



Pittsburgh Lutheran

December 2006

An Unforgettable 125th Year at Concordia

CABOT—A windswept fire ravaged the oldest of Concordia's apartment buildings, Haven I on Sunday, November 5th. While delegates from the 37 supporting churches were preparing to attend the annual delegates meeting, more than 100 volunteer firefighters from 16 fire companies were battling the inferno that began at 11:35 a.m. that morning. Quickly the meeting was moved to St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

President and CEO Keith E. Frndak expressed the pervasive mood, "Obviously, in terms of property loss, we have a catastrophe. But in terms of (the impact on) people, we feel very blessed."

Many of the residents were at church—a fact that acted both as a blessing and a hindrance for rescuers trying to account for the missing. None of the senior citizens living in the Concordia Lutheran Ministries building suffered any injuries.

Residents of the 114-unit independent living facility, built in two phases—first in 1990 and then in 1992—have moved into the new Lund Care Center Expansion set to open Nov. 13, transferring assisted living and skilled nursing residents from the Oertel Care Center.

The fire caused large portions of the Haven I building's roof to collapse into



As board members and congregational delegates were traveling to the annual meeting on Sunday, November 5, 16 fire companies were battling the blaze on the roof of Haven I.

third-story apartments while open-air balconies appeared littered with debris. The building's concrete floors did not collapse and the fire didn't seem to reach the first and second floors.

137 people were left without housing; all of their belongings were destroyed; 50 did not have insurance. Haven staff led by Larry Talmadge, Director of Retirement Services, worked all week trying to salvage the remains. Haven II and III residents have sacrificed their garages for storage and all are working as a team to make the ground and first floors of the new Lund expansion home to Haven I residents until the structure is rebuilt.

Banners throughout the campus repeat the message that "We Put Our Faith in Caring." And so have you, our Lutheran community as well as our neighbors. We want to express our heartfelt thanks for all the helping hands that have been extended to our family at Concordia in this difficult time. We count you as special blessings and know you will continue to keep us in your prayers.

Concordia has established a Resident Recovery Fund, c/o Concordia Lutheran Ministries, 148 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023 for donations on their behalf. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paula Sypulski at 724.352.1571, ext. 8271.



Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director for Lutheran World Relief and Human Care for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, preached on "Mercy in the Reformation" at the annual PALM-sponsored Reformation Rally on Sunday, October 29, to an audience of 274 adults and children.

Reformation Worship and Celebration Service

SHARPSBURG—Luther's last words are purported to be "We are beggars; this is true," said the Rev. Matthew Harrison at the beginning of his Reformation sermon. He went on to say that in order to understand mercy, you must be a beggar; the church must be a beggar. "Going to church is like coming with an empty sack," another Luther quote. The pastor fills your empty sack with forgiveness, mercy, grace and love; when you respond "Amen" you acknowledge that "it's in the bag."

When someone sins against you, open the sack and give them some of that forgiveness until, at the end of the week, you take your empty sack back to church to have it filled again.

"What kind of communities of mercy are we in our congregations?" asked Harrison. "Are our sacks full?"

Though the message was shared with less than 300 (down 21% from last year's attendance), giving was up.

(For more photos, turn to page 2.)

(Please turn to page 2.)

Reformation Celebration..

(Continued from page 1.)

The offering total was \$1800.55 (an average of \$6.57 person, compared with \$3.14 last year). Nearly a fourth less in attendance gave 64% more to benefit Unity Lutheran Community Outreach Children's Ministry.

Similar to the traditions of bridal wear, there was something old and something new this year.

New this year was organist this year James Skalos, and the Christ Lutheran Handbell Choir (Forest Hills) was directed by Lois Frerking. Choirs included the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus and the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools choir, both led by Ruth Miller (Zion-Lawrenceville). A brass ensemble played before and after the service,

For the *second* year, Rev. Barry Keurulainen shared a message of the weight of sin and the forgiveness through Christ with the children, using a small farm scale as a visual aid. And, as they did last year, the children led the congregation in acapella singing.

Of note this year, 16 deaf adults from Trinity Church of the Deaf attended and enjoyed the joint signing by Eunice Meier (Redeemer-Oakmont) and William Hallock (Ascension-McCandless). And bulletins in Braille, embossed by Rev. Douglas Spittel and Sherri Crum, director of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the blind, were provided for the blind.

Also for the *second* year, a dinner was provided for up to 300. This traditional German meal was arranged by Betty Bernhardt (First-Sharpsburg) and sponsored by Concordia Lutheran Ministries. Entertainment was also themed for the occasion, including D'Lustigen Esartaler dance troupe and an accordion player.

Thanks and appreciation to the following who planned the annual event:

Rev. Jamison Hardy (Our Savior-Mt. Lebanon), PALM Reformation Celebration Chairman, and worship lecturer.

Rev. Mark Ruppert (First-Sharpsburg), facilities and entertainment coordinator, and liturgist for the service.

Tim Bradford (Epiphany-Penn Hills), for publicity and arranging for the special music.

By Kate A. Hallock, Editor



Front row, left to right: Rev. Ron Rafferty (Immanuel, Braddock/Zion, Lawrenceville); Rev. Roger Nuerge (Prince of Peace, Freedom); Rev. Matthew Harrison, guest preacher; Rev. Michael Schumacher (St. Matthew, Pittsburgh); Rev. Berton Greenway (Grace, Penn Hills); Rev. Arthur Litke (Bethel, Glenshaw); Rev. John Weldon (Epiphany, Penn Hills). Back row, left to right: Rev. Robert McCannless (Concordia, Brentwood); Rev. Mark Ruppert (First, Sharpsburg); Rev. Jamison Hardy (Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon); Rev. Arthur Baisch (Concordia Lutheran Ministries); Rev. David Weeks (Calvary, Murrysville); Rev. Herbert Schumm (St. John, Millvale); Rev. Daniel Strussenberg (Good Shepherd, Whitehall); Rev. Jonathan Naumann (Redeemer, Oakmont).



