



# Pittsburgh Lutheran

April 2008

## How to Spend Your Summer Vacation Living Your Faith

If you've ever wished for the opportunity to visit someplace different than the hills and bridges and rivers of Western Pennsylvania (or Northern Maryland)...

If you've ever yearned for the opportunity to do something that made a difference...

If you've ever wanted to say, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"... there's no better opportunity than right now. For not a whole lot of money you can spend nearly 10 days this summer on an Indian Reservation or on the Dark Continent. Now wouldn't *that* be a story to share?

### From South Dakota to South Africa

You probably couldn't find two places farther apart, but people who live there share one important common need: a safe, comfortable place to rest one's head at night.

The first mission trip opportunity takes place July 5-14 for the incredibly small amount of \$500. Together with Habitat for Humanity, Concordia Lutheran Ministries will assist Okiciyapi Tipi in creating shelter for the Lakota Sioux Indians on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. One home will be built in Eagle Butte and the other in a small community called Glencross in the northeast portion of the reservation; in addition, 15 other homes will be rehabbed and new windows will be installed into numerous other homes this summer.



*This could be you building a home on the Lakota Sioux Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD.*

Under the very capable leadership of Rev. Jamison Hardy and Jim Wolf (see *Meet Your Trip Guides*), you'll work from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. pounding nails, sawing boards, painting walls, but in the evenings and on the weekend you'll have loads of chances to experience the American Indian culture.

If you prefer to venture a bit further from home and really have a story to tell friends and family, pack your bag for Durban, South Africa. From July 18-27 the sounds of construction will result in 10 group homes in the small village of Shongweni for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Jim Wolf has led this same trip three times in 2007, so he is an old hand at navigating international travel.

Although the trip to South Africa is somewhat more costly (\$2500), the experience is priceless. And, though you may be secretly hoping to "rough it", you'll actually stay at a nice hotel with a pool, and enjoy several African cultural experiences, too. Did I hear someone say *safari*?

The minimum age to participate in the African mission trip is 18 (for SD, just 16 and parents' permission). You must have a passport and proof of health insurance. No special construction skills are necessary, just good health and a willingness to learn and to do general construction work at either site.

As you snuggle into your pillow tonight, pray to know God's Will for you - will you choose to serve in the hill country of the Sioux or in the beautiful Valley of the Thousand Hills in South Africa?

But, if you can't join either team, you can help in other ways. First, pray for the projects on the Lakota Sioux Reservation and in Shongweni, South Africa and second, help send someone else through a 100% tax-deductible donation.



*Home built for orphans in Shongweni, S. Africa in 2007.*

## Meet Your Trip Guides

Jim Wolf, member of Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, is a recently retired global banker with extensive international travel experience, including three trips to Africa in 2007 for this program. He is also the current vice president and head of the board of deacons of Peace, board member of Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation, a life-long Missouri Synod Lutheran, has two adult children and has been married 34 years.

Rev. Jamison Hardy, pastor of Our Savior and interim pastor of Hope, Upper St. Clair, also serves on the board of directors of Concordia Lutheran Ministries and is chairman of its Personnel and Chaplaincy Committee. He, along with Jim Wolf, trained to be a leader with Habitat for Humanity's Global Communities program in Portland, OR for these projects.

**To sign up or for mission trip details,** call Jim Wolf, 412.341.1764 (home) or 412.913.9442 (cell), or email [jameswolf@comcast.net](mailto:jameswolf@comcast.net), immediately, as places on the teams are filling up.

**To make a tax-deductible contribution,** please send a check payable to "Our Savior Lutheran Church - Almoner Fund" to Jim Wolf, c/o Hope Lutheran Church, 2799 Old Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

## Calvary Mission Team Builds Home in Biloxi, MS

MURRYSVILLE—Calvary Lutheran Church sponsored a mission team to participate in the Blitz Build of a new home in Biloxi, MS on February 24 through February 29.

Recipients of the new home, young mother Ashley Rice, and her 3-1/2 year old daughter Peyton, have been without a home since Hurricane Katrina hit 2-1/2 years ago. Under the sponsorship of Habitat for Humanity, Calvary members Marty Alsing, Bob and Ruth Greer, Peg Kibel, Eric Miller and Steve Wutzke were part of a 50-member group that erected and finished a new home from a bare floor to move-in conditions in five days.



*Pictured is Ashley Rice and her daughter Peyton, the Biloxi home recipients.*

The mission team showed a video to the congregation on Wednesday March 12 after a potluck supper. They worked four and a half days on the house with other teams from Minnesota.

They were given a small tour of the area before they started to build the house; the destruction was unbelievable. There was a pile of 118 million cubic yards of debris from the hurricane.

Bethel Lutheran Church housed the “crew” and it was an hour ride to the site. The SUVs they traveled in were not in very good shape and they sometimes wondered if they would get where they needed to be.

The deck of the house was marked where everything was to be placed. It was amazing to the crew to see how fast everything went up. Some of them never used power tools before but they had a great teacher; they also learned how to put in windows, insulation, and siding. For the dedication of the house,



*Pictured above are (from l to r) Marty Alsing, Steve Wutzke, Bob Greer, Ruth Greer, Peg Kibel and Eric Miller, members of Calvary.*

Ashley’s parents were there and they were truly overwhelmed at what the people had done for their daughter and granddaughter. It was truly remarkable experience for the crew to know they put a family back into a house and out of a trailer.

Members of Calvary Lutheran Church also raised \$3,660 towards building materials for the home. Over 90% of all new homes in the Biloxi area are built with volunteer labor.

There are still plenty of opportunities for others who would like to participate in this effort through Habitat for Humanity.

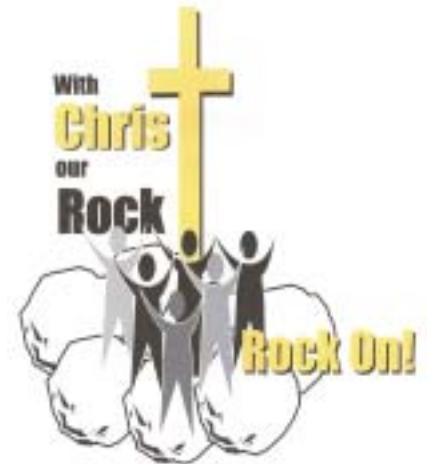
Calvary Lutheran Church is located at the intersection of School Road and Old William Penn Highway. For more information about Calvary, please visit our web site at [www.calvarylcms.org](http://www.calvarylcms.org) or call 724.327.2898.

## Open Invitation to Anniversary Celebration at Christ, Forest Hills

FOREST HILLS—On April 20, 2008 Christ Lutheran Church in Forest Hills will have a special service at 10 a.m. and a banquet at 1 p.m. to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the church. The banquet will be at the Holiday Inn Parkway East in Braddock Hills.

We welcome all previous members or friends of the church to both the service and the banquet. Please call Steve Stern, 724.864.7296, for details if you wish to attend.

The church is located at 400 Barclay Avenue, which is one block south of the Greensburgh Pike.



## Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon to Host LWML Convention Festival Worship Service

BETHEL PARK—The festival worship service opening the 33rd biennial convention of the English District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League will be bittersweet. To be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mt. Lebanon on Friday, April 25 at 7 p.m., the service will be one of or the last at that church. The property will be officially vacated when the merger of Our Savior and Hope, Upper St. Clair is official in May. A reception will follow the service.

The theme for the convention is **With Christ our ROCK, Rock On** which is based on Psalm 31: 2b-3 “*be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of our name lead and guide me.*”

The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel—Bethel Park on April 25-27.

