

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

Address Service Requested

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

April Messenger
Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed March 27, 2008



APRIL, 2008

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

NEWCOMER CLASSES

Begin April 6 at 9 AM

If you’ve been worshipping with the congregation for some time and are interested in learning more about the history and ministry at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior a series of three to four Newcomer Orientation classes will be held on Sundays from 9:00-10:00 starting on April 6. Classes will cover a brief history of the congregation, its various forms of ministry, a tour of the building, as well as an overview of the Lutheran church’s teachings. Visitors should have received a letter in March and are encouraged to contact the church office or one of the pastors to let them know how many will be attending to insure sufficient space and materials are prepared.

Those who are interested in formally joining the congregation will be given the proper forms so they might be received as members on Sunday, May 4, at whichever worship they normally attend.

EASTER SEASON BIBLE STUDY

Suppose you had been in the room to hear the first news of Jesus' resurrection. Would you have believed it? What makes you believe it now? All four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) record the first Easter story. There are differences from one to the other; are those differences significant?

When the disciples first began to tell about Jesus' resurrection, they quoted Old Testament scriptures and explained how Jesus fulfilled their predictions. (see, for example, Peter's sermons in Acts 2 and 3) They were probably following what Jesus had taught on the road to Emmaus; Jesus went through the entire Old Testament, explaining how his life crowned centuries of God's work.

Join us for this Spring study as we look at Easter and post-Easter appearance stories of Jesus. Beginning April 14 and 16 for five weeks, meet with us on Monday nights at 7:30 PM or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM. Pastor Englehardt is the discussion leader.

COUNCIL RETREAT NIGHT PRIOR TO CONFERENCE ON CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY, APR 12

The Congregation Council will gather at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior at 6:00 Friday April 11 before traveling up to the Hamilton Square area for a retreat to create and nurture a greater sense of community within council and share goal ideas for the year. After sharing dinner together the council will also discuss the book *From Committees to Communities* to redefine how the committees at Our Savior might function to better facilitate greater involvement of the membership in their areas of ministry.

The next day the council, along with hopefully other members of the congregation, will attend the Conference on Congregational Ministry sponsored by the New Jersey Synod and held at Steinert High School. The Conference is designed to inspire and inform congregations how they can better live out the seven faith discipline initiatives identified by the ELCA back in 2000; Prayer, Worship, Study, Service, Invite and Encourage Others, and Give. For more information on the workshops offered go to www.njsynod.org and click on “Conference on Congregational Ministry”. Pastor Wayne Zschech will be the guest emcee for the event that is typically hosted by Pr. David Jost of St. Paul’s Hainesport, and hopes this retreat and attendance at CCM can once again become an annual event for Our Savior’s Congregation Council, as well as other leaders, both paid and volunteer.

*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.*



TITHING YOUR TIME FOR MINISTRY

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Each week when the offering is received we hear these words in the Offertory Prayer. “Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love.” We hear these words, but do we truly appreciate the depth of their meaning? First, we are a blessed gift of God in and of ourselves. What a wonderful and joyous thought! When was the last time you looked in the mirror and said out loud, “I am a blessed gift of God”? Probably not as often as we could or would even think about. Yet, if we did, how would that change our outlook on life? God considers each and every one of us a blessed gift that he can use to feed the world with God’s love through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our faith isn’t just a “head thing” but instead a response we make with our very lives.