Clockwise, from top left: Ruth Miller leading children's choir; James Skalos on the organ, and a member of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus; the German dance troupe performs on stage at the dinner; Eunice Meier and Bill Hallock sign "A Mighty Fortress"; Mt. Zion Elevated Brass ensemble, directed by Dave Archer, played a Festival Prelude on "A Mighty Fortress" before the service.

New Lund Center Expansion Open House Hosts Nearly 1000

CABOT—Just the week before the fire, Haven residents were treated to a preview tour of the Lund Care expansion. Buses shuttled them to and fro the afternoon of October 31st so they got the first peek at a structure they have been watching from groundbreaking nearly a year and a half ago.

Thursday afternoon, November 2, Concordia Lutheran Ministries staff hosted about 200 of the professional and business community complete with hors d'oeuvres, entrees and dessert including a chocolate fountain in each of the three dining rooms on each floor. Entertainment in those dining rooms came in the form of a pianist, Ruth Miller from Zion, Lawrenceville, violinist Andrew Percy and guitarist John Marcinyzin.

Then on Saturday the public was invited and more than 300 took the opportunity to view the outpatient therapy area complete with a hydrotherapy pool, physician office suites, the 10-bed Good Samaritan Hospice wing, X-ray and lab services provided by Butler Health System.



The plan was that all of Oertel's patients would be moved into the new rooms at Lund by mid-November and Oertel would be used for an expanded child care center, Providence Pharmacy and Concordia Visiting Nurses. The \$12.5 million project more than doubled Lund's size to about 240,000 square feet. Including the 170 new rooms, Lund will offer about 400 rooms, the majority of which are designed for one person. The two upper floors offer large balconies with a view of the new two-acre fishing pond and a quarter-mile walking trail.

Now Concordia's leadership is considering the possibility of moving skilled nursing patients from Oertel to the second floor of the new addition since Haven I residents will be occupying the ground and first floor. The local newspaper referred to the expansion as "the crown jewel at Concordia," a fitting home for Concordia residents.

20th Harvest Festival Celebrated with Song, Dance and the Word

HOMEWOOD-BRUSHTON—The Rev. Marky Kessa, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti in Jac'mel, Haiti, was guest preacher for Unity Lutheran Community Mission's 20th annual Harvest Home Festival on Nov. 19. Rev. Kessa attended Concordia Seminary-Ft. Wayne, IN.

His message followed song selections by the Immanuel Prayze Choir, soloist Kerriann Lauabach (Faith, Up-



per St. Clair, ELCA) and several interpretative dances by Unity's own Children of the Promise, under the direction of Cynthia Barnes. After Rev. Kessa spoke, the Gospel choir from Faith Lutheran (Lincoln/Lemington) sang several selections acapella. Guest organist was from Faith, Upper St. Clair.

Approximately 60-70 attended the celebration service, including guests from Ascension, McCandless; Calvary, Murrysville; Faith, Lincoln/Lemington; Good Shepherd, Whitehall; Immanuel, Braddock; and Trinity, Monroeville.



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*International Student Ministry***Not Too Old to be a Blessing**

SLIPPERY ROCK—Fern Fitzpatrick, an 83-year-old member of All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, is *not* too old to be a blessing. Even as a senior citizen she continues to be a blessing to American and international students who attend Slippery Rock University.

Fern used to help international students by driving them to the store for groceries and to the mall to browse. Her special treat was driving them to an all-you-can-eat pizza restaurant in Grove City. The hungry students appreciated the buffet and Fern's insistence on paying for the meal.

These students have never forgotten her kindness. Malindra from Sri Lanka sent her a wedding announcement and Linda from Kenya let her know that she had gotten married.

Although Fern no longer drives and she's moved into a wonderful assisted living apartment at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, she continues to be a blessing to students. An international student named Jane drove with me to visit Fern. Jane was astonished to see everything that Fern was crocheting because Jane's passion is crocheting. Her mother in Kenya taught her. She was so happy to have Fern show her what she was making and how to make it. As if she just understood that Jane didn't have any yarn to work with, Fern gave her several skeins of yarn. Jane acted as if she'd been given a million dollars. The next time she visited, she showed Fern the scarves she had crocheted with the yarn Fern had given her.

Fern prefers to remain active even while watching tennis and football on TV, so she crochets constantly. Recently she finished making twelve colorful child-sized afghans and wanted them to go where they would be most needed. Barb Wiles, director of the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Slippery Rock, was elated to receive Fern's labor of love. The afghans will be given to students and other women who come to the center. It was poignant to see how one afghan affected a child who was visiting the center the day they were delivered. This little girl was clearly taken by them. She looked at them wistfully, and then joyfully picked one out for herself when Barb Wiles asked if she'd like one.

Earlier this fall word came that

Fern's former student friend, Linda, had just had a baby girl. Of course Fern couldn't wait to crochet and send a pink teddy bear afghan to baby Chelsea. Linda's thanks reflect the joy she and her husband felt in receiving this lovely handmade gift from her dear old friend.

All Saints attends all the SRU orientations for new students and their parents. All Saints is known for having an attractive display table of photos, brochures and especially Fern's delicate crocheted angels and colorful crocheted crosses. Her angels attract students and parents to pause at the Lutheran table, where we get to say welcome and hello. Fern's work continues to make a difference.

Fern is not the only older person at ASLC who has been a significant blessing to students. Over 20 years ago, Andy Heasley, a warm and caring man in his 80s, was a father figure to many students. This October his American "daughter", Sherry Lynn Hershberger (nee Alexi) stopped by All Saints. She talked about what Andy and ASLC had meant to her as a student. Even after Andy's dear wife, Lou, died he continued to welcome Sherry to use his apartment to study. She later invited him to be part of her wedding! And Andy really treated internationals, like Daisy from Macao and others, as daughters. He exquisitely wrapped little Christmas gifts for each student, even though his financial means were limited. One student made a trip back to Slippery Rock from



California to visit his grave because he had meant so much to her.

