



Pittsburgh Lutheran

December 2005

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Provide Hungry with 4,734 Chickens for Thanksgiving Meals

Local event part of national effort involving 26,000 turkeys, 37,000 chickens and thousands of volunteers

PITTSBURGH—At 8 o'clock on November 11, 2005, 10 volunteers from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans converged at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Kennywood Amusement Park's handicapped parking lot on Route 837 to help the hungry of the Pittsburgh area. Volunteers of all ages, including a group of Thrivent financial representatives, formed a fire-line and re-loaded the turkeys into cars, trucks and vans. Volunteers then drove the turkeys to hunger centers for distribution to nearly 2,000 hungry children and families for Thanksgiving.



Thrivent Financial volunteers and financial representatives served more than 2000 people with Thrivent Feed Western PA Program.

"We are deeply grateful for the commitment from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its caring volunteers to Turkeys 4 America," said Dan Nally, 18, who with his sister, Betsy, founded Turkeys 4 America. "Our goal is to reach people in every state who can benefit from the Turkeys 4 America program, and we are thrilled to be able to help thousands of people by providing them with a turkey or chicken for their Thanksgiving meal."

Thrivent Financial purchased a total of 26,000 turkeys and 37,000 chickens for holiday hunger relief in 18 states at a cost of \$447,000. The effort equates to nearly 600,000 pounds of poultry that were given away this Thanksgiving. The Pittsburgh area donation is just a part of the millions of dollars given annually to help those in need throughout the United States by Thrivent Financial. In addition, Thrivent Financial volunteers log millions of volunteer hours each year.

"This effort is a way for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans volunteers of all ages across the Pittsburgh area to show their care for others," said Dino Capestrani, Manager of Lutheran Community Services for Thrivent Financial. "These events focus directly on Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' mission to improve the quality of life of its members, their families, their communities and to care for others. Dan and Betsy's passion and commitment to their Turkeys 4 America program can ignite people of all ages to care for others. I know it ignites my passion to serve."

"We are deeply appreciative of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This generous contribution will be joyfully received by our families. Sadly though, even with Thrivent Financial's generosity, thousands more will not have



More than 200 people waited in line at Kennywood to receive a Thanksgiving meal sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.



Ten Thrivent financial representatives, including Dino Capestrani, Manager of Lutheran Community Services, along with 48 other volunteers, took part in the event.

the joy of sharing a holiday meal with their families," said Anne Hawkins, Chief Development Director, for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank working with Thrivent Financial.

About Turkeys 4 America

Turkeys 4 America was founded in 1996 by Dan and Betsy Nally who wanted to make sure families in need could have a turkey on their Thanksgiving table. Dan watched a story on the news that the Greater Boston Food Bank was short about 5,000 turkeys. He felt it was wrong that many families were going to be without a turkey for Thanksgiving. Dan and Betsy wanted to help them. They knew that if they put their minds to it, they could make a difference. For more information, call Amy Riemer, media relations for Turkeys 4 America, at 1-866-288-7539 or visit www.turkeys4america.org.

Where to Send Your PALM Donations

PALM has a new treasurer, so please send your donations to the following address:

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries [PALM]
ATTN: Cynthia Barnes - Treasurer
First Trinity Lutheran Church
531 N. Neville Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Reformation Rally News

Despite Significant Increase in Attendance and Special Programming, Mission Offerings Remain at Similar Past Giving Levels

SHARPSBURG—We say it's not about the money. We say it's all about increasing the Kingdom. With Reformation Rally attendance up by 75% this year (348 vs. 199 last year), why did is the headline less than positive?

Because although the Reformation Rally is not an outreach event and although the guest speaker is "preaching to the choir" for the most part (generally very few people who are "new" Lutherans or non-Christians attend), the offering emphasis *is* on outreach, specifically this year for Unity Community Lutheran Mission After-School Outreach.

So, show them the money! Offerings for 2005 totaled \$1,094.35 (a mere \$3.14 per person); offerings for 2004 were slightly more than \$1,000 (\$5 per person); offerings for 2003 were \$1,009 from 282 worshippers (\$3.58 per person). If the per person giving this year had remained the same as 2004, the children at the Unity After-School program would have enjoyed 75% more in funds.

Although there were a lot more children at the service this year, thanks to the participation of the PALS Choir, and yes, most of the adults attending are senior citizens (and yes, most of the seniors in attendance are probably on fixed incomes), it's hard to believe that the additional 149 attending were all children or fixed-income seniors, but perhaps that's so. It *is* clear that fewer clergy than ever participated.

PALM is certainly thankful (as is Unity After-School Outreach) for your gifts and support, and for the increased attendance this year, but as a regular attendee, I'm most appreciative of the efforts by the Reformation Rally Committee who made this a stand-out service. It was loaded with new items and old favorites, so here's hats off and many thanks to:



The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, under the direction of Ruth Molkenthin-Miller, for their acapella rendering of Tchaikovsky's "Praise Ye the Name of the Lord" and other special music.

The Bell Choir from Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, for their selections under the direction of Lois Frerking (principal of the school).



The children of the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools for their song, under the direction of Debra Terhune (music teacher at Redeemer Lutheran School).



Rev. Barry Keurulainen, for his participatory children's message. Hearing the congregation sing "Jesus Loves Me" acapella was wonderful!

Charles Bieri (organist, Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon), for his marvelous music.



All photos were taken by William Kitzki, member of First Lutheran, Sharpsburg. Thank you!

Trumpeters Luke Daller and Brennan Petras (Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon), for their prelude by Handel.



Dr. Timothy Maschke (Concordia University-Mequon, WI), for his fine preaching on "Free to Be". Through Jesus' sacrifice, we are free before God, free from sin and free to serve.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, who sponsored a "light dinner" for the nearly 350 who attended. In my book, turkey and mashed potatoes is a real dinner—there's nothing "lite" about it!



First Lutheran, Sharpsburg, for again providing the facilities and to Betty Bernhardt for managing the "light dinner" and the many volunteers who cooked and served it.

Rev. Jamison Hardy (Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon) and PALM for coordinating the rally, for to Tim Bradford for publicizing the service.

I did miss the Immanuel Prayz Choir this year, a wonderful reminder that Lutherans come in all shapes, sizes, colors and voice!

So, in spite of a somewhat critical beginning to this rally wrap-up, I hope you get the point that many, many people spent many, many hours to make this Reformation Rally one of the best this reporter has attended in a long time. See you next year!

By Kate A. Hallock, Editor

Operation Lifeline

Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to Receive Homemade Christmas Goodies

NEW CASTLE—A special Christmas care package will be mailed out in early December to the soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Area churches, other groups and individuals helped with this project by bringing in homemade cookies to be placed in tins to go in the boxes along with other candy treats. The packing of the cookies and preparation of the care packages for shipping was done by the support group members following a soup and sandwich supper on November 29.

A fundraiser was held the three days before Thanksgiving at Giant Eagle on route 422 in New Castle. This is the third year for this important activity at that location. Their support is appreciated very much.

Many thanks to Margaret Christopher and the LWML at St. Matthews for their continued support of the program. Also to the St. Luke Lutheran School children who wrote letters to the soldiers that were included in the Christmas care packages. Thanks to Bernice Hook for gathering the letters for us, providing Avon boxes and helping with the Operation Lifeline magnet fundraiser.

A soldier mailing list has been distributed to groups and individuals so that Christmas greetings can be sent to those serving in the military.