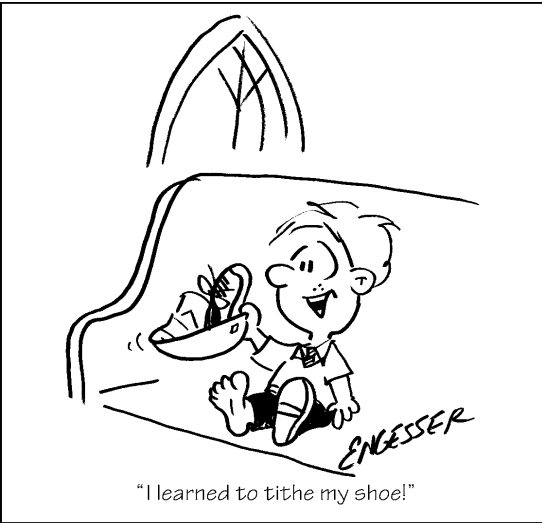
Which brings us to the second blessed gift God offers us: our time. In today’s hectic world it’s sometimes difficult to believe God has blessed us with time to give back toward God’s work in the world through the ministry of our congregation. If I’m not busy with tasks for the church I’m busy at home or gratefully being the “taxi” for our daughter and her friends and their ever full schedule. By the time we collapse at night we might wonder how we could ever have “time” to offer in service to the Lord. In fact, giving a portion of our possessions or wealth, even a tithe of it, may even seem an easier offering to make in today’s day and age than that of our time.

Yet, God gives us all the time we need to do the work He would have us do. And like the monetary offering we make, it is something that when we plan what we will give to God before everything else on the list, there always seems to be enough in the end. Think of it this way. If the average person who works a full time job were to make a commitment to tithe, or give ten percent, of their time toward God’s work in the world through the ministry at Our Savior, how much time would that really be? Let’s do the math.

- 168 Hours in one week
- 56 Hours spent sleeping if you get 8 hours/night (OK, stop laughing. I know it’s more like 6-7)
- 7 Hours spent getting ready each morning for work, school, or the weekend
- 1 Hour worshipping God and offering our thanks, praise and prayers for the week
- 50 Hours spent at work or school including commuting and homework (Again, stop laughing)
- 21 Hours spent preparing and eating meals (OK, enough with the laughing!)
- 18 Hours spent in housework, running errands, or activities (2hrs/weeknight and 8/weekend)
- 15 Hours unscheduled time available for recreation, relaxation or volunteering

If one were to tithe of the unscheduled time toward doing God’s work in the world through volunteering in some aspect of ministry that comes to about 90 minutes a week. Some already do more than this, such as Sunday school teachers, altar guild and office volunteers. Here is a short list of volunteer opportunities that take about 90 minutes each week; offering counters, acolyte coordinator, food pantry, prayer ministry, choir member, or youth group advisor. Maybe you know of even more, or better yet what new ones could be offered.

April is a month of new life as spring bursts into the bleakness of our winter lives. Let it also be a time to think of how you might offer 90 minutes each week of your time toward God’s work of new life in the world that breaks forth from the empty tomb at Easter. How might your offering of time be a conscious decision and effort on your part this month and beyond? New ideas are always welcome. Thanks be to God for all he has blessed us with, ourselves, our possessions, and even our time.



ATTENTION SENIORS!
SENIOR GAME DAY
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 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)
www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

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

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Eva Shaw, Jane Evans, Shirley Webb
Counters: Bob Mirabello, Karl Schneider, Eric & Alix Jones, Kathy Sibley

April 6	
Coffee Hour: Diakonia	
Readers: 8-TBA 10:30 -Jack Berrigan	
Communion Assistants: 10:30 -Mike Fallon, Kathy Simpkins	
Ushers: 8-Judy Caravelli, Helen Mountney 9:15 -TBA	
10:30 -John & Kayann Laughlin	
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Brian Gensel, Mary Pat Reiter	
9:15 -Alex Fabian, Allison Gensel 10:30 -Emily Donovan, J. Eckert, P. Miller, M. Miller, Sarah Barrett	
April 13	
Coffee Hour: Parent of Children/ Youth Choirs	
Readers: 8-Bill Wilson 10:30 -Peaches Larro	
Ushers: 8-Judy Caravelli, Helen Mountney 9:15 -TBA	
10:30 -John & Kayann Laughlin	
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Joseph Kiernan, Morgan Sehdev	
9:15 -Karen Graeber, Chris Heinze 10:30 -Jesse Gralish, Kelly Haswell, Jon Maniaci, Steven Peterson, B. Bobo	
April 20	
Coffee Hour: Fellowship Development	
Readers: 8-Kristen Monsen 10:30 -Glenn Martin	
Ushers: 8-Judy Caravelli, Helen Mountney 9:15 -TBA	
10:30 -John & Kayann Laughlin	
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Mary Pat Reiter, Ricky Treddinick	
9:15 -Holly & Kelly Harrington 10:30 -Julia Gross, Luisa Masclans, Ethan & Noelle Quanci, Rebecca Windle	
April 27	
Coffee Hour: Pantry Committee	
Readers: 8-Tom Weber 10:30 -Kenton Meyer	
Ushers: 8-Judy Caravelli, Helen Mountney 9:15 -TBA	
10:30 -John & Kayann Laughlin	
Acolytes: 8-Caite Ebbenga, Rob LaBarge, Dan Wolf, Brie Zschech	
9:15 -Mike Wolf, Gianna Buonpastore 10:30 -S. Bobo, Patrick Brennan, Ken & Kyle Carpenter, Justin DeBerardinis	

