



# Pittsburgh Lutheran

November 2008



## Gaertner Installed at Ascension, McCandless

MCCANDLESS—Rev. Brennan Gaertner was installed as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in McCandless in a special service on October, 5, 2008. The Rev. Dr. John Brunner, President of the Eastern District, was preacher and presided over the Rite of Installation. Other participants in the service were Rev. Arthur Litke (liturgist), Gordon Marquette (lector), Laurence Gaertner (acolyte), Reed Gaertner (crucifer), and Gabe Gaertner (Bible bearer). The Ascension Children's Choir sang "Untitled Hymn" (Come to Jesus). A reception for Rev. Gaertner was held after the service.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Brennan grew up in the Roman Catholic tradition. While at Penn State University, where he was a defensive back with the national champion Nittany Lions, Brennan served for four years with Campus Crusade for Christ. Upon graduating in 1988, Brennan spent three months with an inter-denominational mission to orphans in Bolivia, South America. Brennan returned to the States in late 1988 and

*Above, front: Rev. Dr. John Brunner, president, Eastern District; Rev. Brennan Gaertner; Rev. Barry Keurulainen (St. Luke, Cabot). Back: Rev. Michael Schumacher (St. Matthew, Pittsburgh); Rev. Reholma McCants (Unity, Homewood); Rev. Arthur Litke (Bethel, Glenshaw); Rev. Paul Rist (Chaplain, Concordia Lutheran Ministries) and Rev. John Weldon (Epiphany, Penn Hills).*

worked with inner-city youth in Pittsburgh. One year later Brennan moved to New York City to work with the urban poor, homeless and drug addicted. In 1994, Brennan met Rev. Wayne Hamit, the LCMS missionary-at-large in Manhattan, and shortly after went on staff with Life's Journey Ministries (LJM). In his years at LJM, Brennan saw the growth of ministries among New York's homeless, people in alcohol and drug-addiction recovery, and especially among poor Hispanic youth in East Harlem. Brennan helped found LJM's first English-speaking church in the heart of Manhattan in 1998,

*(Please turn to page 3.)*

## Nominees for Board of Directors Announced

CABOT—The Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3 p.m. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. following the customized tour of the new Haven I building at 2 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Concordia Social Hall (Haven I Dining Room) following the meeting at approximately 5 p.m.

The main order of business for the day is the election of six members of the Board of Directors. Those nominees are: David Alsing, Calvary, Murrysville; Virginia Humphrey, Redeemer; Rev. David Weeks, Calvary, Murrysville; James Wolf, Peace, Upper St. Clair; Stephen Johnson, First Trinity, Oakland; Rev. C. Ronald Rafferty, Zion, Lawrenceville/Immanuel, Braddock; Charlotte Nist, Prince of Peace, Freedom; Christie Scott, Mt. Olive, Beaver Falls; and Mike Rogers, Calvary, Murrysville.

Each member congregation is entitled to three votes – pastor plus two delegates. According to our constitution we need to have at least three women on the board. That means we will need to elect two women. According to our constitution we also need to have at least three pastors on the board. Please contact Shirley M. Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266 for more information.

## Unity Lutheran Community Mission 22nd Annual Harvest Home Festival November 23, 2:30 p.m.

All congregations are cordially invited to come and celebrate with us. Rev. Arthur Litke will be the guest preacher. A Thanksgiving feast will follow the worship festival service. Contact Rev. Reholma McCants at 412.731.2811 to RSVP.

## Sonshine Marks 5th Year of After School Program

McKEESPORT—October 7, 2008, marked the beginning of the 5th year of our After School-Hang 5 Program. The children meet each Tuesday from 3:30-5:30 p.m. It combines one-on-one relationship building with homework help and support and assistance to each student to do their best and improve their academic levels and an increased love for learning and confidence in themselves. We try to incorporate special events throughout the year to supplement our learning such as a spelling bee, science day, writing contest and show and tell. We end the year with a field trip to a farm and out for ice cream.

This year we have expanded the program by half an hour, added reading testing that we will do in the beginning and at the end to go along with our reading component each week. We have 22 children enrolled which is our highest number thus far, along with 12 tutors.

We have two adult volunteers who help Program Director Terry Ruccio.

We are also looking into hosting a week of summer camp for the fami-



lies of Sonshine Community Ministries this summer.

Please visit our Web site at [sonshinecommunityministries.org](http://sonshinecommunityministries.org). Our photo pages are being updated as well as Barb's Blog. On the right side of the homepage you will see a calendar. Click on the dates highlighted in gray and read about the continuous blessings with this ministry.

*Barb Stuffer*  
Executive Director,

Sonshine Community Ministries  
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## 33rd Annual Christian Art Show November 8-9

MURRYSVILLE—Plan to attend the 33rd Annual Christian Art Show on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 9 from Noon to 4 p.m. in the lower level fellowship hall at Calvary Lutheran, Old Wm Penn Hwy & School Rd in Murrysville.

Lunch will be available at the Gallery Cafe during lunch-time on both days. The Gallery Cafe is a fundraiser for Calvary's Preschool and Kindergarten.

Along with artwork in all media by local Christian artists there will again be an exhibit of artwork by students of the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools (PALS).

A Craft Fair and Bake Sale will also be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Clairton Outreach Children's Ministry Begins

CLAIRTON—A new mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been funded by a grant from the Eastern District to begin a children's outreach ministry.

A building was acquired at 565 Miller Street in Clairton, which requires some cleaning, painting and the addition of kitchen sinks and a bathroom.

If you have talents in home repair, please don't hesitate to lend a hand in preparation for the grand opening. We could also use your prayers and financial support!

*Your servant in Christ,*  
*Rev. Reholma McCants*

## Zion Celebrates 140 Years of Ministry

LAWRENCEVILLE—Sunday, November 2 at 11 a.m. members, former members and families plan to celebrate 140 years of God's blessings at a service of Thanksgiving led by Rev. C. Ronald Rafferty, pastor. Lunch will be served following worship. Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will also be celebrated remembering all those members who have passed into the splendor of the New Jerusalem in the last five years. All are invited. Simply call 412.486.6950.

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## Retreat Leadership Lecture Planned for Nov. 8

McCANDLESS—A former Trappist monk of over 25 years - seven of which he spent as a hermit monk - a missionary among the poorest of the poor in Cochabamba, Bolivia, William Wilson will present his unique and amazing story on Saturday, November 8, at Ascension Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is an incredible opportunity to learn about prayer and intimacy with Jesus.

William Wilson grew up amidst alcoholism and poverty in the inner-city of Philadelphia. Seeking union with God, at age 19 William became a silent Trappist monk for the next 25 years. Seven of those years he lived in solitude as a hermit monk. At 37, William was called out of the hermit life to serve as Chaplain and confessor to Trappistine Nuns and subsequently as Novice Master in his own monastery. In these pastoral roles he became a spiritual director and taught classes in the history, theology, and practice of classical Christian spirituality.

In 1981, at 44 years of age, William went to live and serve among the poorest people in the world in the Bolivian Andes. During these years, aided by Christian friends in the United States, Fr. William founded Amistad Mission, which now supports a school and operates a medical clinic and an orphanage in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

As a Trappist monk William had learned the ancient ways of union with God in solitude. As a missionary among the poor, he learned to seek and find union with God while loving people. In 1989 he married a medical missionary, Dr. Susan Winchester. Excluded from the priesthood in the Roman Catholic tradition, he was received by the Episcopal Church. In recent years, Father William earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. Most marvelous of all, since 1996 God has made Dr. Susan and Fr. William proud and grateful adoptive parents of two children. The experience of parenthood has given the final enrichment to his practice of contemplation in the world.