For details about the convention, contact Delores Hauser at [hauserdelores@mac.com](mailto:hauserdelores@mac.com) or call 412.341.4532, or by mail to 813 Alden Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

## 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).

## Peace Reigns—Merging Churches Settle on New Name, Effective May 15th

UPPER ST. CLAIR—On Sunday, February 24th, the members of Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon and Hope, Upper St. Clair, voted on a new church name. The winning name is PEACE Lutheran Church. Each letter of PEACE has a deeper meaning, one that matches the mission of the new congregation: **“Excited about Christ, we are an evangelizing congregation.”**

### People Excited About Christ Eternally

The members of Peace Lutheran Church will finalize the merger of these two congregations on May 15th and will have a Celebration Dinner on May 17th. The former pastors (and the vicar) of Hope and Our Savior will be invited to be among the honored guests. A catered meal will be served so everyone can sit back, relax, and enjoy themselves.

## Seminary Chorus Concert in Forest Hills Uplifting

As announced on the front page of the February issue, Christ Lutheran Church in Forest Hills hosted the Concordia Seminary Chorus from Saint Louis on Sunday, February 24.

The Service of Evening Prayer presented by the Seminary Chorus in the filled to capacity church was one of the finest, most moving and uplifting worship services that I have ever experienced. We worshipers became participants with the chorus in an event that nourished our Christian faith and deepened our Christian fellowship.

The director, Rev. Henry Gerike, led us in a very well-planned liturgy, where every component was in the right place in this Service, indeed a mosaic of extraordinary beauty and purpose. We were all invited to rejoice in “Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation”, and to praise our gracious God in whose care we are “secure from all fears”, as “we abide in the Lord who bought us, Till our true home he has brought us.” A very meaningful feature was the reading of the complete powerful Eighth Chapter of Romans in five

## Saturday, April 26 ♦ 11:30 a.m 51st Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Golf Scramble

It’s time for another P.A.L.g.S. outing. It will mark 26 years of golfing for Christian Education (sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) with participation from all over the Greater Pittsburgh area. This will be the 51st outing held over 26 years where many golf enthusiasts have worked to make each outing a unique experience.

Since 1984 the outings have been held at Seven Springs Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA. The tradition continues with the delicious favorite buffet. In addition to a \$10,000 Hole-in-One contest, there will be other special prizes and awards.

Your guaranteed registration deadline is Tuesday, April 22. Call with your foursomes 412.271.7173, or send names and payment (checks made out to Christ Lutheran Church and School) to; GOLF, Christ Lutheran Church and School, 400 Barclay Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

portions, interspersed by fitting choral anthems. Host pastor Rev. Ron Bright served as reader as did his fellow pastors Rev. Bert Greenway of Grace, Penn Hills, and Rev. Jerome Panzgrau of John Huss, Arnold.

I am filled with gratitude to our Lord for His servants in the Concordia Seminary Chorus under the eminent leadership of Rev. Gerike. And thank you to the congregation at Christ, Forest Hills, for hosting the chorus for our joy and benefit!

*Hans O. Andrae, Pastor Emeritus  
Member of First Trinity, Oakland*

### PALM Donations

Send your donations for the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries to:

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

Mail donations for **The Pittsburgh Lutheran** to the editor:  
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**All news must be submitted to Editor by the 15th of the month.**

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## Congregation News

## Easter Joy Shared Through Vigils, Worship, Breakfasts

**Ascension, McCandless**

A Christian seder meal was held prior to the Maundy Thursday service; Easter brunch followed worship on Sunday. A farewell brunch was held March 30 for office manager Karen Stauffer, retiring after 20+ years with Ascension (Karen is a member of First, Sharpsburg).

**Bethel, Glenshaw**

Easter observances included a Christian seder meal on March 8, a Saturday evening vigil, and an Easter breakfast followed by a short Easter film "3 Days" produced by The Lutheran Layman's League prior to worship.

**Calvary, Murrysville**

LWML Spring Joyshop to be held April 5, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Rev. Barry Keurulainen (St. Luke, Cabot) will speak on the theme *Come Worship the King*. A Mother-Daughter Tea will be held April 26 at 2 p.m. and the preschool and kindergarten children will present the fashion show.

**Christ, Forest Hills**

The Women's Service Guild (WSG) provided hams for the Sonshine Kitchen of McKeesport for their March meal. WSG will be visiting the Concordia Home in Cabot, PA to visit with the residents during their regular bingo game on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in bringing fellowship to these dear people. WSG Guild will hold a spring clothing swap on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Donations of clean clothing in good repair will be accepted starting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. No accessories please. A prayer and praise service is being planned for April 15<sup>th</sup>. The choir at Christ will also participate.

**Concordia, Brentwood**

Congregation continues to sponsor Seminary student James Moiser and his wife Renee, who are at Concordia Seminary-Ft Wayne, IN. Former pastor Rev. R.R. Krueger (1965-1970) wrote to say that his wife Susan had received her Crown of Life in October 2007. This year's fundraising for the South Hills Pregnancy Resource Center topped last year's giving by nearly \$17 for a total collected of almost \$368.

**Epiphany, Penn Hills**

The Table of the Lord was conducted Maundy Thursday evening and at the end, the traditional stripping of the altar. Solemn Good Friday services were celebrated with the knowledge that the Resurrection was coming on Easter Sunday. A lovely Easter breakfast was held with members bringing yummy breakfast casseroles and the day concluded with the Divine Festival of Easter worship service.

Women's Sunday evening Bible study began again on March 30. The topic is "Lutheran Worship". All women are welcome to attend.

**First, Sharpsburg**

Will host the Eastern District's forum on Transforming Congregations Network on May 18. First Lutheran continues to offer sign language-interpreted worship on the first Sunday of each month.

The youth are painting walls and moving into the newly remodeled Pittsburgh Lutheran Youth Fellowship (PLYF) quarters in the church basement at First Lutheran. They've had a rotation of several good presenters, including Stan Lemon, Deacon Toft, Dr. Gary Swanson, and Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann. Youth from around the city are welcome to the Tuesday evening fellowship and Bible studies (recreation time/fellowship starts at 6 p.m.).

**Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh**

Easter activities included a noon Good Friday service geared for children, as well as the traditional evening Service of Darkness; a vigil on Saturday, and two Sunday services bracketing Easter breakfast.

**Grace, Penn Hills**

Congratulations to Rev. Berton Greenway, who has been asked to compile 12 of his best "Why do Lutherans...?" articles for Concordia Seminary Web site. Easter events included an egg hunt on Saturday and pre-service Easter breakfast on Sunday.

Congratulations to Norman and Mary Michel on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**Hope/Our Savior, Upper St. Clair**

Rev. Jamison Hardy and his wife,

Wendy, welcome the birth of their third child. On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Wendy gave birth to their daughter, Naomi, who joins two "big" brothers, Noah and Nathaniel.

**Inmanuel, Braddock**

Members enjoyed a pre-service Easter breakfast. Women's Society to hold a Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale on April 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Mt. Calvary, West View**

2008 Summer VBS - Friendship Trek - will take place June 23 through June 27, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with a new, full site rotation schedule! We are extremely excited to be taking our Vacation Bible School to the next level! Please call 412.761.8408 to register.

**Redeemer, Oakmont**

Woman to Woman retreat planned for May 2-3 at Jumonville Christian Camp; theme is *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Easter activities included an annual Egg Hunt the day before Palm Sunday. The youth group also sold Lamb cakes. A sunrise service was followed by Easter breakfast, Sunday school and the Festival worship service.

Welcome to new members Stephen and Julianna Tracey, along with their children, Ian and Helene.

**St. John, Morrisdale**

A pre-service Easter breakfast was held. Social Concerns committee encourages members suffering illnesses with customized greeting cards; all members are encouraged to sign them. The LWML will partner with Good Shepherd, State College and Martin Luther, Punxsutawney at the annual prayer service in late April; the service will be held at Good Shepherd.

