



Pittsburgh Lutheran

January 2009

Concordia Recognizes Outgoing Board Members

CABOT—At the December 2 meeting of the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors, six outgoing members were presented with appreciation plaques individually inscribed to gratefully recognize their dedicated service to people in need.

Special thanks to **Charlotte Nist** for 11 years of cumulative service. A member of Prince of Peace in Freedom, Charlotte also served on the Concordia Visiting Nurses Board as well as the Home and Community Services, Mission and Ministry, Personnel and Chaplaincy and Strategic Planning Committees.

Baptized and raised in the United Church of Canada, **Don Olmstead** served on the Concordia Board for six years, most recently as chairman of the Facilities Management Committee and a member of the Building Committee. He has been a member of St. Luke, Cabot since 1997.

Also acknowledged for six years on the Concordia parent Board, a member of St. John, Millvale, **Ruth Redenbaugh** was chairman for the Home & Community Services Committee and served on the Finance & Audit, Quality Assurance, and Strategic Planning Committees. She is also Director for Concordia at Rebecca Residence, Good Samaritan Hospice, Concordia Visiting Nurses and the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation Boards.

Rev. Herbert Schumm, pastor of St. John, Millvale since 2002 was honored for three years of service to the Concordia Board. He is also on the Concordia at Rebecca Residence and Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care Boards as well as the Personnel & Chaplaincy and Quality Assurance Committees.



Outgoing CLM board members: Ruth Redenbaugh, Don Olmstead, Milt Scott, and Rev. Herbert Schumm. Not pictured: Kenneth Wallhausen and Charlotte Nist

Milt Scott has accumulated 10 years of service to Concordia's Board. He is also a member of the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation Board and chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee and member of the Mission and Ministry and Strategic Planning Committees. Milt and his wife Christie have done extensive mission work in Africa on behalf of Concordia and are members of Prince of Peace, Freedom.

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville, **Kenneth Wallhausen** was feted for his 19 years of service to Concordia Board. Most recently, he chaired the Building Committee and was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. Ken is a graduate of Valparaiso University in Electrical Engineering.

36th Annual March for Life Scheduled for January 22

WASHINGTON, DC—Pittsburgh area Lutherans will surely be among the thousands who participate in the annual March for Life this month, two days after the inauguration of Barack Obama. This year's theme is Remember—the *Life Principles* Mean "Equal Care" with No Exceptions!

Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, said "I very much look forward to this activity that in a visible way communicates our Synod's strong pro-life position, with which I wholeheartedly and unapologetically agree. Particularly at this point in history, it is imperative for LCMS members and other Christian citizens to affirm and speak in support of the God-given blessing of life, from conception to the grave." [*Reporter* magazine]

Visit www.marchforlife.org for details on this year's march and rally, scheduled for noon on January 22.

Faith and Freedom Conference Planned

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Lutheran Alliance announced plans for its first national conference, Faith and Freedom, to be held March 19-21, 2009 in Washington, D.C. A variety of expert speakers will present subjects related to the role of faith in citizenship and the blessings of religious freedom. The 10th anniversary of the historic religious freedom victory in December 1998 of KFUE Radio will be observed also.

The National Lutheran Alliance is a partnership of Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, Concordia University—Wisconsin, and the Lutheran Education Association, with an office in Alexandria, VA. The executive director of the alliance is Paul Devantier, who successfully led the nine-year effort to save KFUE in the lengthy litigation with the Federal Communications Commission. Founded in 1924, the St. Louis-based KFUE is the nation's longest continually running religious radio station and is located on the campus of Concordia Seminary—St. Louis.

Operation Lifeline Observes Veterans' Day, Sends Christmas CARE Packages; Gets New Email Address

NEW CASTLE—A Veterans' Day program was held on November 11 for veterans in the support group and those at Christ Lutheran, New Castle. All gathered at the flag pole outside as Gary Hassan and several other bagpipers played a medley of songs for all branches of the military followed by "Amazing Grace." The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Clarke, retired PA National Guard and Iraq war veteran.

The program began with a welcome and Veterans' Day history presented by Nancy Schlumberger. Rev. Edward Kucera gave the invocation and read a Veterans' Day poem. Two church members, Paul Hartfelder (SGT Army WWII) and Henry Schulz (CPL Marines WWII), wrote some memories of their time in the service, which were read by Army veteran Kathy Brenner and retired Air Force nurse LTC Irene Matas of the Vietnam era. Ann Houk recognized all veterans in attendance and presented them with a card and patriotic calendar. The Christ Lutheran choir sang "America the Beautiful"

and "Let There Be Peace On Earth" to end the program.

A support group member, Gretchen Sink, whose husband Jeff has served a tour in Iraq and Afghanistan, and her mother Sarah Tinstman, whose son Bradley has also served two tours, conducted a Veterans Day fundraiser selling large yellow ribbons and taking donations at Giant Eagle on Wilmington Rd. Also, on the three days before Thanksgiving, the support group held its 5th annual fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. Both were very successful due to the generosity of members of the community.

On December 2, the support group held its soup and sandwich dinner followed by the packing of the Christmas care packages. Homemade cookies were packed in all the boxes along with other snack items. Members of Christ Lutheran as well as other churches, area organizations, support group members and individuals in the community, provided the cookies. The children from St. Luke, Cabot made ornaments and cards as well as supplied some candy and snacks to go in the boxes. The soldiers will get to enjoy a little "taste of home" and know that many people are thinking about them and praying for their safe return.

Names and addresses of soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are still wanted. Call Ann Houk at 724.652.6484 for information. The new e-mail address is OperationLifeline@yahoo.com.

By Nancy Schlumberger

New Year's Resolution . . .

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Troops Overseas Need Our Support

If you know someone who is serving in the Middle East (or anywhere!), send name, address, deployment date and country to Operation Lifeline for prayers and support.

Mail to: OPERATION LIFELINE
Christ Lutheran Church
1302 E. Washington St.
New Castle, PA 16101

Or e-mail:
OperationLifeline@yahoo.com
Phone: Ann Houk 724.652.6484

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Calendar of Events for 2009

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group Meetings

The meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month in the Adult Day Services programming area in the Lund Care Center (Cabot).

Contact Concordia Adult Day Services Director Paula Sypulski at 724.352.1571, ext. 8271 for more information.