Now an Anglican priest of the Diocese of Bolivia, William is Director of Ministries of the Spiritual Life Ministry Foundation in Birmingham. In this role he offers the ministry of retreat leadership, lectures, and spiritual direction to people in many

parts of the United States. His recently published book, *FOUR ESSENTIALS: Classical Disciplines of Christian Spirituality*, is currently receiving glowing reviews.

For details about the presentation, call the Ascension office at 412.364.4463.

## Gaertner Installed

(Continued from page 1.)

and left later that year for St. Louis to begin his studies at Concordia.

Brennan received his first call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portland Oregon. For two years he developed a worshiping community and brought many who vowed never to step foot in a church again. To work with these people who are labeled "post-modern" became a passion for him. An opportunity in Pittsburgh was presented to work along side churches and organizations who served the inner-city community. For the last five years, Brennan has developed relationships with "post-moderns" and started seven Bible studies. In addition, he has served as a vacancy pastor for four churches. Brennan has provided vision and focus to several congregations. He has encouraged and challenged the members and the congregations to pursue Christ and leave their focus of survival. Attitude has changed many in these churches and they are moving toward being "missional." Brennan also started an inner-city baseball league in Pittsburgh and continues to build that program in order to build a practice of discipleship among the urban youth.

Brennan Gaertner's wife and partner of over 14 years, Dawn, homeschools their seven children: Laurence (almost 13), Reed (10), Gabe (9), Tillie (7), Oak (5), Stone (2), and Dollyanne (5-1/2 months).



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### The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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## Congregation News

# Focus on Bible Studies, Home Groups, Retreats, Workshops

## All Saints, Slippery Rock

The youth were busy with a rummage sale at the annual Villagefest, raising \$1300 in funds to be matched by Thrivent; a Halloween "bowl" and a fall retreat at Camp Judson. A new informal, interactive mid-week worship service began on Wednesday, October 15 at 7 p.m.

## Ascension, McCandless

Rev. Brennan Gaertner and six members will be again heading to Hato Mayor in the Dominican Republic in early January for a mission trip. A car wash was held on September 27 to help raise funds for the trip. Over \$650 was raised.

The parking lot was cleaned, sealed, and re-lined by Gene Williams, Jr. and other volunteers that he coordinated for his Eagle Scout project.

## Bethel, Glenshaw

A recital is being planned for November, featuring the new organ, which was installed this summer. A "Festival of Lessons and Carols" is planned for December 21. An Oktoberfest fundraiser was held for the two Lutheran campus ministries in Pittsburgh and Slippery Rock. A successful two-day rummage sale raised over \$1,200 for the new organ fund, with some matched by Thrivent.

## Christ, Forest Hills

The new Lutheran Service Book was dedicated in August.

Sonshine Kitchen—The Women's Service Guild prepared chili for October 27<sup>th</sup> meal. Volunteers to help prepare the food and to serve are always welcome.

Fall Retreat—October 24-26 was the annual women's retreat held each year at the Conneaut home of Mary Lou Penisch. This is always a very special time of fellowship and fun in a beautiful mountain environment.

Joy Shop—The next Eastern District Joy Shop event will be held at Christ Lutheran and sponsored by the Women's Service Guild. Date and time is still to be decided.

Make It and Take It—November 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. will be the date and time for the annual craft night at Christ Lutheran. We

also look forward to delicious appetizers, dips and desserts. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship that helps us get ready for the special holiday celebrations ahead.

## First, Sharpsburg

Members are involved in an elongated reading (listening) of the New Testament, which has a goal of wrapping up Revelation by the middle of November. It is part of the program *You've Got the Time (to Listen to the Bible)*. After distribution of free DVDs from TGTT containing mp3 formatted Scriptures, participants committed to listening (or reading) for 20 minutes per day, every day. Along the way, we will be taking up two special offerings supporting the production of the New Testament in a language not yet recorded (The Desano people group, in Columbia). The beauty of audio Bibles in new languages is that while many people cannot yet read, they can listen to God's Word in their own spoken languages.

## Grace, Penn Hills

Congratulations to Alvera and Norman Bornemann on their 60th wedding anniversary!

## Peace, McMurray

"Church in the Park" was held on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at Peterswood Park in McMurray, PA. A pavilion was reserved, unique bulletins were created, special music was selected, and an altar area was established. All local communities were invited to come to the park for an outdoor worship.

The Evangelism Committee began a group home Bible Study using the Good News publication series. The topic has been on "Encouragement". The group meets every other Friday for three months. Following the conclusion of this Bible study, the group will divide into two. New members will be asked to join one of the home Bible studies which will begin in January and run for three months. The goal is to have members of the congregation involved in small group home Bible study throughout each year.

There has been an increase in Sunday School and Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. As much as 75% of the church attendance is coming together to study God's Word.

This has become a blessing to everyone who attends.

New music and songs are being heard every Sunday. Using the piano, keyboard and microphones, song leaders sing one Sunday and the next Sunday the congregation sings the same song together with the vocalists. The Youth Choir has added their voices to the worship service, too. They have even included bongos and music shakers to add rhythm to the mix. In addition, instrumentalists from the congregation are sharing their God-given talent and love for music with the congregation and to glorify God.

On Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Christian Fellowship Committee hosted a Harvest Festival. It was an evening full of fun. The highlight of the event was a game called "Stinky Bingo". Members were asked to bring a wrapped white elephant gift as prizes. No one knew what they would win. Some of the prizes were treats and other prizes were tricks!

## Redeemer, Oakmont

Pave 'n Park Driveway Campaign hopes to raise \$12,000 needed for resurfacing the driveways and parking lot. The Music Department held a Grab 'n Go lunch and is planning a Christmas Cookie Sale to raise funds for Pave 'n Park.

## St. John, Millvale

Leaders attended a planning retreat on Oct. 4, establishing monthly themes and goals under the annual theme, "Growing to Serve".

St. Afterschool began Oct. 7. Children grades K-3 are provided a safe place to do homework and for recreation, crafts, snacks, and a light meal. Volunteers supervise, help with homework, and prepare the food; 15 neighborhood children have attended so far.

The men's group has started up again, meeting the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month.

A Family Game Night is planned for Sunday, Nov. 2.

## St. John, Morrisdale

The LWML held a card workshop in October and packed blankets for Lutheran World Relief. LWML Sunday was observed on October 12. The Social Concerns Committee is

**Congregation News Continued**

planning a Thanksgiving luncheon for November 26 and will serve an Advent supper on December 3. Proceeds from an October bazaar were used to fund roof repair. The event featured an authentic Louisiana jambalaya.

**St. Luke, Cabot**

Celebrate Recovery, a new ministry for hurts, habits and hang-ups, began this fall. The Puppet Ministry was re-activated to present to shut-ins, nursing home residents and others.

**Trinity of the Deaf, Swissvale**

Social events being a very important part of the deaf community, members celebrated in September with a Hawaiian Festival, followed by a Senior Fall Festival in October; then a catered Thanksgiving dinner will be held November 23; donations to help missions, and finally, a Christmas dinner is planned for December 21.

**Unity, Homewood**

The new school year brought many new faces to the After School Ministry. Between August 22 and October 9, 471 children have been served and the ministry continues to grow. But, it is in desperate need of homework helpers, is experiencing a food shortage and financial resources are diminished.

**Zion, Accident**

LWML Prayer service will be held on Saturday morning, November 8 beginning with a light breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by the prayer service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. All women are welcome to attend.