Chuck Hassan and Rose White, a support group member who has two sons serving in Iraq, conducted an Operation Lifeline Veterans Day event on November 10th and 11th at the Lordstown GM Plant in Ohio. Frank Marlowe, whose son is an Air Force chaplain who served in Iraq, set up an Operation Lifeline exhibit at New Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian Church in New Castle for several Sundays in November to inform the congregation and gather support for the program.

Chuck and Robin Hassan attended the Veterans Day program at Shenango High School and were introduced by their son Josh who thanked his Dad for the work he was doing for the soldiers. Josh and his Uncle Gary Hassan played the bagpipes during the event. The Hassan's oldest son Travis has been deployed three times to the Middle East aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge. The Kearsarge was one of the ships that was fired upon while in port in Jordan last August.

Addresses of soldiers who are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and contributions can be sent to: Operation Lifeline, Christ Lutheran Church, 1302 E. Washington St., New Castle, PA 16105. Contact Nancy Schlumberger 724.654.1379 or Ann Houk 724.652.6484 or e-mail operationlifelineclc@msn.com.



As I See It

Rev. Don Matzat is taking a holiday break this issue. We welcome him back in the New Year!

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 is primarily for people who know or have known a feeling of desperation concerning the addiction problem of someone very near to them. Meetings are held on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office for more information (412.486.5777).



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The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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All news must be submitted to Editor by the 15th of the month.

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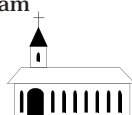
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Two Mt. Calvary, West View, Couples Celebrate Golden Anniversaries



WEST VIEW—Congratulations to two couples who have recently celebrated 50 years of marriage.

LeRoy and Joann Moll (top left) were married in St. Cloud, MN in 1955 and have two children and three grandchildren. Faithful members of Mt. Calvary, West View, they have held many offices on church council. Most recently LeRoy serves as an elder and Joann as chairperson of the Board of Stewardship. LeRoy also served on the Board of Director for Concordia Lutheran Ministries for many years. Both are enjoying retirement in Sewickley: Joann taught school for 31 years and LeRoy retired from Sewickley Valley Hospital after more than 40 years there.



Bill and Marilou Barkschat (bottom left) also celebrated their 50th anniversary and are the proud parents of five children and seven grandchildren. Bill is presently president of Mt. Calvary church council and is the church handyman, repairing all types of odds and ends in the building. Marilou volunteers with Vacation Bible School and assists the social committee at many church functions. Both are enjoying retirement in West View: Bill worked for Western Union and Allegheny County, and Marilou at Bell Telephone and Isaly's.



Rev. James Rice Preaches at Unity's 19th Annual Harvest Home Festival

HOMEWOOD—Unity Lutheran Community Mission's 19th annual Harvest Home Festival was celebrated in song and Word on Sunday, November 20. Guest preacher, Rev. James Rice, Holy Cross, Johnstown, spoke of giving thanks in all circumstances.

Songs were joyfully presented by the Immanuel Prayz Choir, Braddock (below top); the Faith Gospel Choir, East Liberty; Faith Lutheran Choir (ELCA, Upper St. Clair), and four of Unity's After-School children (below bottom).

Following the 90-minute service, a harvest meal was enjoyed by all in the fellowship hall. Pastors Gene Lenk and Ron Rafferty also attended the service.

First Trinity Offers Film & Lecture on Author Bo Giertz

OAKLAND—Bo Giertz, the author of the acclaimed *The Hammer of God*, was born 100 years ago. Events all over the North American continent and in Europe have marked this centennial.

Now you will have the opportunity to hear more about this giant of 20th century Lutheranism—often favorably compared to C.S. Lewis and Dietrich Bonhoeffer—and to see the film based on the first chapter of a novel which has been called “perhaps the best treatment of the proper distinction of law and gospel in the history of Lutheran theology”.

Rev. Eric Andrae of First Trinity, who has written his S.T.M. thesis on Bishop Giertz and traveled extensively to speak on him, will present an introduction to the man and the film, show the movie, and then discuss Giertz's application of God's word of



law and gospel on Saturday, December 10, 2005, 6 p.m. - 8:50 p.m. Please contact Rev. Andrae for more information at 412.683.4121 or ERA@FirstTrinity.net.



Young Adults in the Pittsburgh Area Get Together

FOREST HILLS—YAPA (Young Adults in the Pittsburgh Area) is a group of individuals (single, married, dating, engaged, whatever...), ranging in ages 21 to mid 40s that has decided to get together *at least* once a month for fun and fellowship.

Requirement for participation: age 21 or older.

YAPA met for the first time on November 11 at Christ Lutheran Church in Forest Hills. We talked, got to know each other, then went to Primanti Bros and bowling in North Versailles. Everyone who attended had a great time and is planning on attending future gatherings. If you missed the first get-together...DON'T WORRY! Look at when we're meeting next and what we're doing:

Monday, December 5 – 7 p.m.

"Stuff-a-Bus" @ Miracle Mile in Monroeville with 96.1 KISS radio station. Meet at Christ Lutheran Church, 7 p.m., 400 Barclay Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Bring a new, unwrapped gift to "stuff the bus" (Toys For Tots). We can get on the bus, take pictures and possibly get on the radio with the DJs; after, head to Panera or Damon's.

Friday, December 16 – 6 p.m.

Church decorating at Christ Lutheran Church. Heavy lifting, light lifting, ideas, and people are needed; after, head to Waterfront.

Sunday, December 18 – TBA

"The Chronicles of NARNIA: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe". Depending on show times...either 11 a.m. worship, lunch, then movie or movie, dinner, then 6 p.m. worship.

Friday, January 13, 2006 – 7 p.m.

Ice Skating at The Rink in PPG Place, Downtown. Come skate, watch others skate or just enjoy the view. After, head to Market Square.

It doesn't matter if you're a member of Christ Lutheran or not...just come and bring a friend! Questions? Call Jessica Knoche 412.271.1308, or email JessicaKnoche@aol.com.

Evening of Worship & Advent Reflections Concert
Ascension, McCandless, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

A Blessed Christmas

"And she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger..." [Luke 22:7]

At Christmas and always, may you be blessed by God's gift of love.

A special thank you from the Concordia Lutheran Ministries family for your continual support.



This stained glass is in the Christ the King chapel in Haven I on the Concordia campus.

Pastoral Vacancies (and Coverage)

Calvary, Murrysville
 First Lutheran, Sharpsburg
 Pentecost, Avella (Rev. Scott Kuntz)
 St. John, Brackenridge (Rev. Gene Lenk)
 St. John, Morrisdale (Vicar James Kusko)
 St. Paul, Braddock (Rev. Emil Lavcek)
 St. Thomas, Pittsburgh (Rev. Stephen Niermann)
 Trinity-Deaf, Pittsburgh



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Dec. 4 — Christmas Concert and Spaghetti Dinner, Zion, Lawrenceville, 4 p.m. Freewill offerings matched by Thrivent and Zion to benefit PALM.

Dec. 4 — Floral Design Session, Epiphany, Penn Hills, 3 p.m.

Dec. 5 — Y.A.P.A. Stuff-a-Bus, Christ, Forest Hills, 7 p.m.

Dec. 9 — Annual PALS Christmas Sing Downtown at PPG Place, noon.

Dec. 10 — Pancake Breakfast, Book Fair, Christmas Shopping Child Care and Gift Wrapping, Christ, Forest Hills.

Dec. 10 — Christmas Shopping Child Care, St. Matthew, Pittsburgh, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 10 — Bo Giertz Film & Lecture, First Trinity, Oakland, 6 p.m.