April 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			



Tues	1	Social Ministry Committee, 7 PM
Wed	2	Executive Committee, 7:30 PM Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM Tai Chi Demonstration, 4 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
Thurs	3	Working Arm, 9:30 AM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Fri	4	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat	5	Youth Group Goalball Wedding, 4 PM
Sun	6	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Newcomer Orientation, 9 AM Confirmation Play/Serve
Mon	7	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	8	Church Council, 7:30 PM
Wed	9	Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
Thurs	10	Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Fri	11	Council Retreat
Sat	12	Synod Conference at Steinert HS
Sun	13	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Newcomer Orientation, 9 AM Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM
Mon	14	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	15	School Board Voting, 6AM - 8PM
Wed	16	Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Children's Church, 7 PM
Thurs	17	Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sat	19	Youth Group 30 Hour Famine Fellowship Together Evening
Sun	20	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Youth "Come Together" Sunday Newcomer Orientation, 9 AM Confirmation Huddle, 6 PM
Mon	21	Faith Circle, noon Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	22	Senior Game Day, noon
Wed	23	Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM
Thurs	24	Mother's Group, 10 AM Adult Choirs, 7/8 PM
Sat	26	Mother/Daughter Luncheon, noon
Sun	27	Worship, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Confirmation Learn Event, 6 PM
Mon	28	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wed	30	Children's Choir/Bells, 3:45/4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Choirs, 7/8 PM

NEW MEMBER SPONSORS NEEDED IN APRIL/MAY

Anyone who’s ever been the “new kid”, be it in school, work, or the neighborhood knows how challenging it can be to “fit in”. Sometimes it helps to have someone literally walk you through how things work in the new place. Congregations are no different. The Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community first and foremost. As such, the better we are at assisting those new to our congregation in feeling they are a part of a community than individuals in the pew on Sunday the sooner they will become involved in some aspect of ministry at Our Savior.

It was the goal of Pastor Wayne Zschech and the Fellowship Development committee to identify New Member Sponsors for those who joined the congregation back in January. Some sponsors have been identified and the pairing process is nearly completed. In May of this year Our Savior will receive new members again and therefore will need additional sponsors for its newest members.

A sponsor is not overwhelmingly responsible for getting Our Savior’s newest members involved in the ministry of the church. It is suggested they sit together for worship about once a quarter if possible, attend an activity or event together once or twice a year, and make a point to encourage them in their relationship with the congregation and Christ throughout the first year, if not two, whether in person, by phone, mail, or email. If you are interested in becoming a new member sponsor please contact Pastor Wayne at the office or by email (found on the contact portion of Messenger).

WURFFEL FUND COLLEGE AID AVAILABLE

Financial aid for college students is now available through the Karl, John, Elizabeth Wurffel Memorial Fund. The aid will be provided in the form of student loans. However, the entire loan may be satisfied or forgiven on the basis of being an active member of a congregation of the Evangelical Luthean Church in America. While the amount of funds available is limited, Lutheran students are encouraged to apply. Terms for the loans will be very beneficial to recipients. Assistance is provided on a one-year basis, with the possibility for applicants to reapply annually up to five years.