Thanksgiving service will be held November 25 at 7:30 p.m. The Thanksgiving offering be given to Disaster Funds Hurricane Relief, LCML World Relief and Human Care to assist victims of Hurricane Ike, Gustav and Hanna.



**District President Dedicates New Roof**

BUTLER—Everyone at Faith Lutheran Church in Butler PA was most happy to have the Rev. Dr. David Stecholtz, President of the English District, at our services October 5th! We welcomed him to our adult Bible class in the morning, and were delighted to have him officiate at our service of Holy Communion, with interim pastor, Rev. George Dolak.

At 3 p.m. we joyfully celebrated with a service in which Dr. Stecholtz delivered the sermon, and then dedicated the new roof on our church. We send out a big "THANK YOU!" to him and everyone who attended for being with us on such an historic day in the life of our congregation. We praise God for the wonderful new roof and pray we can use this building to His glory.

*Submitted by Craig Shever*

**Braille Work Center #174 Marks 25th Anniversary in 2008**

ACCIDENT—A Braille luncheon to support the work of the Braille Work Center #174 here at Zion will be held Sunday, November 2 following the Divine service. Please come and support this important work that shows the Word of God with the visually impaired.

Adult and student volunteers are urgently needed to fill vacancies in our teams. Please prayerfully consider sharing some of your time to assist in providing the "Good News" of salvation to those who desperately depend on us for their eyes.

Scheduling can be arranged by contacting Trudy Savage, Braille leader at 301.616.6735, or Jim Fratz, Assistant leader, at 301.746.8431.

**New Youth Ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church**

McCANDLESS—The youth of Ascension Lutheran Church have embarked on a new ministry activity called Junior Bible Quiz, known as JBQ. The activity is open to children in grades 3-5 to get youth involved in learning the Bible, and have fun with what they have learned by participating in team competitions with other church teams. Participants prepare for the competition by learning trivia-type questions and answers (with point values for difficulty) from the *NIV Bible Fact Pack* card set. The most challenging questions are the quotation questions, worth 30 points. To earn the 30 points, the participant is required to recite a Bible verse word for word without omitting or adding any words and without repeating or hesitating. Quite a challenge for an adult let alone a third grader!

Ascension is currently fielding two teams, Quizzers for Christ (Matt Shaginaw, Justin Vasil and Gabe Gaertner), and Revelationizers (Reed Gaertner, Tasha Lahoff and Tyler Vasil).

The first meet was held on Saturday, October 11 at Allison Park Assemblies of God Church. In addition to Ascension's two teams, there were four teams from Allison Park Church and one from Meadville. As first year teams, they faced some really stiff competition from more experienced teams, but performed extremely well. Three of Ascensions quizzers were recognized as being among the twelve top scorers (out of 25): Reed Gaertner, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> with 295 total points, Gabe Gaertner, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> with 285 points, and Justin Vasil finishing 11<sup>th</sup> with 280 points.

If you are a student in grades 3-5 and want to participate, there are still spots available. Call the office at 412.364.4463 for details. The Ascension Quizzers ask for your prayers of encouragement and support as they prepare for future meets.

*Submitted by Jim Vasil*

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**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).

**Christ, Forest Hills**

Christ Lutheran School has been working hard this year to teach the children the importance of community service and helping each other in a time of need. Since the beginning of the school year, the children have been raising money for different organizations. One of the fundraisers was for St. Jude's Hospital, which helps many children suffering from life-threatening diseases. To raise money, the children at Christ Lutheran had their first annual Trike-A-Thon.



The entire school was involved in the project. The children had 165 total school laps, and raised over \$300 with their little pedaling legs. Congratulations to Christ Lutheran's little people for doing a big deed.

Some moms have been busy with our fund raisers, which includes making hundreds of hoagie sandwiches each month, while others help with the Scholastic Book Fair, serving lunch, or helping teachers. The teachers are preparing for parent conferences to review first quarter work on October 31, and also looking forward to the Eastern District Professional Church Workers Conference in November. The School Board keeps busy learning more about marketing, and reviewing policies and procedures while putting together the Annual Fund Drive. The funds gathered for this drive will be earmarked for new curriculum, technology, tuition assistance, and helping to fund the increasing expenses for our school.

The school theme for this year is "Get an attitude from The Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:3 - 10) We know we are blessed to be able to talk about Jesus every day and share God's love with others.

**Redeemer, Oakmont**

On Sept. 28th Redeemer Lutheran Church & School celebrated 25



years of educating children. Redeemer Lutheran School began 25 years ago as a preschool and has steadily grown by the grace of God to a full-fledged Christian dayschool that offers classes for preschoolers thru the eighth grade. In 1983 the preschool opened with nine students and enrollment today is over 145. The congregation, students (current and past), and staff (current and past) marked the occasion with a celebratory worship service and luncheon. Retired staff members Mary Ann Bornemann and Sharon Weldon were also honored for their years of service.

On Sunday, October 5th Tim Ewell, Executive Assistant Services for the English District, presented Principal Gail Holzer a certificate of accreditation for Redeemer Lutheran School to the President: Parish in Oakmont, PA. Redeemer Lutheran School was officially accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) commission in August of this year. Part of the accreditation process involved an exhaustive self-study, observation by a team of qualified educators, evaluation and demonstration that the school meets the rigorous national standards that assure school qual-



ity. In addition, accreditation by NLSA shows Redeemer Lutheran Schools commitment to on-going improvement in providing a high quality, Christian education.

*Submitted by Gretchen Schinkel*

**Positions Available**

OAKMONT—Redeemer Lutheran School is seeking to fill the following part-time positions:

Administrative Assistant: requires college degree, good communication skills, and experience with Microsoft Office (Excel/Word) programs.

Art Teacher

Classroom Aide

While it's preferred that candidates are active members of an LCMS congregation, others are welcome to apply and will be considered. Interested persons should contact the school office at 412.828.9323 for more information.



### St. John Preschool, Millvale

Students enjoyed trips to the Pumpkin Patch and the fire hall. The Christmas Cookie Walk is planned for Saturday, Dec. 6. Preschool parents and congregation members bake favorite Christmas cookies; buyers are sold a container which they are allowed to fill with any combination of cookies available.

### St. Luke, Cabot

The light frost we had last month helped turn the Cabot countryside into a kaleidoscope of blazing fall foliage! Colorful pumpkins, mums and Indian corn have also popped up everywhere, and farmers are beginning to fill their grain bins with soybeans and field corn.

Alas, autumn also means the end of the growing season, so our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class made its annual trip to Ambrose's vegetable farm to "glean the fields" for charity. Principal Mark Wilt and 11 students endured light rain and mud while picking 20 bushels of peppers, 5 bushels of eggplant, 40 pecks of tomatoes and 60 dozen ears of corn., then delivered the fresh produce to Concordia and the Salvation Army in Butler.

Some of our industrious PTL moms sold hot dogs, drinks, ice cream bars, and school cookbooks at the Thiele dairy farm during the recent Butler County Farm Tour. Informational brochures about the school and church were on display and free for the taking. The Thiele farm has been operated by several generations of St. Luke alumni.

September chapel offerings are going to LAMP—Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots—who help to spread the Gospel to remote areas of northern Canada. Our offerings for the month totaled \$421.38, which will provide the means to fly 298 miles to proclaim the Good News. October offerings will be put toward materials to make fleece baby blankets. The students and their chapel partners will work together on making the blankets, which will be given to Lifeline of Butler County and the Pregnancy Support Center of Slippery Rock.

