



Pittsburgh Lutheran

January 2007

Concordia Not Letting Fire Hold Up Plans

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries is moving forward with its plans for the Lund expansion project despite the Nov. 5, 2006 fire at its Haven I complex.

Several physicians from Alle-Kiski Medical Center and Butler Memorial Hospital have already moved into their new office space and began seeing patients. The outpatient therapy center opened on Nov. 13 and has already received positive reviews from some therapy clients. The aquatic therapy pool is functional now as well, having been utilized by dozens of patients already.

The center, which facilitates the 60 – 70 patients per week Concordia currently serves, includes over 14 pieces of state-of-the-art equipment and the aquatic therapy pool.

Concordia Director of Rehabilitative Services Nick Reiser said he hopes to see a 50 percent increase in outpatient therapy visits within a year. The center and pool positions Concordia to fully expand its rehabilitation services well beyond the senior community.

“Traditionally, Concordia has been seen as just a company that works with an older crowd,” Reiser said. “With this equipment, the pool, and our experienced therapists, we are looking forward to seeing more people from the surrounding communities, as well as the people we see from our campuses.”

While much attention has been paid to serving a broader group of people, Concordia has not neglected their core group, the residents that live there. Several of the therapists in the department specialize in arthritis and pain patients.

“Our goal is to serve everyone from high school athletes to seniors needing knee replacements and everyone in between,” Reiser said. “Concordia has a long history of helping our resi-

dents and we can’t wait for the community to catch on to the excellent services we have here.”

Haven I Residents Doing Well

CABOT—Every effort has been made to accommodate Haven I residents in their new “temporarily permanent” location in the Lund expansion due to the fire on November 5, 2006. A computer area has been established for residents who frequently go online, a laundry facility with six washers and dryers was constructed for those not wishing to have their clothes washed by Concordia’s commercial laundry service, and the rear parking lot of the Lund expansion has been reserved for those with vehicles. In addition to those accommodations and many others, the dietary department is serving three meals per day in the first floor country kitchen.

The response from the local and surrounding communities has been overwhelming, with individuals and congregations donating so many articles of clothing that Concordia was forced to stop accepting them due to space constraints. For those wishing to assist the residents in the most effective way possible, Concordia has established the Resident Recovery Fund, which goes directly to those residents with the highest need.



Moving day for Skilled Care residents.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries President and CEO Keith Frndak meets with residents to keep them informed about plans.

One uncertainty is whether the building will be repaired or built from the ground up. In the meantime, President and CEO Keith Frndak has been meeting with the Haven I residents to keep them updated on the proceedings and to answer the plethora of questions they have.

On December 4, skilled nursing residents from the Oertel Care Center were moved into the Lund expansion. This transition took two to three days with a number of Concordia employees volunteering their time to help make the move as smooth as possible.

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Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries Welcomes New Board Members

The PALM Board welcomes these new representatives: Gerald Reitmeyer representing the Central Circuit of the SELC District; and Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann as Functional Director. The Mission Director Chairperson remains vacant until Rev. Litke is able to locate a lay representative. Another vacant position is the representative for the NW Circuit of the Eastern District, who should be a called church worker.

Two new missions have been added to the PALM Board. All Saints in Slippery Rock is an English District congregation with a growing, vibrant cam-

pus ministry is now working with PALM. Also, the board received a request from Rev. Marky Kessa of the Eglise Evangelique Luthérienne d' Haiti to partner with them on a specific mission project, to raise funds for the purchase of French Language Bibles and hymnals for their rapidly growing congregations. Our area congregations will receive more information in the near future on how to participate. We look forward for this opportunity to look beyond our own needs and reach out to help our fellow Lutherans in this war-torn, poverty-ridden country.

The Board approved to cover the

increase in the cost of Rev. Mark Ruppert's benefits effective Jan. 1. This increase was already provided in the Budget passed at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

Chaplain Reholma McCants reported that a total of 142 people have attended chapel worship at the Nursing Homes he has served this month.

In response to a visit last month by Sherri Crum, \$500 was sent to the PLCB (Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind) to assist their outreach efforts to the blind in the area.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries granted to PALM \$40,00 designated as seed money for Unity Lutheran Community Mission's New Building Fund. These funds are to be matched by donations from area congregations and individuals. So far 297 students have been enrolled in Unity Lutheran's After School Outreach Children's Ministry since the beginning of this school year. He serves about 25 meals a day.

Sonshine Kitchen will be installing an air conditioning unit for \$8,700 in the kitchen ceiling. Volunteers and contributions are needed.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at First Trinity, Oakland.

