



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

February 2009

Immanuel's Furnace Finally Gives Up Ghost; Your Help is Needed

BRADDOCK—A free-will, voluntary, non-obligatory appeal is presented for LCMS members in the Pittsburgh area to assist our brothers and sisters in the Faith at Immanuel, Braddock. As most of you know by now, after the three local networks interviewed Rev. Ron Rafferty, Immanuel's aged furnace went down for the last time. The cost of identical replacement is quite high, but a more reasonable forced-air replacement would need about \$18,000 to do the job.

Immanuel Services Continue Despite Boiler Problems

BRADDOCK—After a boiler break-down, there is no heat in the sanctuary of the church. Worship services continue being held in the Educational Building where an altar and chairs have been set up. The radio broadcast is still being recorded and can be heard over WORD-FM 101.5 at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

There is heat in the Fellowship Hall so the Senior Luncheons will be held as usual. Immanuel just began its 11th year of providing free luncheons to senior citizens in the community.

First Lutheran Church,
Sharpsburg, to Sponsor
Allegheny Brass Band
Concert to Benefit
Immanuel Furnace
Fund.

See page 4 for details.

I am encouraging all readers of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran* and area pastors in each congregation to offer this opportunity to their members over the next few weeks so that every one will have a chance to participate. If each would consider a gift of \$10, it would only take 1800 contributors to accomplish this goal successfully. Of course, that is just the suggested minimum, but it is certainly within the means of nearly everyone to join in. Why, that's merely skipping two Starbucks coffees, or one fast food meal...you get the idea? I'm sure if the overwhelming response exceeds the goal, Immanuel would extend the surplus to challenge an appeal for the next congregation with the most urgent need.

It has always troubled me that the Mennonites, the Amish, seem to rally to crises instantly, the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses pull together to cover the need, and Lutherans often take some time to get into it... Several have already responded this week as the need was made known. Will you help? Checks should be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 420 Fifth Street, Braddock, PA 15104 (check memo: "Furnace Project").

[Brief Bible study: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ... As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:2,10]

Rev. John Weldon
Circuit Counselor,
Pittsburgh SW Circuit

LEA to Honor Holzer with Award at March Conference

OAKMONT—Gail Holzer, principal at Redeemer Lutheran School, Oakmont, has been chosen as the Distinguished Lutheran School Administrator by the Lutheran Education Association (LEA). The award will be presented to her at the 2009 LEA National Administrators Conference March 12-14 in Atlanta, GA. Gail and Lois Frerking, principal at Christ Lutheran School, Forest Hills, are both attending the conference.



Concordia Achieves Five Star Rating With Medicare's New System

CABOT—Less than a month after achieving accreditation as an Aging Services Network, Concordia Lutheran Ministries was recognized yet again. In an attempt to simplify the process of finding a quality skilled nursing facility, Medicare recently adopted a star rating system, which basically takes information collected from health and safety surveys and translates it into an easily recognizable rating.

Concordia's rating was neither unexpected nor unwarranted, as Concordia Lutheran Health & Human Care (Lund Care Center) and Concordia at Rebecca Residence both received five-star ratings.

(Please continue on page 15.)

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
BRONXVILLE
CHOIR TOUR

*Worthy to be
Praised*

Concordia University—New York (Bronxville) Choir will be singing at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Whitehall, on Thursday evening February 26 at 7 p.m.

The choir is under the direction of Dr. Jason Thoms (nephew of GSLC preschool director Jennifer Meyer).

Pittsburgh will be the first stop on their Midwest tour.

The choir will also be singing at St. Luke Lutheran School's morning chapel on Friday, February 27. Everyone welcome.

For more information call 412.884.3232.

White Fields
Foundations Hosts
Men's Events

PITTSBURGH—On December 16 White Fields Foundation hosted a men's breakfast downtown at the Rivers Club. Forty men gathered together to share in God's Word, laugh, praise God and encourage one another in their faith. Tunch Ilkin and Jeff Hartings, former Steeler players, were there to lead our time. We were especially blessed with Kim Costanza, saxophonist, leading us in worship.

We hosted another breakfast at Ascension Lutheran Church on January 31, and on Sunday, February 1, former World Champion Pittsburgh Steeler center Jeff Hartings shared his testimony during worship. We are starting several different men's groups throughout the Pittsburgh area to encourage men and share the faith. Call Rev. Brennan Gaertner if you would like to attend future men's events, 412.310.0510.

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

OAKLAND—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 to help defray the cost of the food.



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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

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Is your family prepared for life's surprises? Consider opening an LCEF Family Emergency StewardAccount today. Call today for more information: 1-800-843-5233.



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(LCEF StewardAccount access features provided through UMB Bank, n.a. LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.)

Concordia to Host Annual Fashion Show at Butler Country Club

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries will host the 4th Annual Fashion Show on Saturday, May 2 at the Butler Country Club, with all proceeds benefiting the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, Concordia's charity care fund.

Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, the fashion show, \$5 mystery bags, a basket auction, clothes, jewelry and beauty products sale – attendees can even have their nails done. Once again, Fashions by Phyllis, a clothing retailer who has shops in Bellevue and Meadowland, will provide the fashions for the day. Last year's event hosted close to 300 people.

The Good Samaritan Endowment Fund provides Concordia with additional funds to support residents with depleted resources. This fund was established in the early 1990s and has since helped hundreds of people meet the expense of the quality health-related services at Concordia.

Concordia cares for many resident each year who do not have suf-

ficient resources to pay for the full cost of their care. In skilled nursing, the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Program pays for most, but not all, of the care of residents without funds. In assisted living, however, there are no government programs to make up the shortfall between residents' resources and the cost of care.

Committee members include residents: Harriet Bartmas, Norene Nelson, Joan Balicki, Pat Mrozinski, Betty Berg, Peggy Stark, Leona Zitzman, Rosie Hockenberry, Roxie Nicol, Henrietta Maurhoff, Dorothy Blankenbuehler, Elizabeth Turner, Anzie Kelley, Verlee Fischer, Lenore Roessing, Dorothy Gunther, Edith Waltenbaugh, Jane Norris, and Marlene Weissert, chair; and staff: Charlene Kline, Roni Lucas, Sara Lemon, Beth Wichrowski and Shirley Freyer.

For more information or to reserve seats for the event, contact Concordia Director of Public Relations Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266. Visit on the Web at www.concordialm.org.