Students in grades K-8 will learn more about the environment during an interactive assembly, "Dr. Exhaustus Takes On Doom & Gloom", which will feature animatronic characters, stunning projected images, and animation. The program will

teach that although the threats of global warming are very serious, a positive "can-do" approach has a good chance of solving the problem and that even kids can help in the effort.

As is our long-standing Thanksgiving tradition, the entire school will be asked to donate food items, which will help stock the shelves of St. Luke's food pantry. Grades 2, 3, & 4 will travel to Concordia to help the residents celebrate the Thanksgiving season. Later in the month, the preschool classes will enjoy food and American history at their Thanksgiving parties.

As part of our Annual Fund campaign, over 1,000 pledge letters were mailed to St. Luke alumni, school families, church members, and friends. A friendly follow-up phone call was placed to each household, further explaining the mission of the school and encouraging those who are able to participate in this year's annual fund. The majority of the gifts received are given to the Plant-A-Seed Scholarship Fund to assist families who cannot afford the full tuition. This year alone, we have 22 families, representing 35 children who are receiving some form of assistance. A smaller percentage of the fund will be put toward updating computer technology used by the school children.

Our parable for October was "The Parable of the Weeds", in which Jesus warns us that the devil constantly spreads his evil seeds among us. "He who has ears let him hear" from Matthew 13 is timeless advice for people everywhere.

*Submitted by S. Ambrose*

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### White Fields Foundation

## Downtown Bible Study Opportunity

The New Canaan Society (NCS) is a ministry geared toward men. The Pittsburgh branch of this ministry was established by White Fields Foundation in the summer of 2008. One new Bible study for men has begun downtown on Wednesday mornings facilitated by Leo Wisniewski. If you or someone you know would like to attend please contact Rev. Brennan Gaertner, 412.364.5636.

## Gifts from the Heart

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

**Ascension, McCandless** — Proceeds from an October Baby Bottle Campaign will support Pregnancy Crisis Centers. A coat drive was organized by Emily Marcellus to benefit North Hills Community Outreach who in turn supplied these coats to families in need in the North Hills. Fifteen coats were collected.

**Bethel, Glenshaw** — Oktoberfest freewill offering will support Lutheran campus ministries in Slippery Rock and Pittsburgh.

**Christ, Forest Hills** — Chapel money is reaching out to others. In September offerings helped to send Bible lessons to children in other countries. In October it's buying milk for foreign children, watching the number of milk cartens grow each Wednesday in chapel. "Run For the Son" pledges will benefit the LEMONOVICH family and their quadruplets.

**Concordia, Brentwood** — A gift of \$560 was given to St. Matthew (Pittsburgh) for ministry efforts on the Northside.

**Good Shepherd, Whitehall** — Members helped Jeanne Bondi raise more than \$9,000 to build a home for orphans in South Africa.

**Redeemer, Oakmont** — Freewill offerings from the LWML Oktoberfest will benefit missions.

**St. John, Millvale** — LWML to begin writing Christmas cards and gathering items to ship to troops overseas.

**St. John, Morrisdale** — The women continue to sponsor Fort Wayne Seminary student Michael Diener, who is vicaring at two congregations in Nebraska and Bethesda resident William Graske.

**St. Luke, Cabot** — Nearly 40 people gave the gift of life at the annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

**Zion, Accident** — The Thanksgiving offering will be given to LCMS World Relief and Human Care's Disaster Funds for Hurricane Relief. A Red Cross Blood Drive was held in October.

*International Student Ministry*

# Trust the Holy Spirit

SLIPPERY ROCK—This summer a Buddhist family from Sri Lanka was stranded in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania for several weeks. They didn't have a car so they had to walk everywhere. This family had first landed in California to visit. They wanted their daughter, who is a student at Slippery Rock University, to join them. Of course I was glad to drive her to the Pittsburgh airport. As we drove we had a pleasant conversation, but I thought nothing would come of it. The daughter explained her Buddhist faith and just was not interested in the Christian viewpoint. She assured me that being "good" was enough and she let me know that her family's best friend was a Buddhist priest who lived in California. End of story, or so I thought! But I was not giving God the Holy Spirit enough credit. This is what happened soon after.



*Edwin, Harshani and Hilmini at the baptism of a Tunisian exchange professor.*

When the family arrived in Slippery Rock from California, they came to the Lutheran Center to say thanks for their daughter's ride to the airport. During our conversation it became obvious that they had little they could do, since they didn't have a car. Thus, they were pleased beyond words that we gave them a key to ASLC so that they could come in any time to play table tennis, a sport which the family enjoyed. They were amazed that we would take them to Wal-Mart in Butler any time they wanted to shop. They were incredulous when they found a New Testament Bible in today's Singalese (their language) in the church library. The father, (his name is Edwin) spotted this Bible immediately, and asked to borrow it saying he'd buy his own copy in Sri Lanka.



This family had not expected the friendship shown to them. They are busy business people at home and their two daughters are all studying hard. They didn't expect to be given time to make their visit memorable because they understood being busy. Therefore, anything we did for them delighted them: visiting an Amish furniture shop and talking to the picturesque owner, seeing a local forge in Grove City, inspecting a local American home, eating at a world-famous sub shop in Slippery Rock, and many trips to Wal-Mart. They were filled with gratitude for the kindness shown.

However it happened, this family felt close enough to All Saints to attend a Friday afternoon baptism of an international student who was returning to Tunisia the next day. They listened intently to Rev. Scheer's baptismal words. They also felt comfortable enough to attend Sunday morning worship at All Saints. They regretted not being here long enough to witness the baptism of a Japanese student.

One day when I went to visit the family at their daughter's apartment, the first words out of Edwin's mouth were, "As God is my witness, we were just talking about the Bible." Before leaving for Sri Lanka Edwin also stated that he and his wife had seen many Christian churches in Sri Lanka and had not really been interested in them then, but now they are. One of the most touching things he said was, "We've turned a page."

Since the family has returned to Sri Lanka, they've called to let us know they had arrived safely, but most of all to express their thanks

*Harshani, Hilmini, Malshani, Edwin and Sureni really appreciated rides to the Wal-Mart in Butler.*

for the very unexpected and close friendship given. They want us to know they have visited a very old and beautiful Lutheran church which is up in the mountains an hour or so from their home. They wanted to say that a friend borrowed one of their catechisms and Edwin and his family are reading the second catechism we gave them. They will buy two Bibles in Singalese when they go to the city and will send one copy to All Saints.

The daughter they left behind at SRU has expressed appreciation for all that was done to make her family feel welcome and comfortable in Slippery Rock. But she has not yet shown any interest in the Christian faith. Still, it causes one to wonder if the family just landed in Slippery Rock without a car and became open to reading and hearing God's Word by accident? Or is it something else? As my friend Jan Fitzpatrick says, "Give the Holy Spirit credit!"



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

*Campus Mission in Pittsburgh***The Need Is Great**

OAKLAND—Perhaps you wonder, “Why is Pastor Andrae always asking for money?” That is a very good question. The campus ministry in Pittsburgh has three distinct but related budgets, all separate from the First Trinity parish budget: International Student Ministry (ISM), Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), and Campus Pastor. These three together require on average \$7,200 per month, on a very lean budget. The campus ministry is funded chiefly through donations from supporting individuals and local congregations. Though grant monies are always being sought, and some have been received, it is difficult to get grants for your campus mission because the funding organizations do not like to fund salary or existing missions, but rather new mission starts – however, even though First Trinity has begun four different missions in the past 10 years (blind, ISM, LSF, and homeless) the campus ministry needs funds for what we are doing now, and doing so successfully and faithfully!

