangs by a slender string. In this tight economy, the pastors, administrators and ministry heads are doing all they can to keep our expenses down. The challenge we face is contributions. It is my sincere hope that Congregation will continue its generous support of the ministries of Our Savior. If every member who is able, doubles their average contribution for the remainder of the year, we will achieve a balanced budget. With God's blessing, I trust the Congregation will meet this challenge!

**Stewardship**

If you have not submitted your estimate of giving for 2009 by the time you read this, I want to give you some food for thought. In order for Council to recommend a realistic financial plan for 2009 ministries in these economically stressed times, it is essential to have all estimates of giving.

The ministries of Our Savior become more effective when every member contributes to God's work in the world. The uplifting help that our ministries offer members of the church community as well as the communities at large promises to be particularly important this coming year. Please help us help those in need by providing an estimate of giving as soon as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM**

Monica Ebbenga 9 AM - 2 PM

Cindy Randall 12 - 5 PM

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