LWML Makes Plans for Joyshop; 2010 Convention

The Pittsburgh Zone Executive Board of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will meet on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 1 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Murrysville, PA.

All zone officers and a representative from each society of the Pittsburgh Zone are urged to attend.

The Planning Committee for the 2010 District LWML Convention to

be held in Pittsburgh will be meeting the same day, same place at 10 a.m.

The annual *Joyshop* event of the Pittsburgh Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be held at Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills on Saturday, March 14, 2009.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Claire Carlson, Eastern District LWML officer, giving a presentation on "Mission-Ministry Vision" program—designed to assist our societies to be effective witnesses as we "serve the Lord with gladness."

Women of the zone and guests are invited to attend. A noon luncheon will be served.

An ingathering of pantry items and freewill offering will be taken for the Sonshine Kitchen in McKeesport, PA.



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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. 301 Scott Avenue, Glenshaw. Call the church office for more information (412.486.5777).



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Blood Drives, Spaghetti Dinners, Workshops — All Part

Ascension, McCandless

A strategic planning meeting was held with James Brese, Eastern District treasurer and a congregation ministry facilitator, to establish a new vision/mission.

Gene Williams participated in the 36th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. two days after the presidential inauguration.

Three Ascension youth finished among the top 12 in the final matches of the Junior Bible Quiz. Congratulations to Tasha Lahoff (#8), Gabe Gaertner (#10) and Matthew Shaginaw (#11).

Youth Spaghetti Dinner with matching donations by Thrivent to support Shepherd's Heart Fellowship on Saturday, February 21, 4 - 7 p.m.; "to go" orders are available! Free family movie night following at 7:15 p.m. featuring *Ratatouille*.

Bethel, Glenshaw

The Youth Group is planning a Valentine's Day romantic meal (on Saturday, February 14, of course). The kids have invited the adult members to "Le Bethel Bistro" for an evening of fine food, romantic string music and attentive service.

The Men's Club is sponsoring a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24. All are invited to attend!

Bethel will also have Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., beginning with Ash Wednesday February 25. Subsequent Wednesday services in March and April will be preceded by a Soup and Salad Supper at 6:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

A group of adult members and youth attended the Pittsburgh Symphony on January 23 to hear Mendelssohn's moving "Reformation" symphony, which is based on Luther's "A Mighty Fortress" hymn.

Calvary, Murrysville

A Red Cross blood drive was held on January 5. The Gospel Rivers Boys In Concert performed on January 17.

Christ, Forest Hills

The Woman's Service Guild will host the annual Joyshop for the Eastern District Pittsburgh Zone MMVR on March 14th at Christ Lutheran Church. Claire Carlson is the scheduled speaker for this event. Registration will begin Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. followed by prayers and devotions in the sanctuary. Lunch will be served at noon and an ingathering of food and donations will be taken for the Sunshine Kitchen in McKeesport. Call the church office at 412.271.7173 for additional information.

Confirmands at Christ Lutheran

The confirmation students at Christ Lutheran traveled to the Hamilton Hills Senior Residence during the Christmas vacation to offer a Carol Sing and presentation of holiday goodie bags. The residents enjoyed their visit and hope they will return in the Spring.

New Members Welcomed at Christ

The congregation at Christ Lutheran expresses its warmest welcome to Jeff Steggert and his wife Lynn. Jeff is already participating in the Handbell Choir and both he and his wife have been actively participating in many of the Christmas events held at the church.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

Come one, come all: Epiphany is having a Spring Cleaning Day, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., including a Giant Giveaway! Some of the items include little kids' chairs, toys, arts and craft items, just to name a few. The event will be held in Walther Hall. Please use the parking lot entrance. Donations would be appreciated. Additional details are available on the Web site at Lutherans Online/Epiphany Penn Hills. See you then!

Also, planning the traditional Lenten Soup and Salad dinners before worship on Wednesday evenings. There's always room for more. All are invited to attend.

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg

First has joined the offering chal-

lenge begun by local pastors to assist Immanuel Lutheran Church, Braddock, in funding a new boiler for the church, by challenging members to donate \$10 per member to the furnace fund for this sister congregation, realizing that if every LCMS member worshipping at area churches donated \$10, the new boiler would be paid off.

Several members traveled to Washington D.C. on January 22 to participate in the March for Life rally and activities. They attended meetings with congressmen after the rally, and traveled back home the same evening.

Because of global cooling, and the relative ease of heating the church's all-purpose room, Sunday morning services during January and February are being held in the educational wing.

During Lent soup and sandwich suppers will be held before each Wednesday service before Holy Week. Suppers start at 6 p.m.; services at 7 p.m., in the educational wing.



The Allegheny Brass Band, directed by Paul Gerlach, comes back to First, Sharpsburg, for a spring concert Saturday, May 9. The band's upbeat British Brass band style is enjoyed by all who have heard them here. A sit-down dinner will be served before the concert. Tickets will be available through the church office.

Peace, McMurray

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to transport and hang the Christus Rex in Peace Lutheran Church.

A few secret agents accepted this top secret mission and on Monday,

of Spring 2009 Church Plans

December 22, 2008 cautiously loaded the long structure into the back of a vehicle. With it carefully balanced and covered from the outdoor elements, the Christus Rex from Our Savior Lutheran Church made its journey down Route 19 to its new home at Peace Lutheran in McMurray, PA. Later that evening the "men in black" completed their task successfully.

The life-size Christus Rex (Christ the King) figure, carved from lindenwood in Oberammergau, Germany, was dedicated on Easter Sunday in 1969 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA.



The Passion Play is performed every 10 years in the city of Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play is a play of life and death, promised in a moment of mortal threat, and so began the history of the play in 1633. The Passion Play takes place outdoors where the sky and mountains are the back drop. A wonderful spectacle of pageantry. World renowned for the costumes and music presentation. Now, more than 2,000 citizens make up the actors, singers, instrumentalists and stage technicians that bring the play to life in approximately six hours of playing time. The year 2010 marks the 41st

time the story will be presented in Oberammergau.

Rev. Jamison Hardy has been asked to be the spiritual leader on a trip to Oberammergau in the fall of 2010 in time for the presentation of the Passion Play.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Youth group is planning to attend the Higher Things National Youth Conference in Michigan July 21-24. Trustees are developing a *Partners in Work* program, creating teams of two who can commit to 3-6 hours per month for cleaning and simple, basic maintenance.