All Saints is thankful to everyone who has been a blessing to students, but special appreciation goes to Fern and Andy, who have shown that age is no barrier to giving love and being a blessing.

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

Order Holiday Flowers and Help Student Assistance Fund

PITTSBURGH—St. Matthew Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Christmas Flower Sale to better provide financial assistance for the students attending its Christian Academy.

All proceeds from this flower sale will go to the Student Assistance Fund. They have contracted with a major local flower wholesaler and would ask that you place your Christmas Flower order with them.

The wholesaler is offering 6-1/2" pot poinsettias in red, white or pink for \$8, 6" pot cyclamens for \$8, and Norfolk pines 6" pot for \$9 and 8" pot for \$15.

Call Janet Seitz at 412.323.0857 or e-mail janetseitz@hotmail.com with your order by December 8th. Send your payment to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 600 E. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 by December 15th. Pick up will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 16th at the church.

Thanksgiving for Christmas

We all know the history of Thanksgiving Day...o.k., so we ALL don't know the history of Thanksgiving and, probably, we don't know ALL the history of Thanksgiving. Neither of those situations will seriously affect the taste of our Turkey and trimmings nor will either of them seriously change the course of our country's direction or affect its welfare. After all, as far as the "world" is concerned Thanksgiving is already past, even as I write this article (*before* Thanksgiving). In fact, by now, Thanksgiving is merely a mild "burp" in our headlong rush into spending delirium in order to finish the calendar year as loyal Americans, i.e., "those who celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by all-out shopping."

Actually, the history of Thanksgiving is really only fodder for grade-school children. They can imagine what it was like back then, but it remains story-like. Perhaps if we tried once more to put ourselves back in the Pilgrims' place just for a moment, we would not only be much more thankful but would also find our Christmas festivities truly genuine and deeply rewarding. Consider that they were not merely gathering for a periodic or even annual meal. They were gathering when there was just enough food to

celebrate the fact that they were not starving, merely surviving! They were taking the time to give thanks to God for still being alive, and they invited to this occasion the native residents who had assisted them in their distress and made survival possible. What isn't ever mentioned is that after all the horrors of their first year's struggle against starvation, disease and death, they would be once more entering the harsh winter ahead to face many of the same challenges and threats as the year before. They would be coming up on Christmas, by whichever custom the Puritans and Separatists practiced it. And its celebration would be in harsh weather with limited foodstuffs.

How different from our day, when a noted retailer emails me with the ad titled, "O Come All Ye Sales!" How different when today people are camped outside electronic stores for two days to buy a limited number of Playstation 3 at \$600 a pop! I could go on, but somehow not only has Christmas been hijacked, but it's also been re-created into a mere shell of its origin and meaning, loaded with commerce, phony themes and idolatry on a grand scale! (No, I am NOT the Grinch!) Let's see, the Infant has all but disappeared, especially since no one will mention either His name or what it means. No one is now quite comfortable with

angels, because to think too much about them opens scary thoughts. Gospel-based Christmas carols can be played if no lyrics are included. World-forbid that we should even mention the G-word—how many little minds might be frightened and warped?

If there ever was a time for witness, for simple, honest, straightforward mention that we are celebrating the second most wonderful Feast of the Christian faith, it is now. It is high time to say out loud that the God who rules all universes has, out of His great love for the wayward and hopelessly-lost residents of planet earth, arrived in the powerful weakness of a tiny child in a backwater village of Palestine, once known for its illustrious king David. Will you make the effort, the commitment, to mention in your holiday get-togethers, just how wonderful it makes you FEEL to KNOW that God's love has been born anew in your heart once more this season, that Jesus the Infant grew to become Jesus the Savior of all people through His dying on the Cross of God's Judgment? Will you invite your family members and friends to meet Jesus the newborn King who offers them life forever? That would be a great way to live out your Thanksgiving celebration into the fast-disappearing real Christmas before it's lost and gone forever.

The Rev. John H. Weldon

LCEF

Serving One People Fanning the Flame

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God . . ."
(2 Timothy 1:6)



In support of the *Ablaze!* movement, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) encourages all members of the LCMS to use their God-given resources to share the love of Christ with those who are lost.

Investments, loans, services—these are the resources LCEF uses to serve the entire LCMS. Our investment options allow investors to earn interest while pooling these funds to provide services and below-market loans to ministries that are "fanning the flame" of Jesus' love.

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Dec. 3 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, First Lutheran, Sharpsburg, 3 p.m.

Dec. 9 — Live Nativity, Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 6-9 p.m.

Dec. 9 — Christmas Shopping Child Care, First Lutheran, Sharpsburg, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 10 — Sanctuary Rededication, Zion, Lawrenceville, 4 p.m. Spaghetti dinner follows.

Dec. 16 — Flower Sale Pick-up, St. Matthew, Pittsburgh, 10 a.m. - Noon

Dec. 16 — Christmas Shopping Child Care, First Lutheran, Sharpsburg, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 17 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Lund Care Center Chapel, 3 p.m. and Haven III, 6 p.m.

Dec. 22 — Live Nativity, Immanuel, Braddock, 7-9 p.m.

Congregation News

Gearing up for Christmas...Project Angel Tree...Giving Trees

All Saints, Slippery Rock

Congregation to purchase new hymnal, Lutheran Service Book. Youth retreat theme was "Heaven or Hell: A Future Residence Guide". Children's Christmas program will be December 17. Advent soup suppers and services begin December 6. Youth to carol at area nursing home.

Ascension, McCandless

St. Matthew Christian Academy will be recipient of Giving Tree.