Good Samaritan Hospice GriefShare Bereavement Support Group Meetings

The meetings take place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning in the GSH Conference Room on the second floor of the office located at 3500 Brooktree Rd. in Wexford from 7-8:30 p.m. A similar afternoon session is held at the Concordia at Cabot campus every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Meetings are open to anyone dealing with grief, regardless of whether or not they have an affiliation with Good Samaritan Hospice.

Contact Bereavement Counselor Rev. Paul Rist at 724.933.8888 for more information

Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Service

April 26 at Ascension Lutheran Church on Peebles Rd.

The service is held in memory of those who spent their final days in Good Samaritan Hospice's care.

Contact Bereavement Counselor Rev. Paul Rist at 724.933.8888 for more information on GSH's unique brand of hospice care.

Concordia Fourth Annual Fashion Show

Saturday, May 2 at the Butler Country Club

Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, fashion show, and basket auction. Proceeds benefit Concordia's charity care fund - the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund.

Contact Concordia Director of Public Relation Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 to reserve your seat.

Legacy Society Appreciation Luncheon

Tuesday, June 16 at the Pittsburgh Field Club

The event honors individuals who make estate or other charitable gifts

supporting the work of Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Contact Concordia Director of Development Jennifer McIntire at 724.352.1571, ext. 8363 to become a Legacy Society member.

Concordia Fifth Annual Golf Outing

Monday, July 13 at Pittsburgh National Golf Club

The golf outing includes a gift for all golfers, lunch at the turn, golf on a premiere par 72 golf course, followed by a dinner reception and basket auction. Proceeds benefit Concordia's charity care fund - the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund.

Contact Concordia Director of Public Relation Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for sponsorship opportunities and information.

Concordia Summer Festival

Sunday, July 26 at Concordia Lund Care Center (Cabot)

The traditional Festival features a worship service of thanksgiving at 3 p.m., a special menu based on the year's theme and entertainment for all ages. This event has been held annually since Concordia's establishment more than 125 years ago.

Contact Concordia Director of Public Relation Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for more information.

Camp Good SAM

August 13 - 15 at Spencer YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee

Good Samaritan Hospice, a Mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, hosts this overnight bereavement camp for children and adolescents to help them cope with the loss of a loved one.

Contact Anna Olsczewski for registration and sponsorship/volunteer opportunities.

Concordia Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 3 at Concordia Lund Care Center (Cabot)

A traditional German Oktoberfest, the day features Zambelli fireworks, a special German menu, musical entertainment, hayrides, a petting zoo/pony rides, and games and entertainment for all ages.

Contact Concordia Director of Public Relation Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for more information.



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The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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Congregation News

Congregations Welcome New Members

Ascension, McCandless

The Junior Bible Quiz team's final match will be held January 17 at Ascension; all six members have consistently finished in the top 16 out of 25 quizzers.



On November 23, 2008 Ascension welcomed 19 people (pictured above and below) into membership after completing a New Member Class or transferring from another church. Three of the new members are students at nearby La Roche College; one from Kenya, S. Africa; one from Uganda, and a third is a Cuban exile. A cake reception was held between services to welcome the new members and get to know them.



On Saturday, December 13th, Ascension invited children from the congregation and the neighboring area to come to a Christmas Celebration where they decorated gingerbread houses, played games, and had delicious Christmas cookies and drinks.

Parents were able to drop their children off while they went Christmas shopping, wrapped gifts, etc. without the children. Thirty people were involved including 17 children who attended and youth and adult helpers.

Three women from the congregation (Eddie Krom, Mimi Stanton and Cindy Vasil) volunteered a day in the



kitchen to make the houses in advance. Everyone had a fun time!

Calvary, Murrysville

The Health Ministry is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on January 5, noon to 6 p.m. and an AARP Driver Safety Program on March 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$14 per person; \$12 for AARP members). Movie night resumes on January 10 with the second installment of *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

Epiphany's intermediate Sunday School class prepares to deliver Christmas gifts to shut ins.



Pictured left to right: Lisa Rikus, Katelin Rombach, Kyle O'Connor, Jennifer Rombach, Danielle Cicak, and Jeremy Cicak. Earlier this fall, they had a bake sale and donated over \$200 to the Unity after school program. The Prayer Shawl ministry at Epiphany made 44 scarves for the students at Unity's after school program.

First Trinity, Oakland

Campus Ministry Anniversaries: 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of Epsilon Delta at First Trinity (April 13, 2008); Epsilon Delta was a chapter of Gamma Delta, the now defunct International

Association of Lutheran Students. 2008 also marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of our Lutheran Student Fellowship chapter (Region 11, Chapter 11 July 7, 1998). These milestones were recognized and celebrated Sunday, 7 December 2008, during the Adult Bible Study hour with presentations from Rev. Eric Andr e and students Diana and Sherri, as well as during the Divine Service with special prayers, hymnody, preaching, processional banners, etc.

Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh

Will host the Concordia University—New York choir on Thursday, February 26.

St. John, Morrisdale

Welcome to new members John Wiberg; Anthony, Amy, Hudson, Landen and Terran Pase; Rev. Allan, Joyce and Dawn Oppen. The LWML will handle publicity for the Eastern District LWML's 2010 convention in Pittsburgh.

Trinity of the Deaf, Swissvale



Don and Mary Mowl were able to realize a dream of visiting all 50 states. As of 1977, a trip to Alaska had completed 49 states.

It only took 31 more years to visit Hawaii, when they went in October to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. Don's sister Betty Lawson made the trip with them and they were surprised with visits by other friends while on the islands.

Above, left to right, friend Donna Oblegy, Betty Lawson, Don Mowl and Mary Mowl.

Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart is a regular column listing or showcasing outreach through time, talent and treasure.

Ascension, McCandless—Blankets are being collected for Shepherd's Heart Fellowship (Pride Street), organized by Hilary Stanton. A recent "baby bottle" campaign yielded \$370 for an area Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Calvary, Murrysville—Members raised \$105 in pledges for the CROP Hunger Walk. Tabitha Society Christmas Tree and Christmas Card fund donations will benefit two individuals suffering from serious illness.

Christ, Forest Hills—Women's Service Guild baked and filled 150 containers of cookies for Sonshine Community Ministries (McKeesport).

Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh—Preschool chapel food collections are donated to the Cloverleaf Food Pantry. A special donation of plain rice was made for the 19 families from Burma and India. Also, over 300 pounds of food were donated to C.A.E.A.P. Food Bank in October. Marie Popovich is working for her Girl Scout Gold Award by collecting items for women and children at an area safe-haven shelter.