St. Luke Fundraiser Has Potential of Donating More Than \$26,000 to Concordia Resident Recovery Fund

CABOT—Thursday, December 14th – the week before Christmas and more than 200 guests honored Concordia Haven I residents who were victims of the November 5th fire that ravaged the first independent living facility constructed on the Cabot campus.

The benefit dinner, held at Butler Country Club, was the result of the efforts at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Funding of supplemental dollars was provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in addition to other corporate sponsorships, which covered the dinner and entertainment costs, and allowed all of the ticket proceeds to be donated to the Residents Recovery Fund.

Dino Capistrani, chairman of the event, led the funding and Scott Briggs, also a member of St. Luke, was the evening's master of ceremonies. Rev. Barry Keurulainen opened the evening with a brief prayer and devotion focused on the loss of one's home and compared it to our Savior's birth long ago that Christmas Eve when Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the Wise Man were far from home as well.

The Brewhouse Jazz Band provided dinner music. A generous contribution was provided by Oberg Industries and two check presentations rounded out the evening's events. William S. Englert, Vice President, and along with Dr. Fred Fioravanti, Medical Director at Concordia and a member of the medical staff, both from Alle-Kiski Medical Center presented Keith Frndak with a \$5,000 check. Representatives from MEDRAD, a medical company with its headquarters in Indianola, donated a total of \$5,000 plus \$3,400 in Giant Eagle gift



cards as a gesture of friendship. MEDRAD will open a new branch in nearby Clinton Township.

On behalf of Concordia Lutheran Ministries and the Haven I residents, Keith thanked St. Luke and all those who supported this event as well as those who provided underwriting for the affair.

"It was the perfect way to begin to celebrate this holiest of holidays," says Lynn Capistrani, who handled the promotional literature and the details of the event. "The Spirit was alive. I prayed in our little committee the other night asking for the Spirit to fill the place...He was there!



Dino and Lynn Capistrani and daughter.

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 meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m. Call the church office for more information (412.486.5777).

Newsletter Deadline

Publicize two (or more) months in advance for best results. Send your information to the editor by the 15th of each month.

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.



Operation Lifeline

Christ Lutheran Church Member Deploys to Kuwait

NEW CASTLE—Operation Lifeline sponsored a reception for church member Major Julie D’Annunzio, who deployed to Kuwait on December 14. This was held following the Sunday evening Children’s Christmas program which was dedicated to her. Her two daughters, Samantha who is 7 and Gabrielle who is 5, presented her with flowers and Samantha told the congregation about her Mom going to serve with the Army in Kuwait. The D’Annunzios also have a little boy, Raphael, who will be two in January. Julie’s husband Gabe will be taking care of the children full time while she is away. Julie has been in the U.S. Army for 10 years, most recently serving as a recruiter in Mercer, PA. The prayers and support of the congregation will be with Julie and her family.

Our 4th annual fundraiser at Giant Eagle on the Butler Rd. in New Castle was held on November 20-22. Church, community and support group volunteers were there throughout the day to gather soldier addresses, give information about the program and to collect donations. It again was a very successful event raising funds that helps support the program. One of the soldiers in the support group, Captain Jeffrey Sink and his wife Gretchen and family, also conducted a one-day fundraiser at the Wilmington Rd. Giant Eagle on Veterans Day.

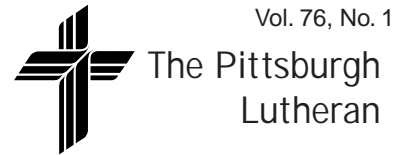
A soup and sandwich supper was held at Christ Lutheran on November 28 for the support group and volunteers. Following the dinner, the Christmas care boxes were packed with tins of homemade cookies, bags of candy and other goodies. A Christmas greeting was included in each box as well as pictures and notes from children. These were mailed the next day so they would be received by the soldiers before Christmas.

If you have a name and address of a soldier serving in Iraq or Afghanistan contact: e-mail operationlifelineclc@msn.com or call Ann Houk at 724.652.6484.

Sponsor a Radio Sermon

BRADDOCK—The Radio Ministry at Immanuel has been ongoing for over 50 years on WORD 101.5 FM Sundays at 10:30 a.m., supported solely by contributions.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, send your donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 420 Fifth Street, Braddock, PA 15104 (note Radio Ministry on your check) and include a note about the reason for the sponsorship (memorial, birthday, etc.) Full broadcasts cost \$150, but any donation is appreciated! It will be announced over the radio, in the bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. Business sponsors also welcome!



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Concordia Residents Enjoy an Early Christmas



CABOT—The Resident Gift-Giving parties, a tradition at Concordia for assisted living and skilled care residents, was held on December 15 in the Activities Room/Chapel at Oertel in the morning and in the Lund Dining Room in the afternoon.