Through August of this year, the total 2008 income for campus ministry is approximately \$40,500. This total comes from donations from local congregations, First Trinity members, and other individuals (\$6,000), as well as a grant from PALM (\$2,000), my personal honoraria received for substitute preaching (\$225), and \$32,253 from the First Trinity Endowment Fund earnings. (However, the budgeted amount for campus ministry from the Endowment Fund actually equals only \$30,000 for the whole year, which is the average earnings of the Fund – in other words, we expect less funding in future years from the Endowment Fund.) We received no funding from the district this year. **The bottom line: as of August 31, 2008, our campus ministry has a deficit of \$11,300; without further and expanded funding such a deficit – if not larger – can be expected annually.** Nonetheless, First Trinity is hopeful in its dependence upon God’s grace and is committed to the long-term viability and sustainability of the campus ministry. Please join us in this commitment.

Although many student leaders volunteer for, and in some cases even initiate and direct, such efforts as our new Homeless Ministry (FTHM), the Blind Mission, and the English as a



*Tamara, Rich, Angela, Diana, Patrick*

Second Language program, your campus mission necessitates a full-time campus pastor. Since going full-time in February 2001 the campus ministry has seen stunning growth in all key areas, marking it as a leading specialized ministry in the district if not Synod, including student worship attendance (from approximately 2 or 3 students who attended regularly to almost 30 today [and we always add some as the year goes on]), adult confirmations (27), adult baptisms (7), on-campus involvement, even several national and local radio and television appearances, etc. Furthermore, our ISM & ESL programs include over 25 students from over a dozen different countries representing Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Atheism, and Agnosticism.

Let me also give an illustration. Diana, a senior at Carnegie Mellon, serves as the founder and coordinator of our brand-new homeless ministry, FTHM. FTHM was recently covered by *The Pitt News* in a video feature: Go to <http://PittNews.com/> and “Multimedia” at the top, and then click “Video” – the video on FTHM is the third one. This video is remarkable, because of who is in it. Let me tell you just a little bit about each of them.

Sherri, a sophomore at Pitt, who produced and narrated the video, is not a Christian, but has been coming faithfully to worship each Sunday as one of our catechumens. I met her at the Pitt Activities Fair this August.

Patrick, a recent graduate, and Tamara, a grad student, were both confirmed at First Trinity as adults within the past year – you may have read about them on the pages of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*. I met Patrick on campus at Carnegie Mellon a few years ago and I met Tamara at the

Chatham Activities Fair in 2006.

Angela and Rich were also both confirmed at First Trinity as adults within the past year and a half. Both of them came to us through First Trinity’s blind mission (PLCB). Angela, an instructor at Duquesne, was catechized by me, and Rich was catechized by Pastor Douglas Spittel, our parish pastor.

Diana, though already confirmed, was catechized and came to a Lutheran self-understanding and identity at First Trinity. We met after I, as a full-time member of the Interfaith Council, received her religious preference information from Carnegie Mellon during her freshman year.

In other words, every person you see on the video, and other FTHM volunteers that are not pictured, came to First Trinity via one of our missions, chiefly the campus ministry. And now they have begun and are running an outreach to the homeless of our community! Remarkable!

As someone who greatly benefited from campus ministry during my college years, and with an international background and family, I am passionate about this mission. Please join us in this commitment; we need your help—pray for us, and please support your campus ministry/mission with checks made out to First Trinity, with “campus ministry” in the memo line, and mail them to the address below. Thank you!

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

**Operation Lifeline**

**Annual Fundraiser  
Planned for Nov. 24-26**

NEW CASTLE—Operation Lifeline is still sending care packages to the troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Shipments have been made in August and September. The next major mailing will be the Christmas boxes filled with homemade cookies and other treats including bags of chocolate candy bars, boxes of cocoa and other snack foods. The packing will take place on Tuesday, December 2 and the boxes will be mailed the next day. The support group holds a soup and sandwich supper followed by bagging cookies and filling up and taping the care packages.

On October 11 the support group and their children and grandchildren joined with the youth group at Christ Lutheran for a fright hay ride at Cheeseman's farm in Portersville. A bonfire and weenie and marshmallow roast will follow.

The annual fundraiser will be held the three days before Thanksgiving, November 24-26 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Giant Eagle on route 422 in New Castle.

If you have an address for a soldier who is deployed to the Middle East send the following information: rank, address, deployed date, expected return date, country, contact name and phone no. and relationship to soldier. e-mail [OperationLifeline@yahoo.com](mailto:OperationLifeline@yahoo.com) or contact Nancy Schlumberger at 724.654.1379 or Ann Houk at 724.652.6484.

**Sponsor a  
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If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, send your donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 420 Fifth Street, Braddock, PA 15104 (note Radio Ministry on your check) and include a note about the reason for the sponsorship (memorial, birthday, etc.) Full broadcasts cost \$150, but any donation is appreciated!

**Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind**

**New Season Begins at Center for Blind**

OAKLAND—On Saturday, September 27, 2008, we held our first meal of our 10th season at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind (PLCB). How nice it was to catch up with friends, enjoy the delicious food and participate in the Bible Study and Vespers Service at the September Monthly Meal.

Rev. Arthur Litke conducted the pre-meal Bible Study on Jesus and the Woman at the Well.

Following the meal—a sumptuous treat of salad, bread, Chicken Cordon Bleu, mashed potatoes, and cinnamon coffeecake, Rev. Douglas Spittel celebrated the evening Vespers.

Many folks helped to make this meal a pleasant experience for the 18 guests who attended. Thanks to both pastors, Mrs. Terhune, Mrs. Lucas Ruby and Leah, Mrs. Fenger, Mrs. Rossi, the upper grades of Redeemer Lutheran School and Ms. Pascoe and her housemate. We could not do it without your assistance.

During the summer I shared my concerns about the future of the PLCB with you. An excerpt, "I write this time with some concerns about the future of this mission. We have no sustaining funds coming in. First Trinity has a large heart for missions, gives us space, prayerful support, and congregation members make individual contributions of their time and treasure. However, the Blind Center is not just a mission of First Trinity, but of the entire Pittsburgh Region. The PLCB's annual budget of \$12,000 needs the support of all of the area congregations and their members."

Sadly, since that time, nothing has really changed with our financial situation. We are urgently in need of prayerful and monetary support if this

mission is to continue to reach out to the 95% of people who are blind and unchurched.

Therefore, one thing, we are doing is planning a bake sale. It will be held on Sunday, November 23, 2008, immediately following worship service at First Trinity.

Can you lend a hand? Do you have grant writing/fundraising experience? Are you affiliated with other groups/organizations which may be able to hold a fundraising event and donate the proceeds to the PLCB? Can you support this mission financially? Checks may be made payable to the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind and sent to 535 N. Neville Street, PA 15213.

I would love to hear from you with any questions or ideas, or, for any other reason. Please contact me at the above address or by phone: 412.682.1800; or e-mail: [director@plcb.net](mailto:director@plcb.net).

*Sherri Crum, Director*



**Nov. 2** — 140th Anniversary Worship Celebration, Zion, Lawrenceville, 11 a.m.

**Nov. 2** — Braille Luncheon, Zion, Accident,

**Nov. 2** — 4th Annual Luncheon & Auction to benefit Redeemer School, Oakmont Country Club.

**Nov. 8-9** — 33rd Annual Christian Art Show (and Bake Sale), Calvary, Murrysville.

**Nov. 8** — William Wilson Presentation, Ascension, McCandless, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Nov. 9** — Annual Meeting, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Haven I, 3 p.m.