Dec. 10 — Evening of Worship & Advent Reflections, Ascension Praise Band, McCandless, 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus at Oertel Care Center, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, 3 p.m. and Haven II Chapel, 6 p.m.

Dec. 16 — Y.A.P.A. Christmas Decorating, Christ, Forest Hills, 6 p.m.

Dec. 16 — Live Nativity, Immanuel, Braddock, 7 p.m.

Dec. 16-17 — Live Nativity, Concordia, Brentwood

Dec. 18 — Y.A.P.A. Chronicles of Narnia, Christ, Forest Hills, TBA

Dec. 18 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7 p.m.

Dec. 27 — PALM Board Meeting, First Trinity, Oakland, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 — Y.A.P.A. Ice-skating, PPG Place Rink, 7 p.m.

PALM Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Fourth Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Place: First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church
 531 N. Neville St., Oakland, PA

International Student Ministry

Story Telling

SLIPPERY ROCK—Story telling has become an integral part of campus ministry outreach at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center. It is a very effective way to help students understand the Bible stories. Telling the Bible stories brings Creation, forgiveness, Adam and Eve, David, Mary and Jesus to life for those students familiar with the Bible as well as for those who don't know the Bible at all.

Realizing the effectiveness of telling the Bible stories happened as a result of a mistake. A Japanese student took a bilingual Bible with her to Japan to read over the summer. Unfortunately she discovered that it was written in old Japanese and old English. She couldn't understand what she was reading. To make up for this mistake, she accepted an invitation to have one-on-one Bible study each week. Since time is always so limited, Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director, decided to tell her the stories orally to make them more quickly and easily understood. This story telling method helped so much that it is now used regularly to introduce the Bible stories. This method is followed up by looking at illustrations in a children's Bible, reading directly from CPH's Self-Study Bible, and using The People's Bible commentary.

Telling the stories is so effective that students can sense the emotions of the Bible characters. As the Japanese student heard and then read the story of Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac, her face became quite serious, sad, stunned and alarmed. She commented that "God has asked a hard thing." We took time to see how God had given Abraham the confidence to trust Him and had even supplied a ram as a substitute. This student said she would like to know the rest of the Bible stories.

Telling the Bible stories seems to be as effective for students from Mongolia and China as for those from America. Telling helps everyone to realize Satan's lies to Adam and Eve, Cain's jealousy of his brother, and Noah's deep sense of thankfulness to God because he built an altar as his first act upon leaving the Ark.

Telling the Bible stories is exceptionally helpful for students and others who have limited English. Telling is like speaking a language which everyone understands. It's like an Ameri-



can friend in France who couldn't speak French trying to tell a French butcher what she needed; she acted out a chicken flapping its wings with her arms while she said "Cluck, cluck, cluck." The French butcher easily understood that!

Story-telling as a way to share the Gospel will continue at All Saints. What could be more wonderful than sharing God's stories in a way that so many students can understand?

By Augusta R. Mennell
Campus Ministry Director

Jim Mennell, Frank Yerkins and Raymond Ott admire cat doll made to order by Frank's daughter Donna Heintz. The cat draws attention just the way that story-telling does!

College Connections

The following people serve near universities or in campus ministries in our area and would like to welcome students to worship, invite them to participate in campus ministries, and keep in touch with them while they are attending college. Pastors, please pass along the names of your college students to these people so that connections can be made.

University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham College, among others: Rev. Eric Andrae, First Trinity, Oakland; 412.683.4121; era@firsttrinity.net

Penn State University: Rev. Bryan Spang, Good Shepherd, State College; 814.234.8177; nittanylutheran1@netzero.net

Clarion University: Rev. Paul Meseke, Christ Lutheran, Oil City; 814.677.4484; plmeseke@usachoice.net

Slippery Rock University: Rev. Michael Scheer, All Saints, Slippery Rock; 724.794.4334; ReverendScheer@aol.com

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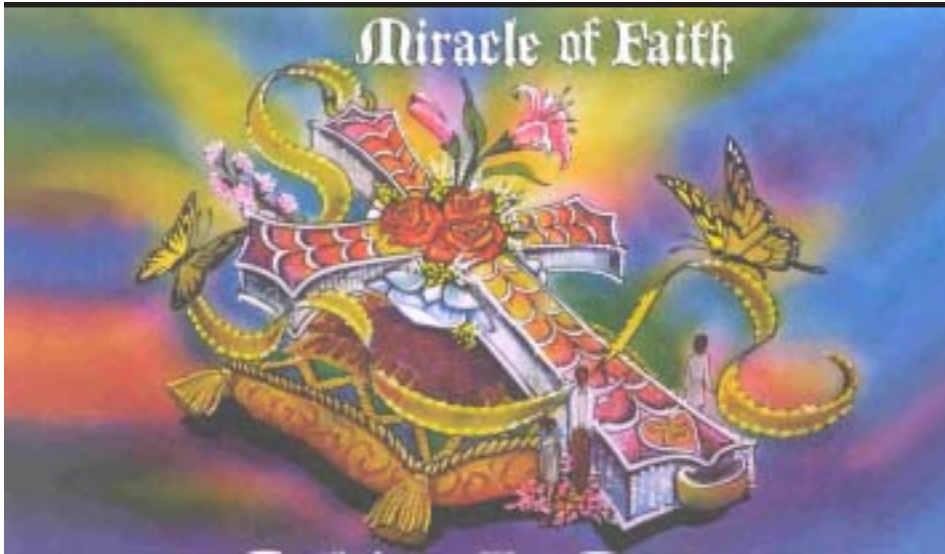
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“Miracle of Faith” is LHM Float Theme for Annual Tournament of Roses Parade

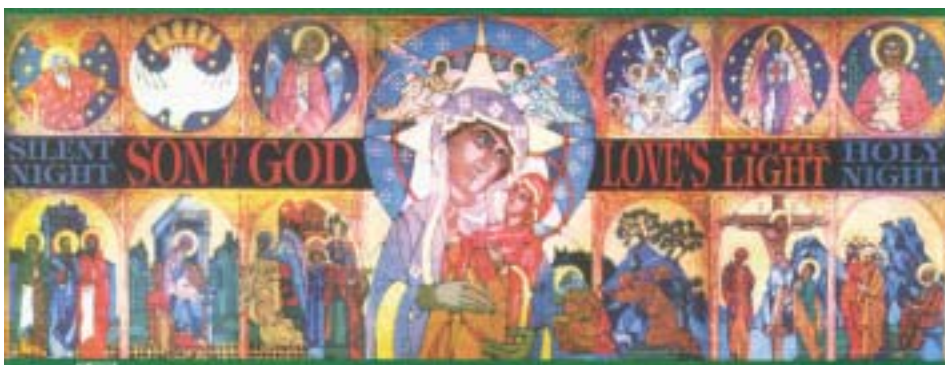
PASADENA—January 1, 2006 marks the 56th year of participation for Lutheran Hour Ministries in the Tournament of Roses Parade, and is the only Christian float in a media event that is viewed by more than 450 million people worldwide.

“It’s Magical” is the theme for the 2006 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, and the “Miracle of Faith” float shows that there is no more magical moment in life than the moment one accepts Jesus Christ as Savior.

Also, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the first Lutheran Hour radio broadcast, the float committee chose Rev. Walter A. Maier II, son of the first Lutheran Hour speaker Walter A. Maier, to lead the float riders.