St. John the Cove, Accident

On November 30, St. John's in the Cove celebrated a special day. It was the first baptism at the Cove church for more than 1-1/2 years, and the first baptism ever administered by Rev. Charles Lehmann. Jake Tucker Wampler became a child of God that day and received all the gifts of life and salvation that Christ won for him on the cross. His parents are David and Carrie Wampler, and his sponsor was Jeanette Wampler.



St. Luke, Cabot

A busload attended the March of Life in Washington, D.C.; they left the parking lot at 5 a.m.! The St. Luke nursery is now equipped with pagers for parents, and speakers will soon be installed in the nursery for the volunteers.

Trinity of the Deaf, Swissvale

The 57th annual Great Lakes Re-

Gifts from the Heart

Ascension, McCandless—Over \$350 was raised for the Pregnancy Care Centers in a recent Baby Bottle Campaign. Nearly \$350 was raised for the Dominican Republic Mission Trip through the Christmas Giving Tree program.

Hilary Stanton, high school youth, collected 10 blankets for Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, a ministry to the homeless. Shepherd's Heart was recently required by Pittsburgh Building Inspectors to install a special hood/ventilation system above a stove; the cost is \$5,000. Donations are appreciated!

St. Luke, Cabot—The Christmas Giving Tree provided a toy or article of clothing for 58 needy children in the Butler area.

Zion, Accident—The Braille Society was able to donate \$3,000 to Lutheran Braille Workers in support of worldwide Braille Ministry. The LWML and Ladies Aid Society will resume quilting for Lutheran World Relief.

Congregation News, Cont.

gional Conference of the International Lutheran Deaf Association will be held March 27-29 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Columbus, OH. Representatives from Trinity-Deaf may be planning to attend. The 20th biennial convention of ILDA will be held in W. Henrietta, NY July 23-26.

Zion, Accident

A Red Cross blood drive was held on January 19.

Zion, Lawrenceville

Zion Ladies Aid will host its third annual tea on Saturday, May 16 at 3 p.m. in the church undercroft at 237 37th Street, Lawrenceville. Guest Patricia Peer will conduct a presentation on Antique Quilts. All are invited. Call 412.486.6950 for reservations/questions. The freewill offering is designated for the Immanuel, Braddock boiler fund. Parking is available in lower lot. Tea sandwiches and cookies will be plentiful.

Dubai Calling! China Calling!

SLIPPERY ROCK—Fifty or sixty years ago a phone call was an event! People usually called to tell of a birth, marriage, death, or other special happening, but not just to talk. Phone calls were an event. Even today many of the calls which come to All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center are still “events.”

The phone rang at 8 a.m. New Year's Eve day. The voice on the line said, “Hi, Mrs. Mennell. This is Maggie from (Nanjing) China.” What a treat to hear from this precious exchange professor who had been baptized at ASLC before going home. We talked just as if we were face to face in the campus ministry office. We talked about everything as we done when she was here. The difference is that this time I could hear her three-year-old daughter playing in the background.



Irene called Cynthia Khan (POBLO) to tell her about her baptism.

She described how delighted she is that her husband is not hostile to her new faith. He is pleased that her faith has made her an even more caring wife. He has realized that although her job as a professor takes most of her time, she strives to make more time for him and their daughter. They even went to a Christian Christmas Eve service together. In spite of the fact that they had to stand outside the church because it was so crowded that they couldn't get in, it was still thrilling to have her husband with her at a Chris-

tian worship. Maggie wears the cross we gave her at her baptism, so her husband bought one for himself to place in a drawer as a “bit of good luck.” Maggie hopes that one day he will know the real meaning of the cross, and that her child will be more interested in Jesus than in Santa Claus. We will send Maggie's daughter a children's book of Bible stories in Chinese so she can learn about Jesus.

Maggie went on to say that she is not alone in her Christian walk even though she is far from ASLC. She mentioned a kind professor whose father had been a Christian bishop, and spoke of colleagues who are sympathetic to Christianity. She said that there are two Christian churches in her neighborhood and she will find out which is best for her and her family. The phone call was much like our old Bible classes: she said that she was puzzled by why God told the same Gospel story four times instead of just once! She was grateful for finding out why there are four Gospels.

Later the same day another phone call came in just after noon! Irene called from Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf). The voice said, “Hi, Mom!” Her sunny voice sounded like she was in Slippy Rock. She was calling to touch base with ASLC, the church where she'd been baptized.

Life has changed for Irene. She'd gone home to Tunisia where she intended to spend time with her family before returning to teach Arabic and continue graduate studies in the USA. For whatever reasons she now lives and works in Dubai. She's away from her family. She may not be able to continue her studies, and yet, not a hint of self-pity fills her voice. She is glad for whatever God gives her. She is attending the only Christian church in her area; reading her Bible in Arabic, and is filled with joy that she became a baptized Christian. POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) is working with Irene to see if they can help her return to the USA, but she clearly trusts the Lord Jesus regardless of what lies in store for her. The



Maggie's calls from China are events. She stays in touch with her church family in Slippy Rock.

phone call was an event! Irene's trust and joy in the Lord is inspiring and so is her confidence that God will take care of her. She's alone in Dubai, unable to continue her education, and has no certain future. Yet, the baptism she received has held fast.

What a gift from God it is to hear by telephone that all is well with our former students. At all Saints a phone call is often an event. If you'd like to learn how to become involved with being a friend to college students, call me at 724.794.4334. If you'd like to help financially with ASLC's ministry to college students, send your gift to ASLC, 351 S. Main St., Slippy Rock Pennsylvania, 16057. Thank you!

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



A Fisher of Students

*Reflections at the Pittsburgh Campus Ministry Anniversaries' Celebration**

I am so incredibly thankful for First Trinity and in particular the campus ministry. I am thankful for the caring people, the food, and the fun. *But* I am *most* thankful for the strong, firm teaching at First Trinity.

I came to college with a lot of energy, and also with a significant amount of confusion. I was overwhelmed by all the different (and conflicting) interpretations from different Christian sects. For many, the solution to this problem is to simply ignore the differences. And I was more than tempted by the popular and non-offensive 'details don't matter' philosophy. However, this was all rather bothersome.

But First Trinity has been an answer to so many of my prayers. Here I have been given strong doctrine that answered both intellectual and practical questions. And it took hold because it was the Lord's word, uncensored and powerful.

I've been confronted with sin and forgiven by grace. And the 'details' in all this made my faith much deeper and richer than I could have imagined four years ago. The lessons that I have learned here are such an integral part of who I am in every aspect of my life, that it's hard to imagine how I got by before.