For consideration, the Application Forms (available from the church office) must be postmarked no later than June 1.

A DEMONSTRATION OF THE ANCIENT ART OF TAI CHI

In the February Messenger we mentioned the possibility of having a Tai Chi class here at Our Savior led by Martial Arts Instructor Jack Poupard. Now we wish to make that a reality. Jack will be showing us the simple to master yet effective movements of this valuable exercise program here in our Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoon, April 2nd, from 4-5 PM for any and all who are able to join us. If you can't make it that day, contact me (Pastor Englehardt) and we will let you know when the class will actually start and what it will cost to participate (probably \$5/class).

LCOS SPONSORS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER May 1 at Noon

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will lead the Haddonfield Council of Churches annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 1 at King’s Court in downtown Haddonfield beginning at noon. Representatives of the various churches and school choirs will participate in the observance that dates back to Lincoln’s presidency.

Each week when our congregation gathers for worship there are two flags in our sanctuary, the U.S. flag and the Christian flag. Pastor Wayne Zschech has said about those flags, “They remind us as we leave worship that we go in peace to serve the Lord in a land represented by the Stars and Stripes and do so side by side with other Christians represented by the Christian flag. It has nothing to do with patriotism. Instead they are a reminder of whose we are, God’s children, who we are called to serve, all citizens of this country, and with whom we are to serve, our brothers and sisters in Christ.” You are invited to do just that on the first Thursday of May as the town of Haddonfield takes time out to serve the Lord in prayer for our nation, both its leaders and citizens, at noon in King’s Court.



MISSION STATEMENT
MONTHLY FOCUS:
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.

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Over the last seven months this article segment has focused on the different aspects of the congregation's mission statement. In short, The Lutheran Church of Our Savior...

Is Evangelical, as it proclaims the gospel, the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection,

Is a faith community of baptized disciples in Christ rather than members of an institution,

Worships Jesus as our Lord as the reason and focus of why we gather each Sunday,

Proclaims and Shares God's Word by all we say and do every day of the week,

Welcomes all people regardless of their background or life situation,

Nurtures personal and spiritual growth be it through worship and/or education opportunities,

Through Fellowship, the relationship building activity that builds and nurtures a community.

Finally, we do this "All to the glory of God." We aren't the church for our sake, but for God in Christ's sake. When we were baptized and a candle was lit from the Christ candle these words from Matthew's gospel were spoken to us. "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Our mission as a faith community, or church, isn't to bring glory to the people of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior but to give glory to Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Whatever we do we do so that God in Christ gets the glory and not us. Because of what Christ has done for us on the cross and God promises from the empty tomb we thankfully respond with the above mission statement.

What is our mission? In the end it's really about one thing of which St. Paul said it best to the church in Rome. We offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to our Lord. We do everything we do to the glory of God so that others may be drawn to Christ's light and life-giving gospel of the cross and resurrection. As for being Lutheran, Martin Luther would simply respond, "This is most certainly true."

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In February we made valentines for the soldiers and homebound members.

Our lessons in February were "Help with everyday life", "Your emotions, feelings", and "Your personal journey with God."

Now that March is here we are learning about the Easter Story. We made palm branches on the 9th and watched the Easter Story on video. As the month goes on we are studying new beginnings. "How will God always forgive us," we just have to ask and believe in him. We are learning that God loves us so much that he gave his son to die for us so we can live.

As the School year is quickly coming to an end (May) we are looking for teachers for next year. If you are interested and would like to sit in on a class to see what is done, please contact Bonnie Richards to set up a date.

Sunday School is a great place to learn about God and how much he loves you. It is a life changing experience, not only for the kids, but for the adults who teach them.

God's Blessing
Bonnie Richards

LCOS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Hello everyone,
This year Pastor and I would like our Vacation Bible School program to participate in the Haddonfield 4th of July Parade. Whoever is interested in participating in the parade, decorating our float, helping with costumes, please call or email me.

This is for all ages and is going to be alot of fun. So please consider joining us for this fun family activity!