Three women serve on the Eastern District LWML Executive Board: Waneta Lingenfelter (Vice Presi-

# Mission Trips Share the Gospel Through Helping Hands

dent—Christian Life-Human Care); Barb Brown (Leader Development), and Karen Kusko (Christian Life). In addition, Deaconess Nancy Lingenfelter serves an appointed position as Stamps for Missions coordinator. All plan to attend the District LWML convention in Rochester, NY June 6-8.

## St. John, Millvale

LWML coordinated a collection of Easter cards and personal items for overseas military. Three members (Rev. Herbert and Joyce Schumm and Bill Brickner) joined the mission trip team with St. Luke, Cabot, to Biloxi, MS for Project Rehab Biloxi, where two teams worked to finish a newly framed house. The project was coordinated by Project Rehab, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity of northern Virginia. They helped install siding and wallboard, and painted. Members of St. John's helped underwrite their expenses and contributed \$1000 to Project Rehab.



## St. Luke, Cabot

Project Rehab Biloxi teams included Jim Sleigh, Lynn and Leda Thompson, Glenn Lang, Doris Seth, Gerald Frye, Doug and Cathy Miller, Terry Vossler, Mary Jean Montag, Don Moullet and three Neubert brothers Mark, Luke and Paul.

Eighteen people were received into membership in late February, constituting the largest ever Discipleship class at St. Luke. Youth group to attend Riches in Richmond servant event June 21-28 to help repair housing for low income/elderly people.

Easter events included an Easter Eve candlelight service, an Easter sunrise service, followed by Easter

breakfast, and three worship opportunities.

## Trinity, Monroeville

Lenten meals were held each Wednesday prior to worship; individuals and groups took turns providing the food. Easter candy made by the women of Trinity and hoagies were sold to support the pre-school. A year-long food drive is being held for the Pitcairn Food Pantry.

## Trinity of the Deaf, Swissvale

Congregation celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their chapel with a special service on March 30, with Rev. Edwin Bergstresser and Rev. Gary Lawson; a banquet followed the service.

Don and Mary Mowl mourn the loss of relative Kevin Mowl (22) who died on February 25 from injuries received on August 2 by an IED hidden in a storm drain, while patrolling the streets of Baghdad on February 25 with his Stryker battalion.

## Zion, Accident, MD

Easter events included a sunrise service, followed by Easter breakfast and children's video prior to worship. Mission Festival to be held in early June; guest speaker will hopefully be Rev. Josh Hollmann, who works among Muslims in Montreal. Plans are being made for another trip in late April to Louisiana to help restore homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. A piano recital is planned for June 20, with reception to follow.

LWML and the Men's club will be serving at the Sunshine Kitchen in McKeesport on April 21. All are welcome to travel with us and serve.

Zion will be holding its first Parish Night to bring together the families of the congregation with activities for all beginning at 7 p.m. on April 16.

## Zion, Lawrenceville

Folks at Zion and Immanuel enjoyed an inspirational Lenten season with several of their members portraying people who met Jesus while he lived here on earth. Characters were interviewed by Rev. Ron Rafferty from today's perspective and those who attended, averaging at least 20 each Wednesday, received a dose of food for thought. The first Wednesday featured Claudius, Pilate's wife played by Shirley Freyer, followed by James and John portrayed by Randy & Tom Glasser; then the rich young man and Lazarus (George Fischer), Mary Magdalene (Mergie Smith) and Mary of Nazareth (Peggy Glasser). The churches alternated Wednesdays.

Congratulations to Sheila Adams who has been accepted at Center for the Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) School downtown. Part of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, the school prepares exceptional students who are gifted in the arts. Her audition included executing a song of her choice and singing scales. She will also need to maintain above average grades in all subjects. Zion is proud of you and prays that God continues to bless you.



Plans are being made for another trip to *Camp Restore* leaving Saturday, April 19 and returning home on Sunday, April 27. Another trip is being planned for later in the year. Contact Zion at 301.746.8170 if you are interested in joining with Zion's group.

## Pastoral Vacancies

Ascension, McCandless (Rev. Brennan Gaertner covering)

Faith, Butler

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg (Rev. Mark Ruppert covering)

Pentecost, Avella (Rev. Scott Kuntz covering)

St. John, Brackenridge (Rev. Gene Lenk covering)

St. John the Cove, Accident, MD (Rev. Keith Clow covering)

St. Paul, Braddock

Trinity-Deaf, Pittsburgh

## White Fields Foundation Northside Baseball Plans Second Season

*"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest."*  
John 4:35

Last year, White Fields Foundation teamed up with the Urban Impact Foundation to reestablish Little League baseball on the North Side of Pittsburgh. This is our second season and we have added another 9-10 year old team. Our four teams have been approached to become a part of the Pittsburgh North Inner-City Baseball League. Practice starts April 5<sup>th</sup> and the season begins April 26, 2008.

Everyone will be in the playoffs after a 13-game schedule. So you might say we made the playoffs in our second season. Baseball is a tool to get into the lives of these young people and their families. Our goal is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage everyone to walk with Jesus.

This year the Pittsburgh Pirates will be involved with our teams and will be putting on a clinic sometime in August. They are in the process of assigning a player that will, in essence, "play ball for kids". If a chosen Pirate pitcher strikes out a batter he will make a donation for the young people on the North Side.

This year we are helping to implement an after-school tutoring program and possibly a parenting program. We are excited about the op-

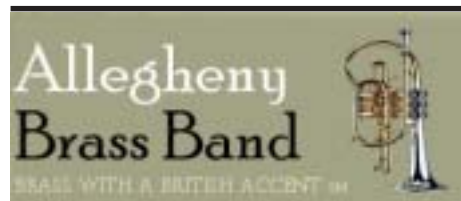


portunities. If you would like to get involved, Brennan's contact information is below.

Please pray for us as we desire to make an impact on the North Side. We also are in need of coaches, umpires, scorekeepers and an administrator. We are also praying for a van so we can transport our teams to games and special events. Thank you for considering being a partner with us. For those of you who already are, we are grateful. We cannot do this without you.

In Christ,

Rev. Brennan Gaertner  
White Fields Foundation  
8225 Peebles Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412.364.5636  
Cell: 412.310.0510



SHARPSBURGH—First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, invites our brothers and sisters in the Pittsburgh area congregations to the spring dinner and concert May 3, at 6 p.m. The sit-down roast beef dinner will be held in the church's educational wing.

The spring concert featuring the Allegheny Brass Band follows at 7:30. Tickets for the meal are \$8, and reservations for the event can be made by calling Betty Bernhardt, at 412.822.7376.

The ABB is made up of accomplished Pittsburgh brass musicians and percussionists playing in the British brass band tradition. Their travels have taken them overseas to China and Bermuda, playing a variety of popular music styles.

## Operation Lifeline

### Lifeline Sends Easter CARE Packages to Troops Overseas

NEW CASTLE—In January Major Julie D'Annunzio of Christ Lutheran, who was deployed last year, spoke to the support group about her activities. She mentioned that a lot of soldiers do not watch the news since only the bad things going on are usually covered and not much attention is given to the many positive things that are taking place. Also that continued support from organizations like Operation Lifeline is so very important to the troops and does a lot to boost their morale.

The support group, consisting of military family members, friends and volunteers, held a bowling party in early February. Children and adults both enjoyed a good time bowling and socializing. A few soldiers who have returned also joined in. Refreshments were provided.

Ann Houk and Irene Matas visited the Veteran's Hospital in Butler in order to deliver some cards made by area children and some valentines that the Christ Lutheran Sunday school children made especially for the men. They spent some time with the veterans hoping to bring a little cheer to their day. They also had a referral about a Desert Storm female soldier with children who was in need of help. Efforts are being made to assist her as she tries to get a household established.

Care packages were sent to soldiers in early March so that they could hopefully arrive for Easter.

Send names of soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan along with their address and date of deployment and expected date of return to OPERATIONLIFELINECLC@MSN.COM or phone Ann Houk at 724.652.6484 or Nancy Schlumberger at 724.654.1379.