But, as I'm sure you know, this kind of stuff does not happen overnight. I remember that I had many reservations when I first came here (which seems so long ago). For this reason the campus ministry holds a very special place in my heart. And if he doesn't mind too much, I think I would have to call Pastor Eric Andrae a 'fisher of students.'

I am exceptionally grateful for all the nets he casts out at the Lord's command, no matter how many may come back empty by invitations refused and the like. I can at least speak for myself when I say more than one lesson didn't catch me the first time...or the second or the third. But towards the middle of my sopho-



more year I was completely won over. And I see the same extraordinary happenings with my peers. Despite "fish-ily" flopping around, students are nevertheless pulled to the Church and sound doctrine, to find Christ's overflowing blessings.

I can't say it enough: I am so thankful to be here at First Trinity. And I'm thankful for what God has done and certainly continues to do.

*By Diana Pascoe
Senior at CMU, President of the
CMU LSF chapter*

On a very lean budget, the campus mission operates on \$7700 per month, including all costs (staff, publicity, meals, materials, travel, etc.). As the new year has begun, we are currently in need of financial gifts.

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

Lutheran Student Fellowship & International Student Ministry
First Trinity Church (LCMS)
535 N. Neville, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.683.4121 - www.LSFPgh.com

*2008 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Gamma Delta [International Association of Lutheran Students] at First Trinity (April 13, 1958). 2008 also marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of

our LSF chapter (*Region 11, Chapter 11 on July 7, 1998*), as well as the 10th and 5th anniversaries of that chapter being recognized as an official student organization at the University of Pittsburgh (June 8, 1998) and at Carnegie Mellon University [CMU] (September 22, 2003), respectively.

Above, the annual ISM-LSF Christmas caroling at Family House. Rev. Andrae is on the far left and Diana Pascoe is at the far right.

*The Rev. Eric R. Andrae
Lutheran Student Fellowship &
International Student Ministry,
Chaplain, First Trinity Church
(LCMS), Campus Pastor
535 N. Neville, Pgh. 15213
412.683.4121 / www.LSFPgh.com*

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

Pittsburgh Area School Students Meet Challenge to Match Time Listening to the Bible with Mission Money

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran School children are Ablaze in God's Word! This past October, the LCMS School Ministry Department under the direction of Bill Cochran and Terry Schmidt and in collaboration with LCMS World Mission, embarked on an initiative to bring God's Word into the classrooms and homes of students in Lutheran Schools using technology that would excite and ignite children. Each student in grades 1 - 8 was given a Bible stick loaded with an audio drama (www.lcmsbibledownload.com) of the complete New Testament for the older students, and Bible stories of the life of Jesus for the younger students. The principals challenged their students to listen to their Bible sticks and complete the daily program for their grade level. PALS then challenged the principals to keep track of their students' progress, with a promise to match the time spent listening to God's Word with dollars to bring the initiative to students and families in India in the form of Proclaimer Boxes—a self-powered presentation system for the Audio Bible.

Our students rose to the challenge. Not only did they listen to the Word in their classrooms, but they logged 201,280 minutes listening to God's Word on their own time at lunch breaks, at recess, on the bus, on their bikes and at the dinner table with their families. It was a truly amazing experience and a great example of the power of God's Word.

In addition to the \$2,000 dollars PALS committed to the project, the schools raised an additional \$1200 to purchase 20 Proclaimer boxes that will bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to 500 men, women and children in India.

God tells us in Isaiah 55:11; So



is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. God sent His Word in the flesh for the purpose of saving mankind from their sins. Students have been asked to share their Bible sticks and CDs with their friends, allowing the Holy Spirit the opportunity to reach more children and families and begin the work of salvation in their hearts. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this project to reach into the homes of those who have not yet heard the 'good news' and move them to seek refuge in Him. Please keep this initiative, our students and their teachers in your prayers and rejoice that through this innovative project, people in our communities at home and abroad will receive the saving message of the Gospel and be Ablaze in God's Word.

*Submitted by Gail Holzer
Redeemer, Oakmont
Photos by Lois Frerking
Christ, Forest Hills*

Redeemer, Oakmont

Redeemer Lutheran School will host an Open House from 9-11 AM every Thursday in February. If you are interested in having your child attend Redeemer or would like to find out more about what we offer, consider stopping by on a Thursday in February during these hours! We are now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

Redeemer is also seeking an Administrative Assistant; requires college degree, good communication skills, experience with Microsoft Office programs. Contact the school office at 412.828.9323.

St. Luke, Cabot

While we're "enjoying" an old-time Western PA winter, we realize that the school year is half over! We're already looking forward to re-enrollment for next year and will offer open houses on February 3, 20, 17 and 24. Preschool and Kindergarten registration days will be held February 3 and 10, respectively; re-enrollment for grades 1-8 will conclude at the end of the month. Each grade will host a family night, when parents and kids will get together for dinner and fun, and educational activities, including board games, gym games, trivia games and lots of family bonding.

As always, the PTL moms will bring lots of love and sweets to our annual Valentine's Day parties. Kindergarten and first graders will visit with Haven III residents. The students will also celebrate Presidents' Day with an assembly about Abe Lincoln, followed by two vacation days.

Student Council sponsored a volleyball club as well as a building block creation club that brought out lots of Lego-maniacs!

Through the *Ablaze!* program, our students have finished listening to Bible stories (grades 1-4) and the entire New Testament (grades 5-8); now they will be encouraged to pass along this audio Bible on their personal MP3 player to someone who could benefit from this wonderful gift from the LCMS.

This month's family parable is "The Lost Sheep", which reminds us how much our Father loves us and desires us to remain in Him. On February 25, we'll prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten season during a special Ash Wednesday chapel service; may God bless you all as you do the same.

Submitted by Sharon Ambrose



Right: Trinity Lutheran Preschool students Ryan Greggerson, Natalie Armor, Abby Negley, and Brendan Reetz are adding canned goods to the collection box.

Below: Nicky Lauver, Ryan Greggerson, and Abby Negley are adding hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to the tree.



Trinity Preschool, Monroeville

Trinity Lutheran Preschool, part of Trinity Lutheran Church on Haymaker Road, has a heart for giving. January was the end of the preschool collection that benefits the Unity Lutheran Community Mission located in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh.