Bethel, Glenshaw

St. Matthew Christian Academy was \$1200 recipient of Oktoberfest fundraiser. Congregation in 16th year of Project Angel Tree; plans to sponsor 20-25 children of prisoners. Cookies for residents of Veterans Administration Hospital will be packed for 200. Seasonal activities include Christmas caroling to shut in members and some of the Angel Tree families. Congregation to join First Lutheran (Sharpsburg) and St. John's (Millvale) in rotating preachers for Advent services; Bethel services preceded by soup and salad dinner at 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas service will be Dec. 24, with children and youth presenting the Christmas story and message. Congregation to purchase new Lutheran Service Book.

Calvary, Murrysville

Children's Christmas Worship Service will be "Star of Love" on December 17, followed by a Joyfest. Over \$1800 raised at Pancake Breakfast for Child Development Center; with some matching funds from Thrivent, the Center will install new carpet in the classroom. 15 new members received since mid-September. Thanksgiving Day service offering given to Murrysville Medic 1. Small group training will begin in January. The youth group will have a lock-in on December 29th after a night of cosmic bowling and a stop at the "O" for hot dogs. They will also have a Bible Study and games at the church and breakfast the next morning. The craft fair and bake sale made \$1300 and the pre-school hoagie sale raised \$800.

Christ, Forest Hills

Sunday School Christmas Program will be "From Heaven Above" on December 17. Sunday School children set \$200 goal to raise mites for LWML by Thanksgiving. Welcome to new

members Peter, Monica and Oban McElwain, Kathy and Maisy Hanley and Janice Cuhna. Farewell to Rev. Ernest and Donna Knoche, who moved to Canton, GA last month.

Concordia, Brentwood

Rev. Robert McCanless serves as vacancy pastor. Sunday School Mission Project is the Adopt-a-Seminary Student program and the recipient is James Moshier, at Concordia Seminary-Ft. Wayne, IN.

Epiphany, Penn Hills

Epiphany will have soup and salad beginning at 5:30 p.m. before each Advent midweek service. Churches from around the area not having midweek services are invited and encouraged to attend. On Reformation Sunday three new communicant members received the Rite of Holy Communion; pictured are Katelin Rombach, Danielle Cicak and Jennifer Rombach.

**First Lutheran, Sharpsburg**

Remodeling work by members on a second rest room in the narthex basement is nearing completion. The coats and sweaters drive collection of donated winter wear was delivered to Associated Lutheran Missions/Sonshine Kitchen during October.

A Family Fun Night was held Nov. 17. Members, friends and community residents were invited to recreational activities and table games, snacks, and a movie in the church's multipurpose room. The featured movie was hilarious video clips from Victor Borge. A Christmas Dinner was held Friday, Dec. 1; a festive meal and an on-stage interactive program of Christmas music. Dec. 3 is a public Christmas concert by the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, followed by a reception. The concert will begin at 3 p.m., and include a time of audience participation in singing Christmas carols. Donations collected at the concert will benefit the Resident Recovery Fund for Concordia

Lutheran Ministries. The Fund is in response to the destructive fire on Nov. 5 which displaced more than 130 residents of Haven I apartments, destroying all of the belongings of many. On December 9th and 16th, adult and youth members of the congregation will host Dad and Mom's Day Out, at the church, offering care and activities for children while their Dads and Moms finish Christmas shopping for the family. A variety of Christian educational and entertainment offerings will be offered the kids, including a movie, crafts, a whacky educational appearance by Mr. Science, and an opportunity for kids to "shop" for small gifts to wrap for their parents. The service is for residents of the surrounding area, and the hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on each of the Saturdays. A fast-food lunch will be served. The three special Advent services will see Pastors Litke, Schumm, and Ruppert leading weekly services at Bethel, Glenshaw, St. John's, Millvale, and First Evangelical, Sharpsburg, in rotation. The churches will gather under the worship theme: Lift Up Your Heads—the King of Glory Waits.

Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh

Joel Meyer, member and student at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, MO, is recipient of congregational support. Congratulations to Gil and Audrey Smith on their 55th wedding anniversary. Children's Christmas Service "The Christmas Gift" will be December 17.

Inmanuel, Braddock

Live Nativity to be held Friday, December 22 at 7 p.m. Women's Society to collect hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for Crow Indians in Montana; have been doing so since early 1980s. Donations also being collected for men at Gateway Rehabilitation Center. Thrivent Helping Hands project to stock shelves at Unity Lutheran After-School Program.

Redeemer, Oakmont

Welcome to new members Keith and Pat Whitmer. Youth group will co-serve December dinner at Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind along with youth from Epiphany, Penn Hills.

St. John, Morrisdale

Two services offered on Thanksgiving Eve; 4 p.m. service to accommodate those who cannot drive at night; congregational Thanksgiving lunch held the day before. Advent services

...Shut-ins Visits, Caroling and More

begin December 6; Children's Program "From Heaven Above" will be December 24. LWML "adopts" seminary student Michael Diener, at Concordia Seminary-Ft. Wayne, IN. Women also support Bethesda Home resident Mark Iverson. Blanket ingathering for Lutheran World Relief resulted in 40 blankets. Fall Rally ingathering included over 150 cans and boxes of food for a local food bank, along with 35 blankets for Lutheran World Relief.

St. John, Millvale

Congregation joins Adopt-a-Student program; assigned to Stephen Shrum, Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, MO. St. John's celebrated the 30th anniversary of its preschool Nov. 12 with a special service; 25 students (a mix from all four classes) sang songs they learned in preschool about their Savior and His love. After the service a reception was sponsored by the congregation for the students, their parents and friends. Advent services will be held Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 7:30 p.m. Pastors Schumm, Litke, and Ruppert will take turns preaching on the theme, "Behold, the King of Glory Waits." The annual Progressive Dinner is Sunday, Dec. 10 beginning at 4:30 p.m. with appetizers are at Schumms. Christmas caroling is in the plans. Rev. Schumm is going to New Orleans Jan. 3-12 to help with Katrina recovery with a group from the Scranton area. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 2. Call Rev. Herbert Schumm for more details if you are interested.