Redeemer, Oakmont—Food was collected for the Riverview Food Bank; school chapel offerings are being donated to St. Matthew's Food Pantry and to Lutheran Hour Ministries.

St. John, Morrisdale—The Social Concerns Committee created CARE packages of love (decorated by the Sunday School) for several families.

St. Luke, Cabot—Youth group canvassed local community and collected enough funds for more than 31 turkeys for the St. Luke Food Pantry. Kids Club made and delivered cookies to residents of Elmcroft and Rosebrook nursing homes; the Puppet Team presented their own Christmas Play to residents at the Shelborne Nursing Home and the Fair Winds Nursing Home. The Christmas Giving Tree provided a toy or article of clothing for needy children in the Butler area. Sunday School children joined Christ Lutheran (New Castle) gathering items for the Operation Lifeline Christmas boxes. Items were collected for the Women's Shelter in Cranberry Township. Children also visited congregation shut-ins and residents of Lund and Oertel at Concordia Ministries. The Saxonburg firefighters and ambulance crew also received special gifts.

Zion, Accident—Christmas Giving Tree supported the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the Martinsburg VA Hospital and several area families. The Ladies Aid Society and LWML are collecting and shipping Sunday school and Bible study materials to India through Concordia Gospel Outreach.

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Reader Survey Results

In November, a survey about a possible, future move from a printed format to an electronic format was mailed along with the 2009 subscription invoices to each PALM congregation, as well as individual subscribers.

Of the 54 surveys sent out, responses were returned from 14 congregations and one individual subscriber. Of those 15, only 5 indicated a willingness to move to an electronic version. Seven congregations and three individuals sent gifts along with their subscription payments, indicating a willingness to continue with the current printed format.

Some of the suggestions for cutting costs included:

◆ *Increase the price*

The publication subscription price was last increased in 2005 from 25¢ to 35¢ per copy and the result was a loss of 4% in subscriptions. Even without an increase for 2009, subscription quantities will be down at least 6%, as indicated from 27 out of 44 congregations who have paid to date. As the quantity decreases, the potential *cost per copy* will need to increase to cover publication and mailing costs.

◆ *Apply to Concordia Lutheran Ministries for a grant*

Concordia Lutheran Ministries currently contributes \$4,000 per year, which is approximately one-third of the annual cost. Half of that amount is for back page advertising; the other half unofficially "secures" additional space for news. That generous "gift" for non-ad space subsidizes the lack of other advertising and loss of subscriptions.

◆ *Use a cheaper paper, such as a photocopy bond*

The current stock is the printer's "floor" stock, bought in large volumes, and as such, is less expensive than using an offset or bond stock. Photocopy paper is also thinner and does not hold photo reproduction well.

At this time, **The Pittsburgh Lutheran** will continue in a printed format, and the topic of an electronic-only format will be on the agenda at the annual PALM delegates' meeting in September.

Kate A. Hallock, Editor

PALM Monthly Board Meeting

Date: 4th Tuesday of each month
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Location varies. Contact Terry Nelson-Taylor (412.480.0903 or terryntaylor@verizon.net).

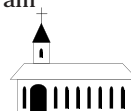
Newsletter Deadline

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.

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New Organ Dedication and Recital January 25th

GLENSHAW—Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glenshaw Sunday, will dedicate its new organ on January 25, 2009.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. (free-will offering) and the recital at 7:30 p.m. by a local professional organist.

R.S.V.P. at the church or by calling 412.486.5777 by January 18th.

**Calvary Preschool,
Murrysville**

The children of Calvary Early Learning Center presented their Christmas program to their families on Wednesday, December 17th. They celebrated "Happy Birthday, Jesus! Parties" before leaving for Christmas vacation.



The Sunday School at Calvary, Murrysville performed an original Christmas drama *Looking for the Messiah* over the weekend of December 13 and 14. Students from preschool through high school participated. The drama, written by Laura Schumm, covered the time period from Thanksgiving to Christmas, when everyone is searching for the hottest Christmas gift. Erny Papay composed the music for the commercial jingle, *He's the Messiah*.



Calvary's confirmation class enjoyed an evening of friends, pizza, and games on Tuesday, December 16th. This game night was originally scheduled for November, but had to be postponed due to the huge gas spill in Murrysville.

By Laura Schumm

Redeemer, Oakmont

Several students from Redeemer Lutheran School have been recognized for their talent in art. The Oakmont Fire Dept. sponsored a Fire Prevention Poster contest, in which 15 students won. In addition, Calvary Lutheran Church and School in Murrysville hosted the area's largest Christian art show. Twelve Redeemer Lutheran School students



took home awards from this contest as well.

Oakmont Fire Prevention Poster contest winners:



- Kindergarten - Mason Miller 1st place
- First Grade - Helene Tracey 1st place and Robby Schinkel 2nd place
- Second Grade - Carlee Hummel 1st place, Jacob Limbert 2nd place, Grace Wilshire 3rd place
- Third Grade - Zachary Pugliese 1st place, Steven Leone 2nd place, Sam Wilshire 3rd place
- Fourth Grade - Sara Cronin 1st place, Ian Tracey 2nd place, Abigail Hanley 3rd place
- Fifth Grade - Jeana Luciana 1st place
- Sixth Grade - Terry Terhune 1st place, Rachel Leone 2nd place

Christian Art Show winners:



- First grade - Joey Decheck 1st place, Christen VanWyk 2nd place, Blair Wallace - Honorable Mention & Helene Tracey - Special Merit Award
- Second grade - Justin Decheck 3rd

place & Carl Bucholtz - Honorable Mention

Third grade - Elizabeth Schinkel 3rd place & Cullen Boyer - Honorable Mention

Sixth grade - Julian Parayil 1st place

Seventh grade - Abrianna McCaskill 3rd place

Eighth grade - Lindsey Dietz 1st place & Kelsey Bajack 2nd place

Redeemer Lutheran School students in grades 4-8 visited two Concordia homes in December - Concordia at Rebecca Residence & Concordia at Ridgewood Place. They came to celebrate Christmas with residents, bringing gifts & cookies. Students also put up a tree and sang Christmas carols.