The Lutheran Hour Float is a project of the Southern California District of the Lutheran Laymen’s League.

Right: The Wheat Ridge Christmas Seals celebrate the ministry’s 100th anniversary, bringing back past favorites. **Below:** Advent stamps from Lutheran Hour Ministries feature the work “Love’s Pure Light” by nationally-recognized Lutheran artist David J. Hetland.



**Campus Ministry News
Campus Ministry Fundraiser Makes Goal**

OAKLAND—If you have not already done so, please submit addresses of any person or groups who you think should get or would be interested in getting a newsletter about our Pittsburgh LCMS campus ministry (LSF-ISM). We are nearing completion of the first issue and need more addresses. Thank you!

Also, we are pleased to announce that our goal of \$10,000 was met in our recent fund-raising campaign! Donations are still arriving in response to the matching grant opportunity and, of course, we are still accepting contributions. As such, I don’t have an exact figure at this time, but will have such from our treasurer for the next update. Thank you!

Did you know? It costs approximately \$5,000—\$6,000 per month to run the campus ministry.

Please make checks out to First Trinity and mark “Campus Ministry” in the memo line. Mail to: LCMS Campus Ministry, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

*Rev. Eric Andrae
Campus Ministry Chaplain
412.683.4121, ext. 2
ERA@FirstTrinity.net*

Thank You For Your Support



Thanks to the support of LCMS members, LCEF approved more than 750 loans this past year! These low-cost loans were used to build new schools, expand worship facilities, fund new mission starts, and help rostered church workers—all in support of the Great Commission.

A unique ministry, LCEF partners investors with borrowers. Your investments at LCEF earn a competitive interest rate, but they also provide loan funds for churches, schools, and rostered church workers. At LCEF, you receive the “ministry dividend,” something you can’t receive at a local financial institution.

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Congregation News

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas All Times of Praise, Thanksgiving, Outreach

All Saints, Slippery Rock

Two new furnaces installed; paid for by memorials and other special gifts. Youth held spaghetti dinner for winter retreat fundraiser. Christmas program will be December 18.

Ascension, McCandless

Praise Band to hold *Evening of Worship & Advent Reflections* Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Air conditioning to be put in with new furnaces. Congratulations to Jillian Jarboe, who received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the North Allegheny Board of Directors. Jillian earned First Place State and 10th Place National in the 2005 National Spanish Exam by placing in the 99th percentile. Private First Class Peter Fromm is stationed in Iraq at a former Russian barracks-turned-prison for the next 4-6 months. Children's Christmas program will be December 18. Giving Tree project benefits Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Project.

Bethel, Glenshaw

Bethel women continue 30+ year tradition of baking and filling 200 cartons of Christmas cookies for residents of the Veterans Hospital. Another tradition continues with Project Angel Tree (presents for children of prisoners). Handbell choir members range in age from 10 to 80+; Chuck Germer directs the 13 ringers.

Over 100 attended an Oktoberfest dinner on Saturday, October 29th and enjoyed a German meal of bratwurst, spaetzle, potato pancakes, apple strudel and homemade sauerkraut. The event was a fundraiser for St. Matthew's Christian Academy. Over \$1700 was donated, and Thrivent will match \$1300, leading to a total of over \$3000! Thanks to all who participated and helped-Ein Prosit!

The Youth Group will be helping with several service activities over the holidays. They have been writing a series of Advent devotions in Sunday School the past two months. The devotions address the many and varied gifts that God has given us, and should help readers to keep a thankful heart during preparations for Christmas. The kids will also bake cookies for hospitalized veterans in December-they hope to top last year's total of 60 dozen! Finally, they will help with a special Quemperus Carol service on Christmas Eve.

Bethel will again sponsor 30 children and their families through Project Angel Tree. Many members have contributed to the success of this effort in years past, providing gifts, Bibles and support, and sometimes stopping by their homes to sing Christmas carols.

Christ, Forest Hills

The Woman's Service Guild oversaw the Congregation's cooking 15 turkeys, deboning and helping to prepare the special Thanksgiving Dinner for the Sonshine Kitchen in November. The congregation was also able to send \$850 to help with the everyday finances and a special Christmas treat in the December grocery bags.

Christmas cookies will be packed December 15 for the Sonshine Kitchen's special Christmas dinner and Shut-Ins. Lunch will follow and then teams will visit Shut-Ins to deliver the cookies and bring wishes for a Blessed Christmas.

Christ Lutheran Church and School participated in the Nickels Project to gather coats and shoes for the people of Kyrgyzstan. The response was overwhelming!

The Quilting Group for Lutheran World Relief from Christ Lutheran Church has increased to 10-12 ladies meeting 3-4 times a month. They rely on many resources for material, and recycled old blankets, drapes, sheets, and bed pads are lovingly turned into beautiful, warm useful quilts. No one has to know how to sew to help with the tacking and cutting, so there is something for everyone to do. They can make three quilts in one night. With all the natural disasters around the world and in the U.S., there are many needs for these wonderful works of love. Call the church at 412.271.7173 for the monthly schedule as all are welcome to help.

Interested in creating a family scrapbook? Mark your calendar for Friday, January 10 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for an evening of sharing and instruction by Sara Hackwelder. Bring photos and supplies; she will have other tools and ideas to share. The fellowship is great and snacks will be provided.

Christ, New Castle

On Sunday November 13, Christ Lutheran celebrated its 80th anniversary with a traditional Thanksgiving

dinner for all members and friends. A brief history was presented by council president Don Miller. Chuck Hassan presented the bronze "minute man" statue that had been given to Operation Lifeline and the members of Christ Lutheran by the Army National Guard for being an outstanding center of influence. He talked about his recent visit and conversation with a soldier who was home from Iraq and how important the support of all organizations is to those serving in the military. Virginia Horney recalled an effort by the members during WWII to support the soldiers. A monthly newsletter was sent to all the soldiers serving in the military at that time. She said that this was their "Operation Lifeline" 60 years ago.

A canned gravy drive, to aid the City Rescue Mission in their effort to fill community Thanksgiving baskets, was again conducted this year.

The children are practicing for the Christmas program which is a play entitled "Not So Holy Night". The choir will be singing for the Ladies Aid annual Christmas dinner to be held December 5 for all church members.

A fall sauerkraut dinner and frozen pie sale were recently held with proceeds going to the renovation fund.

Concordia, Brentwood

...is hosting a live nativity in the evenings on December 16 and 17.

Author Julie Stiegemeier has three new Christmas books out: *Bethlehem Night*, which is a picture book, and two board books: *Saint Nicholas* (which was turned into a board book; the picture book was published two years ago), and *Things I See at Christmas*. All published by Concordia Publishing House and available at www.cph.org or 800.325.3040.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

Epiphany's schedule for the Advent Season is Soup and Salad on December 7 and 14 at 5:30 with worship following at 7:30 p.m. Community Caring Corner is sponsoring a Floral Design session on December 4 from 3-5 p.m. for \$35. Part of that amount goes directly to CCC@E. So if you're not doing anything that afternoon, "Come on down!"

The Alpha and Omega youth group is writing and producing a Christmas play, date to be announced.

Congregation News Continued**Congregations Gather and Disperse Clothing, Food, Toys and the Gospel News**

Rev. John Weldon, Dan and Chris Atwood building a manger for the outdoor Nativity scene during a November "Work Day".

