



Pittsburgh Lutheran

January 2006

Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus Dedicated to Praising and Glorifying God Through Voice

PITTSBURGH—For 68 years this year, the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus has been raising their voices in praise and glory to God. Fred Heintz, member of Bethel Lutheran Church, Glenshaw, has been with the chorus since that time when the Rev. Enno Schmooch began concerts in 1938 and their first performance at a Reformation Rally in 1939. Shirley Freyer, concertmaster, says that to her knowledge there has never been a year when they did not perform.

The Chorus originally began practicing at Second St. Paul on Pride Street in what was called the Uptown section of Pittsburgh. They moved to St. John's, Millvale for weekly rehearsals until Hurricane Ivan forced them out in September 2004. The Chorus currently practices every Wednesday from September to April for 1-1/2 hours at Zion, Lawrenceville.

The director selects the songs that the Chorus will perform during its season. Over the years there have been nine directors, including Ruth Molkenthin-Miller (see sidebar article this page). The director with the long-

est tenure was Carl Schmidt, whose "temporary" appointment lasted 35 years, from 1947 until Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982 when he was called home to Eternal Glory. One vicar, five pastors, three lay persons (Carl Schmidt, Joan Holsten and Miller) have served in this capacity. Vicar Ronald Ross (1941); Rev. Gerald Gerhold (1942) and Rev. Hartwig Schwehn (1943) had the shortest appointments.

The members of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus come from area Lutheran churches from three synods: Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Concertmaster Freyer noted that in 38 years this is only the second set of robes (the first set were burgundy; these are blue) used by the Chorus. Each member pays for their robe, then turns it in when they retire from singing with the Chorus. Freyer also mentioned that it's only been in recent history that the free-will offerings taken at each concert benefit groups other than the Chorus.



Organist Honored for 30 Years of Service at Zion

LAWRENCEVILLE — Ruth Molkenthin-Miller was honored for 30 years of musical service by Zion Lutheran Church on December 4th after a Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus concert. Miller, a lifelong member of Zion, began organ lessons when she was a freshman at Shaler High School and played the organ at Redeemer, Oakmont for four years before becoming Zion's organist in 1975. She has a B.S. in Music from the University of Pittsburgh and a teaching certification from Duquesne University.

Miller's accomplishments are many. In addition to serving at Zion, she has been directing the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus since 1992, was an accompanist for two years prior and a member of the chorus for three years. Ruth is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She staffed the Center for the Musically Talented at CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts School), directed chorus and taught

(Please continue on page 3.)



*As I See It***Jesus is the Focal Point...**

I recently received an e-mail from a man who had been a visitor in our Sunday morning worship and in Bible Class. He accompanied his girlfriend. I asked him whether he was interested in becoming a part of our congregation. He was very interested and in his e-mail response, explained why. He said that he was raised Roman Catholic and always believed that Jesus died for his sins, but in the past three years or so he felt there was something missing in his life, but he could not put his finger on what it was. After attending our worship and Bible Classes for a time, it finally dawned on him that what was missing in his life was having Jesus as his "focal point." As he put it bluntly, "I was hooked."

One of my favorite phrases for describing the essence of the Christian faith is, "It's not about you!" While it is true that various movements that have arisen within the Christian Church make the essence of Christianity "about you"—your Christian life, your good works, your experience, your purpose in life, your faith, your decision, your repentance, your natural abilities—the fact is, Christianity is not about you but is about Jesus and who He is and what He has done. Only by focusing on Jesus can we be assured that we are loved by God, that our sins are forgiven, and that we have eternal life. As many of us say every Sunday, "May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep *your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*"

In most religious institutions of the world man is called upon to ascend to God. Judaism is based upon man ful-

filling the Law. In order to be a good Muslim, you must pray, give alms, fast, and make a pilgrimage to Mecca. The Buddhist goes into himself via mystical contemplation to discover his godhood. The Hindu seeks to live a good life and amass sufficient "good karma" to achieve a higher level of reincarnation. The so-called "Christian" cults such as Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses set down strict rules for their adherent to follow. Religious rules, principles and techniques are the focal point.

Christianity, on the other hand, is not about man ascending to God but rather about God descending to man in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus entered into this world as one of us—a baby born in Bethlehem. He came, not to give us a road map or principles whereby we are enabled to reach the Father in heaven; rather, He came to BE the Way, the Truth and the Life. He does not bring light into our world. Rather, HE IS the light of the world and as we focus on Him, we reflect that light to others. The person of Jesus Christ is the *focal point* of Christianity—from Him, everything proceeds and nothing originates outside of Him. The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians that Jesus is the head of the body, the church; the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything *He might have the supremacy.*"

In the late '80s I accepted a call to be the pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church on South Grand in St. Louis. The first Sunday I entered the pulpit, I noted that the former pastor had Scotch-taped a message to the book stand. It was a quotation from John 12:21 and read "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Every Sunday morning as I began my sermon those words were in front of me—"Sir, we would like to see Jesus." When I left Messiah, that message remained on the pulpit, and I hope it is still there.