Seven students from Redeemer Lutheran School have been chosen to represent the school in the ExploraVision Awards - a competition sponsored by the Toshiba Foundation and the National Science Teachers Association. The students simulate a research and development team while thinking into the future of science and technology, creating an invention or innovative idea using creative thinking and problem solving skills and then preparing an in-depth report that conveys its vision to others. Students will participate in a regional level competition and if selected as a finalist, advance to the nationals in Washington, D.C. One group of four students - Cullen Boyer, Steven Leone, Sarah Ormay and Elizabeth Schinkel (all 3rd graders)- will compete in the Primary Level and a second group in the Upper Elementary Level: Emily Nonnenberg (4th grade), Jeana Luciana (5th grade) and Nathan Dietz (5th grade).



Above, back row: Ken Boyer – Mentor, Jeana Luciana, Emily Nonnenberg, Nathan Dietz, Debra Terhune (Science Teacher); kneeling – Cullen Boyer, Steven Leone, Elizabeth Schinkel, Sarah Ormay

RLS is trying to help local food



pantries. Non-perishables were collected and chapel offerings in December were for St. Matthew's food pantry. In addition, middle school children went door-to-door in the Oakmont community leaving bags that were later picked up full of non-perishable food items to donate to the Riverview Community food bank.

By Gretchen Schinkel

St. Luke, Cabot

Greetings to all in 2009. As we get back to the old grind after the wonderful holiday break, we realize that the school year is half over!

Following our traditional new year schedule, a team of hardworking dads, led by Principal Mark Wilt, will scrub and wax the classroom floors and hallways.

STUCO offered students new needlecraft and puzzle clubs.

In the beginning of December, Cindy Smith, our 7th grade teacher/drama coach/STUCO leader, suffered serious injuries to her legs in a car accident and is recuperating at Harmarville Rehab. Meanwhile, one of our part-time teachers, Judy Abernathy, will sub full-time until she begins her maternity leave in January; thankfully, our dedicated staff and parents have jumped in to help during this hectic time. We pray for God's healing, strength, and patience, for everyone involved.

St. Luke Parade Float



Under the leadership of very active school mom Heather Casey, St. Luke Lutheran School entered an impressive float in both the Butler (morning) and Saxonburg (evening) Christmas parades. And, for the second year in a row, the float won awards in both parades! The 40-foot tractor trailer flatbed was divided into thirds, with the first third spotlighting the live nativity scene and true meaning of Christmas. The remaining two thirds depicted old-fashioned indoor and outdoor family Christmas scenes complete with colorful lights, fireplace, rocking chairs, toys, trees, snow, sleds, and a friendly neighborhood pooch. More than a dozen volunteers worked many hours to make this a reality. It was a chilly day, but the float was packed with singing students, teachers, and parents, accompanied by guitars, much to the delight of the crowds in the streets. Adult helpers walked along the parade route, passing out candy canes and goodie bags featuring Christian greetings from St. Luke to lucky children. Our float won "Best Theme" in the Butler Parade and placed second in the Saxonburg Parade. Thanks to everyone for all their dedication and hard work.

School News, Continued

Baby Blankets

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the students at St. Luke teamed up with their chapel partners to make simple fleece baby blankets. The blankets were given to three local pro-life pregnancy centers: Lifeline of Butler County, Lifeline of Cranberry Township, and Slippery Rock Crisis Pregnancy Center. More than 600 women a year are helped by these three centers. A total of 75 blankets were lovingly assembled by the students. The money to buy the material was gathered through the students' chapel offerings during the months of October and November. Chapel partners share many activities throughout the year, helping each other not only to *grow in*, but also *share* the love of Christ.



Above, left to right: Ashley, Sarah, Abbie and Morgan hard at work.

Concordia Visits

Every year our students visit the residents at Concordia, with each class presenting special programs. So far this year, a Thanksgiving service was conducted by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders, which included songs and litanies. The 3rd graders, dressed as Bible characters, made their traditional All Saints' Day visit. Sixth graders wrote and presented devotional paragraphs, sang a few requested songs, and helped with bingo. Large inspirational banners were created and are displayed in the different retirement Havens and the nursing facility. The 8th graders have served lunch to the residents at Haven II, and will be going back later in December to set up for their Christmas party. What a great combination, young children interacting with the wise and seasoned folks at Concordia!

By Sharon Ambrose and Sonya Hassler

*International Student Ministry***Rain or Shine**

SLIPPERY ROCK—Come rain or come shine, early or late, campus ministry is always available to help the international and American students who attend Slippery Rock University. No time is the wrong time to ask for help. All Saints loves the students and is glad to do whatever is needed.

The telephone rang late Saturday evening. The security guard from the Clearview Mall was calling to ask for help for Janet, an SRU student from Ghana in Africa. She'd missed the bus back to campus, and she had no way to get back home. I rushed right over to get her, but by the time I arrived 25 minutes later, someone had stolen everything she'd purchased. The jacket and boots she had purchased (with money from her brother) to stay warm this winter were gone. She hadn't realized that she had to guard her purchases carefully.

Imagine being a student from a warm climate who was freezing most of the time. Even worse, imagine how alone the student felt. To add insult to injury, the clothing she'd bought and couldn't afford to replace was gone. Although Janet is a Christian, she was heartbroken. How could this happen? On the way back to the university we talked about how much this hurts. We also talked about how God had taken care of her in the past. We ended the ride with prayer and with the assurance that all Saints head sharing shelves with warm clothing she could have. As it turned out all of Janet's needs were met: ASLC members brought in jackets for her and relatives in Maryland helped, too. Her faith today is now even stronger. Although she will transfer to another college for nursing, she will never forget that it wasn't too late for God to bring help for her from Christians.

Shardea is an SRU student from Aruba. She's visited different churches in the area, but didn't feel really welcome. When her friend, Jesus (pronounced hey-SOOSE in Spanish), from the Dominican Republic came to visit her, they decided to attend the All Saints fellowship (ASF) gathering to carve pumpkins, eat pizza, and view a DVD. They both felt so accepted that they



came to Wednesday and Sunday worship and they accepted rides to shop and to see the Amish. Although Jesus has gone home, Shardea will stay here to study. She looks forward to "hanging out" at ASLC, where she feels at home.

