

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

Address Service Requested

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

## XMAS BABYSITTING NIGHT

Friday, December 7, 6-9 PM

The Youth Group will be having their Christmas Babysitting on December 7th from 6 - 9 PM. Games, Crafts, and snack for the kids. Parents drop off your children ages 3 to 12 and enjoy a night of shopping without the kids.

The Youth Group will be having a Lock-In following the Babysitting on December 7th from 9PM - 8 AM.

December Messenger  
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed Nov. 28, 2007



DECEMBER, 2007

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

## COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHOIR CON- CERT BENEFITS SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Saturday, December 8, at 7 PM

Last year the Lutheran Church of Our Savior hosted a spring concert of a multigenerational Christian choir based out of Allentown New Jersey that benefited the Lutheran Home in Moorestown. This year as many prepare for the coming celebration of our Lord’s birth at Christmas, LCOS is proud to once again host this extremely talented choir (and yes, this is the same choir Pastor Wayne’s sister and niece sing in). This choir of over 100 talented vocalists spans the ages of 7 to 67, and is sure to provide inspiring Christian music to truly get the audience in the mood to celebrate the birth and coming of Jesus Christ.

The concert begins at 7:00 in the sanctuary of the church. Those planning to attend should arrive a little early if you want to get the good listening seats in the front or the seats in the back if you’re a good Lutheran. This concert’s free will offering will benefit those senior high youth who will be participating in the 2008 Summer Mission Trip to Goldsboro North Carolina. Last year five youth went for a week long life-changing experience to help build houses for the homeless or impoverished in hot and humid North Carolina. Pastor Wayne led the group last year and hopes to take double the number this year as well as one or two additional adults. The offering will be donated to the Goldsboro-Wayne Habitat For Humanity to provide materials for the houses they build.

Get in the true holiday spirit of Christmas and support the work of LCOS youth who will travel to North Carolina this summer.

## ADVENT POTLUCK DINNER AND CRAFT

Sunday, December 2, Parish Hall, 5:00 PM

Advent is a time of reflection and fellowship. Join us. Bring a main dish and either a side dish or dessert. Optional Craft: A Jesse Tree for your home to explore the Old Testament Covenants as we prepare for birth God’s Son. \$10 Look for Jesse Trees by Coffee Hour and the Narthex to sign up.

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND HOLIDAY WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR

Somehow Christmas doesn’t seem like Christmas without the proper celebration of our Savior’s birth in worship. Last year the Lutheran Church of Our Savior expanded the opportunity for worshippers to receive Holy Communion and share in the singing of Silent Night by candlelight to all services. As it went well and with very little confusion it will be offered again this year in similar fashion. The times and choirs that will be highlighted at each service are as follows:

5:00 Family Worship with children’s sermon and Cherub Choir singing carol anthems

7:00 Family Worship with children’s sermon and a Children’s Choir anthem.

9:00 Classic Worship with Christmas sermon and a Youth Choir anthem.

11:00 Classic Worship with Christmas sermon and Adult Choir anthems.

Holy Communion and candlelight singing of Silent Night will be at all worship times.

On Sunday, December 30, all three worship services will be Lessons and Carols worship without a regular sermon. It is also the last time we get to sing Christmas carols for the season of Christmas as the following Sunday is the day of Epiphany and the beginning of that season in the Church. We look forward to seeing you during the Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the Lord.

*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.*



# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

## ORIGINALLY A CATECHISM SONG?

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

We all know the famous Christmas Carol of the “Twelve Days of Christmas” sung by carolers, parodied by those crazy Canadians on Saturday Night Live, and analyzed by those who wonder just how much all those gifts would have cost a 2007 “True Love” shopper. However, it may turn out the song originally had a Christian rather than capitalistic focus.

According to the website [www.appleseeds.org](http://www.appleseeds.org) it seems that Catholics in England during the period of 1558 to 1829 were prohibited by law to practice their faith either in public or private. “The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written in England as one of the “catechism songs” to help young Catholics learn the basics of their faith. Like our confirmation ministry at Our Savior, song was used as a memory aid. Since the song sounded like rhyming nonsense, young Catholics could sing the song without fear of imprisonment.