Below, Charlie Atwood from Epiphany wins big at the Christian Art Show. He received Honorable Mention for a set of four Pen and Ink drawings called "Decisions" and Honorable Mention for a set of four Pen and Ink Drawings entitled "Memories." He also received Judges Award and Committee Merit for his digital print entitled, "Contemplation."

**Good Shepherd, South Hills**

November wrapped up 40 Days of Purpose with Mission/Ministry Fair on Nov. 6 and Celebration Sunday on Nov. 20; a goal of collecting 400 hygiene bags for hurricane victims was part of the mission focus.

Congratulations to Gil and Audrey Smith on their 54th anniversary and Bill and Harriet Kissinger on their 56th.

Good Shepherd, State College

Building addition completion is near. New preschool classes will begin in January in the new space and additional Sunday School classes as well. Many thanks go out to the Laborers for Christ for helping with the addition. A dedication service is scheduled for Sunday, January 22. Rev. Dr. John Brunner, Eastern District President, will be preaching at both services (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.), followed by a special reception and lunch.

Hope Lutheran, Upper St. Clair

Congratulations to Rev. Robert and Sheryl McCanless, at the birth of their daughter, Kathleen Margit-Anne on November 3. Her baptism was on Sunday, November 20 during the Divine Service at Hope, with the Rev. Mark Kloha (St. Paul's, Ashland, KY) administering the sacrament, as he has done

for the other three McCanless children.

Congregation collects hats, gloves and scarves for Unity Lutheran After-School children's Christmas program. Hope's annual Christmas party is Dec. 9, sponsored by the Building a Family Committee. Children's Christmas program will be Dec. 18.

Immanuel, Braddock

Annual live nativity will be held Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Christmas program will be held Dec. 18. Prayz Choir sang at Unity's annual Harvest Home Festival. George Fischer and Dave Mozeik ran the New York Marathon in November to raise funds for the preschool.

Mount Olive, Beaver Falls

Gospel Gang mid-week children's program offers variety of activities from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Two of a Kind interactive parent/child program meets Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 to 11 a.m., for 18-36 month old children. Below, Gospel Gang let off steam with indoor activities.

Prince of Peace, Freedom

Congratulations to Ross and June Shively on their 55th anniversary. Ladies Aid packed cookies and candies for the residents of Veteran's Hospital. Christmas program is Dec. 18 followed by annual Christmas dinner.

Below, Kids' Club (K-5th) meets Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Comrades of Christ Youth Group (6th-12th) meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**St. John, Morrisdale**

Three women attending a district LWML retreat at Camp Pioneer in September were involved in an unusual accident on the trip home. The wheel of another vehicle was propelled into the front of Deaconess Nancy Lingenfelter's car, causing the airbags

to deploy. No one was seriously injured, however the car was declared a total loss.

Nine cartons containing 49 blankets were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Trinity Deaf, Pittsburgh

A Christmas program and dinner are planned for Dec. 18. Congratulations to Don and Mary Mowl on the birth of their great-granddaughter Julieanna. Sale of the parsonage resulted in funds that allowed for the construction of a handicap access ramp into the narthex, as well as donations to many charities. Former pastor Rev. Edwin Bergstresser preached at worship prior to the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 20. Below, Rev. Bergstresser, Nancy and sons John and Matthew, pose on Trinity's new access ramp.

**Zion, Lawrenceville**

Zion raised money for hurricane victims from a special envelope collection on October 23 as well as a benefit concert featuring creative soul recording artist Tom Dolan on November 12. Both events yielded nearly \$2,200 that will be matched by Zion and Thrivent.

Zion's Ladies Aid celebrated a potluck Christmas lunch at its last meeting for the year on Sunday, November 27. The congregation was invited to join them prior to "Tree-Trimming" that afternoon in preparation for Advent. Zion will join Immanuel for an Advent worship service on Wednesday evening, December 7.

Adult Bible Class each Sunday at Zion is studying Rev. Barry Keurulainen's "50 Days Ablaze" Mission Outreach Campaign devotions.

Zion, Accident, MD

Rev. Wilfred Karsten finishes 12-year term on the Bethesda Lutheran Homes Board of Directors.

Christ, Forest Hills

2005 - 2006 Year Book

Christ Lutheran School and Child Care is now making plans for the 2005 - 2006 Year Book. In an effort to reduce the cost of the book that our parents will pay, we will be selling advertisement space this year. A full-page advertisement in color (no more than 2 colors) will cost \$200. Business-card size advertisements will cost \$25 each. All advertisements must be in good taste. Christ Lutheran School reserves the right to edit, revise or reject any advertisement that is submitted for publication. The owners will be advised of the suggested changes, prior to publication. All advertisements and greetings must be received by Jan. 3, 2006, for inclusion in the Year Book. Through your sponsorship, your organization will be known and recognized throughout the community, and by the students and parents of Christ Lutheran School. Please call Joy at the school office at 412.271.7173 for more information, and **Thank You** in advance for your generosity.

Art Show Awards

Our students did well at the PALS Art Show held at Calvary Lutheran Nov. 5 and 6. The winning entries are on display in the fellowship hall.

Special Merit: Kaya Morris, grade 1, torn paper cross

Honorable Mention: Macy Crawford, preschool, people drawings and Joscelyn Lydon, grade 3, chalk drawing

4th Place: Beau Heyward, grade 4, drawing of the Titanic

3rd Place: Amir Davis, preschool, lines and curves

2nd Place: Nathan Kelly, preschool, lines and curves, Alexa Tomlanovich, grade 4, girl with a star and Emeka Okolo, grade 8, drawing of a beetle

1st Place: Gina Nadzen, preschool, marble-painted leaf, Gabby Davis, kindergarten, melted crayon leaf and Lauren Sivak, grade 7, sunrise in chalk

Scholastic Book Fair

It is time once again for our annual Scholastic Book Fair. With Christmas just around the corner, you can pick up some wonderful gifts for people of all ages on your list. At the same time, you will be helping to supply our school library with books that the children love to read. The Book Fair will be set up Dec. 10 - 16 in the school lobby. This includes two Sunday mornings for your convenience. The Book Fair will also be open for the



Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 10. Our Family Reading Night will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, and the Book Fair will also be available between the Advent supper and service on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Open House

An Open House for Christ Lutheran School is being planned for Jan. 24 from 5 - 7 p.m. This will be a grand opportunity for you to invite people with school-age children to come visit our school and meet the teachers. Help us spread the word about your school and encourage parents to send their children to a school that provides great academics as well as the Good News of Jesus.

Breakfast or Brunch?

Bring your bunch on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Eat a hearty breakfast (to support our District's Katrina Relief efforts), then leave your brood and finish your holiday shopping. Find the perfect book at our Scholastic Book Fair, or venture out to your favorite shop. Bring your purchases to our gift-wrap station and help support our Youth and 7th and 8th grade students as they gather funds for their upcoming events. Gift Wrapping and Child Care will be available from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Want to help out? Contact Susan Fox in the church office. See you then!

Walk-a-Marathon



Students at Christ Lutheran have been participating in an after-school activity called Walk-A-Marathon. Inspired by their gym teacher, Joanna

Tunncliffe, the students have met on Tuesdays and Fridays to walk 1 or 2 miles, tracking their distances toward their personal goal of 26.6 miles, the distance of a marathon. All the staff and students joined together to walk the final six-tenths mile on Nov. 22.

Christmas Program

The Christ Lutheran School Christmas program will be presented on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at West Jr. High School. Titled "If I Had Been There...", by teacher Laura Schumm, it presents the real Christmas story through words and songs. Please join us for this festive evening. Admission is free.