**Nov. 11** — Alzheimer Support Group, Lund Care Center, 2 p.m.

**Nov. 14** — Make It & Take It Night, Christ, Forest Hills, 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 23** — Harvest Home Festival, Unity Lutheran, Homewood, 2:30 p.m.



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## Mileposters

### Fall Ride to Support Lutheran Center for Blind

The Riverton Bridge over the Monongahela River, long-awaited bicycle link between McKeesport and Duquesne, is now open, and Mileposters rides from Boston, PA to Duquesne will be possible. An accelerated program quickly brought about the removal of rails from the bridge followed by its decking and fencing, only five months from the filing of abandonment papers by the Union Railroad, which, in an incredibly generous move, voluntarily gave up the rail traffic which was still moving across the bridge and donated the structure for trail use. An unusual feature of the deck is that it is made from recycled-plastic boards. Completion of the trail from Washington, DC past Kennywood, through the Waterfront in Homestead, and on to Station Square and the Point, is promised in 2009.

Several Mileposters riders are very talented vocally, and have now provided special music in the morning worship service at St. Thomas Lutheran Church for three Sundays in a row (pictured). To provide a better accompaniment for them, the organist brought in an electronic keyboard.



Bowling (pictured) continues to be the second most popular activity for Mileposters Games Nights at St. Thomas, in the city's Brighton-Woods Run neighborhood, but by far the runaway favorite is still hide-and-seek, which is much more thrilling now that the nights are darker! Prior to October's Games Night, Mileposters riders distributed flyers in the neighborhood around the church building, resulting in new participants. Contacts are also being made among school bus riders in the area. Games Nights are held on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

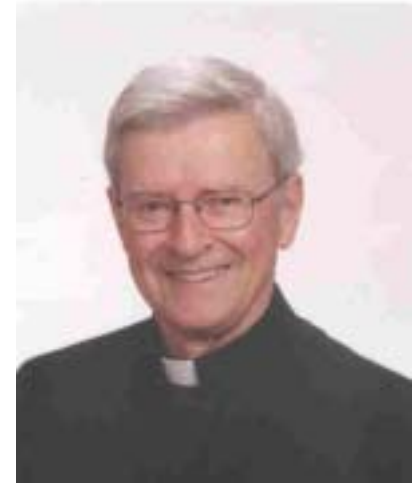


A second 20-inch tandem arrived from Florida on October 10. It will be refurbished and placed on standby for use by junior captains and stokers.

A fall fundraising ride is being planned to support the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, a PALM ministry. It will be a camping trip on the Youghiogheny River end of the Great Allegheny Passage. Blind people are often able to enjoy bicycle riding by teamwork with sighted captains. As is the case with sighted stokers who do not yet know how to ride a bike, there is nothing to keep blind stokers from fully enjoying the activity, and some of them have trained extensively and become valuable members of tandem racing teams. A bicycle club in Michigan specializes in working with blind stokers, and has contributed several sets of pedals to Mileposters.

Our site at <http://mileposters.net> has color pictures of the Riverton Bridge and all Mileposters activities.

Submitted by Mark Shields



### New Pastor in Our Synod

GREENSBURG—The Rev Hans O. Andrae, a resident of Jeannette in Westmoreland County, has been certified "as Pastor Emeritus of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod" following an interview with the Colloquy Committee at the LCMS International Center in Saint Louis on September 19. He has been a member of our First Trinity congregation in Pittsburgh since January this year.

A native of Vimmerby, Sweden, Andrae completed his theological studies at the University of Uppsala and was ordained 1959 for the Linköping Diocese, where he served parishes in Tuna, Norrköping, and Silverdalen till 1979. In 1966 he married Sylvia Irvine in Hagerstown, Md. They were ass't pastor and organist at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills for 1½ years followed by 12 years in Sweden.

Rev. Andrae served as parish pastor in New Sweden, Me. 1979-1985, and at Holy Trinity in Jeannette 1985-1996. He was interim pastor in several parishes, most recently at Holy Trinity in Greensburg 2002-2007.

Pastor Andrae says, "This transfer from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to the LCMS was necessary for my own integrity. Unfortunately, the ELCA is a house divided on the authority of the Bible, on addressing God as Father, on human sexuality, etc. Instead, the LCMS has been and remains faithful and consistent in promoting and extending the legacy from the Lutheran Reformation both here in the United States and throughout the world."



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## A Pastor's Perspective

## The Lion, The Scarecrow, The Tin Man and The Church

There are no shortages of yellow-brick roads out there in cyber-space, on bookshelves, or at conferences that claim to have the answer to the Churches' woes...be they financial, structural or spiritual—that is for those who still believe that there is a spiritual side to the Church. These plans fit all sizes and types of churches: from the struggling inner-city congregation diving for grant dollars the way a piranha might go for a steak, to the large suburban Emerald Cities of the LCMS, with a grant-writer on staff. What amazes me, or perhaps confounds is a better word, is the willingness on the part of churches to follow the yellow-brick road—*despite* the warning of the Wicked Witch of the East.

Despite the junk that crosses my desk weekly in the name of re-vitalization, and believe me, we could use some here in Cambria City, I'm still naive enough to believe that the gifts God has already given us are all that the Church requires. No, this isn't a recently-graduated-from-the-seminary-rehashing the abstractions of Word and Sacrament; and no, those are not the gifts to which I refer. These two gifts that our Risen Lord has given us make a mockery out of the junk that crosses my desk and yours. The problem is we've forgotten how to use them. Perhaps some of you remember the group America and their 1974 hit, *Tin Man*. In case you don't, the refrain goes like this: *But Oz never did give nothing to the Tin Man//That he didn't, didn't already have*. Despite the grammar, the point is of the song is equally true of the Church: the Tin Man need not search, for what he sought, he was already in possession of; so too the Church.

The two gifts I am referring to are liturgy and sacrament. Now I know, I know, this can be dangerous ground and needs to be carefully unfolded, less a house fall on me. As Lutherans we're conditioned to always associate the word Word with Sacrament, but I've wondered if in doing so we (a) create a false distinction, and (b) give the impression that somehow liturgical life is merely an appendage. Actually I don't wonder; I believe that we have done both (a) and (b).

Now I'm old enough to remember when I first heard Sunday morning worship referred to as 'traditional worship.' What exactly does that mean? When the term first came into vogue is was used to distinguish between two styles of a worship a church might have. Traditional meaning with the hymnal or in some cases the word 'traditional' was code for TLH; that which was given to Moses on Sinai's heights.

Its opposite became the word 'contemporary' and this was usually code for no hymnal, no recognizable liturgy, and a different style of instrumentation. The very idea of 'contemporary' was to make worship as a whole relevant to life...imagine. Unless you're God, everything needs a cause; contemporary worship too needed a cause. It found its *raison d'être*-in my estimation-in congregations and pastors who had essentially killed through indifference, lack of vision, fear, and poor musical skills, the liturgy and rhythm of the church.

'Traditional' became synonymous with boredom and routine. The real tragedy is that this same indifference has corrupted a Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar, turning what was for the early Church and Luther the very life-blood of the Church into, at best, a robotic abstraction. Liturgy and sacrament are inextricably linked, if one is corrupted the other follows.