Both Jody Gulish and Christina Savannah, Activities Directors, said "It could not have run as smoothly as it did without all the great help from staff. The residents had a great time and the Activity Departments are so thankful for the staff support and willingness to re-arrange schedules!"

Thanks, too, to all of the supporters who participated in the Adopt-a-Resident program. Reaching out to the residents was a wonderful way to get in the giving mood, and it brightened more than 300 residents. Their wish lists included everything from clothes to Snack Shop and beauty shop gift certificates to music CDs and boxes of chocolates.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries is truly blessed to be able to support so many people through the contributions received from congregations and individuals.



Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind Gives Thanks

OAKLAND—On Saturday, November 18, 2006, the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind celebrated Thanksgiving.

Seventeen guests, one of whom was a new visitor to the PLCB, enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, various sides and, what else but, pumpkin pie for dessert.

The Reverend Douglas Spittel led a Thanksgiving Bible Study and also conducted the Vespers Service.

Keeping Thanksgiving in mind, we went around the room and asked our guests to share those things for which they wanted to give thanks. They did share those things. They also got the sensory experience of seeing (feeling) just how small the wireless microphone was.

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind is able to offer these meals because we have a great group of volunteer supporters. Among those who helped in November were members from the congregation of First Trinity, a group from Central Catholic High School, and a young lady from International Student Ministries. Thank you one and all!

An Exciting December Meal

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind (PLCB) reaches out to people who are blind or visually impaired. Perhaps you've read past articles recapping the meals. December was an especially exciting time at the PLCB. We offered our Swedish themed meal. The Reverend Dave Andrus, Director of Lutheran Blind Missions, based in St. Louis, was in town. He graciously agreed to lead the Bible Study, which is always part of the program on the day of the meal. The Reverend Eric Andrae, who is a dual citizen of Sweden and the U.S., shared childhood memories of Christmas in Sweden. The Reverend Douglas Spittel conducted the Vespers Service. We're doing exciting things at the PLCB. If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Sherri Crum at (412) 682-1800, or director@plcb.net.

by Sherri Crum



Top, Rev. David Andrus leads the Bible study at the December meeting at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind; youth from Central Catholic High School served the evening meal.



Jan. 3-12 — Katrina Recovery Mission Trip; call Rev. Herbert Schumm, St. John's, Millvale, for details.

Jan. 20 — Family Movie Night, Disney-Pixar's Cars, Christ, Forest Hills, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 24 — PALM Board meeting, First Trinity, Oakland, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind dinner, First Trinity, Oakland.

Feb. 16 — Chuckwagon & Square Dance, Christ, Forest Hills.

Feb. 17 — Annual Auction, St. Matthew's Student Assistance Fund, at First, Sharpsburg.



Sonshine Kitchen Receives Gift of Truck

MCKEESPORT—Above, Barb Stuffer, Sonshine Kitchen Administrator, accepts the key for a late model Ford Ranger pickup truck that has been donated to the Sonshine Kitchen

by Janet Bottenhorn, member of Calvary Lutheran Church. This much-needed pickup will be used to haul groceries and supplies from various sources to the soup kitchen.

Many thanks to ALL who continue to support the Sonshine Kitchen.

Thank you to Concordia Lutheran Ministries who designated their Thanksgiving Food Drive to be donated to the Sonshine Kitchen.

Thank you to those who donated the food. Thank you to those who continue to support us by prayers, clothing, food, financial and volunteering.

Thank you ALL! Your love and support has enabled us to celebrate on January 8, 2007 the 24th year of the Sonshine Kitchen ministry reaching out to our community and the 6th year anniversary of it becoming a lay-led ministry!

God has sent us people to not only continue this ministry but also to grow it with exciting partnerships. We plan on expanding by adding a few new programs very shortly. Please check up our updated Web site at www.sonshinekitchen.org

*In His Service,
Barbara Stuffer
Administrator*

*Associated Lutheran Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 3190
McKeesport, PA 15134*

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Congregation News

Congregations Support Missions Overseas and at Home

Ascension, McCandless

Board of Evangelism and Fellowship planning February Evening of Praise and Worship; extending invitations to choirs and praise bands of area LCMS congregations to participate.

Peter Fromm, U.S. Army Special Forces, was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq the day after Christmas; his tour will last approximately two years.

Bethel, Glenshaw

Members distributed gifts to approximately 25 kids through Project Angel Tree, and sang Christmas carols to many shut-in members as well as one Angel Tree family. The Youth Group baked over 60 dozen cookies for hospitalized veterans. Have started using the new Lutheran Service Book for church services. Sunday morning adult Bible study group is using LifeLight material to go through various books of the Bible.