God Bless America and God Bless You!
Susan Remphrey, Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS HELPS PREPARE SOUP DINNER

Another delicious lenten soup supper was provided by our 5th/6th grade sunday school class last week. The helpers in the kitchen were Hayden Remphrey and Sean Thorton. Work began at 3:30 PM, right after school. The boys were busy washing, chopping, mashing and stirring for our meal. The menu included mushroom barley soup, a BIG hit and spicy 16 bean soup, served along side were hot and cheesy twice baked potatoes. Our clean up helper was Bobby Jelonek.

SENIOR HIGH TO HELP NC HABITAT IN JULY Fundraiser Forthcoming

On Sunday, March 9, Pastor Wayne Zschech led a summer mission trip information meeting for all those entering or graduating from senior high school in 2008 wherein twelve youth and four adults expressed an interest in attending. The group will once again be traveling to Goldsboro NC to work with their chapter of Habitat For Humanity from July 12-19 this summer. Even if youth or adults were unable to attend the initial meeting there is still time to sign-up. Simply contact Pastor Wayne at the office or by email to let him know you are interested. Friends are also invited and encouraged to attend as well, but should know in advance this will be an event that includes Christian devotions and small group discussions on faith in real life. Non-Christians are able to attend and expected to participate in all aspects of the mission trip.

The cost per person is \$50 for both youth and adults with the hope that fundraising and congregation support will provide the remainder for travel, food, and a donation of \$100/person. The Community Christian Choir concert held in December raised almost a thousand dollars for this year's trip, and with one large fundraising event the remaining funds needed could be achieved. There are a variety of possibilities including a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction, a rummage sale, car wash, and planting the flowers sold at the Boy Scout flower sale. Keep on the lookout for flyers and announcements for when the first fundraising event will occur, most likely in late April or May.

IN HARM'S WAY
Lt. John L. Gaines, aboard USS Vicksburg
Colonel Richard Howley, serving in Iraq,
Sgt. Benjamin Green, serving in the Middle East,
PFC Jonathan Keck, serving in Iraq.
Keep all who serve our country and preserve our freedoms in your prayers!



Thanks to the following people for helping with the Pantry in February: **Carol and Ben Beahm, Danielle Deery, Juhan Runne, Eva Shaw, Molly Smith, Seniors** for donating 55 cans of vegetables and fruit.

Special thanks to those who delivered Easter lilies: **Pat & Morgen Gruber, Mike & Arlene Stolarick, Amy Stolarick, Betsy Keuhn, Sue Tharp, Jane Evans, Pat Reiter and Pastor Englehardt.**

Thanks to **Dave Hartzell**, who delivers meals cooked by LCOS members to My Father's House each Tuesday.

Messenger helpers: **Betty Keene, Dotty Powell, Jane Evans, Eleanor Gaines, Jean Schroeder, Louise Mowrer, Lynne Boyle.**

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

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND COMES TO HADDONFIELD

Mabel Kay Hospitality House and Inter-faith Caregivers welcome Library for the Blind, Friday, April 4, 2008 from 12:30pm-3:00pm at the Mabel Kay House, 24 Walnut Street, Haddonfield, NJ. Information will be provided about vision and common health problems with the aging eye. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Mabel Kay Hospitality House, 354-8789.



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

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ENGLEHARDT

regarding the importance of teaching
our children about God

An article in a recent edition of the newspaper USA Today was entitled "Am I Raising 'atheist children'?" which was of course written by an atheist. In the article she says, "Part of being a good parent is allowing our children to become whatever and whoever they become. Watching my children explore the ideas that are out there and grapple with the many, often conflicting, religious views in the world is exciting. They bring new understanding to things - not only for themselves, but for me as well. If my daughter came to me and told me she was joining a church, I would ask her how she reached her decision. But that would be my approach with any of the big decisions in my children's lives. Questioning puts us all on a path to greater understanding." Interesting, yes?

Good parenting for us certainly includes helping our children to know about God, Bible stories, and the history of the church, as we help them to grow in faith. We as parents make promises when our children are baptized where "we are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that our children may learn to trust God, etc. (ELW, page 228).