“The 12 Days of Christmas”, therefore, is like an allegory, and the better one knows their bible the more the following interpretations have significance. To start, the “true love” mentioned actually refers to God and the “me” who received the gifts refers to every baptized person, or possibly the Church. Each of the gifts correlates to biblical gifts given by God to his beloved children and people.

1<sup>st</sup> Day: The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus on the cross.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Day: Two turtle doves is the Old and New Testaments  
3<sup>rd</sup> Day: Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love – the three abiding gifts of the Spirit  
4<sup>th</sup> Day: Four calling birds are for the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
5<sup>th</sup> Day: Five golden rings represent the first five books of the Bible or the Torah.  
6<sup>th</sup> Day: Six geese-a-laying are for the six days of creation.  
7<sup>th</sup> Day: Seven swans-a-swimming refer to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit; wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.  
8<sup>th</sup> Day: Eight maids-a-milking are for the eight Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.  
9<sup>th</sup> Day: Nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.  
10<sup>th</sup> Day: Ten lords-a-leaping are for the Ten Commandments  
11<sup>th</sup> Day: Eleven pipers piping refer to the 11 faithful apostles.  
12<sup>th</sup> Day: Twelve drummers drumming refer to the 12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed; belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, made human, crucified, died, rose on the third day, ascended and sits at the Father’s right hand, will come again, the resurrection of the dead (includes forgiveness of sin), and life everlasting.

So this year as you hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas” sung over the radio or around the piano keep in mind it can be a great way to learn the basics of our faith that is also centered in Christ. Merry Christmas.

# CHILDREN DISCOURAGED FROM “ROAMING” WHILE AT CHURCH

No, this isn’t about what type of cell phone service you or your child has but about where the children of our congregation are if they aren’t in worship with parents, in Sunday church school, or another function at LCOS. Support staff and other adults have commented to the leadership staff they have discovered youth roaming in the halls or hanging out in unoccupied rooms during worship, church school, or while other functions at church are in progress be it on Sunday or during the week. While a church is certainly one place any parent would hope their child feels so safe in they would be unafraid of moving throughout any part of the building, to do so while they are supposed to be someplace else is discouraged.

If parents are in worship when church school is not offered their children are expected to worship with them rather than hang out in unoccupied rooms such as the choir or youth room. If the family is participating in a fellowship or other ministry event at the church parents are encouraged to have their children participate with them in the event as well, even if it is simply the Fellowship Hour before the 10:30 worship. If your child or youth participates in an age-specific ministry, such as one of the choirs or confirmation class, please remind them they are to remain in the room where the rehearsal or class is being held while it is in progress and when it is over to wait in the room or area you predetermine with your child until they are picked up. In the simplest of terms, we ask you to remind your child or youth to “be where they are supposed to be” when they come to church, but also to remind them that wherever they are, Jesus is there with them.

# 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.	

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

**Altar Guild:** Eva Shaw, Cheryl Mack, Carol Larro  
**Counters:** Bob & Sue Evans, Russ & Sue Barrett, Alice Gerkens

December 2

**Coffee Hour:** Adult Forum  
**Readers:** 8-TBA **10:30**-Eric Woltz  
**Communion Assistants:** **10:30**-Bobbi Newsham, Lorraine Miano  
**Ushers:** 8-Joe & Peggy Hartmann **9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-John & Kayann Laughlin  
**Acolytes:** 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Dan Wolf  
**9:15**-Scott DiCrescenzo, Mike Wolf  
**10:30**-Robbie Reiter, Jacqueline Stillwell, Chris Stein, Ben Swan, Justin DeBerardinis