Helping Others

Christ Lutheran staff and students are reaching out to help others during this holiday season. Coats and shoes are being collected for people in Kyrgyzstan through a request from the Nichols who are missionaries there. Canned goods are being collected for the Sunshine Kitchen and the Lutheran home in Cabot. Connections are also being made to help St. Paul School in New Orleans as they continue to recover from Hurricane Katrina.

*By Susan Fox, Secretary and
Lois Frerking, Principal*

Hope Preschool, Upper St. Clair

Little Lambs of Hope (Hope Lutheran Church) in Peters Twp./Upper St. Clair is holding a hop-a-thon for Heifer International this Advent season.

The charitable organization (www.heifer.org) donates livestock to third-world families to help them become self-sustaining. Each hop will help to reach the goal of \$150 to buy, appropriately, a little lamb as a Christmas gift!

By Mettelise Ziegler

St. Luke, Cabot

The 8th grade class enjoyed a day of gleaning harvest from the Ambrose Farm and donating the fresh produce to Concordia Lutheran Ministries and Katie's Kitchen in Butler. They harvested a total of 45 bushels of cucumbers, spaghetti squash, acorn squash, peppers and corn, along with 26 pecks of tomatoes. After school, many of the children helped serve dinner at Katie's Kitchen.

St. Matthew Christian Academy

Parent volunteers run the annual St. Matthew Christmas Store. This year's store will be open on December 1 and 2. Each student will be allowed to buy a Christmas present for each member of his or her household for a



total of \$1.00. The presents will then be gift-wrapped.

On the Saturday after the Christmas Store will come a time of sharing as school families join St. Matthew congregation members in making gingerbread houses. The following Friday, December 9, St. Matthew singers will join those of other Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools at PPG Place in Downtown Pittsburgh to present Christmas carols during the noon lunch hour.



A new Christmas activity for this year, the Saturday after the gingerbread houses, on December 10, will be Mom and Pop Shop, where parents can drop their children off at St. Matthew for four hours so that they will be able to carry out their Christmas shopping in relative peace! The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with crafts, games, videos and lunch. School Christmas celebrations will reach their climax on December 14 with the program "Jesus Who?," written by former St. Matthew organist Dorothy Frisch and directed by first- and second-grade teacher Sandy Baumgardner, featuring music interwoven with a dramatic presentation.

The largest St. Matthew Mileposters ride yet took place on November 5, as the entire Washington, DC team reassembled, joined by four other riders, for a total of ten, using the triplet/tandem, two regular tandems, and a solo bike for a six-mile spin on the South Side Trail. The final regular-season ride was on November 12, using the jointed quad with captain and three stokers, plus a solo bike

for a captain-in-training, to cover 22 miles in a round trip from Cedar Creek County Park in Westmoreland County to Slush Run, on the Youghiogheny River Trail. Selected winter rides will take place as weather and trail conditions permit; winter camping is also a possibility at either Slush Run (Round Bottom Camping Area) or Dravo Landing. The Round Bottom area has just been improved with a permanent restroom and a hand-pumped well. The facility, which was built by the Boy Scouts, includes several shelters to take some of the sting out of winter winds.

The annual St. Matthew Student Assistance Fund Auction will be held in February. Since the need for student assistance in our urban ministry has increased this year from one half to two thirds of the student body, this event is more important than ever. St. Matthew gratefully acknowledges the support of the Pittsburgh Lutheran community in past years. The goal of the auction is to raise \$15,000. Donations of new or like-new items will be gladly accepted. Please call the school at 412.321.6662.

By Mark Shields, Principal

PA.L.G.S. FALL GOLF OUTING

The Fall Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Golf Scramble (P.A.L.G.S.) was held on Saturday, September 24 at Seven Springs Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA. This event was supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Allegheny County Chapter. Over 80 golfers enjoyed an exciting day on the course.

For the past three years we've had an added incentive to support Christian education during our twice-annual Golf outing—a prize of \$10,000 (underwritten by International Hole-in-One Association) for a hole-in-one on a selected hole. We've finally had a winner, but all along the students of our school have been the winners.

Congratulations to John Frisoli, who is an infrequent golfer, but who has attained the goal of *all* golfers—a hole-in-one! We thank *everyone* who has donated money and prizes to make these outings a success. We look forward to many other golfers having the opportunity to win \$10,000 as we support Christian Education.

The 2006 Golf Outings are scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2006, and Saturday, September 30, 2006. Make plans to join us then!



Glenn Stewart Day at Concordia

CABOT—It was "Glenn Stewart Day" at Concordia Cabot campus on Election Day, November 8th. More than 100 residents and employees gathered in Haven II dining room to celebrate the 100th birthday of Glenn Stewart who has lived in Haven II since it opened nine years ago.

A proclamation from the Butler County commissioners was read as well as a proclamation from Concordia's CEO Keith Frndak and a greeting from President Bush and Laura. Everyone enjoyed his birthday cake and Glenn said, "With all these papers, I'm going to look for a job!"

He has lived in Butler County since he was seven years old except for a short time when he was in Natrona Heights after he married. He has been a member of Jefferson Center Presbyterian Church for 75 years. His late wife, Erma Bachman, taught German in Butler School District. They met at Culmerville skating rink and married on September 3, 1933 in Tarentum at the Presbyterian Church.

Glenn's first job was in a brickyard, then in the coal mines for Superior Coal Company and Rural Ridge Coal Company; he worked for the railroad, managed a service station and hardware store and finally, retired from Associated Hardware in Hillcrest Shopping Center as assistant manager. Glenn has one son, Tom, a graduate of Allegheny College who is retired from the government after 32 years of service and lives in Dayton, Ohio and two grandchildren, Neil who lives in Cincinnati and Laura, an attorney in Nashville. He loves baseball and tries never to miss a Pirates game on TV, and nurtured a beautiful garden of gladiolas here at Concordia.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Elects Seven New Board Members

CABOT—Keith E. Frndak, CEO, Concordia Lutheran Ministries announced the election of seven new board members at the annual delegate meeting November 13. Eighteen board members comprise the governing body and represent 37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations in the western Pennsylvania area.

Installed by Rev. Jack Hartman, chaplain, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, the newly elected members will serve a three-year term.

Lisabeth Kraynie - RN, MSN, CNA

Past board member of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Lisabeth chaired the Home & Community Services Committee and served on the Case Quality Assurance Committee and the Personnel Committee in her prior tenure and over the last three years again chaired the Home & Community Services Committee, serving on the Personnel & Chaplaincy as well as the Quality Control Committees. Lisabeth is retired Director of Sewickley Valley Hospital Home Health Agency where she was employed for 27 years. A nurse by profession she is Past President of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association where she previously held other offices and Board Member as well as Past President of Homemaker-Home Health Aide Service of Beaver County, Inc. from 1975-2000. In addition, she is past member of Inter-governmental Council of Long Term Care that was appointed by Governor Casey and re-appointed by Governor Ridge. Lisabeth was the organist at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls for 30 years. She and her husband, Glenn, live in Beaver.

Charlotte Nist

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education, Charlotte was an elementary school teacher for 25 years and has been retired for seven years. As a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freedom, she belongs to the choir, is a former Sunday school teacher and youth group leader as well as Vice-President of the Ladies Society LWML. Charlotte also sings with the Cranberry Community Choir and served on Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board for a total of eight years. Serving on the 2004 LWML Retreat Committee at Camp Pioneer, she has worked part-time for the past six years at Camp Lutherlyn for the Lutherlyn Environmental Program. Currently,



she is a member of the Home & Community Services, Personnel & Chaplaincy and Strategic Planning Committees of Concordia's Board. Charlotte is married to Eugene and has three children and nine grandchildren. They reside in Cranberry Township.