St. Luke, Cabot

Advent services begin November 29. Adult choir participated in a Choir Festival to benefit the Lighthouse Ministry; members to assist Fish Bone Ministries with annual Christmas meal—both are area ministries that assist needy families. Thrivent Focus Grant was used for new Puppet Ministry. To earn the \$1,000 grant, 500 volunteer hours needed to be logged by October 15; cookie baskets were made and delivered to three nursing homes, where Sunday School children gave short puppet presentations.

St. Paul, New Kensington

Evangelist Bruce Carlson led a healing & anointing service in early November. Approximately six adults were confirmed on Reformation Sunday and taken into membership. Proceeds from annual Stay-at-Home Tea

will benefit local Meals on Wheels.

Trinity of the Deaf, Swissvale

The women of the congregation led the worship on LWML Sunday, October 8. Annual catered Thanksgiving dinner followed service on Nov. 19 with guest preacher Rev. Gary Lawson; former pastor Rev. Edwin Bergstresser will be guest preacher on December 17; Christmas program and dinner to follow. Sixteen members attended the annual Reformation Rally and enjoyed the dinner and entertainment after.



Zion, Accident, MD

Zion's "Year in Review" slide presentation will be shown at annual Christmas party hosted by Women's Group. LWML/Ladies Aid to carol at Goodwill Home. Sunday school children to collect money to send Christmas packages to Sri Lankan Lutheran Church to distribute to 500 children of tea plantation workers. Giving Tree to support area needy families as well as local Pregnancy Crisis Center. Sunday School Christmas Program will be Christmas Eve, entitled, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." Pre-service music by the Zion youth choir will begin at 7 p.m. Congregation adopting new Lutheran Service Book.

Zion, Bridgeville

New congregation photo directory to be available this month.

Zion, Lawrenceville

The annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 22nd yielded \$900 to be donated to Concordia Lutheran Ministries Capital Campaign. The traditional sauerkraut and pork dinner was served following a trombone recital by Richard Porter, enjoyed by about 60 in the audience.

Zion will celebrate a re-dedication of the refurbished sanctuary on Sunday, December 10 at a 4 p.m. worship service, featuring the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus. A spaghetti dinner will follow with proceeds to benefit Zion's Improvement/Paint Fund.

Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind

Oktoberfest Fun

OAKLAND—On Saturday, October 28, 2006, the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind celebrated Oktoberfest—our German-themed meal. As the following day was Reformation Day, the Reverend Eric Andrae used that as the Bible Study topic.

Sixteen guests, two of whom were new visitors to the PLCB, enjoyed a meal which featured pork, sauerkraut, bratwurst, salad, rolls, etc. and caramel-walnut or traditional apple pie and ice cream for dessert. Our ears also had a treat as the entertainment that day was provided by Lou Schreiber, with an impromptu appearance by Ellie Goldfon. Between the two of them, they played the piano and saxophone, and Ellie even sang some vocals. Pastor Andrae then conducted the Vespers Service which followed.

Many hands go into making the dinners successful. Among those who helped in October were members from the congregation of First Trinity, a group from Central Catholic High School, and a young lady from International Student Ministries. The meals are always a great time of friends, fun, food and fellowship.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved by volunteering or sponsoring a meal please contact Sherri Crum at 412.682.1800, or send an e-mail to director@plcb.net.

Pastoral Vacancies (and Coverage)

Christ, Forest Hills (David Mozeik, Deacon)

Concordia, Brentwood (Rev. Robert McCanless)

First Lutheran, Sharpsburg (Rev. Mark Ruppert)

Hope, Upper St. Clair (Rev. Jamison Hardy)

Pentecost, Avella (Rev. Scott Kuntz)

St. John, Brackenridge (Rev. Gene Lenk)

St. Paul, Braddock (Rev. Emil Lavcek)

St. Paul, New Kensington (Rev. Jack Hartman)

Trinity-Deaf, Pittsburgh

All Things Bright and Beautiful



All Things Bright and Beautiful by Barbara Jewell



Mocha by Caleb Boone, grade 9

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings Held at Bethel

GLENSHAW—Family members of persons with substance abuse problems support each other and get education about how best to help their loved ones. The Nar-Anon Family Group at Bethel meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m. Call the church office for more information (412.486.5777).

Live Nativity

BRADDOCK—Immanuel Lutheran Church, in observance of the Christmas Season, is presenting a Live Nativity Scene on the wall outside the church on Friday, December 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies will be served. You are invited to come and see this presentation of *Jesus' Birth: the Real Meaning of Christmas*. Anyone interested in participating can call the church at 412.271.1995.

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Annual Christian Art Show Well Attended

MURRYSVILLE—Visitors to the 31st annual Christian Art Show enjoyed 140 works of art by 49 talented local Christian artists, sponsored by Calvary Lutheran Church. The popular award (based on vote of visitors to the show) was a tie between "Moose", a pastel by 12th grader Sarah Boone of North Huntingdon and "The Shoe Tree", a mixed media assemblage by Debra Pedrow of Monroeville.

The feature artist, Barbara Jewell of Murrysville, presented a special exhibit of watercolors that expressed the words of the hymn, "All Things Bright And Beautiful". A companion exhibit featured artwork by students of three P.A.L.S. schools: Christ, Forest Hills; Redeemer, Oakmont; and St. Luke's, Cabot.



Sleepy Hollow by Nicolette Adamson, grade 7

Right, *A Summer Welcome* by Melissa Hoener, grade 8



The Shoe Tree by Debra Pedrow



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Sponsor a Radio Sermon

BRADDOCK—The Radio Ministry at Immanuel has been ongoing for over 50 years on WORD 101.5 FM Sundays at 10:30 a.m., supported solely by contributions.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, send your donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 420 Fifth Street, Braddock, PA 15104 (note Radio Ministry on your check) and include a note about the reason for the sponsorship (memorial, birthday, etc.) Full broadcasts cost \$150, but any donation is appreciated! It will be announced over the radio, in the bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. Business sponsors also welcome!