It is very easy to become distracted and lose focus. I spent fifteen years focusing upon "charismatic gifts and spiritual experiences" rather than on our Lord Jesus, His person and work. The focus of my congregation is often upon buildings and budgets. We pastors today are readily distracted by the politics of Synod. Much of the stuff that comes across my desk or fills my e-mail box focuses upon the church—how do you build it, grow it, ignite it, make it relevant, get more money from it, and give it purpose so that through it God will set the world ablaze. I find this distracting. Contrary to much of today's pop rhetoric, ***the church is not the focal point of Christianity.*** Our concern for the church should be the same concern the Apostle Paul expressed in his letter to the Colossians—"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." [Colossians 2:8]

I love the season of Epiphany. In some way I have lost my focus, the themes of Epiphany will bring me back to the One from whom everything else proceeds. Epiphany is about the Person of Jesus Christ—who He is and how He was manifested to our world. Have a blessed Epiphany season as you "turn your eyes upon Jesus."

By the Rev. Don Matzat
Zion Lutheran Church
Bridgeville



Rev. Matzat enjoys hearing from his readers. Send your comments to dmatzat@comcast.net.

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings Held at Bethel

GLENSHAW—Family members of persons with substance abuse problems support each other and get education about how best to help their loved ones. The Nar-Anon Family Group at Bethel is primarily for people who know or have known a feeling of desperation concerning the addiction problem of someone very near to them. Meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m. Call the church office for more information (412.486.5777).

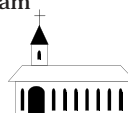
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Faith Lutheran Church, Butler, Celebrates 25 Years

BUTLER—Members of Faith Lutheran Church on Route 356 in Butler memorialized their 25th year with a dinner celebration on September 24; an estimated 70-80 were in attendance.

Current pastor Rev. Timothy Manwell presided over the service, assisted by former pastor Rev. Allen Opper and Faith's first full-time pastor, Rev. D.G. Meyer.

Founded in 1980, Faith Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod' English District. Membership continues to grow.

Said Rev. Meyer, "No matter where you look at Faith today, the reason why [we're] here for 25 years is that [God's] name is still here."

The church broke ground at its current location in Butler on March 27, 1983. The land had been purchased from the Fowler family of Butler. Prior to breaking ground, members had been meeting at a building on the Carl Jones farm in Cabot, which had been fondly known as "The Shepherd Shed."

Rev. Meyer reminisced about that initial meeting place, stating that "we didn't have much to start with...but we had men like Carl Jones who said "...you can gather in this place."

Faith Lutheran Church continues to provide frequent opportunities for community involvement and fellowship, and also offers a very active youth program.

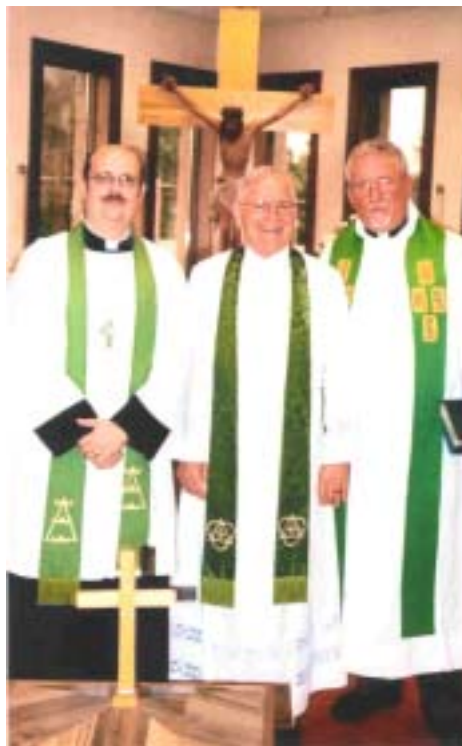
A catered dinner followed, supplemented by anecdotes, music and poetry from long-time church leader Ed

Johnson pertaining to Faith Lutheran Church's many changes over the years.

The evening concluded with a powerful presentation compiled by Greg Johnson, which displayed a pictorial history of the church's many milestones.

Rev. Opper is currently pastoring at Martin Luther Church in Punxsutawney, and Rev. Meyer is enjoying retirement.

Submitted by Rene Lauer



Rev. Timothy Manwell, current pastor; Rev. D.G. Meyer, first pastor; Rev. Allen Opper, former pastor celebrated congregation's 25th anniversary.

Zion Organist Honored

(Continued from page 1.)

music theory there for four years. Ruth was music director for Campraise from 1988 to 2004. She has been a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Education for 30 years, teaching middle school general and choral music at Frisk International Studies Academy since 1978. Prior to that she taught at Perry High School for two years and at Northview Heights Elementary for two years.

In July Miller will celebrate another 30-year milestone—her anniversary to husband Terry. They have a daughter Naomi and a granddaughter Felicity.