In November the children collected food items. In December and January they brought in gloves, scarves, mittens, and hats. This was in addition to the chapel offering collected each month that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief for disaster aid worldwide. All of the food and clothing items collected were taken by the Women of Trinity to Unity Mission in January. It will benefit the children that attend the After School Program at Unity.

The preschool believes that children learn the concept of giving at an early age. In the recent past we have also collected items for a preschool family affected by flooding in their house, granted tuition assistance to families in need, helped a family affected by Hurricane Katrina, sent rice to India, provided support to The Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools Association, and helped a short-term missionary go to Alaska to teach Vacation Bible School.

If you have any questions, call Kathy Sourbeer at 724.864.7087 home or 412.372.9046 work.



Feb. 8 — Mar. 15 — Augsburg Academy presents Food and Faith; First Trinity, Oakland, 6-8 p.m.

Feb. 14 — Le Bethel Bistro Spaghetti Dinner, Bethel, Glenshaw

Feb. 21 — Spaghetti Dinner, Ascension, McCandless, 4-7 p.m. followed by free movie night Ratatouille at 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 24 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Bethel, Glenshaw, 5-7 p.m.

Feb. 26 — Concordia University-NY Choir Tour, Good Shepherd, Whitehall, 7 p.m.

Mar. 7 — Spring Cleaning Giveaway, Epiphany, Penn Hills, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mar. 14 — LWML Joyshop, Christ, Forest Hills, 9:30 a.m.

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

May 9 — Allegheny Brass Band concert, First, Sharpsburg

May 16 — 3rd Annual Tea, Zion, Lawrenceville, 3 p.m.

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PALM Donations

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First Trinity Lutheran Church
531 N. Neville Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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).

Sponsor a Radio Sermon Today



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's Coming, and Sooner Than You Think: Lent 2009

February 25 is Ash Wednesday; I know, none of us in the parish need any reminding. Mid-week services, hymns to select, scripture and orders of service to put together and then...then there's the dreaded *theme*.

In the October 2008 issue, the journal *Interpretation* had a very interesting article by William Dyrness. "Hope that is seen is not hope": Visual Explorations of Advent" dealt with art in the parish, or in the case of Lutherans, the lack thereof. Dyrness looked at the role of art in the parishes of Orthodox, Latin, and Reformation churches. The conclusions, as you might imagine, varied widely.

This particular issue of *Interpretation* happened to be the one for Advent, and as you might expect, Dyrness was arguing that Advent 'provides a unique opportunity for Christians to employ art and visual elements in worship.' As I read through it, I thought perhaps the use of art in worship might lend itself to the season of Lent. What follows then are several different ideas for the use of art in Lenten worship.

The *Biblia Pauperum*, or *Bible of the Poor* is collection of pictures representing scenes from Our Lord's life with the corresponding prophetic types. The series commonly consists of 40 or 50 pages, each divided into nine sections. The four corners are used for explanatory texts. The central pictures represent scenes from Our Lord's life, arranged chronologically. Above and below these are pictures of prophets and on each side are scenes from the Old Testament. It is thus a concordance of the Old and the New Testaments in which is gathered together the common tradition of the Church on the types and figures of the Old Testament, as taught by the liturgy and the Fathers.

It is uncertain why the work is called the *Bible of the Poor*. Perhaps it was because the ancient saying that pictures were the Bible of the poor, that is, of the uneducated. Some think that the name came from their use by the mendicant orders as books of instruction. Oth-

ers suppose that the term means inexpensive; manuscripts had been beyond the means of most people; when the art of printing from engraved blocks was introduced these picture-books were among the first printed and gained a wide circulation.

Each one of the pages "tells" a part of the story of Christ. The page in itself is actually a 'sermon' and lends itself to the cover of a worship folder. I used this for an Advent series once and it worked out quite well, but you have to do your homework!

It requires time spent with the book (see *Sources*) as well as time spent understanding the biblical connections the print is making. The blocks are in black and white so there is no added expense of color copying.

The table of contents in facsimile editions will tell you which 'letters' would be appropriate for the season of Lent. The other thing you might consider is taking the print and cutting it into blocks on a paper cutter. Then arrange your sermon so that the pieces your parishioners receive can be assembled into a coherent whole as you preach.



The *Arma Christie*, or *Weapons of Christ*, is another name for the Instruments of the Passion. They are arms in the sense of heraldry, as well as the weapons used by Christ to achieve his ends. They have a rich history in iconography and while listing of the actual 'arms' varies by which account you read, it would be very easy to create a series around these illustrations.

Icons of Lent—In my own parish I plan to do a series based around icons. In the East, there is an icon for each of the Sundays in Lent and Great Lent (see *Sources*).

What I've done is to take the icons and use one for each Wednesday mid-week service during Lent. So for example on Ash Wednesday, I plan to use *The Expulsion from Paradise*.



The Historic Lectionary of the Church also helps in that it contains a 'Pre-Lent' season that can serve as a precursor to this type of service. My own plan is to print the icon in the center of a legal sheet of paper (landscape) and fold the back to edges toward the center. I'll then print the order of the service on the two 'flys' on paper heavy enough to stand. The story of the icon forms the basis for the sermon. Once again though, you have to do your homework.

These take a little more time than a series that CPH might offer, but they can be much more creative and have at least the possibility of being informative.

What follows now is a list of sources that might be helpful should

you desire to use either of these suggestions.

Sources

1. The 2007 and 2008 Lenten Series that I did are on-line at Homilies Inc. This is a Google group. If you're on Facebook, there is a link posted at Homilies Inc. on it.

2. <http://www.amasis.com/biblia/index.html> will take you to the site for the *Biblia Pauperum*.

3. Information on the *arma Christie* abounds and all it requires is a Google search.

4. There are several good books on understanding icons and I'd be happy to e-mail that info to anyone who wants it.

5. Scripture readings that go with the icons may be found here: <http://lent.goarch.org>

6. You will also find the *Lenten Triodin* to be an extremely helpful guide during Lent. +Schmemmann's+ work *Great Lent* is extremely helpful in any consideration of Lent.

7. Catholic Book Publishing has a series called Liturgy of the Hours. They publish one for each season of the church year and he one for Advent was excellent. Recently I purchased the one for Lent. These works contain scripture readings, psalms and hymns for each day of Lent according to the canonical hours.

8. Finally *Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers* is a four volume set that contains exactly what the title says. It works much easier with the One Year Lectionary also contains the *Catena Aurea* of Aquinas.