In Martin Luther's day in 16th century Germany, Luther understood the importance of children learning the fundamentals of the faith. The teaching was done mostly in the home, normally by the father. In our busy world today, the church has assumed much of that responsibility, though parents are still vitally involved, especially in getting their children to learning opportunities and in trying to model the faith themselves. Our children need this foundation or they may become like the atheist children described above, where they pick and choose among many alternatives, being influenced by many "guides" other than the Holy Spirit. Sunday School is the most comprehensive (since it is designed to occur over a number of years) way for this learning to occur. Add to that First Communion instruction, the Confirmation program, and Sunday worship, and our children will be given the best possibility of following in the faith. Because you are good parents, I know this will continue to be a critical part of your children's lives.

PROPER PLANNING CAN ENSURE YOUR VALUES ENDURE

Planning for your legacy

We all hope to leave a legacy – something that delineates what we loved, enjoyed and valued while we were alive. Through proper estate planning you will ensure the people and organizations that are important to you will be well provided for. In your estate plan consider those organizations that share your values – your church, alma mater or charitable groups working on issues such as the arts, environment or children’s issues. With some forethought and proper planning your values will be reflected and your legacy established.

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.



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.

SUMMER 2008 AT OUR OWN LUTHERAN CAMP

Cross Roads near Califon, NJ

A Christ-centered intentional community where youth and adults: feel nurtured and guided by loving counselors; meet new friends who share similar values; experience God in unique and powerful ways; explore their independence in a safe environment; participate in activities like horseback-riding, rock-climbing, swimming, boating, arts & crafts; explore God's awesome creation.

Brochures are posted around the church or are available in the church office; or for information and/or summer registration find it at www.crossroadsretreat.com.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

- Sunday, April 20**
'Come Together' Sunday with a Youth theme
April 5-6
Goalball at Haddon Township High School
April 19-20
Thirty-Hour Famine
May 2-4
Weekend camping, paintball
and maybe white-water rafting in PA
Sunday, May 11
Pancake breakfast on Mother's Day

THRIVENT NEWS

LCOS has been approved for \$1600 under the Care in Congregations Program. Social Ministry has decided to sponsor two fund raisers this year, the first being the Bosnia Fund Raiser and the second the Holiday Food Drive. The theme for this years Bosnia Fund Raiser is “Healing, Hope, Peace”. Ed Nace and Jacqui Gitzes are again planning to make the trip to Bosnia. We will be accepting donations each of the four Sundays in May. Matching funds will be requested from Thrivent Financial in the amount of \$800 as part of the \$1600 under this program. More information will be in the May Messenger. Envelopes will be provided for donations. We hope that the congregation will respond generously.

M.O.M. SYNOD APPEAL TO FACILITATE CONGREGATIONAL CULTURE CHANGE

Mission On the Move is more than another synod capital appeal. It is a focused endeavor to change the culture of the congregations in the New Jersey Synod from one of maintenance to mission, from a scarcity mentality to one of abundance, and from being settled to being sent. This was the heart of Bishop Roy Riley’s Advent 2007 letter to pastors, which the following excerpt provides the foundation for why this appeal is so needed in our synod.

“We are in a very important time in our life and ministry together. The Lutheran Church on this territory has been in membership decline for over three decades. Many of our congregations have been aging in places with little serious attention to evangelical outreach. Over the solid foundation of the Gospel and its imperative to go into the world and preach, teach, and baptize, we seem to have created an infrastructure of constitutions and committees, buildings and endowments, traditionalism and traditions, and a lamenting-memory of what-didn’t-work-when.

In an earlier time, the best parts of that infrastructure facilitated our participation in God’s mission. Now, instead of opening doors and windows to the world, our accumulated stuff has more often sealed us into buildings and practices that keep us comfortable on a floor well above the gospel-foundation. It’s time for a visit to the basement.