Campus Ministry**Lutheran Student Fellowship:****“Compassionate, exciting, educational, camaraderie, really good meals &...the love of Christ”**

OAKLAND—I was born in Monroeville and lived my entire childhood through young adulthood in the same house my parents bought when they got married. I am a member of my grandmother’s church. When most people say they are related to their

congregation, they usually mean spiritually; I, on the other hand, am referencing more than just the spiritual relationship, but also the bloodline relation that I have to many parishioners at my church. So, when it was time for me to choose a college for my

higher education, the University of Pittsburgh was the natural choice. There I could still be close to my family, my friends, and my home. There I could still be a member of my grandmother’s church.

In the fall of 1999, shortly after I received my housing assignment, a single bedroom in one of the pie-shaped living quarters, pleasantly referred to as Tower C, I also received an invitation from Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) to join them on Wednesday nights for Bible study and a home cooked meal. My first reaction was an immediate, “No, thank you.” I had taken, survived, and passed Luther’s Catechism when I was 14 years old, and if I wanted a home-cooked meal I just needed to hop on the Parkway and head east. However, instead of checking “no,” I held onto the invitation and started classes.

By the Wednesday evening of the first meeting, I was ready for a home-cooked meal *and* a reminder of God’s promises for my future. What I found at LSF was friendly, compassionate, knowledgeable leaders in Christ; good literature with exciting and intimidating questions; sometimes heated, but always educational discussions; a camaraderie that my first few days at college had neglected to provide me; and a *really* good home-cooked meal.

I continued to attend these weekly Bible studies and dinners throughout my college experience. I brought friends along. Pastor Andrae became more than a clergyman to me; he became a close friend, the man my fiancé and I asked to marry us (November 24, 2006), and a lifelong teacher. More than seven years after that first meeting I still remember the lessons, the love of Christ, the ministry, and the compassion I learned with LSF. And in case I forget any of it, I still have all the old books and Pastor Andrae’s email address to remind me.

*Alyson D’Ambrosio Cyprowski
Pitt Class of 2003 (B.A.), and
2005 (M.O.T.)*

To make a contribution to the campus ministry in Pittsburgh, please make a check out to “First Trinity” with “campus ministry” in the memo line, and mail to: LCMS Campus Ministry, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



Christ Lutheran, New Castle, Conducts Successful Stewardship Program

NEW CASTLE—On Sunday, October 22, a special Consecration Sunday Stewardship Service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in New Castle. The service concluded a six-week stewardship program led by Rev. Thomas Soltis, EM, SELC District Stewardship Director. The program, developed by Herb Miller, prepared members to complete an “Estimate of Giving” card on the basis of the following Biblical giving principles:

Proportionate: Percentage of income

Regular: Weekly

First-fruit: Funding God first

Rev. James Zang, pastor of Christ Lutheran, served as liturgist. Rev. Soltis delivered a sermon titled “No One Can Out-Give God” and a children’s message, “Sharing God’s Gifts.” Carol Flamino served as organist and Annette Miller directed the choir in singing “Make Me a Servant, Lord.”

Members concluded the service by completing the “Estimate of Giving” cards in their pews, indicating their weekly giving intentions for the next

twelve months. The cards were then individually placed into a chancel offering box with a whispered “Amen” to conclude the service.

A celebration luncheon, financed by the church treasury, was held immediately after the service in the church hall. After the meal, a report was given indicating an increase of \$11,631 in annual giving compared to the last 12 months (+12.5%). The congregation responded with a prayer of thanksgiving led by Don Miller, president, and the singing of the Doxology.

The planning team consisted of Jody Both, financial secretary; Carol Flamino, Ann Hauk, Don and Annette Miller, Richard and Geni Nieto, Rev. Zang and Rev. Soltis. Assisting the team were Millie Anttila, Carol Lang, George Lang, Irene Matas, church secretary; Bill Schroeder and Henry Schulz. Those involved were responsible for mailings, worship service presentations, luncheon reservations, financial reporting, enlistment of church leaders and personal member visitations.

Submitted by Rev. Thomas Soltis

Christ, Forest Hills

1st Quarter Honor & High Honor Roll Students

HONOR ROLL: 6th Grade: Jasmine Williams; 7th Grade: Michael Sivak

HIGH HONOR ROLL: 4th Grade: Joscelyn Lydon, Claire Mallick, Shawn McGinnis, Raeanne Riberich, Marcus Robinson; 5th Grade: Sonny Breeger, Sarah Niermann, Avalon Rieger, Sonya Toft, Michaela Walker; 6th Grade: Heather Catley, Maggie Lilac, Ngozi Okolo, Kristen Thompson-Davis, Melissa Privette; 7th Grade: Collin Donaldson, Ethan King, Kristin McMahon, Haley Tougher; 8th Grade: Samantha Boettner, Ashley Kenny, Lauren Sivak.

On November 9 the students of Christ Lutheran Child Care shared the story of the first Thanksgiving with their families and members of the congregation. Turkey Lurkey (played by Principal Lois Frerking) told the story as the childcare Pilgrims and Native Americans acted it out. Over 100 people attended this program and the delicious turkey dinner that followed.



Redeemer, Oakmont

Redeemer Lutheran School had a very busy November. Starting with the Christian Art show at Calvary, in which many of our students participated, it then moved to a very successful Ladies' Luncheon and Auction at the Oakmont Country Club. Over 100 women attended and 75 baskets of items were auctioned off.

Following that event, our school hosted a community Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony. English District President Rev. David Stechholz happened to be in town and led the parade. Rev. Jerome Panzigray, pastor of John Huss Lutheran and a Navy veteran, led the ceremony at the cemetery. Each class made a wreath to place at the war memorial. Bill Seitz, a member of St. Matthew, played *Taps* and *Amazing Grace* on the trumpet. Afterward we treated the veterans to cookies and punch at the school. The local Ameri-



can Legion donated 150 American flags. Our middle school students measured our property line and came up with the formula to place the flags evenly apart along our property.