December 9

**Coffee Hour:** Fellowship Development  
**Readers:** 8-John Oakes **10:30**-Kenton Meyer  
**Ushers:** 8-Joe & Peggy Hartmann **9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-John & Kayann Laughlin  
**Acolytes:** 8-Robert LaBarge, Caite Ebbenga, Brie Zschech, Brian Gensel, Joseph Kiernan  
**9:15**-Rebecca Windle, Patrick Brennan  
**10:30**-Briana Bobo, Sarah Barrett, Kenneth & Kyle Carpenter, Gianna Buonpastore

December 16

**Coffee Hour:** Christian Education Committee  
**Readers:** 8-TBA **10:30**-Bill Wilson  
**Ushers:** 8-Joe & Peggy Hartmann **9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-John & Kayann Laughlin  
**Acolytes:** 8-Robert LaBarge, Caite Ebbenga, Jeffrey Proko, Ricky Tredinnick  
**9:15**-Alexander Fabian, Allison Gensel  
**10:30**-Nicole Fallon, John Finnerty, Karen Graeber, Jesse & Madeline Gralish

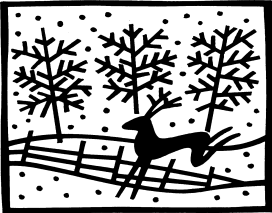
December 23

**Coffee Hour:** Evangelism Committee  
**Readers:** 8-Arlene Stolarick **10:30**-Glenn Martin  
**Ushers:** 8-Joe & Peggy Hartmann **9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-Russ Barrett and TBA  
**Acolytes:** 8-Robert LaBarge, Caite Ebbenga  
**9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-TBA

December 30

**Coffee Hour:** Communications Committee  
**Readers:** 8-John Wenzel **10:30**-TBA  
**Ushers:** 8-Joe & Peggy Hartmann **9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-Russ Barrett and TBA  
**Acolytes:** 8-Robert LaBarge, Caite Ebbenga  
**9:15**-TBA  
**10:30**-TBA

December 2007							
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30	31						



Sun	2	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 9 AM New Member Class, 9:15 AM Advent Craft Dinner, 5 PM Confirmation Huddle, 6 PM
Mon	3	Mother's Group, 10 AM Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	4	Social Ministry, 7 PM
Wed	5	Executive Committee, 7:30 PM Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
Thurs	6	Working Arm, 9:30 AM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Fri	7	Christmas Babysitting Night, 6-9 PM Youth Group Lock-in, 9 PM
Sat	8	Comm. Christian Choir Concert, 7 PM
Sun	9	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 9 AM New Member Class, 9:15 AM Chrismon Tree Decorating, noon Adult Christmas Brunch, noon
Mon	10	Mother's Group, 10 AM Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	11	Church Council, 7:30 PM
Wed	12	Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM Memorial Gifts Board, 7:30 PM
Thurs	13	Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sat	15	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10 AM
Sun	16	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM New Member Class, 9:15 AM Christmas Pageant, 10:30 AM Christmas Caroling, 2 PM Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM
Mon	17	Mother's Group, 10 AM Faith Circle, noon Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wed	19	Children's Choir, 3:45 PM Children's Bells, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
Thurs	20	Children's Church, 7 PM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sat	22	Young Adult Tree Decorating, 7 PM
Sun	23	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Honoring Eleanor Gaines, 9:30 AM
Mon	24	Christmas Eve Services at 5, 7, 9 & 11 PM
Tues	25	Christmas Day, church office closed
Wed	26	No Choirs
Thurs	27	No Choirs
Thurs	29	Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sun	30	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Mon	31	Mother's Group, 10 AM Prayer Group, 7 PM

YOUNG ADULTS TO  
DECORATE “NAKED”  
ADVENT GIVING TREE  
Saturday, December 22, 7-9 PM

Up until December 16 the little tree that stands in the Wood Lane window of the narthex is decorated with the various paper angels of the Advent Giving Tree project sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee. However, after all the project is over the tree remains in the narthex without lights or ornaments, standing “naked” in the window. Pastor Wayne thought this might be a great opportunity to gather those of the congregation often overlooked at the holiday season that are back in town, our college youth, to light and decorate the tree.