Calvary, Murrysville

Annual bake sale and craft fair, in conjunction with annual Christian Art Show, raised over \$1300; together with Thrivent matching funds, recipients Mark Mozeik (Seminary student and former member) and family of Dottie Weaver will get at least \$1000 each. Congregational Christmas card donations were sent to member Joel Shibata, serving as a missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ in Khazakstan. Christmas gift boxes were shipped to families of seven serving in the military, two of which are in Iraq. The Giving Tree benefited Sonshine Kitchen and St. Matthew's; 24 children participated in "A Star of Love" program.

The new Lutheran Service Book has been ordered; five Bible studies, traditional and contemporary worship offered. A Mission Festival will be held January 7 from 9:30 - 1 p.m. Plans to begin for celebration of congregation's 50th anniversary in 2007.

Christ, Forest Hills

Women's Service Guild to hold annual Winter Cleaning and Kitchen Shower in January; a Chuckwagon and Square Dance are planned for February 16. All are invited; call 412.271.7173 for details.

Memorial and other gifts made possible a new organ, new church doors,

etched glass windows, a sign, and a new carillon system. Held its first annual Live Nativity on Saturday, December 9th. Over 100 people from the congregation and the community attended, and took the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, meeting Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, the Wise Men, and even King Herod along the way. Plans are in progress for next year's event.



Family Movie Night planned for January 20 at 6:30 p.m., showing the Disney-Pixar animated film *Cars*.

School children decorated the fellowship hall with hundreds of snowflakes for the Women's Service Guild Christmas Party.

Concordia, Brentwood

Vacancy pastor Rev. Bob McCandless will begin a "new members" class starting Sunday, January 7 at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon held on December 10 was a fundraiser for the Concordia Haven Resident Recovery Fund. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. William Fuchs, who celebrated their 50th anniversary in December. Happy 90th birthday to Lillian Stocker (December 4), a resident at Lund Care Center in Cabot.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

The new Lutheran Service Book was adopted and put to use during Advent. Below, members take time out from using their brains to using their hands decorating for Christmas.



Faith, Pittsburgh

"It's Truly Heavenly—Faith is Seventy" was the theme of the 70th anniversary celebration on November 12. Eugene Burton, congregation's youngest Elder, delivered the anniversary message. Special recognition was given to the founder's daughter, Betty Brooks, and grandson, Duane Brooks; to Rev. Stephen and Gail Niermann and daughter Sarah (he recently celebrated 15 years in ministry at Faith); to Bernice Laley, organist; Betty Maxwell, senior choir director, and Karen Womak, Gospel Choir director. Congregation president Ronald Williams catered the evening meal; Alfreda Praither and Dorothy Davis Fisher coordinated the event.

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg

Youth and friends had a lot of fun Dec. 3 at their bowling night at the local Strike Zone; the group then drove downtown to see the Christ Nativity creche at USX Tower. Getting stuck in traffic after a "Stillers" game is half the fun, right?

That same day the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus gave an enjoyable fundraising Christmas concert at the church, benefiting Concordia Lutheran Ministry's Resident Recovery Fund. The donations collected are being matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The concert ended with a holiday carol sing along. A cookie and punch reception was held afterward.



Above, many of the youth served with the adults at the church's outreach child care event Saturday, Dec. 16. The church invited community parents to drop off their kids at the church while parents shopped or took time to get ready for celebration of Christmas. At the event, a movie was shown on the big screen, we talked through the story of Jesus' birth, did crafts, sang, went on a "lion hunt," and

New Lutheran Service Book Introduced in Churches

enjoyed kids' meals from Wendy's. Special appearances from wacky Mr. Science punctuated the day, as he shared interesting experiments with the kids.

Holiday carolers from the church went to out to various area homes on Dec. 17 in unseasonably warm weather (we had to use our imaginations as we sang Jingle Bells) to share friendship and hope to shut-ins and church friends as we sang familiar Christmas carols.

A Valentine's dinner is being planned for February.

Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh

Congratulations to Bill and Catherine Hoellein on their 65th anniversary! Ten youth and three adults make plans to attend the LCMS Youth Gathering in July. The youth are planning to serve dinner at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind on January 27. Sunday School mission offering being collected for Habitat for Humanity (Allegheny Valley) in partnership with Thrivent.