Donald Olmstead, P.E.

Baptized and raised in the United Church of Canada, Don has lived in Pittsburgh since 1983. He became a Lutheran and joined Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont 10 years later. When he moved to Cabot in 1997, he became a member of St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church where he has been a trustee and congregational vice-president. Currently a 5th grade Sunday school teacher, Don serves on the Parish Board and also belongs to a small men's group. He has been an engineer since 1979 with an emphasis on wastewater treatment, from project concept through construction. Much of the last 10 years has been focused on project management and business development, and to some extent, contract negotiation in the United States with several Canadian projects and some limited overseas work (Russia, South Africa, Bermuda and Mexico). Don currently serves on the Building, Facilities Management, and Strategic Planning Committees of Concordia's Board. He enjoys camping, canoeing, aquariums, ponds, bicycling and home improvement. He is married to Diane and they have three children.

Ruth Redenbaugh, RN

Current member of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Millvale, Ruth is a former choir member and vacation Bible schoolteacher. She is a nurse by profession and has worked for 45 years at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She is currently Night Supervisor and works from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. She graduated as an RN in 1960 from Presbyterian Hospital and received her BSN from Penn State in 1972. She is a retired member of the United States Air Force Reserves for 27 years and served as a flight nurse during the Gulf War. She belongs to the Reserve Officers Organization and has held several offices including Vice President of the Air Section. Ruth is also a member of International Reserve Officers (CIOR) section of NATO, Critical Care Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau (Nurses Honor Society). Currently she serves on the Finance & Audit, Home & Community Services, Quality Control and Strategic Planning Committees for Concordia's Board. She is also Director for Concordia at Rebecca Residence in Allison Park and Good Samaritan Hospice.

Rev. Herbert Schumm

Rev. Schumm has been pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Millvale, PA since 2002. A 1979 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, Pastor Schumm has served congregations in Seneca Falls, NY (1979-1984) and

Board Members Continued

Garrett, IN (1984-2002). From 1985 until 2001 he served as a chaplain in the US Army Reserves. He is currently circuit counselor of the Pittsburgh Northeast Circuit and was recently elected pastoral counselor of the LWML Pittsburgh Zone. Before attending the seminary, Pastor Schumm graduated from Bowling Green State University, OH with a B.S. in Business Administration and spent four years on active duty with the US Army. He is married to Joyce (nee Hayes), a parish nurse at Mercy Hospital. They live in Shaler Township and have two children, Timothy who is living in Taylor, MI with his wife, Alicia and son Christopher and wife Deborah living in Ft. Wayne.

Milton Scott

Formerly Chief Financial Officer at Geneva College and Investment Executive and Retirement Planning Specialist with Advest, Inc., Milt is currently Program Specialist with the National Fatherhood Initiative. A graduate of Harvard University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA), Milt has been a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls for the past 15 years having served as president and vice-president. Presently, he is a member of the Executive and Strategic Planning Committees and holds the chairmanship of the Finance and Audit Committee for Concordia's Board. Milt has served on the Concordia Board for a total of seven years. He and his wife, Christie, have four grown children and live in New Brighton.

Kenneth Wallhausen

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville, Ken is a graduate of Valparaiso University in Electrical Engineering. He was general manager of electronic components maker and designer of buildings electrical systems. Ken has been a member of the Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Ministries for more than 16 years and a former member of the Finance, Long Range Planning, Institutional Management and Building Committees. Currently he serves on the Facilities Management, Building and Strategic Planning Committees. Ken lives in Monroeville.

"The breadth of experience and expertise these board members bring to our organization is the foundation for our growth," notes Frndak.

New Child Care Director at Concordia

CABOT—Shirley Hollis (right) was named Child Care Director at Concordia Lutheran Ministries recently.

She comes to Concordia from Small World Daycare, Inc. in Apollo where she has worked since 1990 serving as Director for the past 2½ years. A graduate of Westmoreland County Community College with an A.D. in Early Childhood Education, Shirley replaces Amy Rumbaugh who has transitioned to part-time status.

Shirley enjoys camping and traveling with her husband and her three children, Kristine, age 23; son Joshua, 22, is in his last year at IUP and son James, 21, is a union carpenter apprentice.

"I think it is an exciting and new page in my life and I am especially eager to introduce a pre-school program here at Concordia and meet the kids and their families," says Shirley.

Her assistant, Andrea Lang (below), has been with Concordia as a Dietary Aide since 2001. A resident of Cabot, Andrea earned her B.S. in Child Development and Family Relations from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with special areas of study in pre-school education, early childhood education, infant development and teaching in child development centers as well as sign language and speech and language for persons with hearing loss. She served as a student teacher at Davis Child Care Center in Indiana, PA.

Just married in August, she and her husband, Jeff, enjoy spending time with friends and family, scrapbooking and crafts. "It's good to be able to remain at Concordia and do what I went to school for," Andrea reveals.



Director of Human Resources Brian Llewellyn is particularly satisfied with the new leadership combination and calls the team, "dynamic and a strong benefit for our employees and the community."

What's Happening at Concordia



A New Beginning

On October 19th, Phyllis Brown, a 25-year employee who began as our CEO's assistant, celebrated "A New Beginning" as she visited with each of the Havens and enjoyed a reception in the dining rooms to reminisce. She's pictured here with Norm Morgan, Haven II resident and member of First Lutheran, Sharpsburg.



Haven residents displayed their talent at an Art Display in Haven II and to Susan Beatty, their art class instructor.

Butler Eagle Newspaper Features Two Concordia Employees

CABOT—The local daily newspaper, *The Butler Eagle*, recently ran a special feature section, "A Salute to Business and Professional Women," and included two of Concordia's administrative team: Charlene Kline, Administrator, Skilled Nursing and Susan Briggs, Clinical Director, Concordia Visiting Nurses and a member of St. Luke, Cabot.

Clinical Director of Concordia Visiting Nurses, Sue Briggs joined Concordia in 2001 from Visiting Nurses Association, Western PA where she had worked for more than 20 years. After earning her RN from the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing she graduated from Slippery Rock University with a BSN and an MBA from Duquesne University.



Sue provides leadership in promoting and maintaining standards for the delivery of high quality care and was recently awarded the Quality Championship award from Quality Insights of Pennsylvania. She is particularly proud of her successful implementation and training of a clinical automated software system for documentation in a home care agency as well as marketing and customer relations programs for her community nurse liaisons. A member of the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nurses; American College of Health Care Executives and past president of the Western Pennsylvania Association for Home Health Agencies, Sue is a 1995 graduate of Leadership Butler County, served on the Advisory Board at Butler County Vo-Tech; and Citizens Review Committee of the United Way of Butler County. She is married to Scott Briggs of WISR and they have three sons.

Last Call for Concordia's Thanksgiving Food Drive

Deliver commercial size cans of fruits, vegetables, soups, flour, sugar, cereal by Tuesday, December 6 to Mt. Calvary, West View; Hope, Upper St. Clair, Good Shepherd, South Hills; Christ, Forest Hills; Bethel, Glenshaw.



Charlene Kline is administrator at Concordia Lutheran Ministries having begun her career in geriatric care at St. Barnabas Health System in 1991. Licensed as a nursing home administrator and registered nurse, Charlene earned her B.S. in Business Management from Carlow College with an A.D. in nursing from Butler County Community College.