When our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson preached at the beginning of last summer’s Churchwide Assembly in Chicago, he called us to decide ‘whether we were going to be a *settled church* or a *sent church*,” a church lodged in its own stuff or a church leaping off of its gospel-foundation into the world. I think we know what it is that we want and need to be and do. When we see examples of the church leaping off of its gospel foundation into mission in the world, the adrenaline begins to flow and the music of mission begins to sing in our hearts and minds and souls.”

Can The Lutheran Church of Our Savior benefit from the challenge of becoming more of a “sent church” than a “settled church”? With only a handful of first time visitors each month the answer is a resounding “YES!” During the next few months and over the summer Pastor Wayne will be seeking assistance in creating an appeal team for the MOM campaign to be presented to the congregation in the early fall of this year. If you are interested in helping coordinate this effort please contact him at the office or by email. In the mean time, think of someone you know who has no relationship with God in Christ and invite them to come with you to worship or another church event in the next month or two. It’s time to be a sent church again whose mission is always on the move.

ARGENTINA MISSIONARIES WUNSCH AND LAWLER SPONSORED BY LCOS

For years the Sunday school offerings at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior went toward the \$1,000 covenant sponsorship of ELCA missionary David Grafton and his family in Cairo Egypt. Last year the Grafton’s left Cairo and headed back to the states where Rev. Grafton now serves as the Director of Graduate Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. As a result of this change Our Savior was invited provide support for another missionary and the council decided last year to do so with support from the Memorial Gifts Board as well.

Having signed a Missionary Sponsorship Covenant Form our congregation now supports the ministry of David Wunsch and Kathryn Lawler who are serving in South America with their two children, Emily and Matthew (whose birthdays are April 7 and 4 respectively). They are regional representatives, serving as liaison between the ELCA and Lutheran church bodies in the South American region. They will coordinate the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina and Uruguay. Here is an excerpt from a letter Kathryn wrote to Our Savior that is posted on the ground floor bulletin board.

“What a joy to learn that Lutheran Church of Our Savior has signed a covenant to sponsor us as missionaries! It is so important for us to know that Lutheran congregations back home are praying for us, tuning in to our ministry, as well as making it financially possible for us to live out this call to global mission. Please extend our thanks to your congregation.

During December and January we were in the U.S. for our home assignment and are disappointed that we learned of your sponsorship shortly upon returning back to Argentina. It will be a couple years before we are back in the States but in the meantime, we will do our best to stay in touch and provide updates on how the Gospel is alive in the women, men and children who make up the Lutheran churches in the countries where we are serving (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and Bolivia).”

The offerings of our children and youth in Sunday school as well as other donations are not the only support the Wunsch-Lawler family has. Together with the congregations and individuals of seven other synods, including Calvary-Cranford, Messiah-Oakland, and Messiah-Parlin of this synod we contribute toward the \$130 per day cost of supporting this missionary family. Our missionaries would love to hear from us, and can be contacted either by email (call the church office for addresses.) We look forward to encouraging and deepening our relationship with our missionary family in the coming months and years as we work together in the ministry of the gospel.

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL GRANT TO FACILITATE GROWTH

A key finding from the Personnel Committee’s recent staff evaluations is that existing demand for administrative support services provided by the Church Secretary and volunteers exceeds the available time! At present, virtually all administrative and clerical support tasks, including response to Congregation and Council needs, preparation of the Bulletins and the Messenger as well as book keeping responsibilities must be completed between 8AM-1PM. The Personnel Committee concluded that the absence of office support in the afternoon inhibits new member assimilation, volunteer coordination, the sharing of ministry information, general building security and leaves little or no time to support new Council initiatives aimed at congregational growth.

This is about to change! A generous anonymous grant to Our Savior has provided the Personnel Committee with financial resources to increase office staffing by up to 25 hours a week to cover the existing gap between 1 and 5PM. The Committee offered the current Church Secretary, Monica Ebbenga a full time position, who had to decline the offer because of child care concerns.