I'm simply tired of false distinctions that only serve to create a generic liturgy for a generic people living in generic gratitude for a generic grace. Recall that the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids adultery; that includes the liturgy and sacraments! *What* are Lutherans frightened of? The very scriptures that we preach week and week out intimidate us. *Why?*

I'm not the first person who asked this question and I'm certain that there are a host of answer that vary according to who you are, your synodical political position, and perhaps your own sense of self-importance. As I finished this sentence I had to step out of my office to scan the sky for houses. By the way, I have absolutely no interest in throwing straw on the contemporary worship bonfire, as if yet another argument would solve the problem. I am not a liturgi-

cal neo-con; a closet Roman Catholic; or an Eastern Orthodox wannabe. I am interested in a Lutheran church that encounters the Risen Christ seven days a week in her liturgy and sacraments. I am also interested in the possibilities that this type of Church has in the community at large, as well as the manner in which this community becomes *the* vehicle for the spreading of the Gospel, especially in the city.

It is interesting to note that the word 'liturgy' was originally rooted in the daily life and work of the Greeks, literally meaning 'work of the people.' It also referred to public works: bridge building, road building, temple building, and the like. For us, it functions more as a blueprint, directing how the actual service is to be performed, ordering worship.

In the East, they have a phrase that I think is quite telling: "the liturgy after the liturgy" retaining much of the original meaning of the word itself. In this context, it refers to the weeklong liturgy of our daily life that is done *after corporate* worship. The 'work' done on Sunday is not divorced from the rest of our week, but rather is the most real work that we do; sharpening our focus for the rest of the week. In this sense then, the communion table is never dismissed; the gifts circulate out into the community. I do realize that the word 'work' for a Lutheran is like water to a witch, rain to a tin man, or fire to a scarecrow: it frightens us to death.

Remember that the liturgy is molding and shaping Christian lives. You might say it is outfitting us for kingdom life by teaching us patterns and rhythms of worship. Before moving on, an aside on the word 'rhythm'. Generally speaking, Lutheran worship is in my estimation, not 'liturgical'. Now what do I mean that?

Since the Reformation, Lutheran churches have seen the preaching office as the "highest" or at least near the top, portion of the service. This has, again in my estimation, had a deleterious effect on liturgy. Luther was so insistent and stripping out of the liturgy those things that he found offensive, that in large part, he removed the 'mystery' from worship. It has in my estimation become

*A Pastor's Perspective Continued*

reduced to an intellectual exercise: a series of propositions and truths that *all* must be clearly and succinctly elucidated. That which is considered 'poetic,' or God forbid, 'spiritual,' is generally looked upon with suspicion. Rhythm then is the liturgical year with its appointed Feasts and Holy Days; each with its own unique set of readings, each reflecting a different part of the church year, each requiring a preparation for the Church, and each with a different liturgical flavor. Yet all share the same goal: outfitting the Christian for kingdom life.

Back however to the topic at hand! How do we mold and shape lives by the liturgy? Well we might begin by considering the sacraments the church has at her disposal...and for my money, there is no distinction between liturgy and sacrament; they are inseparable.

The first is Baptism, where we take in children or adults making them members of the family God by the means he has given us. Remember that the *whole assembly* is part and parcel of that rite and the entire assembly has a vested interest in that child or adult being instructed in the Christian faith, and made a part of the Church's liturgical life. I'll pass on Confirmation, though not a sacrament, has become a 'rule' for participation in the Lord's Supper.

The second is the Sacrament of the Altar, where baptized (and Confirmed, though not always) members receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. This is easily the most understood and neglected sacrament within the Lutheran Church, and yet it remains the epitome of community, reconciliation, and healing.<sup>1</sup>

Next is marriage, and while not officially 'a' sacrament, certainly has sacramental overtones to it. It has always staggered my imagination that no less than God himself stood in front of Adam and Eve, marrying them—literally one flesh—and yet the LCMS does not see it as 'a' sacrament, because it doesn't fit with a definition that Augustine made famous. Yet it is a Christian union and overflows with the imagery of Eden; it is a union created for creation! This too is a ceremony where the

bride and groom stand before Christ, in the presence of their pastor and make solemn vows. Unfortunately marriage has lost most, if not all, of its liturgical meaning.

We might mention the Rite of Anointing next; the LCMS does not believe it is sacramental but I think I could make a pretty good biblical case for it. When a member is in the hospital and suffering the entire assembly suffers, and so the church has this Rite at her disposal, to anoint the sick, to pray over the sick, and to have every hope and confidence that the prayers of the church will be answered. Anointing has two other parts: confession and communion; body and soul then are treated as a whole.

While the jury is out on whether Private Confession and Absolution is a sacrament, a Lutheran would not get into trouble claiming that they are. This Sacrament opens up God's ears directly and personally to the penitent. Absolution is given directly to the penitent.<sup>2</sup>

All of these acts, within the rhythm of the church's life is forming and shaping an 'ethic' in you. One aspect of all of this that we haven't touched on at all is the assembly itself—the ekklesia. That is, the Body of Christ that gathers here weekly, visibly, to worship. That same body that watches over its members lovingly, ready to gently correct, and to gently return the penitent to the fold; the assembly that stands as both witnesses of God's graces and beneficiaries of the same.

The question then becomes: How is it that I can live my life this week so as not to make mockery out of the gifts Christ has given me in worship? This is Kingdom life; the Kingdom isn't so much 'of' Christ, as it 'is' Christ. He is the embodiment of our worship life, our assembly life together, our sacramental life, and our liturgical life. To participate in the liturgy of the church is nothing less than to participate in Christ.

The House began to twitch...

*Rev. Kenneth D. Kelly Jr.  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Johnstown, PA 15906*

## Good Samaritan Hospice 5K Event Draws Over 100 at North Park



CABOT—On September 28, like most Sunday mornings during the warmer months in western Pennsylvania, dozens of people participated in a charity 5K run/walk event at North Park. The only difference was that these individuals weren't just there to stay in shape or raise a few dollars...they were there to recognize, remember and honor a deceased loved one.

Over 100 moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandchildren and friends participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Good Samaritan Hospice 5K Run/Walk, which raised close to \$1000 for patients in end of life situations. Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, provides comfort care in patients' homes, at the Hospice House in Wexford, and at the inpatient unit at the Lund Care Center in Cabot.

The top three male runners were: Matt Drohan, Butler - 20:37.9; Matt Taylor, Pittsburgh - 22:03.0; and Michael Fiorina, Butler - 22:24.3. The top three female runners were: Kristy Brown, Pittsburgh - 24:55.03; Danielle Ripper, Baden - 27:03.1; and Kelsey Chizmar, Pittsburgh - 27:06.4.

The race started at the North Park Boat House at 9 a.m. Special thanks to all the runners, helpers and volunteers who made the event possible.

### Hospice Services

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

## Adopt A Concordia Resident At Christmas

CABOT—Christmas is right around the corner and on behalf of our residents here at Concordia, we ask you to consider sharing the gifts of the season through several possible venues.

A fun way for a church group to remember residents is the "Adopt-A-Resident" approach. Each resident has been asked to provide us with a "wish list." If your congregation or individual members are interested in "adopting a resident," please call 724.352.1571 and ask for Christina Savannah or Jaime White before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you prefer to send a general gift, we can suggest the following newly purchased items that our residents can typically use: large or extra large sweat suits; adjustable ball caps, socks, large or extra large undershirts, hair clips/combs/barrettes, stationery/stamps, puzzle books, Word Search, sugar-free candy, books on tape, large or extra large size dusters/loungers, snack shop gift certificates, door decorations, Puffs or Kleenex brand tissue, watches with large numbers, lotions and cologne, tape players/radios for rooms, music CDs and cassette tapes, a gift box of chocolates, digital clocks with large numbers, seasonal sun catchers with suction cups, large print books (no magazines), large or extra large cardigan sweaters or sweatshirts, washable slippers with backs or slipper socks, jewelry (not pierced), gift certificates for beauty/barber shop, decorative small pillows, devotional books, decorative throws/blankets, magnifying glasses, picture albums/small frames, lipstick, rouge, liquid makeup, loose powder, toiletries, sports memorabilia, and snow globes. Donated item should not be wrapped and may be dropped off to the Lund Care Center, Building #4. If it is after hours or on the weekend and the administration area is closed, please leave items at a nurse's station.