Speaking of Anniversaries

If you look at the top right corner of this page you'll see the notation Vol. 75, No. 1. That means this publication is starting its 75th year as the regional voice for LCMS congregations in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

It would be nice to know some of the publication's history, so a trip to the archives at First Trinity Lutheran Church may be in order. But if you also have anything to share about The Pittsburgh Lutheran, please submit it to the editor. See address in the box at the right.



Vol. 75, No. 1

The Pittsburgh Lutheran

Published in the interest of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Area Ministries (PALM) and Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot, PA

The Pittsburgh Lutheran

The Lutheran Center
412.621.2630, #2

All news must be submitted to Editor by the 15th of the month.

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International Student Ministry

Celebrating Internations Week

SLIPPERY ROCK—Celebrating Inter-nations Week with international students at Slippery Rock University was an excellent opportunity to share Christian friendship. All Saints took part in Inter-nations Week so that the students would realize how much they mean to us.

The International Coffee Hour was special because students and guests had time to enjoy blends of rich, strong coffees and a chance to visit. Rev. Michael Scheer talked to Sophal and Pitou, two students from Cambodia he had baptized. He assured Pitou that he'd help him to find an LCMS congregation after he graduates this December.

The highlight of Inter-nations Week was the 31st annual dinner. All Saints members Linda Domanski, Mike and Rayleen Sieffert, and Jim and August Mennell enjoyed the chance to see the students we know personally, who are like our own children, as they served their own special dishes and as they proudly walked about in their native attire.

We got to know the students better at the meal. We laughed with the Irish students whose accent is delightful to listen to. Linda Domanski talked with Shen Lei, an exchange professor from China and her eight-year-old daughter, whose American name is Shirley. Shin Lei, who had attended the student Welcome Meal at ASLC this fall, volunteered that she's waiting until her daughter is able to speak more English, at which time she will bring her to learn Bible stories at All Saints. It appeared that that day would be soon because Shirley, who is in third grade, is able to understand many English words. She smiles a big smile when spoken to. In fact, four days later, Shin Lei brought her daughter to All Saints for her first Bible story. Shin Lei had learned about the Bible stories class from Wang Xiaohong, who earlier had come to the class when Mica from Japan told her about it.

Mike and Rayleen were impressed with the international students. They admired Solongo's vivid blue outfit, stitched by her grandmother. They appreciated seeing her Mongolian dance; it reflected such pride in her country.



Sarah, Kelly Slogar (director of Internations Week and International Office), Rev. Michael Scheer (All Saints pastor), Sophal and Pitou.

During the dinner we got to greet Mala's daughters, Nimra and Nishita. Their mother had often come to All Saints to study the Bible. She's now home in Tanzania. Mica and Wang Xiaohong were pleased to be asked to spend Thanksgiving with Mrs. Domanski and family. They wonder if they'll fit in, but are intrigued by being part of a real American family celebration.

All Saints feels it is a privilege to know international students and to be able to share our friendship and faith with them. All Saints looks forward to the 32nd annual dinner to again renew and strengthen the bonds of love.

*By Augusta R. Mennell
Campus Ministry Director
All Saints Lutheran Church and
Student Center*

College Connections

The following people serve near universities or in campus ministries in our area and would like to welcome students to worship, invite them to participate in campus ministries, and keep in touch with them while they are attending college. Pastors, please pass along the names of your college students to these people so that connections can be made.

University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham College, among others: Rev. Eric Andrae, First Trinity, Oakland; 412.683.4121; era@firsttrinity.net

Penn State University: Rev. Bryan Spang, Good Shepherd, State College; 814.234.8177; nittanylutheran1@netzero.net

Clarion University: Rev. Paul Meseke, Christ Lutheran, Oil City; 814.677.4484; plmeseke@usachoice.net

Slippery Rock University: Rev. Michael Scheer, All Saints, Slippery Rock; 724.794.4334; ReverendScheer@aol.com

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Young Adults in the Pittsburgh Area (YAPA)

If you haven't heard yet, the Young Adults in the Pittsburgh Area (YAPA) are a group of people ages 21 to mid 40s that have been meeting together at least once a month for fun and fellowship. So far we've gone to Primanti Bros, Bowling, "Stuff-a-Bus," Damon's, and have had a GREAT time! The group that went to 96.1 Kiss "Stuff-a-Bus" donated new, unwrapped gifts to Toys for Tots, met and took pictures with the DJs, and we were even on the radio!

You don't have to be a member to participate. Just come, bring a friend (age 21 and older), and be ready for an awesome evening with fellow Christian friends! We meet at Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Avenue in Forest Hills and then car pool or follow to wherever we're headed.



Please join us for any or all of the upcoming activities:

Fri, Jan 13 - Ice Skating, PPG Place, 7pm

Wed, Jan 25 - Wings, Pugliano's, 7pm

Sun, Feb 5 - Super Bowl Party, Sara & Jim Hackwelder's house

Sat, Feb 18 - Snow Tubing, Seven Springs

Wed, Feb 22 - Game Night, Jessica Knoche's apartment

Fri, March 10 - Sing Sing, Waterfront

Fri, March 24 - Lucky Strike Lanes, Pittsburgh Mills Mall

For any questions or details, please contact Jessica Knoche (phone 412.825.0535 or email JessicaKnoche@aol.com)

30th Annual Christian Art Show Featured 61 Artists

MURRYSVILLE— Kathleen Krater won the Popular Award at the 30th Annual Christian Art Show for her prismatic drawing titled "Neil".