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**Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind**

**February Meal in Review: 17 Attend**

OAKLAND—Time seems to fly by so very quickly. As I write this, there are only three more meals until we break for the summer at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind. That isn't to say that nothing will be taking place during that time—just that what does take place will be less involved and volunteer dependent.

Enough about the future, though, and on to the review. On Saturday, February 23, 2008, seventeen guests attended the monthly meal at the PLCB. Though there have been some iffy weather conditions, we didn't have to cancel any meals this season.

The Reverend Arthur Litke had a full house during his pre-meal Bible Study. The topic was Jesus and Nicodemus. Thanks, Pastor Litke, for your willingness to come and be a part of our day.

The meal of comfort food—fruit cocktail, bread, roasted chicken and potatoes and peas was prepared by Mrs. Spittel. The dessert of apple or cherry pie a la mode was generously provided by Mrs. Alagar. Everything was delicious!

Following the meal and announcements etc., several guests attended the Vespers Service which was conducted by Rev. Douglas Spittel. Our

**Redeemer Lutheran School  
Receives Two Science Grants**

OAKMONT—Redeemer Lutheran School received a Science & Math Improvement Grant from the Toshiba America Foundation in the amount of \$3,970 for a "Robotic Engineering Project" created by science teacher Debra Lynn Terhune. Through this grant our school will establish a three-year Robotics Engineering unit. Students will have the opportunity to program mobile robots, and in the process, they will learn about sensors, thresholds, feedback, and the steps of scientific method. Mrs. Terhune also worked to secure a second grant for the school, which will provide forensic science kits to further enhance students' science education. Many thanks to Mrs. Terhune for her hard work and dedication to the students of Redeemer Lutheran School!

*Submitted by Gretchen Schinkel,  
Admissions Counselor*

guests always comment about how comforting that evening prayer service is for them. It is wonderful to have such a great group of helpers! Thanks to the Spittels, Lassalian Youth, Mrs. Rossi and others for making February's meal a great success.

Another note is that during Lent there was a growing interest among those who are blind or visually impaired to participate in activities within the larger body of the church. Several attended the Lenten dinners and Vespers at First Trinity on Wednesdays. Some also attended catechesis.

We always appreciate and welcome your prayers. Should you wish to experience this vital ministry in person, it is not too late for you to become involved.

Sherri Crum, Director  
Pittsburgh Lutheran Center  
for the Blind  
535 N. Neville Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Phone: 412.682.1800  
E-mail director@plcb.net

**Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus  
Concert & Spaghetti Dinner**

LAWRENCEVILLE—You are invited to an Easter Concert and Spaghetti Dinner featuring the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus on Sunday, April 6 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary at Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville.

Dinner will be served following the concert. The concert of sacred music will take the audience through Lent to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the Day of Resurrection through song. The second half of the musical presentation will highlight several Bach pieces, two spirituals and a Cameroon processional song. Support Zion through this fundraiser for its Paint and Boiler Fund.

Other Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus concerts include:

Sunday, April 13—Concordia Lund Care Center Chapel, 2 p.m.; Haven II Chapel, 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 20—Concordia at Rebecca Residence Great Room, 3 p.m.

Friday, April 25—Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, LWML conference, 7 p.m.

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*International Student Ministry***How Can I Possibly Be a Missionary?**

SLIPPERY ROCK—Do you ever feel that you would like to go on a long or short-term mission trip? What if you really care about sharing God's Word but due to family obligations, finances, health or something else, you cannot travel far from home to tell the Good News? Does this mean you can never tell others about Christ? That you can never be a missionary? The answer is no.

The answer is no because God has brought the mission field right to us at universities and colleges and in our communities. Even if there are many barriers to what we think we need in order to be missionaries, the work can be surprisingly easy. We can go and tell as the following story, written three years ago by a former international student who attended Slippery Rock University, shows. "Random Acts of Love" shows how easy it is to be a missionary. You can reach international students, workers in ethnic restaurants, and immigrants overwhelmed by a brand-new country.

**Random Acts of Love by Sherri Scobie-Henry**

My name is Sherri Scobie-Henry and I am an international student originally from the small island nation of St. Lucia in the Caribbean. I am currently enrolled at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in preparation for my graduation in May of 2005. These final credits are to be obtained from a mandatory internship that students in my field of expertise (Exercise Physiology) are required to complete. Last semester from October to December 2004, I had the opportunity to research and contact many sites about interning at their facilities. After much searching, I found the internship facility that appeared to be the best fit for me. Unfortunately, it happened to be halfway across the country in the state of Colorado. At first I figured that I would just have to let it go since I knew no one in that state. But all the other possible sites I was interested in sooner or later fell through, and the site in Colorado, the High Intensity Training Center, was the only site that was consistent in maintaining contact. By December I had completed my agreement to intern at their facility.

There were two problems, though. The internship was not a paid position, and I would have to find my own housing. This was a time of great worry for me. I placed an ad on a university website to see whether I could obtain housing that way, but many of the responses I received were in locations that were too far away from the facility, or were way beyond my financial capability during the three months of work without pay.

I explained my situation to Mrs. Augusta Mennell of All Saints Lutheran Church. She has been my mentor and friend for the three years that I have attended Slippery Rock University. Immediately, Mrs. Mennell, in her usual caring and kind way, began to ask questions that went straight to the heart of the situation. She asked me where the facility was located, what I could afford and what sort of housing I would require (a house or just a room). She unselfishly volunteered to help me by contacting Lutheran churches in the area via the Lutheran Annual directory to see whether the pastors know of any parishioners who would be willing to house a student for three months beginning in January of 2005 for a drastically reduced rental rate than was normal in Colorado. Not only this, but she continued to encourage me through prayer, listening to me when I was down, and being there for me when I needed her. True to her word, she contacted as many churches as she could, until she found a potential volunteer who attended Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Centennial, Colorado.

This volunteer is named Ms. Susan Kucera. I am indebted to Ms. Kucera for her generosity, kindness and faithfulness in following God's call. From just one conversation with Mrs. Mennell, she unselfishly opened her home for a ridiculously low sum. Her only questions were whether I was trustworthy and allergic to cats, since she owns one. Ms. Kucera accepted me, sight unseen into her home, based on a character reference from only one person. There are not many people that I know who would do something like that for another person. Not only this, but from the first day I lived with her,



she has shared herself and her time with me.

The first week that I was there, she took me out for breakfast and dropped my brother off at the airport when he left after driving to Colorado with me. She showed me how to get to work and where I could go to shop for groceries and other necessities. She has taken me sight-seeing and has been a listening ear whenever I have needed it. Ms. Kucera then trusted me to watch over her house and cat when she went to visit her son in Texas and later to her sister in Florida.

These two women, Ms. Kucera and Mrs. Mennell, are shining examples of those who have not just listened to God's call to serve, but have actually obeyed it. Now I am not suggesting that everybody go as far as Ms. Kucera did, and if you do, make sure that as much background information is known about the person as possible; but I do want to encourage Christians that insofar as it is in you to help another person out, do it because you never know what kind of blessing you're going to be to someone else, or how that person can bless you in return.

Since writing this article, Sherri has graduated and has married a wonderful Christian man, Andrew George, Jr. Sherri is now planning to be a teacher. She and her husband are active in their church. Sherri still writes to All Saints to ask how student movie nights, which were her idea, are going and to express her thanks for the help given to her.

Susan Kucera is a missionary you can easily be. Sherri will never forget Susan's kindness to her. The internationals you give friendship to will never forget you either. How easily you can be a missionary. All it takes is Christ-centered friendship to those God has placed next door to you.

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

## Campus Ministry

## Give It a Rest: Students Need to Rest in the Gospel

Why a Lutheran campus ministry? Why do we need an LCMS presence at our universities, when there are so many other Christian groups already active on campus? Why do we have a full-time Missouri Synod campus pastor, when there are already so many Christian leaders, even "conservative" ones, working at our colleges in Pittsburgh?