We now know an international student from Bethlehem (yes, the real Bethlehem!). His name is Rami. It is fascinating to meet a student who lives where Jesus was born. He'll be at SRU for only one year. He likes his time at SRU, where everyone is friendly to him. His only roadblock is the lack of public transportation. Then he heard that All Saints helps with transportation so he has come for rides to the airport. Rami is familiar with Christianity. He admires a learned professor at a Christian college in Bethlehem that Rami attended, who taught him about Christianity, Islam and Judaism. He believes that Jesus actually did live and was a good man. Prayerfully, he will be led by the Holy Spirit to know who Jesus really is. Maybe this will happen as we talk on the way to and from the airport. The rides are available even as late as midnight because they are such a useful way to talk to students about what they believe spiritually and what Christianity has to offer.

At first I couldn't understand the voice on the phone. She tried to tell me who she is. All of the sudden I remembered. She had come to an activity at ASF. Now she wanted to know if she could come for conversational English. When I told her she could come right away she was amazed. She thought she'd have to wait. Conversation was easy when she arrived. We talked about her life

at home in Asia and her family and where she'd grown up in Japan.

Then she told me that her husband is not happy with God. She said he is hostile because Christians talk as if God cares about them. She wanted to keep our conversational English time together a secret. I did not think it wise to encourage her to go against her husband, so I urged her to share her desire to learn English, even though it was at a Christian church. She was excited by even the thought that she might be able to come to All Saints to practice English any time and as often as she wanted.

Amazingly, her husband gave her permission to come to All Saints when she wanted to, as long as it was not every day. The Holy Spirit drew her here and who knows what may happen later. We have learned to anticipate great things from the Holy Spirit! So we are available rain or shine!

All Saints campus ministry is available at any time because many people and organizations make it all possible: first, the congregation loves the students. Members go out of their way to say hello and bring in needed items like warm jackets. Groups like the LWML give grants for Bibles. At his last Bible study ever at All Saints, graduate Kenzaburo Tsukuda, who had been baptized here, accepted a CPH Self Study Bible funded by the LWML. Ken is leaving SRU to study in Pittsburgh, where campus ministry pastor Reverend Eric Andrae knows he is coming and is waiting to welcome him. Although Ken has a Trim Line Bible, which he likes because it is easy to carry, he was grateful to be given the Study Bible, which is a favorite Bible at All Saints for Bible studies. All Saints is grateful to the LWML for the funds to give this priceless gift to Kenzaburo.

It's never too late to be a missionary to students. Please pray for students; please invite students to your home; greet them wherever you meet them. Campus ministry is an around-the-clock ministry which is more satisfying than words can say. That is why we are ready rain or shine!

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

**Campus Mission in Pittsburgh
Like a Second Family**

OAKLAND—My religious background is not very extensive. I was not raised a Christian, mainly because my parents were not very religious before they moved to the United States from China. When I left home for college, I actually went to a small private liberal arts college in Massachusetts, where I was not really exposed to religion at all. Then, I transferred to the University of Pittsburgh after a year, and that was when I decided to learn more about Christianity.

My family has been experiencing some hardships over the past two years, which has caused my mom and dad to look toward God and the Bible for guidance, for comfort. This happened around the same time that I read about how too many young Americans these days have no religion, and I remember thinking, "I don't want to be one of them!"

I decided to study Lutheranism in particular because I remember learning about Martin Luther in history class in high school. I admired a lot of his beliefs and ideas; he was such a powerful and inspirational person. So, when I moved here to Pittsburgh, I started looking for Lutheran student organizations through the school.

At the Student Activities Fair toward the beginning of the semester, I met Pastor Eric Andrae and learned about Lutheran Student Fellowship. I started attending the Bible Study sessions. It did not take long until I started going to church, and then the Catechesis class that Pastor Andrae teaches, to learn even more about Lutheranism.

Even though I have only been here in Pittsburgh for slightly over three months, it has been an extremely rewarding and eye-opening experience being involved with the campus ministry.

I remember the first time I went to church. I felt completely out of place; I barely knew anyone. I did not even understand the sermon. I just did not feel like I belonged there. As time went on, everything started to make sense to me, and I made a lot of new friends.

Everyone at First Trinity is just so kind, supportive, and welcoming. For me, home is five to six hours



away from Pittsburgh, so it is comforting to know that there is the campus ministry here, which is honestly like a second family to me.

As a transfer student, moving to a completely new place, to a much bigger city, without knowing anyone or having any family here, it has been extremely tough. It has been through the campus ministry at First Trinity that I have been able to overcome some of the most discouraging times over the past few months. It is truly amazing how much I have learned—about God, about the Christian faith, about myself—since I joined the campus ministry!

By Sherri Huang, Sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh

Please consider ongoing financial support for our ministry to students like Sherri, by making checks out to "First Trinity" with "campus ministry" in the memo line, and mailing them to the address below. Thank you!

*The Rev. Eric R. Andrae,
Campus Pastor, Lutheran Student Fellowship & International Student Ministry Chaplain
First Trinity Lutheran Church,
535 N. Neville, Pgh. 15213
412.683.4121, x2
ERA@FirstTrinity.net*

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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!

**The Augsburg Academy
presents:
Food and Faith: A Repast
of Theology and Culture**

"He was known to them in the breaking of the bread." Luke 24:35

Eating is a basic function for the sustaining of life, but how we eat says much about our beliefs and reverence concerning life. In the hectic American lifestyle, the importance of eating as one of the cultural cornerstones of human civilization is easily overlooked. Christian culture, however, has a deep and abiding respect for the gift of food, its preparation, and table fellowship.

Over six sessions, "Food and Faith" will explore the Biblical and cultural dimensions of the importance of eating. Students will become acquainted with the Christian traditions relating to fasting and feasting. The class will explore the theological and practical dimensions of table fellowship both in the home and in the parish church. Of course, the class will also share some food. Come and join us at the table.

The class will run on Sundays, February 8 - March 15, 2009, 6-8 p.m., targeting those of High School age and up, and meeting at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 535 N. Neville St. in Oakland/Shadyside. Deadline for registration is Feb. 1. The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel will be the instructor. Meals will be provided. There will be a minimal fee. For more information contact the instructor at DHS@FirstTrinity.net or the Academy rector at EricAndrae@gmail.com; both can also be reached at 412.683.4121.



Good Samaritan Hospice News

GSH featured in national publication

When a local organization like Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH), a Mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, garners a reputation in the community for high quality care, local media tends to take notice (see the story "Program gives grieving kids a chance to heal" in the July 17 edition of the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*).