The show featured 175 pieces of art submitted by 61 Christian artists from 29 churches. In addition, the education wing walls featured artwork by the students of Christ Lutheran School, Forest Hills, St. Luke Lutheran School, Cabot and Redeemer Lutheran School, Oakmont.

Other winners included Calvary members Bob Greer (Experienced category Judges Award), Richard Nelms (Amateur category Judges Award and a Committee Award), and Iris Wutzke (Honorable Mention in the Amateur category).

The Feature Artist was Suzanne Kemper (member of Calvary), who exhibited 23 of her favorite photographs selected from 20 years in photography.

Barbara Jewell's watercolor "Mountain Sanctuary" was another popular piece of the viewers.

PALM Donations

Send your donations for the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries to:

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Jan. 13 — Y.A.P.A. Ice-skating, PPG Place Rink, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20 — Scrapbooking Workshop, Christ, Forest Hills, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Jan. 25 — Y.A.P.A. Wings, Pugliano's, 7 p.m.

Feb. 5 — Y.A.P.A. Super Bowl Party, 412.825.0535

Feb. 18 — Y.A.P.A. Snowtubing, Seven Springs

Feb. 22 — Y.A.P.A. Game Night, 412.825.0535

Feb. 25 — Eastern District LWML Joyshop, Concordia Haven, 9 a.m.

Mar. 10 — Y.A.P.A. Sing Sing, Waterfront, 412.825.0535

Mar. 24 — Y.A.P.A. Lucky Strike Lanes, Pittsburgh Mills Mall, 412.825.0535

PALM Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Fourth Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Place: First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church
531 N. Neville St., Oakland, PA

You hosted an event and no one came? Put your event on the calendar! Publicize two (or more) months in advance for best results. Send your information to the editor by the 15th of each month.

Pastoral Vacancies (and Coverage)

Calvary, Murrysville

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg (Rev. Mark Ruppert)

Pentecost, Avella (Rev. Scott Kuntz)
St. John, Brackenridge (Rev. Gene Lenk)

St. John, Morrisdale (Vicar James Kusko)

St. Paul, Braddock (Rev. Emil Lavcek)

St. Thomas, Pittsburgh (Rev. Stephen Niermann)

Trinity-Deaf, Pittsburgh

Congregation News

Veterans, Homebound, Prison Inmates and Families, PALS Schools, Unity Lutheran

Bethel, Glenshaw

On December 3rd, the Bethel Youth Group baked 65 dozen cookies for hospitalized veterans and shopped for Angel Tree presents, then delivered them to a number of families over the holidays. The Youth also Christmas caroled for several shut-ins on December 23rd.

The congregation at Bethel is reviewing its Constitution and Bylaws, with final consideration scheduled for January.

The Men's Club is meeting monthly, at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month and are currently reviewing Max Lucado's book *In The Eye of the Storm*.

Recent Oktoberfest event raised \$1,685 for St. Matthew Christian Academy, with \$1,300 to be matched by Thrivent.

Christ, Forest Hills

Congratulations to Peter Weeks, for having passed the Pennsylvania Bar the first time. Peter will be clerking for four judges at the Lawrence County Courthouse.

Many churches are saving canceled postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society through the Pittsburgh Zone LWML. Stamp collectors purchase these stamps for about \$6 a pound (it takes several thousand stamps to make a pound) which sends a Bible to a Third World Country. If your canceled postage stamps have no "home church" to properly clip and direct them to the Zone LWML, please contact Christ Lutheran Church (412.271.7173) for arrangements to pick them up. Shut-ins do an especially fine job of properly clipping and preparing them for Mission use. Please provide the entire envelope or leave a wide margin around the stamp so as not to damage the perforations, making them of no use to anyone.

Have you accumulated a lot of pictures over Christmas or past vacations—or have treasured heirloom pictures of your family—or those "started" Baby Books—and are wondering what to do with them? The Women's Service Guild of Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Avenue, Forest Hills, is offering a Scrapbooking Workshop by Sara Hackwelder on Friday, January 20 (weather permitting—call the church 412.271.7173 to check) from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. It's free!

Come and bring a friend. Bring along your pictures to sort; or bring a scrapbook, pictures and supplies to work with and lots of ideas to share. You can't beat the fellowship, either!

The Outing Fellowship Group is meeting at the parsonage on Thursday, January 26, 10 a.m. to plan the outings for 2006. If you have any ideas and would like to join the group for planning, lunch—and fellowship—please call Donna Knoche at 412.271.1308—again, weather permitting. Bring along your ideas, newspaper articles and brochures—how about another bus trip to Sight and Sounds Theater in Lancaster?