Perhaps questions like these have entered your mind from time to time. Any and varied answers could be given—and I have supplied many reasons over the years—but I would like you to hear first-hand from one of our students, Pat (not her real name). Pat became a Christian and a Lutheran in high school and, upon arrival at a college in Pittsburgh, immediately became very active in an inter-denominational student group (we'll call it College Students for Christ [CSC]). However, the group has not met Pat's spiritual needs, at least not fully and rightly, and she has grown discontented. Recently, she shared with me an e-mail that she wrote to one of CSC's staff:

What is a life worthy of Christ? Yeah, that would be nice, luckily it is God's work on us rather than our effort that makes us worthy and changes us. Although everyone in CSC would say that we will never meet this standard, CSC doesn't really remember this in application. I promise you that there is an overarching mentality in CSC that there are "good, fired-up Christians" and "less-involved Christians." The latter are judged and objects to conform to the CSC image, that may or may not line up with God's vision. This is what I have heard called "Law-Gospel-Law", under which we are freed from the law by the gospel, and now we have to again make ourselves "worthy." In CSC, a particular type of "active" evangelism is one thing that tags 'worthiness'.

Now this may not be the intention, but this is how things come off. CSC pushes people away, both Christian and non-Christian, because people feel judged. Sometimes people get so involved in their group and their ways that it is hard to see these things, but it is true.

Besides pushing people away, CSC can also guilt people into get-

ting things done, but this is not freedom from the law, or loving to our neighbor. And now instead of love it is a check list, and even if it starts with a seed of good intention, it goes awry and is not effective, and defeats the purpose.

Of course encouraging other Christians to live faithful lives is good, because at a very simple level we are talking about good things for us, and things that are part of our Christian lives. CSC is good at asking if God is really the center and most important aspect of our lives. But we have to be careful about crossing the line into pressure of exactly how we think they should fulfill that. We are not cookie-cutter Christians, and we have to be careful about putting too much of an emphasis on certain parts of living this out, rather than having a respect for the well rounded. We should not try to make a recipe for Christian life.

I might have come off as "anti-evangelistic," but I am not. I do not wake up in the morning and wonder how to be Christian, I am Christian, and so are some of our "fringe" members. I do evangelize, but I will not have it shoved down my throat in an artificial way.

Nor does it really make any sense to make "goals" of how many people we want to know Christ. Instead we can be faithful with whatever the day brings us. But when I say things like this in meetings I am accused of having small goals, or not appreciating the power God has to make change. But I appreciate God's power not ours. And I appreciate my part in the body.

I am not angry with any person, and my words are rather strong, but I am going against the grain, and this is what I believe.

In Christ,

Pat

Frustrated with these types of issues in CSC, Pat told me that "Lutheran doctrine answers pressing Christian questions both intellectually and practically that other Christian groups could not" as such, she now understands one of my frequent comments: "I am a Lutheran because I am a Christian."

We need an LCMS Lutheran campus ministry because students need to know the freedom of the Gospel after the crushing of the Law, because students need to learn and live out the doctrine of vocation, because students need to rest in the forgiveness of sins and the peace that only that brings, because students need to know that their identity is found not in their feeble and faltering efforts but rather in being baptismally joined to the unchanging Christ crucified and resurrected for them!

We need and have an LCMS Lutheran campus ministry in Pittsburgh because Pat needs us. Support Pat and other students with a donation: make checks out to First Trinity with "campus ministry" in the memo line.

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28)

Eric R. Andrae, Campus Pastor  
First Trinity Lutheran Church,  
535 N. Neville, Pgh. 15213  
412.683.4121, x2  
ERA@FirstTrinity.net



**Apr. 5** — Flea Market-Bazaar, Immanuel, Braddock, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Apr. 5** — LWML Joyshop, Calvary, Murrysville, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

**Apr. 6** — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Zion, Lawrenceville, 4 p.m.; Spaghetti Dinner follows

**Apr. 13** — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia Lund Care Center Chapel, 2 p.m. and havein II Chapel, 4 p.m.

**Apr. 20** — 75th Anniversary Service & Banquet, Christ Forest Hills, 10 a.m.

**Apr. 20** — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia at Rebecca Residence Great Room, 3 p.m.

**Apr. 25** — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, 7 p.m.

**May 3** — Concordia Fashion Show, Butler Country Club, 10:30 a.m.

**May 3** — Allegheny Brass Band Dinner & Concert, First, Sharpsburg, 6 p.m.

## Yes, The Resurrection Means Forever

Easter is still a fresh experience, still a warm glowing in our lives. Unless your congregation has moved quickly on to some other theme-designated Sundays, your worship service should still be ringing with joyful and engaging Easter hymn and lessons, recounting the awe and wonder of those first believers at the astounding phenomenon of Resurrection they were privileged to encounter.

While modern scholars wrestle with the supernatural—some wanting to affirm it, but afraid to admit it, and others hardened to the point of denial, wanting desperately to convince the rest of us it couldn't have really happened, literally, historically, etc.—the truth be told: the Resurrection just won't go away! It's been around, and it's going to stay around for a long time to come.

It always amazes me that scientists are now willing to stake their reputations, their livelihoods, and, who knows, maybe even their lives, on the imaginative idea that our whole existence, the entire universe, and maybe a few universes beyond this one, that everything just accidentally happened to come into being a very long time ago! That's sounds pretty supernatural to me, especially since we have no eyewitness accounts, no really conclusive evidence except data based on physics theories, mathematical principles and astronomical observation.

The evidence FOR the Resurrection is still much more abundant than evidence against it. From ancient centuries, a hope was nurtured that somehow God would rescue man from the curse of Sin's death sentence (Check out the Book of Job—a very old book). Ancient religions not of the Bible also speculate an afterlife of some conscious existence, perhaps similar but more enjoyable than this life. People of all ranks and social levels have entertained the HOPE that somehow this life of toil and misery might be followed by a better state of being. By Jesus' time, a portion of His own people, the Jews, held to a life after this life, although one arrived at a "station" of paradise or hellish torment based pretty much on one's own actions and motives here in keeping the Jewish Law with a perfect score. Thus, the heavenly "station" would enfold probably a select number of residents, such as the Pharisees, and a lucky few others who somehow qualified. The vast bulk of Jews, and all the despised

Gentiles, would, of course, fall short of perfection, and thus be in a more heated environment. That seems to be about it for "resurrection" in the time of Jesus. For much of the world before, and since, peoples have lived and died without an enduring hope or a dependable promise that there is more to come after this life is past.

### **The evidence for the Resurrection is so much more abundant than evidence against it!**

Into such a common cultural mindset comes Jesus of Nazareth who claims a distinct and direct relationship to God the Father. He preaches and displays a radically-different set of values, based on mercy toward wayward sinners, forgiveness as a gift from a gracious God and the promise of an endless life as a resident of God's in-breaking kingly rule. This is GOOD NEWS, says Jesus. The Kingdom is now at hand. Repent of sin and trust this Good News. Over several years, hundreds, if not several thousands, heard His Word and trusted Him as God anointed One. Despite their shaken hopes when He was abruptly murdered by governmental powers, they were privileged to experience a never-before event: His rising from the dead into the fullness of Kingdom Life. For this new reality, we have their eye-witness observations and convictions, we have the words of Paul of Tarsus, lately come to know Jesus by direct encounter. And we have the absence of evidence to the contrary, as the Jews never were able to produce His corpse, apparently had to bribe guards to silence their own eye-witness accounts, and were never able to mount a convincing affirmation of His permanent residence in any cemetery! So much for testimonies FOR the Resurrection! Enter the scholars....