By the Rev. Ken Kelly
Pastor, Holy Cross, Johnstown and
SS Peter and Paul, Central City
knkelly4@gmail.com

There is great glitter and excitement as I write this. People are hyped up about the impending inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama and his historic presidency. The news media can't get its fill of analyzing the festivities, the "meaning" of his ascendancy to the highest office, the troubling questions about the credentials and character of his appointees, the incessant nit-picking over how bad the economy is, how well he will be able to restore it, and whether America is on the brink of a total disintegration or not. The list goes on, but it reminds me of a cluster of crows pecking away at a carcass in the middle of the street. Given enough time, they'll finish it off, but frequently cars whiz by and the crows scramble to escape their own mortality. In less than a week, it'll all be over, and we'll be back to keeping tabs on one celebrity or another and their destructive lifestyles.

Of course, if you're a Steeler fan, you'll be in the midst of the 'Burgh frenzy as we prepare to cheer the boys on, and learn whether or not our Black & Gold will rise above their past mediocre performances and cliff-hanging plays to polish off their opponent in short order. The news "glitter" about ticket prices and problems, tax revenues, business boosts and frigid weather is putting up a clear competitor to the upcoming "goings-on" in Washington.

Yep, all is new and exciting, despite the sinking economy and a minor tussle over in the Mideast, all seems right with the world. All you have to do is watch and listen to the incessant flow of information and words, and you'll be soothed to serenity and complacency. All's right with the world...tourist pictures of New York City or Tokyo at night would offer a good example of man's idea of human progress and ever-expanding prosperity that lay ahead for this world. The glitter, "all the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them" (Matt. 4:8), continue to dazzle the residents of this planet, blinding them to the yawning abyss of darkness that lurks ever closer.

Yet, God's view of things is quite different. In the Epiphany lessons, we

learn that the world's ignorance is indeed a darkened state, "gross darkness," and its hopes dismal and quite clouded. "The people who sat in darkness..." is the TRUTH about the way things are. Believers who have excused themselves from God's Word are themselves in danger of sinking into the same darkness about the future. The swirling mass of greed and corruption among leaders and bureaucrats will not provide the light needed to convict, reform and renew people for God's opening Kingdom—only He can do that!

The genuine need, in our time, is for light to shine on the dark places of society and politics and the day-to-day world, exposing the worst of man's impulses and violent pursuits. Such Light has come, says the Word from God: "...On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned," which is, as we all know, Jesus the Light of the world! Except...only we, who confess Jesus as Savior, seem to know that. It may be a surprise to you, but most people don't know He is the Light, and that He is about enlightening their darkened world with the offer of forgiveness and real Life in the glorious Presence of the Father. What a wonderful opportunity we Christians will have in the coming years of the next glittering administration, to tell everyone we know about Jesus, the true Light which has come into this world to save those who will receive Him in faith. When we consider the life-scorching glory which now surrounds our God in Heaven, we can rest assured that when Jesus soon "appears we [believers] shall be like him; for we shall see Him as He is." Then all the puny, blinking sparks of light that so enthrall the masses here on earth will give way to the fullness of the glory of our God throughout all the earth! Then we, reflecting the glory of the God, "will shine as the sun in the kingdom of [our] Father." (Matt. 13:43) Then all that glitters will not be gold, but the very redeemed people of God! Pray God will "light you up" to reveal Him to your family and friends, anyone still in the dark about God!

By Rev. John Weldon
Epiphany, Penn Hills

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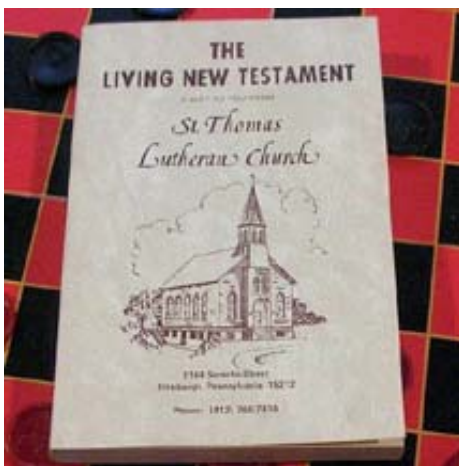
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Mileposters Games Night Celebrates 1st Anniversary

February is the first anniversary for Mileposters Games Night, with a special Valentine celebration planned. Since that first event a year ago, over 30 different children have participated. Games Nights have been held at least once a month, except for June, when the Mileposters rode from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC. Several months saw more than one Games Night, resulting in more than twelve for the year. For 2009, a planned addition, besides Games Night, is Movies Night. One focus of Games Night has been distribution of the official St. Thomas Lutheran edition of the Living New Testament (pictured). These Bibles will continue to be used as an outreach tool in the New Year.

Games Night for January was a refreshing change. We played musical chairs for the first time; after that came nearly unending rounds of Pit, several with the maximum of seven players—wild and wacky—until past the normal dismissal time, eclipsing bowling and hide-and-seek. Pit is a card-trading game based on the Chicago Grain Exchange, featuring, like the New York Stock Exchange, frenetic trading on the main floor, which is depressed in the center—hence the name “Pit.” Sandwiched in were a few games of chess, with McDonald’s gift certificates as awards.



In addition to Games Nights, Mileposters have enjoyed various other activities since off-season events began in the fall of 2007: Movies and McDonald’s, Christmas

caroling, the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum, community Easter and Thanksgiving celebrations on Troy Hill, as well as train rides on the Byesville Scenic Railway, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, and Amtrak.



St. Thomas Lutheran Church now has its own Web site (home page photo pictured above): <http://mileposters.net/stthomas>. The site gives service times and contact information, with links to Mileposters activities, the Mileposters main page, and the LCMS site.

Stockpiling of Gatorade is continuing, in preparation for the beginning of the 2009 season in March. Donations of Gatorade and other sports drinks are always welcome. Support is requested as the Mileposters get ready to tackle their goal of raising \$6,000 for area Lutheran missions this year. Please contact the St. Thomas education director at 412.680.8754. Learn more about tandem bicycle ministry at: <http://mileposters.net>. Bikes for two, three, four and even five people!

By Mark Shields



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Book Your Tickets Now to Tour Europe and See the Legendary Passion Play

Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, invites you to experience the legendary Passion Play in Oberammergau, Sept. 8-18, 2010. Ponzio International Travel, the oldest, independently-owned travel agency in Western Pennsylvania since 1948, specializing in European and international travel, will have made all arrangements for this pilgrimage to Oberammergau with visits to Munich, Salzburg and Vienna.