Be watching for more details of the Men-Only Chili CookOff in January or February. Men, get those favorite Chili recipes "fired up." The lunch will be planned for some chilly Sunday afternoon after the 11 a.m. worship service, to eat and "vote" on the favorite chili. There is even a special prize for the winner!



Above, Rachel D'Abruzzo on cello is the school music teacher; husband Gabriel D'Abruzzo on the keyboards and Elizabeth Waldron (Rachel's aunt) on the harp. The trio provided entertainment at Christ Lutheran's Women Service Guild Christmas program.

Concordia, Brentwood

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Roth on their 50th wedding anniversary on December 21.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

Epiphany welcomed two new members, Joyce and Bill Hewlett, on December 4 with a reception after worship that day.

The Fresh Floral Arranging class was great; see the results below. The arrangements looked professionally

done, but instructor Carrie South gives the directions orally. She has been scheduled already for the first Sunday in December 2006, so mark your calendars now.



Great cooks in the congregation provided delicious soup and salad meals during Advent. The Christmas Sunday School program was held on December 18 as was a pageant by the high school group. Below, youth helped decorate the church for Christmas.



Left to right: Jeremy and Danielle Cicak and Katelin and Jennifer Rombach decorating the sanctuary at Epiphany.

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg

Reverend Mark Ruppert was commissioned as vacancy pastor on Sunday, December 18th. It is a joyous day for our congregation to once again have spiritual leadership on a full time basis. Following this service, we had an opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for the spiritual leadership and loyal support given to the congregation by these four pastors: Arthur Baisch, George Dolak, Herbert Schumm and Brennan Gaertner. These ministers have faithfully lead our worship services, visited the sick and homebound, our members at Concordia, and prepared our students for confirmation during the many

Congregation News Continued

All Recipients of Year-End Generosity and Blessing from Area Congregations

months we were without a minister. A light lunch served after the service permitted opportunities for fellowship.

Good Shepherd, Whitehall

Prisoners and their families were recipients of Christmas cheer again this year as members visited the Allegheny County Jail. Refreshments and a children's craft table were set up in the visitors' lobby three times a day for two weeks; 100 dozen cookies and carols were provided to inmates on December 17, and Christmas care packages were delivered on Dec. 21.

Member Joel Meyer and his wife Stephanie are on vicarage at Our Redeemer, Eau Claire, WI.

Congratulations to Bob & Corinne Tetzlaff on 56 years of marriage and to Bill & Catherine Hoellein for 63!

40 Days of Purpose campaign resulted in a 50% increase in adult Bible class attendance; 61 people signed up to be involved in mission/ministry projects; 125+ hygiene kits were collected for hurricane relief.

Grace, Penn Hills

Congratulations to James & Georgeanne Stitt on 50th anniversary on December 30; Dorothy & Herman Zellars, for their 60th on January 4 and Alice & John Cardinale, who will celebrate 55 on January 13.

Hope, Upper St. Clair

Hope's Spiritual Growth Vision Committee will be using LCMS' "Good News" issue 17 on "Heaven" for our Sunday morning Adult Study hour starting January 8, 2006. The Good News publications are well written with excellent artwork blended in. Back copies can be ordered on all 23 topics issued so far.

Prince of Peace, Freedom

Congratulations to Buck & Alice Patzer on their 55th anniversary!

Over 20 members helped pack food baskets for needy families in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties in their third year of participation with the New Castle City Rescue Mission.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Parish secretary Virginia Humphrey will be retiring after 18 years of service to pastors Stechholz, Sheaffer and Naumann. Board of Trustees is seeking to fill the four-day/three-four hours per day position.

St. John's, Millvale

In early December members collected phone cards and other items for service members stationed in Kuwait. Sunday School students and adults alike completed Christmas cards that were sent to the soldiers through a chaplain the pastor knows.

The Health Ministry Team will be holding a workshop on Saturday, January 28. The speakers will be answering many of the questions that people have concerning retirement and end of life issues. The speakers will cover palliative care versus hospice, living wills, advanced directives, power of attorney, caregiver stress and when is a nursing home needed. The new Medicare prescription drug plan will be reviewed. Resources will be presented to help make aware the many options in senior retirement homes and services available in the community and the cost of each level of care. The Millvale parish nurse will be on hand to take blood pressures and answer any medical questions. This is a good workshop for Senior citizens and their adult children to attend as a family so that decisions can be thought through before a crisis. For questions and registration call Joyce Schumm at 412.487.5194.

St. Matthew, Pittsburgh

Welcome to Rev. Michael Schumacher, wife Carol and children Hannah (12), Rebekah and Rachel (16) and Luke (18), from Nampa, ID. Rev. Schumacher was a Lutheran school teacher prior to becoming a pastor 18 years ago.

Welcome to new organist Friederike Spangenberg, a junior in the School of Music (with emphasis on Sacred Music and Organ Performance) at Duquesne University. She also studied at the University of Berlin for two years and speaks German and French.

Congratulations to former pastor Bryon and Lori Borger on the birth of Anna Lori on November 10.