Hope, Upper St. Clair / Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon



On Sunday, December 3rd, Hope and Our Savior Lutheran Churches had a combined Advent Dinner hosted by the members of Our Savior. Following the dinner, the young people presented an Advent Program. The evening concluded with the installation of Timothy Fitzner as the Vicar



for the two churches. This will be a dual vicarage for him. Vicar Fitzner is originally from Minnesota and has been studying for the ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Pastor Jamison Hardy continues to be the Vacancy Pastor at Hope. He will help and guide Vicar Fitzner during his year on vicarage.

At a congregational meeting in November, the members voted unanimously to embrace the new Lutheran Service Book (LSB) hymnal. They began a fund raising campaign for members and non-members to purchase a half or whole pew full of hymnals. The hymnals may be given in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event, or given to the glory of God. The hymnals have been ordered and a dedication service is planned.

Hope has recently purchased a software program to develop their own church pictorial directory. Members will have their photo taken with a digital camera and then downloaded onto a computer. It will eliminate the cost and time needed to schedule regular photo sittings and will enable the congregation to update the directory simply and yearly.

The 2007 church pictorial directory will also include all of the members photos and information from Our Savior Lutheran. The double directory will be a great asset for Vicar Fitzner as he serves his vicarage at both congregations.

Congratulations to Ralph and Delores Hauser on their 50th anniversary.

Mt. Calvary, West View

The annual Children's Christmas program was held on December 17, "Carriers of the Light". The inspiring musical showed how all are Carriers of the Light by word and action. The children enjoyed electric candles during the show. The adult choir was part of the program.

Mt. Calvary had a new outdoor sign installed by one of its members, William Gilkey, who was quite handy in managing all aspects of its installation. This was erected in memory of three of its members who have gone on to join the other saints in Heaven: Rev. Martin Lobeck, Dorothy Cloke, and John Malone.

Look for the bright new look at the corner of Highland and Bronx Avenues in West View!

Prince of Peace, Freedom

The December 10th issue of the *Cranberry Eagle* featured members of congregation packing more than 100 parcels for U.S. troops overseas.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Youth Group mission project to provide tuition assistance for three Redeemer preschool families.

St. John, Millvale

Congregation supports Seminary student Stephen Shrum (from Ambridge) in Adopt-A-Student program. Shrum's music ministry in Pittsburgh provides Christian music to area churches.

Rev. Herbert Schumm is traveling with a group from Scranton to do recovery work in New Orleans Jan. 3 - 12; St. John's members have the opportunity to help with prayer and offsetting travel costs. "Financial Counsel from God's Word" is the stewardship emphasis in January. New LifeLight Bible studies begin on Tuesdays 10 a.m. and Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

St. John the Cove, Accident MD

Five area Lutheran churches, three Lions Clubs and a Thrivent branch contributed over \$2700 to Braille Center #173 for supplies/expenses.

St. John, Morrisdale

Rev. James Kusko roasted the turkeys for the Thanksgiving lunch. Heifer International is Sunday School mission project. Welcome home to Brock Perks, who recently returned from deployment in Iraq in time to spend the holidays with family. Exterior renovations include a handicap ramp, and a new chimney. Preschool children's Christmas program was December 22; congregation children's Christmas service held December 24.

St. Luke, Cabot

A Remembrance Service was held in early December for those grieving loss of loved ones, supported by Stephen Ministry and Fox Funeral Home; each family received a keepsake ornament to honor loved one.

St. Matthew, Pittsburgh

Mission focus for December: socks, (Please continue on page 8.)

Congregation News

(Continued from page 7.)

t-shirts and thermal underwear for men, women and children donated to Light of Life Rescue Mission. The annual auction for the Student Assistance Fund will be held on February 17 at First Lutheran—Sharpsburg. Congratulations to Darlene Harris, new member of the Pittsburgh City Council (District 1), filling in the position vacated by Luke Ravenstahl. Darlene, who chairs the 26th Ward Democratic Committee, appointed Mr. Ravenstahl to a seat on that same committee eight years ago, when he was just 18.

St. Paul, New Kensington

Contributions to the "Stay-at-Home" Tea were matched by Thrivent for the local Meals on Wheels program.

Unity Lutheran Community Mission, Homewood-Brushton

A Christmas mixer was held on December 16 for the After-School children; after the party the Children of the Promise mime/liturgical group attended a music recital in Upper St. Clair. The annual Christmas party was held on December 20 with food, fun and gifts for all.

Zion, Accident, MD

New Lutheran Service Book in use; old hymnals will be returned to original donors or shipped to congregations affected by Hurricane Katrina. Christmas Giving Tree supported area needy families, mothers, newborns, the Pregnancy Crisis Center and the Martinsburg VA Hospital.