The next event was the PALS Spelling Bee at St. Luke. Fourteen Redeemer students in grades 4 - 8 participated, and Bobby Colbert a 7th grader at Redeemer, was the grand champion.



The next Saturday, our students participated in the Light-Up Night festivities in Oakmont. They sang the Christmas story, and played traditional Christmas carols on the bells.

Our last activity was a school-wide Native American Center day. Each teacher prepared lessons on a specific Native American tribe and instructed the students in their culture and religion. We used Mission Friends materials from LCMS World Mission. After all of that activity we took a well deserved Thanksgiving break.

This month we are looking forward to several opportunities to bring the true Christmas story to the community and to our friends. We will join PALS for a Christmas concert on Tuesday, Dec. 12,

at noon at the PPG Wintergarden. Our students will present *Christmas in Reverse* to the community on Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at Tenth St. School, and again at the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Lund Center the following day. Our middle school students will go to the Byham to see *The Musical Christmas Carol*, culminating a novel study on the Charles Dickens novel, and our K - 5th graders will culminate their *Charlotte's Web* study with a trip to the theatre on Dec. 20 to see the movie.

In addition to our many activities and service projects, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for children attending St. Matthew School and Unity Mission Afterschool program. If you would like to participate in this project, which is in its 26th year, please call Redeemer 412.828.9323.

By Gail Holzer, Principal



Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann and his wife Cheryl dress up as Dr. Martin and Katie Luther to celebrate Reformation Day. The children were impressed with Pastor Naumann's knowledge of the German language, and were even able to respond to a few of his questions as Redeemer has added German to the core curriculum this year.

PALS

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools received a very generous gift from Concordia Ministries. A committee has been formed to find the most God-pleasing way to use these unexpected funds. We welcome MaryAnn Bornemann to our Board as the Treasurer, and continue to seek others who are interested in serving our Lutheran Schools. If you are interested, please contact Terry Nelson-Taylor, at Redeemer Lutheran.

St. Luke, Cabot

Following Concordia's devastating fire, St. Luke students, parents, and staff responded immediately with donations of cash, gift certificates, and bags full of requested items. Because we have personal connections with many Haven residents, our kids also sent a 20-foot paper banner signed and decorated by the entire school population, as well as some individual notes. We've heard the relocated Havenites appreciated reading the names and messages of faith, love and cheer.



The Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee for grades 4-8 was held here on November 11. Representing St. Luke were: Grant Yurisc, Jacob Willetts, Hayle Fox, Dakota Thomas, Sean Daugherty, Levi Shearer, Alyssa Gizienski, Nathan Poeppel, Libby McKinnis, Justin D'Antonio, Kelly Capestrani, Josh Sheppeck, Jenna Trill, Amanda Lynn, and Evan Beilstein. Of the dozens of knowledgeable spellers who competed, the St. Luke winners were: Grade 4—Grant Yurisc, 1st place; Grade 5—Dakota Thomas, 1st place; Grade 6—Nathan Poeppel, 2nd place, and Alyssa Gizienski, 3rd place; and Grade 8—Amanda Lynn, 1st place.

St. Luke is participating in a simple paper recycling project that earns the school a few dollars, while keeping tons of this recyclable resource from rotting in a landfill! We are asking everyone we know to deposit their newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and other trashed papers into a bright John Deere-green-and-yellow "paper retriever" bin that is conveniently positioned at the edge of our parking lot. This great stewardship service is provided by Abitibi Local Fundraising Paper Recycling.

Students will offer three Advent worship services: December 6, at 7 p.m., sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will share Christmas songs, dramas, and Scriptures. Grades K-5 will present "Three Wee Kings" on December 13 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

By Sharon Ambrose



St. Matthew Christian Academy

Matt Troy, who has attended St. Matthew since kindergarten, took second place in the 8th grade competition at the PALS Spelling Bee, and third place in the Grand Championship bee. Matt and his brother and sister, fraternal twins Nikki and Robbie, were the St. Matthew entrants in the bee this year.



St. Matthew students, families, and friends enjoyed this year's Harvest Party, which was held the last day of first quarter. This year's party was hosted by St. Matthew congregation members, led by Janet Seitz. Pastor Schumacher appeared as Martin Luther, explaining the importance of the 95 Theses and the Reformation, including the various elements of Martin Luther's seal. Many pumpkins were painted, and participants had to sweep balloons around a course marked by orange cones. A sumptuous hot dog feast was served. At the end, everyone received a bag of candy.

The last regular-season ride of the St. Matthew Mileposters took place October 21 on the Youghioghny River Trail between Boston, PA and Dravo Landing, using the articulated quint, a jointed bicycle for five riders. It was the first trip for the tail gunner (last stoker); other stokers included a third-trip novice and the 82-miles-a-day recordholders, one of whom made the entire trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC this year. A "polar bear"

ride and snow hikes are planned in the upcoming months.

An indoor Steelers Tailgate Party was held November 19 at St. Matthew as an opportunity for fellowship between church members and school families. Participants enjoyed watching the traditional high-rivalry Steelers-Browns game in Cleveland, relaxing in front of a giant-screen television and mountains of food, for the kickoff.

PTCL volunteers will run the annual St. Matthew Christmas Store again this year. Each student is allowed to buy a gift-wrapped Christmas present for each member of his or her household for a total of \$1. White elephant gifts are needed for the store, and we would appreciate donations. Please call the school office at 412.321.6662. Other events scheduled for December are Gingerbread House Day, another great time of fellowship between congregation members and school families, and Mom and Pop Shop Day, when parents will be able to drop their children off for fun and crafts while they go and shop for Christmas presents.

On December 12, St. Matthew students will join those of other Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools to sing at the lunch hour in the Wintergarden at PPG Place in downtown Pittsburgh. The St. Matthew school Christmas program will be during the Advent service December 20, with a presentation of *Hurry, Listen! Jesus Is Born!* Students in kindergarten and first grade will act out the Christmas story while upper-grade students provide narration. Traditional Christmas carols will alternate with special songs by the school children.