Join Pastor Wayne on Saturday night, **December 22 from 7:00-9:00** for some holiday cheer and decorating of the Advent Giving Tree for the worship services of Christmas. Themed trees are all the rage so Pastor Wayne invites those attending to bring an ornament that depicts the Nativity in one way or another. It might be an ornament of an individual person, such as a shepherd, angel, Mary, Joseph, or baby Jesus, or a crèche that depicts the Holy Family in the stable. The ornaments will be saved for future years and brought out for what Pastor Wayne hopes will become an annual tradition for college students returning home for the holidays. Please contact Pastor Wayne if you plan to attend, or just show up on Saturday night at 7:00. He'll have the hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas music warmed up and ready when you arrive.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
December 16, at 10:30 AM

No Christmas is complete without the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. The cows, sheep, shepherds, angels, and Wise Men will be meeting the Holy Family at the manager on December 16 at the 10:30 service. Bonnie Richards has taken the role of author and Pat Green is the music director. Be sure to be there for an uplifting tribute to the story we love so well.



CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH  
YOUR LITTLE ONES AT  
CHILDREN’S CHURCH!

If you haven’t already done so, bring your children, grandchildren, their friends and neighbors to the next Children’s Church worship time on Wednesday, December 19 from 7-7:30PM (mark your calendars!). There have been lots children in attendance at each Children’s Church this season! Come join us as we sing songs, play games, listen and experience a Bible Story and do an activity—all in under 30 minutes! We plan to do something extra special at December’s service on the 19th, so please plan to join us!

CHRISMON TREES DECORATED  
Sunday, December 9, at noon

Join the confirmation class and other volunteers from the congregation of Our Savior as the two sanctuary chrismon trees and narthex tree are strung with lights and hung with chrismons and other decorations of the Christmas season. Many hands make “light” work, especially when it comes to erecting the twelve and nine foot trees and stinging them with white “lights”. The handmade chrismons decorations will also be hung with care each depicted an ancient symbol of Christ or the Christian faith in white and gold. This is a great opportunity for families to teach their children the meaning of the various chrismons as a way of depicting our faith through the symbols of the church (we’ll provide an information sheet just in case).

Pizza and drinks will be provided for all who will attend. Changing into less dressy clothes is advised. The crew finished the project in two hours last year so the group should be finished by 2:00 or so. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend to insure enough food is ordered by 11:30 on December 9.





**MISSION STATEMENT**  
**MONTHLY FOCUS:**  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that PROCLAIMS AND SHARES GOD'S WORD...

Lutherans are known for many things. We have a great reputation for living our faith when it comes to serving the needs of others (February’s focus), singing the liturgy and hymnody of the church, and drinking coffee. But what we are most known for is proclaiming and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and promise of new life through death. It is this proclaiming and sharing of the gospel that got our namesake, Martin Luther in so much trouble, and it has been the hallmark of Lutheran Christian disciples ever since.

But while it may seem logical for the pastor of a congregation to proclaim and share God’s Word through the sermons and teaching bible studies, the question could be asked, “What does it mean for the faith community to proclaim and share God’s Word?” First, it means we aren’t bashful about actually talking about our faith with other people when and where applicable. It doesn’t mean standing on a street corner with a big sign that reads, “The End of the World Is Near”, and shouting at the passersby about God’s judgment when Christ comes again (and since Advent is a time when we hear this in the lessons on Sunday it’s not a far stretch of the imagination). However, it does call the Christian to proclaim the good news of new life the resurrection promises to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, a job, or even a sense of meaning in their life. It does mean sharing how our faith and trust in God’s Word, revealed in scripture and in the person of Jesus, has sustained us in the tough times of our lives and reason to celebrate our blessings to a greater degree.

Second, a faith community that proclaims and shares God’s Word also does so as a congregation within the community we live. When and where applicable we offer God’s Word to the people of our town and county either as an individual congregation or together with other churches of our borough or Synod cluster. Often this will type of proclamation and sharing of God’s Word will address social justice issues that our faith compels us to speak out on behalf of others or call others into accountability.