Join Rev. Jamison Hardy, Spiritual Director, on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to witness the spectacular Passion Play and spend a week visiting the magnificent cities of Munich, Salzburg and Vienna. In addition to the in-depth sightseeing tours in the main cities, highlight visits are included to King Ludwig’s fairy-tale castle in Neuschwanstein, Mozart’s birthplace in Salzburg, and Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. On this tour, you also stop in Innsbruck, Austria, host of two Winter Olympics. An entire day at leisure in Vienna allows an optional excursion to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. After Vienna, head to Oberammergau, famous for its Passion Play performed by locals once a decade to fulfill the town’s promise to God in exchange for protection from the Black Death. Finally, finish your vacation in Munich.

Travel arrangements include: Round-trip air, transfers, superior hotel accommodations, Passion Play reserved seat ticket, a Danube River cruise, group tour guide and local guides, sightseeing with inside visits including admission charges when applicable, buffet breakfast daily and four 3-course dinners. Optional tours are also available.

Program costs per person (including RT air): \$4,498 USD (dbl. occupancy); taxes/fees/fuel surcharges (subject to change) - \$448.70; single supplement: \$451; optional travel protection: \$189 per person. A deposit of \$350 is due Feb. 5 with application; \$1,000 additional is due Sept. 15. Contact Sue Williams at 412.571.1111 x223 or at williams@ponziotravel.com by February 5, 2009 to apply or with any questions regarding travel arrangements.

Private Duty Services Offered Through Concordia Lutheran Ministries

CABOT—Many people who are ill or elderly need short- or long-term assistance with normal day-to-day tasks. Concordia's Private Duty Services staff of personal caregivers undergoes continual training in the best ways to provide these types of services, customizing them to individual needs, with your independence, comfort, and safety in mind—assistance with bathing and dressing, walking, medication reminders, feeding, even 24-hour live-in companionship.

You don't have to be ill or elderly to benefit from the comprehensive Private Duty Services offered by Concordia Visiting Nurses. We can help anyone who doesn't have the time, opportunity, or energy to handle everyday tasks. If you need help with other, commonplace tasks around your home, we can offer assistance in a positive, uplifting manner that respects your dignity and privacy. Our Private Duty Services can brighten your day by providing help with cooking and meal prepara-



tion, light housekeeping, shopping and errands, escorted transportation for appointments with doctors, hairdressers, etc., writing cards and letters and gift shopping/wrapping and assistance with paperwork

In some cases, Private Duty Services may be covered by your local county Area Agency on Aging (AAA), so please be sure to check with your local AAA to see if you qualify.

Some services may also be covered by private insurance. We suggest that you contact your insurance provider for more information. If you are not covered under either of these programs, you will be directly responsible for services rendered. Call us for a no-charge evaluation at 1.877.352.6200.

At Concordia, we say "We put our Faith in Caring," so to us, providing compassionate care is more than just a job, it's an important part of our mission. That's why, since 1997, Concordia Visiting Nurses has been faithfully offering top-quality non-medical services to people in the communities we serve.

To ensure that you get uncommonly good Home Care services from people who perform uncommonly well, every member of our highly-professional staff undergoes a rigorous screening process. And we are always looking for good people to join our ranks. If you have any questions about our services, or if you are interested in coming on board with our staff, please don't hesitate to call: Mark Sarver, Concordia Visiting Nurses, toll-free, at 1.877.352.6200 or e-mail him at msarver@concoerdiavn.org.

Visit us online at www.concordialm.org.

December 2008: Meal in Review

Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind

OAKLAND—At the PLCB we have much to be thankful for. We see our Lord's hand at work; sometimes though one doesn't have to look very hard. December 6, 2008, was the date of our Monthly Meal. It was one of those days where the weather forecast looked iffy, but doable: "possible accumulation of less than an inch" and "later in the day; near evening" are what I remember hearing. That sounded fine.

The flurries were just beginning as I walked the few blocks from my bus stop in Oakland to First Trinity.

Then things got very interesting. I went to the kitchen to compare notes with our main cook and realized that I had underestimated the number of people who would be present by ten. Would we have enough food? The snow started falling faster. The phone started ringing—folks either canceling or confirming that the meal would still take place. Our volunteers were stuck in traffic in the South Hills. Our Bible Study leader also stuck in traffic. Pastor Spittel was taking care of the campus by running around putting down salt. The roads were treacherous.

Time passed and I was trying to think quickly and adjust programming. I realized that now there probably would be enough food after all. But what about everything else? Entertainment was scheduled dur-

ing the meal. A flute concert was also scheduled for after Vespers.

Remember what I said above? The Lord had a big hand in that day. Things worked out fine. Though it took Pastor Ruppert two hours to go approximately 12 miles and the Bible Study ended up being a message while folks were eating. The volunteers also arrived after spending nearly two hours on the road. The food was delicious and plentiful. The entertainment arrived and mostly everyone stayed to hear the beautiful flute concert.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for—16 out of 22 guests who attended are blind/visually impaired. And the really wonderful thing is that one of them was a new guest to the PLCB.

Thank You, Lord, this is Your mission. And to everyone else who was involved in making that day so uneventful I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The PLCB needs support in so many ways. Should you wish to make a financial contribution or to learn more about this mission, please contact: Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, 535 N. Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; Phone: (412) 682-1800; Email: director@plcb.net

By Sherri Crum

Director

Concordia Earns Prestigious Accreditation, One of Seven in the World



CABOT—During the first week of November, Concordia Lutheran Ministries was figuratively examined, poked, and prodded, as a team of peer surveyors from CARF-CCAC visited most of the CLM locations to determine whether the organization fit the criteria for an accreditation held by only six other senior living networks in the world.

Suffice to say, we passed with flying colors... And did we mention there are only six other CARF-accredited Aging Service Networks in the world?

As of Dec. 8, 2008 Concordia Lutheran Ministries (which includes ALL facilities and service lines) is officially accredited as an Aging Services Network (ASN). An accredited

ASN is defined as two or more entities that have formal agreements and cooperate with each other. Concordia, with adult day services, assisted living, home care, hospice, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, retirement living, skilled nursing, and medical equipment sales, far surpasses that.