Reputed scholars, as mentioned above, have striven mightily to convince us that this was all a group hysteria brought on by the sudden, tragic, unexpected death of their dear friend, Jesus. Further, their grief "morphed" into a sense, a recovered appreciation of all His good teachings and promises, and they all felt, experienced or concluded that He must have come back to life, if only in a

spiritual sense, to guide and empower them to create a movement of universal love, and hope for a future eternal life. Thus, while it is a basically good, harmless and naïve religion, it is really based on something that did not happen literally and physically, period! Such a ridiculous, "academic" approach cannot accept that there is indeed a God, a God who fits the definition of God with a capital "G." Theirs is only an "icon" of deity, such as belongs to any humanly-constructed religion, but no God in the sense of a real, Supreme Being who has POWER to act!

The evidence, however, refuses to accept that puny "god" which brainwashed those early followers into thinking they had seen a Risen Savior. The ordinary folks who followed Jesus and remained loyal to him were, in a short time, changed into bold, outspoken witnesses of something very powerful and compelling. They proclaimed Jesus as Risen and working through the same Good News to turn people from sin's captivity in order to enter the Life which is genuine fellowship with God (the "capital 'G' God!"). After 2,000 years, and millions of people who embraced this hopeful truth and committed their lives in service to Jesus Christ, one must ask: how much evidence does it take to validate a claim so astounding as the Resurrection of Jesus, and thereafter, of all who are united to Him in Baptism and Faith? While it is true that you can't argue someone into the Kingdom of God, and rational proofs will only stand in the way of Faith, how else do you explain that when someone hears the conviction of their sinful life under God's Law, begs God for mercy, and hears the message of full forgiveness through the sacrifice of God's own Son for them as a free gift, that his/her heart is filled with faith and gratitude by the Holy Spirit, and the Resurrection is suddenly and forever a very REAL experience and confident hope for that person? If Jesus never made it out of Death, then, as St. Paul, says, we Christians are the most to be pitied...for our delusion. But, if indeed, Jesus has been raised from the dead, then we of all people should be making that known every day, every place we go, so people may come to know the God with the capital "G!"

*Submitted by Rev. John Weldon  
Epiphany, Penn Hills*

**Mileposters**

**Fundraiser Rides Planned for May and June**

The second Mileposters game night was held on the second Sunday in March at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, located in the Brighton/Woods Run neighborhood of Pittsburgh, at 3164 Sorento Street. Children attending included those from the immediate neighborhood and surrounding areas and from Troy Hill. Four adults from St. Thomas came to assist leader Mark Shields, including pastor Steve Niermann, pictured with trustee Al Hunt, watching a chess game between the boys. Also pictured are the girls playing Sorry. Assisting as well were Jack and Marie Cox. Food was provided by Roy and Eileen Arensberg, who donated a microwave oven for Mileposters use. Participants enjoyed Bible study, singing, snacks, and various games. The third game night was on the fifth Sunday in March. Mileposters game nights are held every second and fifth Sunday during the school year, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday school classes at St. Thomas resumed on Easter Sunday, after a hiatus of over two years.



Tandem bicycle rides are starting again with the arrival of spring, emphasizing training for Mileposters fundraising efforts coming up, including kitchen improvements at St. Thomas and a selected PALM ministry. The May ride will be a two-day campout, starting at Cedar Creek County Park in Westmoreland County. In June, Mileposters will make their third journey from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC, via the Great Allegheny Passage, the Western Maryland Rail Trail, and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal towpath, scheduled for June 14 through 23, with return to Pittsburgh by train on June 25, via Amtrak's Capitol Limited. This will be the first DC trip to go straight through in Maryland,

without having to use the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, because the trail between Frostburg and Cumberland was completed in 2007, paralleling the still-active railroad track. Overnight stops are planned in Pennsylvania at the River's Edge Family Campground in Adelaide, Steppingstone Farm in Confluence, the Allegheny Highlands Trail Hostel in Meyersdale, and in Maryland at the Pigman's Ferry hiker-biker campground, the Little Orleans Family Campground, Iron Mountain hiker-biker campground, Brunswick Family Campground, and Swain's Lock. The final ride destination, after touching the city of Washington at Fletcher's Boathouse, will be the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Rudy Kampia, reached by the unique combination routing known as the Northwest Connection, combining the Capital Crescent Trail, the Georgetown Branch Trail, the Sligo Creek Trail, the Northwest Branch Trail, the Northeast Branch Trail, and the Indian Creek Trail.

Funding for Mileposters uniforms through the LWML has been approved, and alternate jerseys are also being acquired, so that it will be possible, for the first time, to wear official cycling outfits on the ride to DC. Our thanks to Janet Seitz, Miriam Martens, Jackie Blank, and all other LWML people who made this possible. The alternate jerseys, while keeping to the theme of blue with black, have various pictures and designs with other colors. Along the way, the same as on other rides, cyclists will personally distribute metal crosses with message cards explain-



ing the meaning of the cross in the Christian life.

In our area, construction has started on the last nine miles of trail to connect the McKeesport trailhead of the Youghiogheny River Trail to Station Square, passing through Duquesne, West Mifflin, Whitaker, Munhall, Homestead, Baldwin, and South Side, including the long, graceful Riverton Bridge over the Monongahela River from Duquesne to McKeesport.

We are still stockpiling Gatorade. Five cases are currently on hand, and another is on order. Contributions of individual bottles or cases of Gatorade are welcomed; please call the St. Thomas church office at 412.766.7810.

Pictures of Mileposters events are on our Web site: <http://www.mileposters.net>.

*Submitted by Mark Shields*



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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.

**Calvary, Murrysville**

The kindergarten students from Calvary Early Learning Center in Murrysville took a field trip to Christ Lutheran School in Forest Hills. The two kindergarten classes got to enjoy lunch and recess together. The Calvary kids toured the school and bought books at the Book Fair before returning to school. It was a great day. They also took a field trip to see *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* in front-row seats at the Byham Theater.



The school held a pasta night on March 15th that was a big fundraiser for the school. They sold over 200 tickets. Below are dads who worked the takeout table with the Easter Bunny, who was here for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Portions of the Pasta Night proceeds will benefit Sunshine Kitchen. Below, Bill Bortz and Barb Stuffer, who were in attendance representing the Sunshine Kitchen in McKeesport. The three children are Aly Kindelberger, Christian Ciecierski, and Nathan Henry, who are in the Kindergarten at Calvary.



The four-year-old class for next year is full and they may have to open



another classroom. On April 16th at 6 p.m. there will be a pot luck supper and then entertainment by a husband/wife who has toured nationally and share vocal, piano, and saxophone music.

**Christ, Forest Hills**

The students in grades 2 and 3 along with staff at Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills were gathering items to be sent to soldiers in Iraq. A student in the second grade has a step-sister who is currently serving in the army in Iraq. The students and staff collected personal items and notes of encouragement to be sent to her.



Christ Lutheran Church and School of Forest Hills opened a new toddler program this past January of 2008. The program is licensed by the state. We provide a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for the two year olds. We are able to share stories of



God's love with the children, even as young as age two. The days consist of play time, reading books, building puzzles, singing songs, art, snack, lunch, and of course nap time! Lutheran Schools Week started with bowling at Funfest bowling alley. Wednesday

was chapel day with our children playing the handchimes, followed by a reception with cake. Friday we had a spoon balancing contest. Pretty amazing to balance spoons on our noses.

**Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh**

Preschool children shared songs with the congregation on March 2 for Lutheran Schools Week. A family Easter Egg Hunt was held on the day before Palm Sunday.