In the waters of baptism each and every one of us was called to the same mission. We are to go into all nations to make disciples by baptism and teaching all that Jesus has commanded. Whether we proclaim and share God’s Word with our neighbor who needs to hear the hope of new life it offers or a community that needs to hear of the new world of God’s reign that Jesus inaugurated by his resurrection we need to proclaim and share it just the same. Some of the greatest tragedies of history have occurred when God’s people were silent. Good news is meant to be shared. This Christmas, let us proclaim and share the good news that comes to us in the light of God’s Word incarnate to a world that is in darkness.

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

Beginning the week of January 28, and meeting as usual on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings, the study will run through the week beginning March 10. Pastor Englehardt will be the leader; more details will be given in the January, 2008 Messenger.

**ADVENT PRAYER RETREAT**  
**“GROUNDED IN PRAYER”**

“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you and you with me” Rev. 3:20

Temple Lutheran Church  
5600 North Route 130 Pennsauken, NJ  
Saturday, December 1, 2007  
9:00 AM – 12 PM

Prayer is the practice of faith which opens the door for God’s presence in our life. The retreat will help develop a passion for prayer and intimacy with God.

The morning will begin with a Continental Breakfast, followed by devotions, some presentations with small group time and close with Taize Worship.

Leaders will be Pastor Marks, Pastor Lyzette and Pastor Glenn Englehardt of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Haddonfield. All three pastors share a passion in common—that of prayer and helping others develop that passion!

Feel free to invite your neighbors and friends to join you for this quiet time away from the stress of the holiday season.

If interested, call the Our Savior Church office at 856-429-5122

**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 contact Connie Wolf.

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, call Connie Wolf, or e-mail her (please write “prayer request” in the memo line).

**GETTING IN THE SPIRIT**

Advent is the time for preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ Child. What better way to do that than to curl up with your favorite Christmas story? Perhaps you remember the innocent love of The Littlest Angel or the ultimate gift giving of O’Henry’s The Gift of the Magi. You may be even looking for some new “favorite” to pass the time.

What ever your age or interests, the Library at Our Savior has a book for you! Our new additions include board books for the very young, anthologies of short stories such as Chicken Soup for the Christmas Soul (have tissues ready), and modern classics such as The Gift and The Christmas Box by Richard Paul Evans. We even have the recently released Angela and the Baby Jesus by Frank McCourt (Angela’s Ashes and Teacherman.)

Young readers can travel to another time in the Magic Tree House Series Christmas in Camelot or to other countries with Christmas Around the World. Or relish the time together during this busy season on a treasure hunt with I Spy Christmas.

What? We don’t have your favorite Christmas book? Perhaps you would like to add your own favorite to our shelves. During this season, remember those who have made Christmas special for you by donating a Christmas story in their honor. Be sure to stop by and check the “Christmas” section of the library.

**COMMUNICATING ABOUT**  
**FINANCES MINIMIZES**  
**POTENTIAL CONFLICT**

According to a national survey by the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, 60% of married couples report fighting about money. Family finances don’t have to be a fighting matter or a big mystery for either spouse. The key to wedded bliss and financial health is communication. Start by setting a standing meeting date at least once a month to discuss finances including incoming bills as well as balances for checking accounts, savings accounts and credit cards. If you talk to your spouse regularly about money management, preferably at a time when you are not under pressure to solve a financial problem, you will find that monetary conflicts will be fewer and further between. You also will have a chance to adjust your actions and goals as your family’s financial situation changes.

*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!