Additionally, Concordia at Cabot, the Orchard, Ridgewood Place, and Rebecca Residence earned accreditation as Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

The survey team reviewed Concordia's conformance to stan-

dards in a number of areas, including:

- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Governance
- ◆ Strategic planning
- ◆ Input from persons served and other stakeholders
- ◆ Legal requirements
- ◆ Financial planning and management
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Human resources
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Rights of persons served
- ◆ Accessibility
- ◆ Information measurement and management
- ◆ Performance improvement
- ◆ The care process for the persons served

According to an official letter from CARF-CCAC President & CEO Brian J. Boon, Ph.D., "This achievement is an indication of (Concordia's) dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served."

Concordia Director of Education & Compliance Karen McCarrier managed the accreditation process, and was assisted by a team of 20+ staff committee members.

Concordia Independent Living Resident Turns 85

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries Haven III resident Clarence Fryer, formerly of New Kensington, celebrated his 85th birthday recently with a small dinner with friends.



Fryer was born Jan. 12, 1924 in Leechburg. At age 20 he married his wife Gertrude Luzar on June 1 in Brackenridge. A steelworker in his younger days, Fryer worked at Allegheny Ludlum until his retirement in 1988. He has been a practicing Lutheran for most of his life and is a member of the Masonic Order and Benevolent Protective Order (B.P.O.) of the Elks.

In his free time, Fryer enjoys gardening and traveling. Among other places, he has taken trips to Italy, Hawaii, and Canada.

Concordia Invites Pastors to Luncheon

CABOT—Keith E. Frndak and his senior team will host our pastors at a Lunch and tour in Haven I on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. in the Concordia Social Hall (also known as the Haven I Dining Room). Presentations and a tour of our newest blessing are part of the agenda. A tour of Lund will be optional. Please contact Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for reservations.

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.

Concordia News & Views

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

December 18, 2008 through January 16, 2009

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Concordia at Ridgewood Place

Ronald & Lisa Kazimer

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - St. Paul Evan. Lutheran Church, Braddock - Bethel Evan. Lutheran Church, Glenshaw - Zion Evan. Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Immanuel Evan. Lutheran Church, Braddock - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Kathleen Reuter - Elizabeth Senulis - Don & Shirley Dick - Ronald & Eileen Reckhart - Hilda Oswald - Joseph & Donna Reiting - Tabitha Ladies Aid at Martin Luther Lutheran Church - Daniel Brick - Edith Johannes - Marie Malenky - Richard & Connie Grammes - Sara Miller - Gloria Sabin - Russ & Jennifer McIntire - Dick & Lori Holden - Robert Waltenbaugh. In honor of her husband by: Doris Moon. In memory of Myrtle Dahlstrom and Todd Dahlstrom by: Carl & Shirley Dahlstrom. In memory of Dr. W. Frank Brandon by: Ron & Joyce Brandon - Peter & Kathy Rogerson. In memory of Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler and Rev. John Blankenbuehler by: Dorothy Blankenbuehler. In memory of Leah Montag by: Allen Montag. In memory of William Shakley by: Richard & Carolyn Cooper. In memory of James Barraclough by: Irene Barraclough. In memory of Joseph Bibza by: Jeffrey & Janet McCurdy and family. In memory of Rev. Alfred Faulstick by: Eleanor Faulstick. In memory of Ernest Hesse by: Jean Hesse - Dale & Janet Hesse. In memory of Muriel Thompson by: Lois Lindstrom. In memory of Laura Ann Burns by: Bob & Sally Burns. In memory of Mary Batchelor by: Gloria Sabin. In memory of Helen Rising and Jay & Peg Rising by: Robert & Lois Pogyor. In memory of Nancy Johnson by: Kathryn McNutt.

Hospice Services

The Good Samaritan staff is available to do a presentation about hospice care at your church. Contact Public Relations at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 to schedule.

For more information about Good Samaritan Hospice, call 1.800.720.2557 or visit www.concordialm.org.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Carl & Norma Laughner - Edwin & Sue Neff - Marie Castelnuovo - Pauline Castelnuovo - Charles & Mary Freeman - James & Ruth McHugh - Doris Becker - Nellie McGary - Judith Eshelman - Thomas & Edna Gainan - Sara Miller - Dick & Lori Holden - Ruth Claypoole - Robert Waltenbaugh. In memory of Charles Straub by: Dennis & Mary Ann Herbert. In memory of Don Cramer by: Ella Cramer. In memory of Nancy Johnson by: Kathryn McNutt.

Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

Russ & Jennifer McIntire - Robert Waltenbaugh.

Capital Campaign Fund

Haven I Card Ladies

Angel Tear Fund

Milton & Christie Scott - Ruth Vasey - C. Ross & Lynn Betts - Robert Waltenbaugh. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Concordia Introduces Two New Newsletters

CABOT—Concordia recently introduced newsletters for Good Samaritan Hospice and Concordia at Rebecca Residence. If you would like to join the mailing list for either publication, contact Shirley Freyer, director of public relations at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266.

Five-Star Rating...from Page 1

Rebecca's rating was noted in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* on Dec. 18, as it is one of only four facilities in Allegheny County with a perfect rating (out of 64). Concordia Lutheran Health & Human Care (Lund Care Center) was mentioned in the *Butler Eagle* as one of three five-star rated facilities in Butler County.

According to www.Medicare.gov, the star rating system focuses on three primary areas: health inspections, staffing, and quality measures. A star rating is given in each area, then averaged out for an overall.

To schedule a tour at any of Concordia's facilities, call 724.352.1571. Visit on the Web at www.concordialm.org.

CONCORDIA AT RIDGEWOOD PLACE



A Place for Caring

At our modern facility in Plum Borough, only 5 miles from Monroeville, we offer gracious assisted living options on our beautifully landscaped grounds. Here, you or your loved one can receive the very best in quality extended care, in a place where you are surrounded by an attractive, nurturing environment designed to promote health, happiness, independence, and a warm sense of community.

- No entry fee
- Low monthly rent
- Emergency response system in every bedroom
- Excellent staff-to-resident ratio
- Individually decorated rooms
- Outings and daily activities
- Lush garden
- Library
- Arts and crafts
- Beautifully landscaped grounds
- Wonderful meals prepared by chefs

With everything we have to offer, it's easy to see why Concordia at Ridgewood Place is THE ideal place for you or a loved one to receive assisted living services. Every day, the caring demeanor of our staff is evident in all that we do – from the way we smile to the way we talk with residents and families. Here, we do everything we can, every day, to make your experience with us the best it can be. If you would like more information or a tour of our facility, please call **412.798.1855**.