When GSH continues to take end of life care to new levels, national media occasionally get involved.

In the December 15 - 22 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, Reporter Kerry Hannon wrote a three-page story titled "A Spreading Appreciation for the Benefits of Hospice Care." GSH was one of the organizations called for an expert opinion.

Hannon spoke with GSH Clinical Director Michelle Hartman, RN about some of the hurdles facing hospice providers. Hartman was quoted regarding the hesitancy of physicians to refer patients to hospice - which is focused on caring, not curing.

Volunteers needed

Good Samaritan Hospice is currently seeking caregiver, clerical, and administrative volunteers. Those interested should call Anna Olszewski, volunteer coordinator, at 1.800.720.2557 to register.

Hospice volunteers perform important and rewarding work. By serving people who are making choices on how to spend their last precious days of life, they learn more about themselves and what really matters. Volunteers choose the duties, location and schedule most satisfying to them.

Good Samaritan Hospice provides compassionate, individualized comfort care for persons in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler and Westmoreland counties. Patients living at home, in nursing homes, or the home-like setting of the Hospice House in Wexford or In-Patient Unit in Cabot are cared for by family and loved ones with the support of experienced hospice staff and volunteers.

Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind One Guest's Story

OAKLAND—Over the course of almost ten years since the PLCB has been in existence five individuals have joined First Trinity and found a church home. Those aren't staggering numbers, I know, nonetheless they are significant.

I would like to share the story of one of our guests. She had been thinking about finding a church for a while. She was very busy: working full time, taking accelerated college courses during the evenings. Weekends were taken up by the minutia of life: cleaning, grocery shopping, doing laundry, and completing schoolwork. Time passed, life went on, she earned her degree and her department was eliminated. Nine months later she found herself in graduate school once again an accelerated format. Again her life was consumed with just keeping up with schoolwork. Finally the day came when that degree was attained. Time passed. Her desire to attend church grew stronger. Now, finally, there was time to do that. Phone calls of inquiry were made, though not returned.

While she was riding on the bus one day, Bob Mates introduced himself and mentioned the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind. They chatted for a few minutes until arriving at his stop. She kept the information, but didn't really know if this was for her. So she didn't act upon it right away.

A few things simultaneously happened. The PLCB planned a meal—a joint venture with another group and she learned of the library where she could go to read the Bible. So she went to the meal, and then several times a week to read the Braille Bible. She has been there ever since. First at the PLCB, then in catechesis and finally as a member with her church family.

I don't have the space to list the reasons why 95% of people who are blind are unchurched. I am, however, able to tell you that Outreach Centers like the PLCB go a long way toward providing a comfortable environment for us. I say us because this is my story.

If we are to continue, the PLCB needs your help. Our annual budget of \$12,000 is separate from First Trinity's budget. PLCB is funded primarily through personal contributions, PALM, local churches and church organizations and fundraisers. There is no line item in First Trinity's budget directly supporting our mission.

Please keep our mission in your prayers. Please also consider making a contribution in support of this vital ministry to persons who are blind.

Checks may be made payable to Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind and sent to 535 N. Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Please contact me with any questions or if you would like more information about our mission. Phone: 412.682.1800; email: director@plcb.net.

Thank you! Many blessings in 2009!

By Sherri Crum



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).

Hospice Services

The Good Samaritan staff is available to come to your church to do a presentation about hospice care. Simply contact Public Relation at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 to schedule. For more information on Good Samaritan Hospice, call 1-800-720-2557 or visit www.concordialm.org.

Mileposters Go Caroling, Distribute Crosses and "FISH" to Area Bus Riders

Five Mileposters riders (two who rode all the way to Washington, DC, two other veterans, and one newer rider) went Christmas caroling in the community around St. Thomas Lutheran Church on December 14, visiting over three times as many places as last year. Besides St. Thomas families, the carolers sang at the Woods Run fire station and at the homes of kids who were being invited to Games Night, which was held that evening. A special treat was homemade peanut butter fudge at the last stop, which was at the Arensberg home. A trip to McDonald's in Bellevue, complete with session in the play area, refueled the riders for the rest of the day's activities.



One new family from the rounds of caroling did come to Games Night, bringing attendance to eleven children and five adults. Even some of the grownups enjoyed participation in a riotous game of duck-duck-goose, which was led by Aleata Weis, who also brought freshly-baked gingerbread men. A generous supply of other treats was available, provided by Roy and Eileen Arensberg. Kent and Jennifer Nelson continued their able assistance, especially for the always-anticipated round of hide-and-seek at the end. Other games included Carrom, bowling, chess, and checkers. The education director at St. Thomas, Mark Shields, risked playing against two people at once--one in chess and one in checkers, but lost the chess game! Every Games Night begins with a study of that Sunday's Gospel lesson and ends with joined hands in a circle, praying the Lord's Prayer.

The Mileposters are continuing to sing special music in Sunday worship at St. Thomas, and sang in the Christmas Eve service as well.



Besides crosses, Mileposters now have Christian fish, embossed with the Greek letters which spell "FISH" in that language--an acrostic for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior"--to distribute to others. Over fifty passengers on area school buses received Christian fish keychains for Christmas. As with the crosses, custom cards have been created to explain the message of the Christian fish, with information about the Mileposters and St. Thomas on the back.

You may browse <http://www.mileposters.net> to see pictures in color of Games Night, Christmas caroling, and other Mileposters activities. A number of Mileposters riders and their families attended a special community Thanksgiving meal on Troy Hill, and a November trip was made to ride behind a steam engine on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad from Cumberland to Frostburg, with a visit to the carriage museum in Frostburg. A special feature of the train ride was costumed World War II re-enactors.

Learn more about tandem bicycle ministry at: <http://mileposters.net>. Bikes for two, three, four and even five people!

Submitted by Mark Shields



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Jan. 5 — Red Cross Blood Drive, Calvary, Murrysville, Noon

Jan. 25 — Organ Dedication/Recital, Bethel, Glenshaw, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 — Concordia University-New York choir concert, Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh

March 1-7 — Lutheran Schools Week: *Securing Each Child's Future-For Eternity*

Mar. 7 — AARP Driver Safety Program, Calvary, Murrysville, 9 a.m.

Apr. 26 — Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Service, Ascension, McCandless

May 2 — 4th Annual Concordia Lutheran Ministries Fashion Show, Butler Country Club, 10:30 a.m.