**Redeemer, Oakmont**

Redeemer Lutheran School would like to introduce two new members to the staff. Rachel Eckstrom, wife of Rev. Cory Eckstrom, St. Paul, New Kensington, has joined the faculty as an art teacher. Rachel is a graduate of Concordia Seward with a secondary degree in Language Arts. In addition to teaching art classes, Rachel is a substitute teacher in our Middle School classroom. Gretchen Schinkel joins the staff in the new Admissions Director position. Gretchen is a member of First Trinity, Oakland. As the Admissions Director she will be responsible for increasing awareness, interest and enrollment in the school specifically through public relations and personal care. Both of these positions have been made possible through a grant received by PALS (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools) through Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot.

Redeemer Lutheran Schools Week celebrated Lutheran Schools Week by partaking in many different festivities. Field trips, contests such as battle of the Pink and Blue Day, Meet the Author Day, School Spirit Day and Bring a Friend Day were just a few of the fun ways they chose to celebrate. Children got to "Meet the Author" by learning about and reading books by the author Mo Williams (below). In addition, students wrote their own version of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*.



School Spirit Day was great fun! Children from each class wrote a cheer and during a school wide cel-



celebration, a vote was cast to determine the winner. Sixth grader Abrianna McCaskill was deemed the winner. In addition to a special prize, her class got to celebrate with an ice cream party. Prizes were also given to all children who participated and the cheers were performed for the guests at Friday's Bring a Friend Day. Bring a Friend Day is always a favorite. Students brought a grown-up friend/relative to share half their school day while doing special learning activities/games and meeting teachers and staff. Students and friends rotated through four centers. The theme was celebrating Pittsburgh's 250th birthday. Activities were centered around this, and included the following: Art & Pittsburgh Missions; snack center where football and helmet cookies were decorated with black and gold and pictures were taken with a Pittsburgh back drop; a scavenger hunt involved picking up clues about Pittsburgh, historical places and events, and finally a devotion center in which a picture frame was made with Pittsburgh pictures.

Redeemer Lutheran School students will sing in their upcoming Spring musical *King of the Jungle*, April 17th at 7 p.m. at the Tenth Street School in Oakmont.

*Submitted by Gretchen Schinkel, Admissions Counselor*

**St. John, Millvale**

The spaghetti supper held March 2 raised over \$600 for the Preschool and was matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**St. John, Monistdale**

Plans are in place to have new carpeting installed in the Parish Hall by Easter; funds were raised by the Preschool during its annual citrus sale.

**St. Luke, Cabot**

As always, Lutheran Schools Week was celebrated in grand style at St. Luke. Classrooms created inspirational school spirit posters, featuring famous characters such as Underdog and "Uncle Sam Wilt". First grade wrote exuberant cheers such as "St.

Luke/St. Luke/here we come/we stick together like bubble gum!" and "We love to learn/we love to play/we learn about Jesus everyday!" Everyone enjoyed an afternoon movie and popcorn, with the lower graders dressed as their favorite story character. Kids could purchase pens, pencils, and water bottles emblazoned with the school logo from the school store. Everyone enjoyed eating ice cream sundaes and watching the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders defeat the faculty in a volleyball tournament. On Special Friend Day, K-5<sup>th</sup> graders shared the morning with grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins, neighbors, and other family friends.



*Special friends Carver and Joe take a moment and pose for this shot.*

The "longest distance traveled award" went to 1st grader Monica Gourley's grandma, who flew in from Seattle, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Carter Hoerth's grandpap from St. Louis! Carnegie Science Center's "Fire & Ice" program was punctuated with scientific facts, mini explosions, exclamations, and laughter.



*Caitlan and Aunt Missy at the "Fire & Ice" assembly at St. Luke, Cabot.*

Students learned new skills through some diverse afterschool clubs the past month: basketball, scrapbooking, and stamping. Each class also experienced how it might feel to have a disability by participating in various workshops on "Disability Awareness Day", sponsored by Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services.

April will bring annual Achievement Test week; and grades 1-6 will

end the month with their spring musical program. All grades will also be dazzled with "The Amazing World of Light", an assembly which defines and demonstrates the color spectrum, ultra violet rays, lasers, strobes, fiber optics, and more. Seventh and eighth graders and parents will travel to Washington, DC, under the guidance of Principal/Tour Guide Mark Wilt.

*Submitted by Mark Wilt, Principal*

**St. Paul, New Kensington**

First annual Scrapbooking Day fundraiser was held March 29 from 2 - 10 p.m. A new Circle Time alphabet carpet was purchased with funds from PALS.

**Zion, Accident**

Nursery School resumed on Thursday, March 6. Fifteen preschool children have enrolled for the spring semester.

**Zion, Bridgeville**

Fathers of 2-year-old children doing the Chicken Dance



*Below, running the obstacle course*



## 5th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser for Charity Care at Concordia

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Fifth Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, July 21 at Deer Run Golf Club in Gibsonia.

Our Golf Outing will include an exclusive gift for all golfers, coffee and donuts, lunch, golf on a premiere par 72 championship golf course featuring a beautiful semi-private country club setting with greens fees, cart and practice range. Six prizes – three to teams with lowest gross scores and first, second and third place according to the Peoria scoring system based on lowest net will be awarded.

A full-course buffet dinner with several entrees will be served at the banquet. Registration is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. following by a Shot Gun Start at 9:30 a.m. in a scramble format. At least six contest holes comprised of closest to the pin, hole in one longest and straightest drives will add to the day's activities.

All sponsorships with foursomes also include the opportunity for an ad in the event program book, listing in *Concordia News & Views* and all related advertising including our website, a welcome banner at the course on the day of our event, tee or green signs on the course.

### Gift Sponsor (1 only) \$5,000

- ◆ Company logo on gift given to each golfer at event
- ◆ One foursome package which include golf, coffee and donuts, lunch, dinner/reception, greens fees, cart and golfer gifts

### Concordia to Host Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Adult Day Services will host an Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group meeting on April 8 at 2 p.m. in the Lund Care Center ground floor activity room on Marwood Road, Cabot.

This meeting will be an open discussion on issues important to the group. It is free and open to all caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia. Adult care will be available during the meeting as well. For more information, please call the director of adult day services at Concordia, at 724.352.1571, ext. 8271 or visit on the Web at [www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org).

- ◆ Full page ad and front page recognition in event program book
- ◆ Featured as "Gift Sponsor" in *Concordia News & Views*, Concordia's external publication that reaches 11,000 constituents and all related printed materials, news releases and day's activities as well as Concordia's new website.
- ◆ Listed on welcome banner at event

### Golf Cart Sponsor (1 only) \$3,000

- ◆ One foursome package, which includes golf, coffee and donuts, lunch, dinner/reception, greens fees, cart and gift
- ◆ Company logo on each golf cart that is being used in the outing
- ◆ Framed team picture for each golfer
- ◆ Acknowledgement in the program book
- ◆ Listed on welcome banner at event

### Social Hour Sponsor (1 only) \$3,000

- ◆ One foursome package, which includes golf, coffee and donuts, lunch, dinner/reception, greens fees, cart and gift
- ◆ Social Hour dedicated to your organization
- ◆ Half page ad in program book
- ◆ Recognized as "Social Hour Sponsor" in *Concordia News & Views*, Concordia's external publication that reaches 11,000 constituents
- ◆ Listed on welcome banner at event

### Key Sponsors \$2,500

- ◆ One foursome package, which includes golf, coffee and donuts, lunch, dinner/reception, greens fees, cart and gift
- ◆ Half page ad in program book
- ◆ Recognized as "Key Sponsor" in *Concordia News & Views*, Concordia's external publication that reaches 11,000 constituents
- ◆ Green Sponsor
- ◆ Listed on welcome banner at event

### Volunteer Shirt Sponsor (1 only) \$2,000

- ◆ Company logo on sleeve

### Banquet Sponsor (1 only) \$1,500

- ◆ Recognition on all buffet and dining tables

### Putting Contest Sponsor (1 only) \$1,000

- ◆ Recognition at practice green

### Driving Range Sponsor (1 only) \$1,000

- ◆ Recognition at driving range

### Silent Auction Sponsor (1 only) \$1,000

### Contest Hole Sponsors (6 available) \$500

- ◆ Closest to the Pin (1), Hole In One (2), Longest Drive, Straightest Drive

### Tee Sponsors \$300

### Individual Golf Package \$125

- ◆ Golf, coffee and donuts, lunch, dinner/reception, greens fees, cart and gift

### Dinner Only \$60

### Program Advertisements

- ◆ Full Page (8.5h x 5w) - \$500
- ◆ Half Page (4h x 5.5w) - \$300
- ◆ Deadline for ads is Friday, June 13, 2008.