St. Thomas, Pittsburgh

Donations collected at a Reformation dinner (top right) in October were given to Hurricane Katrina victims and matched by Thrivent.



Trinity Deaf, Wilkinsburg

Members and friends gathered on Dec. 18 to celebrate Christmas with an after-worship luncheon. The congregation welcomes pastors like Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Rev. Ron Friedrich and Rev. Gary Lawson who are deaf or fluent in ASL.



Above, Patty Saraka, choir director, signs "I Love You". Below, friends of Trinity display Santa spirit.

Below, Vendetta Sanders, left, is one of the helpers at the Monday evening New Life class for the young deaf children at Western PA School for the Deaf.





Christ, Forest Hills

The snow on December 8 held off just long enough for us to complete our Christmas musical. This year's production of "If I'd Been There" was written by our fifth grade teacher, Laura Schumm.

Another December project was collecting donations for a family in a Lutheran school in New Orleans. Nine boxes of clothing and Christmas gifts were sent before Christmas. This mom and her six children are getting acquainted with the students and teachers here at Christ Lutheran. We hope to be encouragers for them in prayer and resources for the weeks and months to come.

Registration for the 2006-2007 school year will begin in January. An Open House for new families will be held on January 24 from 5 - 7 p.m. Come and see how we can make a difference for your child. For more information, contact the school office at 412.271.7173.

A major goal for 2006 is the achievement of National Lutheran School Accreditation for Christ Lutheran. Teams will meet to prepare the self-study of the standards set forth by NLSA. We are looking forward to this process of on-going improvement for our school.

By Lois Frerking, Principal



Above, children at Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, circle around Hole in One Winner John Frisoli, who won a \$10,000 prize at the fall PALS Golf Scramble in support of the school's tuition assistance program.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Redeemer had a great Christmas celebration, with many opportunities to share the Gospel message to the community. We are just completing the first semester of our school year, and have accomplished many things. During the second semester we have workshops and assemblies scheduled for both teachers and students as well as two special learning center days. The first center day will focus on world missions in conjunction with the mission emphasis of the Synod's Ablaze initiative. A student and several parents of our school have traveled abroad to bring Bibles and lead VBS programs. Pastor Naumann has also visited the Sudan. These missionaries will share their stories and hopefully spark an interest in our students to the possibilities of mission work.



Each year our students participate in a Fire Prevention and Safety contest. Terry Terhune, a third grader, received an award from Oakmont firefighter Dick Ayres for a Fire Safety Poster he made as part of a contest. Several Redeemer students won prizes for the local contest, and Jeana Luciana, a second grader, received the honor of winning first place in the Allegheny County Fire Safety contest and fifth grader Christine Ostrosky was a third place winner.

Redeemer will begin registering students for the 2006-2007 school year at the end of January. We have classes for students age 3 through grade 8, including computer skills, and a strong music program. If you would like information about our school please contact the school office at 412.828.9323.

By Gail Holzer, Principal



St. John's Preschool, Millvale

The preschool reached out to those less fortunate by adopting a family for Christmas through North Hills Community Outreach.

St. Matthew Christian Academy, Pittsburgh

On Friday, December 9, carolers from St. Matthew joined those from Redeemer Lutheran School to sing a Christmas concert at PPG Place in downtown Pittsburgh, keeping the PALS name in front of the public despite a two-hour snow delay which prevented the other two schools from attending. Debra Terhune directed the choir; the sound system was set up by Terry Terhune and Redeemer principal Gail Holzer.

The popular gingerbread house event brought school families and church families together for the third straight year. Some families this year chose gingerbread trains instead of houses. St. Matthew's new pastor, the Rev. Michael Schumacher, assisted with some of the houses and presented his own special feature-length poem about a white Christmas.



For our third Advent service, St. Matthew students enthusiastically presented another Christmas program written by Dorothy Frisch, "Jesus Who?" Mrs. Frisch, our former organist/trail mom, has graciously offered to continue supporting our ministry of Word and music. Teacher Sandy Baumgardner worked long hours in directing the rehearsals and performance, ably assisted by teacher Susan Basinski. Lois Curcio, St. Matthew congregation member, accompanied on the piano. The play was designed to present the event of the Nativity in its larger context: the purpose of Christ's Advent.



Three Couples Celebrate Thanksgiving Anniversaries

CABOT—Three couples who live in Haven III, independent living apartments at Concordia Lutheran Ministries celebrated their wedding anniversaries on November 22, 2005. Jack and Betty Jenny were married 64 years ago and Andy and Jean Prazenica and Don and Cora Schneider both chose Thanksgiving Day 54 years ago as their wedding day.

Because Don was in the Navy during the Korean War, the Schneiders were married on Thanksgiving Day at Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. Cora said she “picked him out” when she was 10 years old. “I lived with my grandfather just around the corner and it took him a while to notice me as he was three years older.” They have three children, and five grandchildren. Cora worked at Alle-Kiski Medical Center as the cancer registrar for 28 years. Don retired from the Holiday Park Foodland as meat manager. They resided in Brackenridge before moving to Concordia.