# PIPELINE

... a column for and about older people by Lorraine Miano

Some end of year thoughts:  
December always brings the holidays to mind – thoughts turn to family, friends, feasting and our religious or spiritual heritage. Even for those who don’t often attend services, December has many thinking of Christmas Eve services. The legacy information passed along by the Pastor and council was very thought provoking and presents an opportunity to discuss one’s family, grandparents, parents and selves in the context of our religious upbringing. Christmas seems a perfect time to examine those ideas. Thank you, Pastor.  
December in my agency (Senior Citizens United Community Services) always has us scrambling to finish the year meeting our goals to deliver services to the aging and disabled population, but also to determine who needs holiday baskets (those over 60 years who are low income and in need of food during the holidays). Our agency distributes bags of food much like LCOS. If you know of an older person in such straits, please call (856) 456-1121 and ask about the Food Shelf. Of course, the agency is always collecting food for its Food Shelf, too, and distributes many bags throughout the year.  
December in my agency also means senior trips. There are no less than 25 trips around Christmas – things like: Christmas in Bethlehem, Christmas in Harrisburg, Miracle of Christmas, Christmas at the Greenbrier, Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Irving Berlin’s White Christmas, A Wonderful Life at the Surflight, Voices of Christmas, Christmas at Mohonk Mountain, NY for the Holidays, Jingle bell Swing, A Biltmore Estate Christmas, Voices of Christmas – all sorts of fun, religious or musical events. These are available to all people but especially the 60+ crowd. Please consider a trip in the future if you are inclined. You may call (856) 456-1121 and request TRIPS or a trips catalogue. Some travel alone and just join the crowd; others bring family members or grandchildren. There are many wonderful outings – consider going. Maybe you would be interested in an LCOS bus trip in the future.

To all of you many good wishes for a meaningful and joyful holiday season.

# MUSINGS FROM THE CORNER

by Susan Underwood

Every year for Christmas each of my five siblings and I would get a book from our Aunt Nettie. I can still picture her handwriting and the inscription she would include on the inside cover as if it were yesterday. The only thing that changed from year to year was the date. “Christmas 1957, To Susan, With Oceans of Love From Aunt Nettie.”  
Looking back on those Christmas’s of long ago, I must admit that her gift was the least anticipated or exciting while at the same time the most valuable.  
What I never could appreciate at the time was the great thought and attention to detail she put into picking out just the right book for each of us. Wonderful books! Each one filled with morals, hope, humor, struggles, triumphs and hard won heroes. Each book was age and gender appropriate and geared to our individual passions and personalities. Classics as they were. The E.B. White books: Charlotte’s Web; Stuart Little; and The Trumpet of the Swan. I became Heidi running in the sun on green mountaintops and sleeping on a bed of fresh hay. And then there was The Burgess Bird Book for Children, with glossy, colorful pictures of “Redcoat the Scarlet Tanager,” and “Rose breast the Grosbeak” and stories about gentle “Jenny Wren” and “Spooky the Screech Owl.” I still have those books today.  
The irony about my gift was that after the excitement was over and the other toys were either lost or broken I would spend hours, days and years reading and rereading those stories. I was filled with joy and delight with each reading. I read those books to my children and now to my grandchildren.  
My greatest regret is that, as a child, never once did it occur to me to thank my Aunt Nettie, really thank her. Oh, I wrote the obligatory thank-you note, but I didn’t have any idea how vital her gift to me was. She planted seeds in me that, over a lifetime, produced my passion for words, books, writing and introspection.  
I wonder if the same lack of awareness is in us when it comes to REALLY thanking God for His greatest gift of all to us, Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son, our Lord and Savior. We get so busy and distracted in our lives that we are not mindful of His tremendous sacrifice for us, and yet we reap the blessings that are a result of His gift.  
God poured Himself into His gift for us.  
He doesn’t scold us or chide us or point His finger at us in dismay. But . . . Is He being properly thanked?  
*2 Corinthians 9:15 - Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*