June 16 — Legacy Society Appreciation Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club

July 13 — 5th Annual Concordia Lutheran Ministries Golf Outing, Pittsburgh National Golf Club

July 26 — Concordia Lutheran Ministries Summer Festival, Cabot

Aug. 13-15 — Camp Good SAM, Spencer YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee

Oct. 3 — Concordia Lutheran Ministries Oktoberfest, Cabot

Nov. 7-8 — 34th Annual Christian Art Show, Calvary, Murrysville



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Christmas Carol Redux

It is not doubt a source of great consolation to many Lutherans that when our Lord said “Blessed are the poor,” he had the good sense to qualify his remarks with: “in spirit.” The joke at the Fort Wayne Seminary went something like this: Do you know the only poor the Lutherans care about? *The poor in spirit.*

Now while that may be humorous, I do think there is more than a little bit of truth there. I don't think anyone would argue that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod does not have a stellar track record when it comes to social issues—that is of course for the only two drums that are regularly beat at the seminary: abortion and homosexuality.

The plight of the poor, the disenfranchised, the homeless, the “coffee grounds” of society must never be allowed to over shadow the preaching of the Gospel in its purity and the right administration of the sacraments. Please.

Aside from that, consciences can be massaged when one considers all the Synodical bureaucrats that are involved “mercy”—the latest catchphrase. Forests are probably being leveled even now for committee findings to be printed.

That aside, let's speak about reality, that is, in our own backyards.



Recently I was reading Matthew 25.31ff in preparation for a sermon. As I read, I dozed off into dream-land.

I dreamt that I was Ebenezer Scrooge; I heard the door knocker loudly hit the front door; I cringed as I heard the door creak open; I ran as I heard heavy footsteps coming down the hall; and the rattle of chains.

There in front of my eyes stood Jacob Marley, covered in mold and chains; the stench of brimstone filling the room. Vacant eyes stared at me, and with a voice that seemed to have no bottom he cried out: *Ahhh...Ken...mankind should have*

been your business.

I awoke with a start and a thought: Marley was right. Christ our Lord lays out the rules of the game in Matthew 25: feed the hungry, give drink, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and visit the sick and the imprisoned.

You'll note that Christ did not ask me any theological questions: explain the 'real presence'; define forensic justification; when does conversion take place; or what is the proper distinction between law and gospel. Feed. Nourish. Clothe. Welcome. Visit.

It dawned on me that I wasn't involved in much of this, aside from the member in the hospital or the occasional person at the back door of the parsonage. More to the point, how could I live out the *Shema* (which as far as I'm concerned is THE basis for pastoral care) if I wasn't involved in this work; His work. It's mankind that's the business of the Christ *and* the Church.

To that end Holy Cross has teamed up with St. Vincent De Paul here in Johnstown, and we're in the grant writing process to fund the meals we prepare and serve there twice each month. Great.

However there is another issue that deals specifically with mankind; it's an issue that is currently experiencing no end of difficulties. I think we can help—no, not *oui*, but *we*. The issue is Unity Lutheran Mission, Pastor Reholma McCants' congregation on Hamilton Ave., in Pittsburgh.



Christmas Carol (Cont.)

Recently I was down at Unity for their Harvest Festival and I was astounded at the conditions of the building and the work he was able to do there. I don't want to dwell on that. McCants' had a model in the basement of the proposed center, and I believe that it was featured in **The Pittsburgh Lutheran** about a year ago.

I looked at the total cost of the project and it was under a million dollars; that's chump change for a good grant writer, particularly when you consider what it is that McCants is trying to do and where.

But here's the problem: no support. Go figure. If in fact the Lutheran Churches are going to actively engage Matthew 25 **then we can't let** Synodical or District Offices decide which missions are vital and which are not. What should we do? Bus everyone in the inner cities out into the suburbs?



That's as ridiculous as it is intolerable. Congregations must band together to help each other. Christ must be all in all.

Unity needs help, they need your help. Does anyone know of a crack grant writer? How about someone with accounting expertise? Project management experience?

Nickels and dimes just won't get it and the structure continues to fall down around the children that are fed there—fed *both* spiritually and physically. While I hate the word "committee" I wonder if it is possible to put together a small team of lay people and clergy to help Rev. McCants work through the funding process and make his dream a reality for the kids in that area, and for Christ.



There's no sense in sighing as we wring our hands over the lack of involvement of the Church at large; that's a bit like Pilate washing his hands before the Jews. The fact of the matter is that this mission is vital to the kids who live in that neighborhood and if it can't be done with synod/district help then it must be done without it. More to the point, this mission is vital *to Christ* and in fact, that *is* the point.

Unity is not the first example of our Church taking a position on the viability of congregation and it is almost invariably a congregation in an inner city setting. Shouldn't Christ be preached there? Is there a reason why faith shouldn't be lived out there? Or is Christ to be preached only where it is cost effective?

I know the answer as well as you do: money. When did we become a business?

Local congregations must help each other out and it is for this help that I ask. If you have skill sets that would be helpful; if you know a grant-writer or are one; or if you are just interested in seeing if we can accomplish this, please contact me using the e-mail at the bottom of this page.

Why not let mankind BE our business?

Rev. Ken Kelly Jr.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Johnstown, PA 15906
knkelly4@gmail.com

Concordia delivered Christmas gifts to 35 or so children from Unity's after school program in Homewood.



The building and the grounds are in deplorable condition but Unity Community Lutheran Mission continue to be a beacon shining the Gospel in the Homewood-Brushton area of Pittsburgh. For each day that progress on the new building is not made, the current site continues to use valuable resources just to keep the walls up.

PALM Donations

Send your donations for and make checks payable to the **Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries** to:

PALM Treasurer
Attn. Cynthia Barnes
First Trinity Lutheran Church
531 N. Neville Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Concordia Promotes Social Service Coordinator, Hires Occupational Therapist at Cabot Campus



Ashley Gillis

Kittanning resident Ashley Gillis was recently promoted to the position of Social Service Coordinator at Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Gillis, who has worked for Concordia part time in social services and activities since August 2007, is now responsible for helping short-term patients adjust to the nursing facility upon arrival and track their psychotropic medications if prescribed. She also assists with patient's discharge planning and is the communication liaison between the patient's family and all other departments.