Jean Prazenica grew up on a farm only 1½ miles from Concordia and remembers the orphanage here. Andy, from West Tarentum worked at PPG for 25 years. They have five children: Leon, the oldest who lives in Maryland; Kelly, a set of twins, Marilyn and Carolyn and 11 years later, their youngest, Patrick.

Jack Jenny met Betty through his pastor at the Baptist Church in New Castle, who was courting Betty’s sister. Retired from Bell of Pennsylvania after 40 years of service in management, Jack chose Concordia through friends from church and professional colleagues who also live at Concordia. The Jennys have a daughter, Karen Schwab; and two sons, Fred and Daniel and four grandsons: John, David, Mark and Seth, and two granddaughters: Helen and Joy. They celebrated their anniversary at the Saxonburg Hotel with a family dinner.

Winter cycling activities have commenced. The first off-season ride was on the Montour Trail from Hendersonville out in two directions: to National Tunnel and to Greer Tunnel. National Tunnel is curved, so the traditional “light at the end of the tunnel” is not visible from either portal. Broken icicles were found on the tunnel floor near the west portal. Greer Trestle and Tunnel have not yet been rehabilitated for trail use; the original guard rails from the Montour Railroad are still spiked into place down the center of the ties, and both facilities are closed to trail users. The following weekend there was a two-mile snow hike up the Cedar Creek Gorge, which extends from the Youghiogheny River Trail in Rostraver Township. Although it does not cover as many miles as riding, hiking is more practical exercise in the winter because of the lack of the stiff breeze generated by the forward motion of a bicycle. December 3 saw a “polar bear” ride (below 30 degrees) on the Yough Trail, covering seven miles between Milepost 21 and Dravo Landing.

By Mark Shields, Principal



PALS News

On a very frigid and snowy December morning, two of our schools, Redeemer Lutheran and St. Matthew were able to make it downtown to the Wintergarden at PPG to sing Christmas carols. After our concert, we had lunch at the food court, and some of us ventured to the USX tower to view the lifesize nativity. It was a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our community.

Our schools will begin accepting registrations for the upcoming school year very soon. If you have ever consider sending your child to a Lutheran School, now would be a good time to contact one of our principals and discuss the possibilities. Our schools offer a Christ-centered, distinctively Lutheran curriculum for children from preschool through grade eight. Make that call today!

LWML Joyshop Planned for February 25

The Pittsburgh Zone of the Eastern District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is planning a Joyshop for Saturday, February 25.

The event will be held at Concordia Haven at Concordia Lutheran Ministries and will begin at 9 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Rev. Barry Keuralainen (St. Luke, Cabot). The Bible study will be led by Deaconness Nancy Lingenfelter of St. John, Morrisdale. There will be an after-lunch program, still to be finalized. Watch for more details in the February issue of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*.

What's Happening at Concordia at Christmastime



Haven Apartment residents received a special Christmas gift from Concordia—a Christmas party for each of the residents, complete with a multiple-course dinner and entertainment during the week of December 12th. Pictured are former members of our congregations who now belong to St. Luke's. In Haven II, Betty Berg and Dorothy Gunther; in Haven I, Charlotte Demme, Eleanor Faulstick, Ann Pfeifer and Flo Doerr.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries 2006 Calendars are available. If you would like a copy, please call 724.352.1571, ext. 298.



Oertel Assisted Living ladies made a trip to Kraynak's in Sharon to see the tree display. Pictured are Lily Bell and Mildred along with one of the beautiful displays.

A coordinated effort by Activities and Haven II and III residents culminated in an individual gift for each of the more than 50 children who attend the Unity afterschool program in Homewood. Delivered by Keith Frndak, it provided the true spirit of Christmas. Each child received a comb, brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, bubble bath soap, regular soap, candy, shampoo, and a pencil—topped off with a teddy bear.



A busload of Haven residents enjoyed lunch and the beauty of antiques decorated at Rose Haven in Butler (above and below).



Concordia Lutheran Ministries
First "Spring Fling"
Fashion Show
Luncheon

Featuring
 "Fashions by Phyllis"
 Saturday, May 20,
 2006
 Butler Country Club
 Call 724.352.1571, ext.
 266
 for more information.

Below: Oertel Family Christmas Party was last Saturday and featured "Second Time Around" band. Pictured are the Schelien girls.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Sends Thanks and Blessings for Your Generosity in 2005

CABOT—With the end of the year and the dawn of 2006, we can't help but think of the many blessings Concordia has experienced in 2005. The Concordia Lutheran Ministries family wishes to express our deep appreciation to all of you, our supporters. Whether you make a gift donation or kept us in your daily prayers, know that we are thankful to you. Our annual Thanksgiving Drive yielded much food items. Special gratitude is extended to the collection points - Mt. Calvary, West View; Hope, Upper St. Clair; Good Shepherd, South Hills; Christ, Forest Hills and Bethel, Glenshaw and especially to our Concordia delegate and member of St. John's Millvale, Dan Brick, who accompanied Concordia staff on December 6th to gather the gifts. The gift of food is always one that is universal and thus enjoyed by so many.