# ELEANOR GAINES

Honored on Dec 23

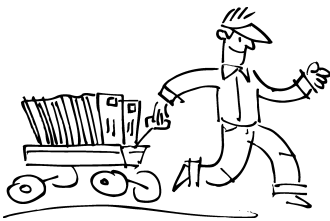
After 30 plus years of faithful service in coordinating and corral-ling acolytes at Our Savior, Eleanor Gaines tendered her resignation this fall. While Our Savior normally would have scheduled some form of recognition at that time it was decided to wait until near the Christmas holiday so members and former acolytes away at college could also attend. The recognition will begin with fellowship and food in the Parish Hall at 9:30 with a recognition ceremony occurring at about 10:00 to allow the 9:15 worship participants to attend as well. If you would like to help in preparing for this special presentation and recognition of “Mrs. Gaines” long and faithful service to Our Savior and the acolytes who have come through please contact the church office by December 16. Baked food items will be needed as well as people to prepare the beverage offerings as well as others to set up and decorate the parish hall. Let your appreciation for Eleanor be known by your presence on Sunday, December 23, and join in the congregation’s recognition of her legacy of faithful service.

# 2008 ENVELOPES AVAILABLE SOON & WHY ALL MEMBERS NEED THEM

In preparation for the distribution for the 2008 envelopes to occur in December the Congregation Council treasurer, Jack Berrigan, sent out a letter to anyone listed as an active member of the congregation but had not been receiving envelopes. By the response of some it appears the straightforward language has resulted in some misinterpretation of the letter’s intent. It was not meant to indicate in any way that one’s membership was in jeopardy because they didn’t have envelopes. It was meant to lift up an administrative dilemma the staff and leadership is trying to correct and at the same time discover who among our congregation may have chosen to worship elsewhere without our knowledge of it. While this situation has been a cause of unrest for some, it is an opportunity to explore just what it means to be considered an active member of a congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
According to the ELCA model constitution for congregations that Our Savior adopted some time ago active confirmed membership consists of two basic requirements; “to have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or previous year.” The first addresses a member’s participation in the community of faith that gathers around the Lord’s Table to receive the grace and forgiveness offered in Holy Communion. The meal offered in worship is what distinguishes Christians from any other faith practice and so it is essential that an active member participate at least once every two years, and is encouraged to do so with even greater frequency.  
Having been spiritually fed in Holy Communion, the Christian disciple is led by the Spirit in service toward others in the name of Christ. Therefore, the second requirement of making a contribution of record is an indication of one’s participation in God’s work in the world through the ministry at Our Savior. While a member is able and encouraged to also participate in ministry by offering their time and talent in the various volunteer opportunities available at Our Savior, the monetary contributions that also result in ministry is the only one that can be recorded with accuracy. Therefore, if a member doesn’t have an envelope in which to place their offering, there is no way for the congregation to record their participation in ministry. A person might volunteer ten or more hours a week in service of the gospel, but there is no way for us to record this. Please note there is no stipulation in how small or large a contribution can be, since St. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to “give as you are able.” A box of envelopes only costs the church about \$3.00. It is a small price to pay to insure your offerings are accurately recorded.  
Hopefully this has been helpful in understanding why the ELCA has these two qualifications for active membership in one of its congregations. One doesn’t “pay” to be a member. We make our offerings towards God’s work in the world because we were made a child of God in the waters of baptism. As such we are now members of Christ’s church, called into a shared mission with the entire body of Christ to bear God’s creative and redeeming word to the entire world.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE BY  
DECEMBER 10

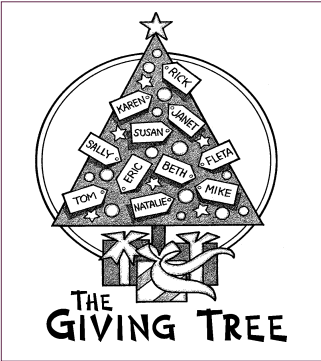
In order to insure the Annual Report is ready in time for mailing out to the congregation in time for the Annual Congregation Meeting held on the last Sunday of January all committee chairs and ministry groups are strongly encouraged to submit their annual reports electronically as a Word document to the church secretary by December 10. If you do not have access to a computer, typed reports can be submitted to the Church Secretary mailbox in the Parish Hall as well. Please do not submit handwritten reports at all. If you have questions concerning content please contact Pastor Wayne Zschech at your earliest convenience. Reports need to include basic overall ministry activity during the year as well as any highlights. Thank you in advance for submitting your report in a timely fashion.