All ads are to be emailed to [bwichrowski@concordialm.org](mailto:bwichrowski@concordialm.org) in PDF format.

Thanks to those of you who can help Concordia secure support for charity care as we continue to serve God through His people. Every gift given to CLM makes a significant difference in the lives of our residents, especially to those who cannot afford to pay for their care. Our organization cares for hundreds of resident each year who do not have sufficient 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 not government programs to make up the shortfall between residents' resources and the cost of care.

Established in the early 1990s the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund provides the organization with additional funds to help meet obligations of the organization. For more information or to reserve your place at this event, contact: Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571 ext. 8266.

Golf Committee members who are working hard to reach this year's goal are: Bob Stark, Resident Chairman; Brian Hortert, Staff Chairman; STAFF - Paul Brand, Kathy Fagley, Shirley Freyer, Keith Frndak, Bill Giallombardo, Gary Holmes, Barb Jones, Mike Kaufman, Charlene Kline, Brian Llewellyn, Meridith McGinnis, Michael Pugliese, Nick Reiser, Larry Talmadge, Martin Trettel, Peggy Trettel, Beth Wichrowski and Rich Zabinski.

## Concordia Haven I Resident Celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries Haven I resident Esther Gerstacker celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on Jan. 5 with a surprise party in a Lund activity room with friends and family.

Gerstacker was born in Knoxville, PA on Jan. 6, 1923 and lived in the area for 83 years until moving to Concordia on her birthday in 2006. She was very active at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mount Oliver, serving as a Sunday school and Bible study teacher, choir member, Lutheran Women Missionary League member, junior choir director, and assistant organist. She is now a member at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot.

After 37 years with U.S. Steel Corporation, Gerstacker retired from her position as secretary to the vice president of labor relations in 1979. She and her sister Ruth (now deceased) enjoyed traveling. They visited Hawaii, the Holy Land, Greece, Germany, Alaska, and Nova Scotia among other places. She also enjoys crossword puzzles, Sodoku and reading.

Gerstacker has a long history with Concordia, dating back to her childhood when her family would attend the annual summer festivals. She was also involved with the Concordia Ladies Aid Society, serving as treasurer for 10 years.



## Concordia Haven Resident Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries Haven I resident Esther Kroh, formerly of Washington, PA, celebrated her upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a family cruise during the week of March 7.

The former Esther Galbraith was born in Bellevue on March 8, 1918. She married Dr. Dean F. Kroh on Sept. 2, 1949 in a home wedding in Valencia, PA. She has three children: David Kroh of Wexford; Dean K. Kroh of Pittsburgh; and June Kershner of Grants, NM. One son named Daniel passed away in 2005. She also has six grandchildren.

Prior to her retirement in 1987, Kroh worked as a Medical Missionary for Christian & Missionary Alliance (CMA). Esther and her husband were missionaries for 38 years. She is active in the Concordia Haven Apartments Resident Advisory Committee, the CMA Missions Committee, and the local Alliance Women.

Kroh and her husband have lived at Concordia for 10 years since leaving their previous home in Washington, PA. She enjoys travel, reading, and e-mailing with friends, family members, and other missionaries.

## Concordia's First "Getting to Know You" Evening a Success

CABOT—On Tuesday, March 4, Concordia at Cabot hosted its first "Getting to Know You Evening" to give community members and residents a chance to meet our physician partners in the area and learn about many of Concordia's services.

From 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., the Lund Care Center was buzzing with around 75 interested community members, who met with a number of physicians in the area, including Dr. Krasinsky, ophthalmologist; Dr. Mytinger, podiatrist; Dr. Uribe, Dr. Fiorvanti, Dr. Samuels, and Dr. Nallathambi, primary care physicians; and Dr. Lin, neurologist.

Representatives from Concordia Outpatient Therapy and Good Samaritan Hospice gave tours of their areas and Concordia Visiting Nurses, Adult Day Services, and Concordia Medical Equipment gave out information to interested individuals as well. The free event also featured refreshments and door prizes throughout the evening.

Special thanks to Haven Program Director Cathy Questiaux and Marketing Coordinator Mike Kaufman for coordinating the event.

For more information on Concordia's many services, please call 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 or visit [www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org).



CVN Community Nurse Liason Kathy Schmidt giving a CVN pill box to a Haven resident.

## "Singin' in the Rain"

Third Annual  
Concordia Lutheran Ministries  
Fashion Show  
Saturday, May 3  
Butler Country Club  
Call 724.352.1571, ext. 8266.

## Call for Auction Baskets

Concordia invites your church or women's group to donate an auction basket to the Third Annual Fashion Show "Singin' in the Rain".

The themed baskets could include gift certificates and should be worth \$50. Baskets will need to be ready by April 30 for basket auction preview on Thursday and Friday, May 1 and 2 at Haven II Dining Room.

Tickets are available at \$25. Call Public Relations at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for tickets and to register your auction basket. The event is at Butler Country Club on Saturday, May 3rd. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

### 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](mailto:terryntaylor@verizon.net)).

### 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.

*Your time to live well.*

At Concordia Haven Apartments, having more is a way of life. Here you'll enjoy charming amenities, exceptional facilities, and also experience a deep sense of community found nowhere else. All of which leaves one question - what are you waiting for? Call us today at 724.352.5378 for more information about why Concordia Haven is THE place to live your retirement years to the fullest. Welcome home.

100 Marwood Road #3110 · Cabot, PA 16023 · 1.800.352.1571 · concordiahm.org · *We put our Faith in Caring*

20 Two-bedroom units available Summer, 2008

**Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts  
February 16, 2008 through March 14, 2008**

**General Donations**

Gerline Gehr - Calvin & Alma Eggers - Albert & Joan Lucas - Norman Morgan - Richard & Susan Boggs - Robert & Emma Borland - Irvin & Vivian Sallach - Lois Parkhill - Irene Bourg. In honor of Paul Brand by: Harry & Lois Shindledecker.

**Capital Campaign Fund**

John & Barbara Schneidmiller - Rachel Barduca.

**Good Samaritan Endowment Fund**

The Casher Family. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

**Concordia at Ridgewood Place**

Ronald & Lisa Kazimer

**Concordia Visiting Nurses  
Charitable Fund**

W.R. Balash, M.D. - Marie Matteo.

**Angel Tear Fund**

Edith Waltenbaugh - Michael E. Fiffik - Kathy & William Schmidt n

**Congregational Donations**

Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - St. Luke Lutheran Church & School, Cabot - Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - Saint Stephen Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion.

**Memorial Contributions**

In memory of Norma Fowler by: Frank Fowler. In memory of Emma Schelien by: Hilda Oswald. In memory of Joseph Jakim by: Anna Mae Jakim. In memory of Joretta Houser, Mary Belle Baker and Vera Rodgers by: Ruth Brewer. In memory of Lois Best by: C.W. & Lois Best. In memory of Edna Rummel by: Fred & Delores Wetzel. In memory of George & Minnie Klebingot by: Eugene & Rose Marie Klebingot. In memory of Winifred Smith by: Florence Cooper.

**Concordia at The Orchard**

Lynn A. Scott

**Haven I Update**



Traveling down Marwood Road, one immediately sees the brick work on the north side of Haven I closest to Oertel as construction continues to progress on a fast track.