A special thank you from the Concordia Lutheran Ministries family for your continual support. We receive the receipts of your stewardship through various gifts for our residents and to further our mission. May you be blessed by God's gift of love come down to earth in the form of our Savior.

Haven Couple Celebrates 60th Anniversary

CABOT—Doris and Mick (James McKee) Patterson of Concordia Haven Apartments III in Cabot celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with an Open House for family and friends. More than 150 people came to the Haven III Dining Room to offer their congratulations.

The former Doris Coleman married Mick Patterson on September 26, 1945 at her home in West Lebanon, Indiana County.

They have three children: Constance Donovan (husband, James) of Columbia, South Carolina; James and wife, Bonnie of Apollo and William of Springfield, Virginia. They also have one granddaughter, Stacy and three grandsons, Nathan, Keith and Todd and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Patterson was a dairy farmer, bus driver and worked for the Kiski Township road crew as well as Schaffer & Ray and Gerald Medice Funeral Homes. Mrs. Patterson was a beautician. He served during World War II aboard the USS Fealand Transport Ship from 1942-45. They recently traveled to Oklahoma City for a ship reunion.

Before moving to Concordia Haven nearly four years ago they lived in Kiski Township and are members of Apollo United Presbyterian Church.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts November 18, 2005 through December 12, 2005

Wish List

Concordia Lutheran Ministries strives to meet the needs of our residents and with your help we can make their lives more comfortable. Please call 724.352.1571 for more information.

Rehabilitation:

- ◆ Upper and Lower Body Exercise Equipment, Individual Stations, \$15,000
- ◆ Lite Gait, \$8,500
- ◆ Hi-Lo Mat Table (2), \$6,000
- ◆ Shuttle, \$6,000
- ◆ Treadmill, \$6,000
- ◆ Recumbent Bike, \$4,000
- ◆ Bike, \$4,000
- ◆ Modalities, \$3,000
- ◆ Hydrocollator, \$3,000
- ◆ Cold Pack, \$2,500
- ◆ Activity Table, \$2,000
- ◆ T.V. in Workout Area, \$500

The Nursing Department:

- ◆ 2 or 3 "Ninjo" which is a flusher/disinfector machine made by Arjo for our new dirty utility rooms, \$3,800 each
- ◆ Sara Lift - \$3,517.85 - patient lift
- ◆ Carendo - multi-purpose hygiene chair, \$6,000



Congregational Donations

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Walter M. Vogel Jr. - Frederick & June Bodnar - Melvin & Sara Miller - Irene Phillips - Joe & Donna Reiting. In memory of Bertha, William & Eva Mozeik by: Art & Helen Mozeik. In memory of Trudie Moore by: Clare & Marilyn Lias. In memory of Frieda Schwalm by: Meredith Shwalm. In memory of Peg & Jay Rising and Helen Rising by: Robert & Lois Pogyor. In memory of their parents by: George & Margarey Palascak. In memory of Minnie Klebingot by: George Klebingot. In memory of Lena & Elmer Remy by: Elaine Masters. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Trudie Moore by: Clare & Marilyn Lias. In memory of Albert Stringert by: Harold & Alberta Kroll. In memory of Catherine Romano by: Anita Stoy. In memory of Clyde & Martha Kantner by: Norman & Ethel Rockwell.

Concordia at the Orchard

Lynn Scott

Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

Jean Kirkwood

Capital Campaign Fund

Elizabeth Senulis - Edwin & Sue Neff - Zion Ladies Aid Society - Gustav & Anna Kania - John & Barb Schneidmiller - Dave & Ruth Walborn - Margaret Mann - Joe & Donna Reiting - Charles Klingensmith. In memory of Connie Leich by: Alice Leich. In memory of William Schelien by: Margaret Schelien. In memory of Henry Ellermann by: Elsa Ellermann. In honor of Ruth Brewer by: Cathy Haas.

General Donations

William & Michele Jacob - Helen Mucci - Jim & Luann McMillin - Robert & Marilyn Sproule - Norman Morgan - Mary Treshok - Albert & Joan Lucas - Samuel & Connie Oesterling - Janice Musk - Ruth Brewer - Ralph & Geraldine Doerr - Walter Chila - Martha Schoenthal - Frances Brown - Jane Ann Suran - Marion Cunningham - Glen Helman - Carl & Elda Voelzke - George & Lois Steins - John & Audrey Johnson - Emilia Golmic - Lois Razumic.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Melvin & Sara Miller - Margaret Schelien - Virginia Wilhelm - Karen Hoblak. In memory of Mary Leszun by: Leo & Mary Ann Krantz - Joe & Donna Reiting.

United Way

Elizabeth Behr - Patricia Bookamyer - Della Demaro - Sandra Lee Falkner - Melvin Itzel - Mrs. E.R. Kuenzi - John Lehnhardt - William McAllister - Thomas Parayil - David Mark Phillips - Jane Sarandou - Rob Wilshire - Kenneth Wunschel.