Zion, Bridgeville

Rev. Don Matzat and his wife Dianne, along with six other Zion members, went on a tour of the Holy Land in November. The congregation was treated to a presentation and enjoyed food made as it was in Jerusalem. The children's Christmas program was held in the evening on Dec. 17, preceded by a potluck dinner and followed by cookies and cake.



Calvary Child Development Center, Murrysville

New carpeting in the classroom made possible through fund-raisers such as Sherm Edwards Candies sales, school sweatshirts and t-shirts.

Christ, Forest Hills

Seven students received ribbons in the 31st annual Christian Art Show: Joscelyn Lydon, 2nd Place, 3rd Grade; Collin Donaldson, 3rd Place, 7th Grade; Jasmine Williams, 3rd Place, 6th Grade; Ethan King, Honorable Mention, 7th Grade; Kristin McMahon, Honorable Mention, 7th Grade; Lauren Sivak, Honorable Mention, 8th Grade.

Students also joined other Lutheran schools for the annual Fall Spelling Bee (held at St. Luke, Cabot). Ngozi Okolo, 6th Grade, won first place and second place went to Collin Donaldson, 7th Grade and Michaela Walker, 5th Grade.

The Yearbook Club is selling advertising space in the 2006-2007 yearbook.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Ladies' Luncheon auctioned 75 baskets to raise funds for classroom needs. December was a busy holiday month: Grades 6-8 enjoyed a field trip to see *A Christmas Carol*. All attended the Annual Christmas Carol Sing at PPG Place in downtown Pittsburgh. Rev. David Andrus, Director of Lutheran Blind Missions, St. Louis, visited students mid-month.

October missions resulted in over 30 bags of food collected for Sonshine Kitchen. November's chapel offerings were sent to LCMS World Relief & Human Care for the Touch of Mercy Campaign; students also collected 100 bottles of lotion and 100 hairbrushes for Concordia Haven 1 residents. December's chapel project is a giving tree for St. Matthew's and Unity Missions for needy families.

St. John Preschool, Morrisdale

All who attended Christmas program were asked to bring a canned or boxed item for the local Food Bank.

St. Luke, Cabot

Hope you enjoyed a Christ-filled holiday season! Our students and staff celebrated our Savior's birth by offering the congregation special Advent worship opportunities: 6th-8th graders performed choral, orchestral, and handbell music, in addition to inspirational dramas; and K-5 students presented their "Three Wee Kings" play and songs.

The folks at Concordia have remained in our thoughts and prayers, and we have tried to serve them in a variety of ways this month. We copied, assembled, and delivered large print Lutheran Hour advent devotional booklets to Haven I. Our student orchestra traveled to the new Lund building to present a Christmas concert. A few of our 8th graders helped serve lunch on two occasions, and the entire 8th grade class delivered lap robes, homemade cookies, and Christmas cheer to the remaining assisted living residents at the Oertel building. Some of the classes have "adopted" displaced Haven I residents who attend St. Luke, providing them with notes from the students, everyday essentials, and special gift baskets.

We are very thankful to everyone who helped us exceed our goal of \$40,000 for the school's 2006 annual fund. These monies will be used for our scholarship fund for families who need help with tuition.

Our "fruit of the Spirit" for January is PATIENCE, and as of the Christmas break, the students have been patiently waiting for the first big snowfall. Perhaps by the time you read this, they will have rewarded for their efforts! Wishing you God's love, peace, and joy during 2007.

Sent in by Michelle Allen

St. Paul, New Kensington

First semester closes with 23 students (two more than last year). Two fathers of preschoolers are fireman and visited in October for Fire Safety, one bringing a fire truck. Students also visited Lower Burrell Fire Station 69, where one student's uncle is a fireman.

Donald Hamm Insurance Agency

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St. Matthew Christian Academy

On Tuesday, December 12, carolers from St. Matthew joined those from other PALS schools to sing a Christmas concert in the Wintergarden at PPG Place in downtown Pittsburgh. Debra Terhune directed the choir. Prior to the concert, participants enjoyed looking at the various colorful displays. The warmer weather made for a pleasant trip to and from Downtown.



Students greatly enjoyed the annual Christmas Store on December 14, when they bought presents for everyone in their households. Each one had to pay only \$1.00. Volunteers set up the store and gift-wrapped the presents. This year's selection of gifts was the best ever because of the generous donations of St. Matthew members and friends. Thank you! We also appreciate the efforts of school parent Aleata Weis, who set up and coordinated the store, and, along with school parent Karen Christopher, helped students make selections and wrapped presents. Also working with gift selection and wrapping was St. Matthew member Chris Bocian.

The gingerbread house event brought school families and church families together for the fourth straight year. Choices included gingerbread trains as well as houses, and there were some interesting variations, including a church. St. Matthew's pastor, the Rev. Michael Schumacher, assisted with some of the houses.