Now, the Personnel Committee intends to hire a part time person to handle some of the more time consuming clerical responsibilities in the office, e.g. Bulletin and Messenger production in addition to much needed back-up support on the several tasks involving the Shepherd’s Staff, the database software the Our Savior uses. The Personnel Committee expects that these additional hours of support will free Monica to help the pastors assimilate new members, expand existing youth and family ministries, facilitate volunteer coordination and enable Vision growth initiatives. In a nutshell, the added staff gives Our Savior necessary “growth room”, addresses much needed effective volunteer coordination and provides the Congregation with assurance of office coverage during all business hours.

It is important to note that the grant will cover the added personnel cost for the first year and part of a second year. The donor expects that added office personnel will result in an increase in congregational involvement, growth and ministry investment over the next two years. As a consequence, the congregation will be able to support the additional staff without assistance after two years. The new position will be advertised in the local papers in an effort to hire the best qualified candidate, with knowledge of the Lutheran church and this congregation being an asset for applicants.



[Dear LCOS]

My family joins me to thank all those who helped with the luncheon following Lou’s funeral. It was wonderful to walk in and see how bright and cheerful the room looked and to see the display of food waiting for us after a very long morning, and because of road detours, with the extra long ride to Cinnaminson. I know they say it “takes a village...“, and to those who set up, cleaned up, prepared something, served, did laundry or whatever, it was certainly appreciated and it does take a village. Needless to say, my family has heard about the funeral luncheons at LCOS, but they admitted that they never realized just how nice they are and how welcome the luncheon are to the family at the time. Again, thanks to all.

Helen Mountney

Dear LCOS:

What a surprise it was to receive a lovely care package! Thank you so much for all of the snacks and other goodies! They are definitely being enjoyed! I hope all is well at LCOS and everyone has a blessed Easter holiday. Thanks again for thinking of me!

Yours in Christ,

Auri Grisi

Dear Pastor Zschech, Pastor Englehardt and church friends:

We thank you for the beautiful altar flowers delivered to our door on the birth of our first grandchild, John Michael McKeever. So many people have extended their good wishes to us - we feel fortunate to be part of this caring church family.

Then . . . a red rose on the altar to celebrate his birth and honor his folks (Gabrielle and Sean.)

Thank you so very much. It was much appreciated.

Lorraine and Don Miano

TREASURER’S OUTLOOK by Jack Berrigan

February was a good month. Contributions were \$31,407 which is a 13% improvement over January and 5.6% better than February 2007. Although total contributions of \$58,916 for the first two months are \$1,853 below target, the boost in February giving and attendance are refreshing evidence of the Congregation’s commitment to the ministries of Our Savior.

Also, there is good news on the expense side of the balance sheet. Expenses in February were \$30,451 which is 22% lower than January and \$632 below our target of \$70,080 for the first two months.

I am confident that the momentum from February improvements in attendance and income will carry into March, April and May as the Congregation responds to the holidays, warmer weather and the comfort of spiritual growth the ministries of Our Savior offer.

As we approach the end of the first quarter, it is a good time for each of us to check how our contributions are tracking with our pledges. Reviewing my contributions against my pledge always reminds me that although “envelope giving” is a tradition I grew up with, giving could be much less cumbersome and much more convenient if my contributions were automatically paid each week, each month. I would not even have to think about whether I was keeping up with my pledge. A couple of other envelop annoyances would disappear as well. For instance, I would not have the stress of scrambling to find the right envelope, then fill and complete it as I rush to church on time. And, I would not feel the occasional embarrassment of reaching into an empty pocket during offering because I left “the envelope” on the kitchen counter.

With all due respect to “the envelope”, the *Simply Giving* program is a more efficient, hassle free method that ensures your contributions match your intentions. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, *Simply Giving* enables secure, automatic electronic transfer of contributions from your checking or savings account at a frequency that works best for you, i.e., weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. In addition, you can designate which particular funds (e.g., General/Operating, Major Repair, Evangelism, or Benevolence), and the amounts you want to contribute to each fund. Unlike other forms of electronic payment, there is no fee because Thrivent Financial pays the transaction fees as a gift to the Lutheran community. Check it out at **thrivent.com**! You can complete the form on line and get started in a few minutes. If you feel more comfortable completing a hard copy form, stop by the church office and ask Monica for an Enrollment/Authorization form.