Finally, monetary contributions are always appreciated and need to be sent to the Development Office, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

As we begin our traditional gift-giving, may we remember the birth of our Savior, the greatest gift of all.

## How to Choose an Assisted Living Facility

CABOT—At Concordia Lutheran Ministries, we are dedicated to serving our aging community with a continuum of high quality caregiving options. One option we have offered for over 50 years is assisted living.

Deciding when to put a loved one in a facility is never easy, but it helps to know what you're looking for and what makes a facility better than the rest. Brian Hortert, vice president of assisted living at Concordia, has over 20 years of experience in assisted living, and has had the opportunity to observe many facilities.

"There are so many things going through your mind when looking for a facility that's a good fit for you or a loved one," Hortert said, "It's easy to feel overwhelmed, so it's important to do your homework."

Hortert offered the following 10 tips for choosing an assisted living facility:

1. Is the staff qualified and trained for the position they are in?
2. Does the facility provide a clean, home-like atmosphere?

## Good Samaritan Hospice to Host Christ-Centered Grief Support Group Series

CABOT—In an effort to continually support individuals dealing with the loss of a loved one, Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH), a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, will host a Christ-centered support group series called Grief Share.

The meetings, which are open to anyone dealing with grief (regardless of whether or not they have an affiliation with GSH), will take place in the Haven II building at the Concordia at Cabot campus every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Registration will be limited to 25 participants per meeting due to space constraints. To register or receive more information, call GSH at 1.800.720.2557 and speak with Chaplain Paul Rist. For more information on Concordia visit [www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org).

To keep up with what's happening at Concordia, visit [www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org) or subscribe to Concordia News & Views by calling 724.352.1571, ext. 8266.

3. Are there medical personnel available for emergencies?
4. Does the facility provide a variety of activities to meet social needs?
5. Is the facility able to meet the spiritual needs of each resident?
6. Is the staff attentive to the needs of each resident?
7. Does the facility provide a variety of mealtime options?
8. Are the costs and services clearly explained and defined?
9. Will I be able to remain in the facility when my money is depleted?
10. If I have a problem or concern, is there someone to go to for answers?

Hortert also mentioned that it is important to visit the facility before choosing, especially during off shifts. Speaking with staff and an administrator can also help clear the air.

Concordia has a number of options for individuals looking for assisted living services in the Butler area. The Lund Care Center in Cabot (15 minutes from downtown) has 220 assisted living beds, 90 percent of which are private rooms.

The Lund Care Center was expanded one year ago to better serve our aging community. The facility boasts a number of features - such as a vigorous activities department, an active spiritual program, on-site medical service providers, and acres of picturesque landscapes. Additionally, through Concordia's Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, once an individual's money is depleted we can help defray the cost of care.

Another option is Concordia at the Orchard, a 60-bed assisted living facility that is conveniently located less than five minutes from the Clearview Mall on Rt. 8. The staff at this beautiful, home-like setting is dedicated to providing the highest quality of personalized care imaginable. And, as is the case with all of Concordia's facilities, safety and security is a prime concern.

For more information on Concordia's assisted living services, contact an admissions counselor toll free at 1.888.352.1571. At Concordia Lutheran Ministries, we put our faith in caring.

## You Can Select Concordia as a United Way Recipient

CABOT—Concordia Lutheran Ministries has pre-certified with United Way of Allegheny County (UWAC) for 2008 and will be listed as an eligible agency to receive donor designations.

Agency Ref ID: 800297  
 Code Number: 298  
 Agency Name: Concordia Lutheran Ministries  
 Agency Address: 134 Marwood Road  
 Cabot, PA 16023

It is important to understand that Concordia Lutheran Ministries is **not** one of the United Way agencies that automatically receives funding. Your United Way gift can be designated for Concordia if you:

1. Complete a United Way Donor Option Form (also called Contributor's Choice).
2. List Concordia Lutheran Ministries as the recipient of your gift. Our agency number is **298**.
3. Check the box that allows the United Way to release your name to Concordia so we can acknowledge your gift.

Please feel free to call 724.352.1571 with any questions you may have concerning the Donor Option Form.

## Concordia Resident Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

CABOT—While most people recognize 8/8/08 as the start of the Summer Olympic Games this year, Concordia at Rebecca Residence resident Mary Margaret Brennan was celebrating for a different reason that day: her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Brennan, affectionately known as "Peg" to her friends, was born August 8, 1908 in Edgewood, PA. She spent her life educating others as a teacher for the Pittsburgh Public School System until her retirement in 1973.

A 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party was held in her honor in Conneaut Lake, as friends and family came out to wish her their best. A member of St. James Church in Wilkinsburg, Brennan enjoys traveling, reading, golf, tennis, sailing, and spending time with her family.

## Scenes from an Oktoberfest



Children enjoyed the petting zoo.

Concordia entertained over 800 at its annual Oktoberfest on Oct. 4 in the Lund Care Center backyard.

Right, Keith Frndak, Concordia President & CEO, was greeted by residents, employees and community members during a reception held in honor of his 25 years of service at Concordia.



## Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts September 13, 2008 through October 13, 2008

### General Donations

Calvin & Alma Eggers - Albert & Joan Lucas - Richard & Susan Boggs - Irvin Sallach - George Brandenstein - Robert & Marlene Weissert - Dale Kitzky Sr. - Kevin & Lori Rockwell - Gerline Gehr - Siegfried Krause - G. Fred & Ann Wingert - Joy Laube.

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of Mary Conti by: Joseph & Virginia Moon. In memory of Esther Jackson by: Joseph & June Lupnacca.

### Angel Tear Fund

Michael & Cristen Fiffik. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

### Staff Appreciation Fund

Nancy Zabrowski. In honor of Rev. Dick and Connie Grammes' 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by: Daniel Brick. In memory of Mary McGuire by: Avis Neubert.

### Concordia at The Orchard

Lynn A. Scott

### Congregational Donations

Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Immanuel Evan. Lutheran Church, Braddock - St. Luke Lutheran Church and School, Cabot - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont - St. Paul Evan. Lutheran Church, Braddock - Bethel Evan. Lutheran Church, Glenshaw.

### Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Harold & Ruth Dille - Joyce A. Linn. In memory of John Comperatore and H. John Falkner by: Peggy Trettel.

### Concordia Visiting Nurses Charitable Fund

Jean Kirkwood

### Capital Campaign Fund

John & Barbara Schneidmiller - Elizabeth Senulis.

### Concordia at Ridgewood Place

Ronald & Lisa Kazimer

# ASSISTED LIVING AT CONCORDIA



## NEW PRIVATE Units Available

If it's time for you or a loved one to move into an assisted living facility, Concordia is ready to provide for your very special needs. Everything about Concordia makes you feel at home - from our private apartments to our attractive public spaces and beautifully landscaped surroundings with courtyards and ponds. *Concordia Lutheran Ministries: Welcome Home.*

**Call to schedule a tour or for  
more information.**

**Toll Free: 1-888-352-1571  
[www.concordialm.org](http://www.concordialm.org)**



*We put our Faith in Caring*