For the Wednesday service the third week of Advent, St. Matthew students enthusiastically presented a Christmas program from Concordia Publishing House: "Hurry, Listen! Jesus Is Born!" The program was prepared by St. Matthew principal Mark Shields and teacher Cheryl Haberman. The greeting and opening sentences were given by St. Matthew's pastor, the Rev. Michael Schumacher. Lois Curcio, St.



Matthew congregation member, played piano and organ; her husband Ron operated the public address system for the electronic musical accompaniments. The reception afterwards was hosted by Janet Seitz and by Jennifer Nelson, who also prepared the printed bulletins.

Cold-weather activities are planned for St. Matthew Mileposters, including a "polar bear" ride (temperature must be below 32 degrees F) and snow hikes. Past snow hikes took place at Dead Man's Hollow and Cedar Creek Gorge, both along the Youghioghny River Trail. Welcome news for all area cyclists was the December 14 opening of the final missing link—Woodcock Hollow to Cumberland, Maryland—in the bicycle trail system to Washington, DC. The 2005 and 2006 Mileposters trips from Pittsburgh to Washington used the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad train to bridge this gap.

There is much anticipation for the upcoming PALS Brain Games, which will be an event based on the popular television show "Jeopardy," complete with buzzer buttons.

By Mark Shields, Principal



St. Matthew Tuition Assistance Fund in Dire Need

PITTSBURGH—Since 1862, St. Matthew Christian Academy has brought the love of Jesus to children through a classical education in a safe, Christian environment. Urban Pittsburgh has a significant population of socio-economically challenged households and unchurched or under-churched families and St. Matthew is the only existing urban Lutheran school in the city of Pittsburgh.

St. Matthew is comprised of a small staff and a small congregation of loving individuals who dedicate their time and energy doing the Lord's work by serving the children and their families in Pittsburgh's inner city. However, the small, faithful congregation of St. Matthew cannot do this great mission and charitable work alone.

Every dollar of your generous tax-deductible gift to St. Matthew Christian Academy will be used to reach the \$40,000 tuition assistance goal — that's just 400 gifts of \$100 each, although any amount you can donate would benefit the children. Plus, if you are a Thrivent member, your donation can be matched.

You can send donations to: St. Matthew Christian Academy
600 E. North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Attn. Mark Shields

Two Concordia Couples Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversaries

CABOT—Raymond and Eleanor Spiering Lorant Jr. of Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Oertel Care Center celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a reception involving family and friends on Nov. 27.

The couple, formerly of Allegheny Twp. and Vandergrift, married on Nov. 26, 1941 at St. Joseph's Parish in New Kensington, PA. They have two sons, Raymond Arthur Lorant III and his wife Diane of Apollo and Donald Albert Lorant and his wife Eileen of Allegheny Twp. They also have four grandchildren and are expecting their first great-grandchild in January.

Raymond was a glasscutter at American Window Glass in Arnold, PA for 30 years before working in the same profession in West Virginia. He retired in 1978. Eleanor was a cook for the Clarksburg, WV Elks Club, preparing dinner for over 300 people every Sunday.

The two are members of St. Gertrude's Church in Vandergrift, PA. Raymond enjoys baseball and soccer, which he played when he was younger, and bowling. Eleanor's interests include knitting, crocheting, and cooking.



Raymond and Eleanor Lorant Jr.



Concordia Haven III residents John and Betty Jenny (above) celebrated 65 years of marriage on Nov. 22 with a private dinner at their residence.

The couple exchanged vows at Betty's former home in Transfer, PA back in 1941. They have three children, Karen Schwab of Gibsonia; Frederick Jenny of Grove City; and Daniel Jenny of Gibsonia. They also have eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

John, who retired from Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania in 1981, spends his free time dabbling in photography, while Betty, a housewife for most of her life, enjoys reading and walking. They are active members of Gospel Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Valencia and were members of various First Baptist Churches for over 30 years.

John served in the Signal Corp. as a Sergeant, Second, and First Lieutenant during World War II and the Korean War. He was an instructor at a radar school in Tampa, FL and worked in communications. In all, he served for five years in the armed forces.



Christmas Cantatas a Success at Concordia

CABOT—For the fifth year in a row, residents of Concordia Haven Apartments presented their Christmas Cantatas during the week of Dec. 11 at the Concordia Chapels. Once again, Alma Wilson was at the helm as Director of the choral group.

The well-attended Cantatas were louder and more angelic than ever this year, as the 39-voice choir belted through the classics, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Joy to the World," and "Silent Night," among many others.