A graduate of Grove City College, Gillis earned her Bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in psychology. She said she was attracted to Concordia due to the organization's Christ-centered mission.

"I love that Concordia puts its faith in caring," Gillis said. "Faith is very important to me, and working for a company that embraces that is a blessing."

Gillis said determining her favorite aspect of the job was simple: interacting with the patients.

"A lot of our short-term patients come here right after a surgery or medical setback," she said. "Sometimes all a person needs is someone to talk to and express his or her fears and losses to. I like being able to spend time to listen and help the patients get through this time in their lives."

Gillis lives in Kittanning with her parents and three dogs. She is a member of Mount Union Bible Church and is a Zumba instructor at Mac's Health Club in West Kittanning. In her spare time she enjoys exercising and volunteering at her church's youth group.

Miranda Watson

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Director of Inpatient Rehabilitation Heather Miller recently appointed New Kensington resident Miranda Watson as an Occupational Therapist at the Concordia at Cabot campus.

Watson comes to Concordia after working in occupational therapy for eight years. Her responsibilities include evaluating, treating, and discharge planning.

"The reputation of Concordia is really what drew me to the organization," Watson said. "Being in such a pristine work environment is important to me as well."

Watson holds a Master's degree in O.T. from Gannon University. She has worked in a variety of settings, including acute care, outpatient, and skilled nursing.

Watson said she was drawn to rehabilitation after doing some volunteer work in the field. She lives with her husband Scott and her two-year-old daughter Maggie. She enjoys scrapbooking in her free time and is a member of Dutilh United Methodist Church in Cranberry.



Concordia Provides Speakers' Bureau for Community Organizations

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries is offering its Speakers' Bureau for community groups and service organizations that wish to have a speaker discuss important health and senior-related issues.

Having a speaker from Concordia is free and simple to set up. Call Concordia's Public Relations Department at 724.352.1571 ext. 8266 and request the topic of interest. Concordia will then match the appropriate speaker to the topic. Requests should be made four weeks in advance.

Some regular topics include: Medicare, Medical Assistance, Insurance, Estate Planning, Healthy Living, CPR Certification, Pharmacy and Medication Management, Hospice, Medical Equipment Usage, Assisted Living, Rehabilitation After Surgery or Illness, Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiving, Home Care, and more.

If there are additional topics of interest not on the list, Concordia will try to accommodate the request. For more information, call Concordia at 724.352.1571 ext. 8266 or visit on the Web at www.concordialm.org.

Concordia to Host Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Adult Day Services (ADS) will host an Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. in the ADS program area on the ground floor of the Lund Care Center.

The January meeting will feature Deidre Stein from the Alzheimer's Association, who will participate in a question and answer session about the disease. The meeting is free and open to all caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia. Adult care will be available during the meeting.

The support group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. To RSVP or receive additional information, call the Concordia director of adult day services at 724.352.1571, ext. 8271 or visit on the Web at www.concordialm.org.

Two Concordia Independent Living Residents Turn 95

CABOT—Two Concordia Lutheran Ministries residents celebrated their 95th birthdays recently.

Gerline Gehr

The former Gerline Hite was born Dec 5, 1913 in Bedford County. She married her late husband John M. Gehr on Aug. 12, 1937 at their home in Greensburg. She has been at Concordia for 12 years since moving from her home in Beaver.

A retired school teacher, Gehr's last employer before retirement in 1956 was the Beaver Area School District. She is a member of the Century Club, President of the Garden Club and Children's Aide Society, and Personnel Director for PSER of Beaver.



A member at First Presbyterian Church in Beaver, Gehr's hobbies include traveling, golfing, and playing cards.

Joseph Michalek

Michalek was born in Natrona Heights on Dec. 10, 1913. He married his wife Frances Wloczewski on Feb. 3, 1943 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Blessed Sacrament in Natrona Heights. They have three children: Roseanne Desilets of Anaheim, CA; James Michalek of Alamo Gordo, NM; and Kathleen Obarski of Oak Ridge, TN. He also has four grandchildren.



Michalek worked for Allegheny Ludlum in Brackenridge for 42 years until his retirement in September of 1979. He was also involved with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 186 in Natrona Heights for 30 years and was a member of the ELKS Club in Tarentum and M.O.R.A. (Men of Retirement Age).

An Army veteran who served during World War II from 1943-1946, Michalek worked with an anti-air-

craft unit and on bridge engineering in the U.S. and Philippines.

Michalek is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Blessed Sacrament in Natrona Heights. He enjoys golf, bridge, and music.

To keep up with what's happening at Concordia, visit www.concordialm.org or subscribe to Concordia News & Views by calling 724.352.1571, ext. 8266.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts

November 14, 2008 through December 17, 2008

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Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

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Congregational Donations

Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont - Grace Lutheran Church - Palisades Park, NJ.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Rev. & Mrs. H.R. Neitzel by: Richard & Anita Neitzel. In memory of Walter & Henrietta Kitzky Sr. and Walter T. Kitzky Jr. by: Dale Kitzky Sr. In memory of Leota Boltz by: Ruth Rhein. In memory of Clara Fitzgrau Trautman and Martha Fitzgrau Shiuley by: Lois Cooper. In memory of George, Mildred and Paul Lange by: George & Leah Lange. In memory of Charles & Martha Bauman by: Georgia & Ward Trostle. In memory of Gertrude Junghans by: Dr. Siegfried P. Junghans. In memory of Marie Stitt by: Richard Fuhrer. In memory of Julia Wagner by: Irene Bourg.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Esther E. Gerstacker - Avonell A. Wagner - Cliff McHenry - Margaret Schelien - Henry & Hilda Sundermann - Raymond & Eula Roth - Christine Young - Alma Wilson - Doris Nolf - Norman & Ethel Rockwell - Hazel Funk - Tony & Karen Treshok. In tribute to Marsha Santella by: Joseph Michalek.

Angel Tear Fund

Esther E. Gerstacker - Walter Vogel Jr. - Lois Razumic - E.J. & Linda Kelly. In tribute to Rev. Hartman by: Joseph Michalek. In memory of Lois Curcio by: Michael & Cristen Fiffik. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

Theresa Florence Silbach. In memory of George Horne by: Florence Horne. In memory of Ruth Punchedard by: Ernest O. Punchedard.

Capital Campaign Fund

In memory of Norma Fowler by: Frank Fowler.

Concordia at The Orchard

Lynn Scott

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