LETTERS FROM  
MEMBERS & FRIENDS

*The members of the Thursday Morning Handyman's Group were impressed by the number of quilts produced by volunteers from the Working Arm Group. "As we got them into Pastor's vehicle, we counted almost 80 quilts. Quite impressive! Our compliments to the ladies of Working Arm."*

*To the Pastors and Friends;  
Thank you so much for the visits, phone calls, cards and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital and at Care One for rehab.  
Your kindness made for a speedy recovery. It is so good to get back to church!  
God bless you.  
Betty Keene*



ADVENT GIVING  
TREE  
Be an Angel, Take a  
Tag!

Beginning Sunday, November 25, the Advent Giving Tree will be set up in the second floor parlor

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 item on the tag (limit about \$25 each)
  - 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.

The Advent Tree tags will be available for three consecutive Sundays, November 25, December 2, and December 9. Gifts must be returned no than Sunday, December 16.

If you have any questions or know someone who would benefit from the Giving Tree, please call Larry Friant. Thanks for your help!

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

The pictorial directories, originally begun last fall, have hit another obstacle with My Church Directories having gone out of business soon after our pictures were taken. The staff and volunteers are working to create a pictorial directory.

In an effort to provide a low cost, eco-friendly current directory of members to the congregation while we await the pictorial directory, we have created one that is now available electronically. To receive your directory, simply email Church Secretary, Monica Ebbenga, in the subject line type "directory" and type your name in the body of the email (for privacy reasons, directories will only be available to members.) Your directory will be sent to you via email in a Word document file. A limited number of hard copies are available for those who do not have computer access.



MANY THANKS FOR THE  
TELEVISION DONATIONS

In the last few months two of our member families have made generous donations of a large projection television in the Youth Room and a 42" flat panel television currently kept on the audiovisual cart. These donations will be a great asset to the education and fellowship ministry at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior as we begin to replace those old units that are either broken, not working properly, or simply need to be updated.

If you are planning to replace "trailing edge" audiovisual technology in your home this Christmas with the latest version and don't know what to do with the old version you might consider donating it to Our Savior. The AV committee will be assessing all of our current equipment to determine what needs to be serviced or replaced and would welcome donations over repair. Please contact the church office if you are interested in making such a donation.



TREASURER'S OUTLOOK  
by Jack Berrigan

Based on the Congregation's enthusiastic support in September, I was optimistic that we would achieve a balanced budget by the end of the year. Unfortunately, contributions in October were lower than expected, putting us in a position where we must now rally to avoid a budget deficit for 2007. The good news is that expenses are lower than expected. Nevertheless, to make budget, the Congregation will have to contribute about \$120,000 between November and December, which is approximately \$20,000 more than we received over the same period last year. While we are grateful for those who have given faithfully according to their estimate of giving, if everyone were to double their average contribution for the remainder of the year we would achieve a balanced budget. Christmas bills may certainly be on our mind, but with God's blessing, I believe the Congregation is up to this challenge!

Stewardship

Our apologies if you did not receive your stewardship packets in time to offer your estimate of giving card on Commitment Sunday, November 18. In the future, we will send time sensitive material by first class mail so members receive it within one week instead of three to four. However, if you have not submitted your pledge for 2008 by the time you read this, I want to give you some food for thought. In order for the congregation council to recommend a realistic financial plan for ministry in the upcoming year, it is essential to have as many estimates of giving as possible. On the spiritual side, your estimate of giving is a physical sign of trust that no matter how much is pledged, God will provide what you need when you give from the first fruits of our income.

The ministries of Our Savior become more effective when every member contributes to God's work in the world. Whether you are senior on a fixed income or a family of five with college tuitions and braces to pay for, you are called to participate in the creative and redeeming work in the world with the resources God provides. Please consider offering your estimate of giving for 2008 before the end of the year, so we can better plan the financial scope of our ministry next year. You may discover a new found trust in God's good will to provide.