Mary Elizabeth Saxion served as assistant director, Hazel Meier was the accompanist, Nancy Black narrated the spoken words, and solos were sung by Esther Shook and Jack Petrosky (member of St Luke, Cabot). Woody Black handled the amplification.

The choir members are as follows: Sopranos - Dorothy Blankenbuehler, Kathleen Bowser, Ella Cramer, Dorothy Gunther, Betty Jenny, Nita King, Doris Patterson, Mary Ellen Pratt, Eula Roth, Mary Elizabeth Saxion, Esther Shook, and Margaret Stark; Altos - Betty Berg, Yvonne Brinker, Jane Brown, Eleanor Hanna, LeeAnna Kennedy, Pat Mrozinski, June Scarpino, Rosemarie Smith, Margaret Washburn, Marlene Weissert, Edie Waltenbaugh, and Marie Williams. Tenors - Arlene Beckman, Victoria Calizzi, Jack Jenny, Bob King, Mick Patterson, Jack Petrosky, Barbara Saylor, and Robert Stark; and Basses - Rev. Richard Bartmas, Murray Burns, Dr. Dean Kroh, Charles Pratt, Ray Roth, Rev. John Schneidmiller, and Robert Weissert.

The Concordia family - residents and staff in skilled, assisted and independent living - appreciated "A Family Christmas" as much as those who performed it.





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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Mail donations for **The Pittsburgh Lutheran** to the editor:
The Pittsburgh Lutheran
107 Saybrook Harbor
Bradfordwoods, PA 15015-1319

Concordia Haven Residents Enjoy Christmas with the Special Gift of Dinner

CABOT—On Dec. 11, 12 and 14, Haven residents from each building were treated to Christmas parties with distinct entertainment and an abundance of fellowship. Haven I residents saw Concordia staff member Ken Robeson entertain the guests with Christmas music, Haven II residents were treated to Christmas music by InCahootz, and Haven III residents were entertained by The Original Class Act's rendition of Christmas favorites.

The menu for the events was Stuffed Chicken Breast, Orange Roughy Florentine, Party Mashed Potatoes, Carrots Excellence, spiced apple rings, cranberry salad, holiday muffins and assorted cheesecakes.



Haven I Residents



Haven III Residents

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts November 17, 2006 through December 15, 2006

General Donations

Lois & George Steins - Jane Ann Suran - James Barr - Alice Leich - Clarence Fryer - John & Helen Coleman - Norm Morgan - Mary Treshok - Robert & Marilyn Sproule - Irvin & Vivian Sallach - Richard & Anita Neitzel - Herbert & Nancy - Janet Inghram - George & Tanya Heidel - Gerline Gehr - Sheryl Fitch - Mary Ehrlinger Demmler - Richard & Susan Boggs - James & Betty Bauer - Doug Bornemann - Janet Kelly - Esther Shook - Alma Wilson.

Congregational Donations

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont - St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Integrity Lodge No. 79 Italian Sons & Daughters of America - Joyce Gehrmann - Martha Kerr. In memory parents by: Fred & Leona Heintz. In memory of Val Jean Edmonds by: Henry & Hilda Sundermann. In memory of Val Jean Brown by: Alma Wilson - Robert & Nita King. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Capital Campaign Fund

Frank Fowler - Ruth Frohn - Robin Hipple - Carol Wagner - Nancy Sepich - Kenneth & Charlotte Hoener - Edith Waltenbaugh - Harry & Lois Shindledecker. In honor of Keith Frndak by: Bill & Shirley Freyer. In honor of Marsha Santella & Susan Malcolm by: Joe Michalek. In memory Mary & Michael Leszun by: Robert & Rose Marie Miller. In memory of William Schelien by: Margaret Schelien. In memory of Val Jean Brown, Loretta Lesniak and Fred Zitzman by: Bill & Shirley Freyer.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Clyde & Martha Kantner by: Norm & Ethel Rockwell. In memory of Clara Troutman and Martha Shively by: Lois Cooper. In memory of William Wallace by: Esther Jean Wallace. In memory of Val Jean Brown by: Jean Heckman. In memory of John Gizienski by: Thorn Hill Printing, Inc. - Brian Homes, Inc.

Concordia at The Orchard

Lynn Scott

Concordia at Ridgewood Place

Stanley Mialki

Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

In honor of Peggy Trettel by: Henry & Hilda Sundermann.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Doris Nolf - John & Betty Jenny - Henry & Hilda Sundermann - Thomas & Edna Gainan. In memory of Joanne Helman by: Glen Helman. In memory of Clyde & Martha Kantner by: Norman & Ethel Rockwell.

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- Recumbent bicycle for treating upper and lower body
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