Charlene arrived at Concordia just as Lund Care Center opened six years ago and is currently responsible for the overall coordination and administration of the 136-bed skilled nursing facility. She has been instrumental in establishing a Health and Wellness Committee as well as a safety program for employees and currently is supervising the cultural transition in preparation for the opening of the Lund Care Center expansion in the Fall of 2006 when all skilled nursing residents will be located under one roof. She is especially proud of her development and implementation of policy and procedures to manage reimbursement and control costs; recommendations for new revenue ventures, special projects related to the ongoing changes in the health care delivery system, and consecutive good state inspections. A resident of Renfrew, PA, she is a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Non-Profit Homes, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging, Butler County Community Perkins Participatory Planning Committee, and the Faith-Based Network. Charlene has three children, Jessica, a senior at Slippery Rock, Jeremy serving in the US Army in Korea and Jeffrey, a freshman at Mercyhurst.

What's Happening at Concordia



Backwards Fall Festival at Haven III, Monday, October 17th. Residents celebrated autumn eating dessert first and putting on their clothes backwards.



Free awareness information, screenings, massages, grand prizes, giveaways, food, financial and health insurance booths were available on October 20-21 at the "Fall Into Fitness" Health, Wellness and Benefits Fair.



On November 4, staff and residents both displayed quilts they or their family had made, in the Haven II Dining Room. Some dated back to the 1800s.



Employees at Concordia dress up on Halloween.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Residents Present Christmas Cantata

CABOT—Four years ago, residents of Concordia Haven Apartments, three retirement dwellings on Marwood Road and part of the continuum of services provided by Concordia Lutheran Ministries, formed a 35-voice choir under the leadership of Alma Wilson, former director of children and adult church choirs, a pianist and organist.

Concordia Havens Chorale will present a Christmas musical titled "The Gift Goes On" including favorite carols such as "How Great Our Joy", "Oh How Joyfully," "Joy To The World" and "O Come Let Us Adore Him." Several performances are scheduled for this season. Following two performances in late November, there will be one on Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. in the Haven II Chapel and the final performances on Monday, December 5 at 10 a.m. in the chapels at Lund Care Center and at 2:30 p.m. at Oertel Care Center.

"We do have some depth in this group," Alma Wilson says and credits three people who have been instrumental. Rev. Dick Bartmas, who sings bass, is a retired Christian Mission-

ary Alliance pastor who plays the violin; Leanne Kennedy taught music in the Fox Chapel Area School District and Hazel Meier is piano accompanist whose late husband was a Christian Missionary Alliance pastor. Assistant Director is Mary Elizabeth Saxion. Soloists are Esther Shook and Bob Stark.

"They are faithful and committed," notes Mrs. Wilson. "Our narrator, also a former schoolteacher, Nancy Black and her husband, Woody, purchased an extra microphone and he arranged the sound system to enhance the volume."

The choir includes six couples, all living in Concordia Haven III: Nita and Bob King; Peg and Bob Stark, Harriet and Dick Bartmas, Bob and Marlene Weissert, Jack and Betty Jenny and Mick and Doris Patterson. The choir added another new member this year, Loretta Lesniak.



Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus Schedule

December 4, 4 p.m. - Zion, Lawrenceville; spaghetti dinner to follow. Fundraiser for PALM. Matching gifts from Zion and Thrivent.

December 11, 3 p.m. - Oertel Care Center, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot and 6 p.m. - Haven II Chapel

December 18, 7 p.m. - Bethel, Glenshaw

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts October 14, 2005 through November 17, 2005

Congregational Donations

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park - Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - St. Luke Lutheran School, Cabot.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Dorothy Kitzki - Henry & Lois Dittmer - Frederick & June Bodnar. In honor of Leona Zitzman by: Kathryn McNutt. In honor of residents by: Phyllis Brown. In memory of deceased residents by: Joseph & Frances Michalek. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

General Donations

Patricia Goerss - John Huss Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society - Samuel & Connie Oesterling - Richard & Susan Boggs - Norman Morgan - Irvin & Vivian Sallach - Donald & Catherine Drack - Mary Jane Scully - Janet Kelly - Doug Bornemann - James & Barb Jones - Saxonburg Golden Agers - Mary Simmons.

Concordia at the Orchard

Lynn Scott

Capital Campaign Fund

Betty Gibson - Harold & Ruth Dille - Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh - Carol Magill - David & Patty Jo Erceg - Norma Allen - John & Barb Schneidmiller - Paul & Jayne Simpson. In memory of William Dananay and Fred Dananay by: Emil & Julie Dananay. In memory of Rev. Richard Kennedy by: Harry & Lois Shindledecker, Robert & D. Jaunita King. In memory of Ollie Girdwood, Dick Kennedy and Dorothy Cullen by: William & Shirley Freyer. In honor of Glen Stewart's 100th Birthday by: Earl & Margaret Pauli. In memory of Robert Holman by: Judy Holman. In honor of Keith Frndak for National Bosses Day by: William & Shirley Freyer.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of H.W. Wagner by: Mrs. Allen L. Hook. In memory of Clyde & Martha Kantner by: Norman & Ethel Rockwell. In memory of Hilda Lucas by: Albert & Joan Lucas, Calvin & Alma Eggers. In memory of Richard Kennedy by: James & Doris Patterson. In memory of Robert Holman by: Marie Malenky. In memory of Ollie Girdwood by: Gerline Gehr.

Wish List

Concordia Lutheran Ministries strives to meet the needs of our residents and with your help we can make their lives more comfortable. Please call 724.352.1571 for more information.

Rehabilitation:

- ◆ Upper and Lower Body Exercise Equipment, Individual Stations, \$15,000
 - ◆ Lite Gait, \$8,500
 - ◆ Hi-Lo Mat Table (2), \$6,000
 - ◆ Shuttle, \$6,000
 - ◆ Treadmill, \$6,000
 - ◆ Recumbent Bike, \$4,000
 - ◆ Bike, \$4,000
 - ◆ Modalities, \$3,000
 - ◆ Hydrocollator, \$3,000
 - ◆ Cold Pack, \$2,500
 - ◆ Activity Table, \$2,000
 - ◆ T.V. in Workout Area, \$500
- The Nursing Department:
- ◆ 2 or 3 "Ninjo" which is a flusher/disinfector machine made by Arjo for our new dirty utility rooms, \$3,800 each
 - ◆ Sara Lift - \$3,517.85 - patient lift
 - ◆ Carendo - multi-purpose hygiene chair, \$6,000

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Lund Care Center Expansion *Capital Campaign "A Time To Build..."*

REPORT OF PROGRESS: MAY 1, 2005 - NOVEMBER 1, 2005

GOAL:

\$2.5 million by November, 2007

CURRENT GIFTS & PLEDGES: \$855,298.98

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS: 475

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS:

A FULL COMPLEMENT OF PRIVATE ROOMS .
COUNTRY KITCHENS . A HYDRAULIC POOL . FOUR
SEASONS ROOM . DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SER-
VICES . 136 SKILLED BEDS AND 212 ASSISTED
LIVING UNITS UNDER ONE ROOF .



July 11, 2005



September 27, 2005



October 6, 2005



October 20, 2005



November 7, 2005

Consider a gift to Concordia's Capital Campaign ...

Call Shirley M. Freyer, Director of Development at 724-352-1571, ext. 266.