The St. Matthew Student Assistance Fund Auction will return in February. Donations of new or like-new items will be gladly accepted; call the school at 412.321.6662.

By Mark Shields, Principal

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Elects Six New Board Members

CABOT—Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO, Concordia Lutheran Ministries announced the election of six new board members at the annual delegate meeting on November 5. 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 follow.

William Hallock, of Bradfordwoods, is a member of Ascension Lutheran Church since 1993. Currently a teacher of deaf adults with Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh, Bill is active in the deaf community and spends most Sundays worshipping or leading services at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Swissvale. He also teaches at Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, IN for two weeks each summer at the Church Interpreter Training Institute. Bill is gifted in languages and holds a B.A. in German with a minor in Russian from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN; he also speaks Spanish and is fluent in American Sign Language. Prior to his current career in education, Bill served in the U.S. Navy, managed the flight departments for Rockwell International-Sabreliner Division and Mellon Bank, owned a graphics design business, was a pilot for USAirways and managed the IT Department at Communifax Corporation, a local marketing company. When not studying ASL, Bill enjoys boating, bicycling and home improvement. He is married to Kate Hallock, editor of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*.

Rev. Jamison Hardy, pastor since December, 2000 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mt. Lebanon, graduated with a B.A. in Education from Concordia University in Mequon, WI before he entered Concordia Theological Seminar in Fort Wayne, IN. A member of the English District, Western Region Mission Action Council since 2001, he also serves as Pastoral Representative of the Circuit of the Synodical Convention in 2004 and Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference in 2003. He has been chairman of the Pittsburgh Reformation Rally for Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Churches since 2001. As a member of the Concordia Board the past three years, he served as Chair of the Personnel & Chaplaincy Committee as well as on the

Executive and Facilities Management Committees. He is also a member of the Lutheran Health & Human Care and Concordia at Rebecca Residence subsidiary Boards. He is a member of the Board of Directors for District 14B Lions Club International and President of the Mt. Lebanon Lions. Pastor Hardy is married to Wendy and has two sons, Noah and Nathan.

Rev. Barry Keurulainen is Senior Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot where he has served since 1982. Rev. Keurulainen has enjoyed various leadership roles in the Eastern District, the Synod's Board of Evangelism Services and the Lutheran Family Association and Adult Gatherings for the District. He also served the Synod's Board of Evangelism Services as a member of its task force for Witnessing to the Unchurched Family Member and on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Family Association of LCMS, as well as the International Pastoral Advisor for the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Concordia Publishing House published his work, "Walking in the Shadows," a study in the area of death and grief, Lifelight Bible Studies which he co-authored on the topic of "Conflict Management" and "Romance and Sexuality," along with devotions he wrote for the publications of "Portals of Prayer" and various newsletter articles for national publication. Most recently he authored "50 Days Ablaze!" – a mission oriented devotional study. Pastor Keurulainen served on the Concordia Board from 1998 – 2003. He is married to Andie, a teacher at St. Luke.

James Limbaugh is an attorney with the law firm of Miller Limbaugh & Conley in Allison Park, Jim is a graduate of Parsons College in Fairfield, IA with a B.A. in history; and Ohio Northern Law School in Ada, OH with a J.D. He has served five three-year terms on the Board of Director for Concordia, holding offices as president and vice president. Currently, he is a member of the Governance, Nominating, and Strategic planning committees of the Board. This will be his second consecutive term. He is married to Karen and has four children. They are residents of Cabot and belong to St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot.

Terry D. Miller has been a Nuclear Cardiology Technologist for 32 years. Terry currently works at UPMC St. Margaret having spent the greatest part

of his career at St. Francis Medical Center. Terry has been a member of Zion since his marriage 30+ years ago. He was Treasurer for the congregation for the last 26 years until he took the post as President this past year. In addition he has served as elder, Sunday School teacher and Sunday School superintendent for more than 20 years as well as chef for all special events at Zion. Terry was a member of the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) board for two years where he was elected treasurer the last year. He has been a frequent Delegate for the LCMS District convention and a Thrivent contact person for Zion. Also to his credit is his work with Campraise for 18 years. He is married to Ruth who retired as a music teacher from the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education after 31 years. Ruth is church organist at Zion and director of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus. They have one daughter, Naomi and one granddaughter, Felicity and live in Shaler Township. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville.

John Toperzer has been a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Brentwood since 1960, John served as President, Vice President and Sunday School Teacher. Currently an Elder, Usher, Worship Assistant and Vice President in his congregation, he also represents his church as a PALM and Concordia Lutheran Ministries delegate. John was President and Director of PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries) from 2000 to 2003. Retired from Bayer Corporation as Principal Mechanical Engineer in 1996, he earned his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon (Carnegie Tech). John particularly enjoys his work as a volunteer for the Money Management Program co-sponsored by AARP and the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging and administered by Ursuline Services, Inc. He is widowed and has two children who also are active at Concordia Lutheran Church.

Each will serve a three-year term. Charlotte Nist was appointed to serve out the term of former board member Lisabeth Kraynie who resigned to serve on the Concordia Visiting Nurses Board.

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

Good Samaritan Hospice Opens Door at New Lund Expansion

Competition. It wasn't a concern of Cicely Saunders decades ago when she founded what we know today to be hospice, yet as hospice providers in Pennsylvania it is something we face day in and day out. New hospices open their doors on a weekly basis. Just when you think you're ahead of the game, you read a release of the state of the art facility opening its doors vying for the same patients that you serve. Hospice has become a business...and it will continue to do so if we allow it to happen.

But hospice shouldn't be "state of the art" but rather, state of the HEART. And since 1998 that is exactly how Good Samaritan Hospice has served community members from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler and Westmoreland counties.

Cristen Krebs, Founder and Executive Director of Good Samaritan Hospice, built her program by keeping the focus always on patient care. Employed for a short time by a for-profit program, she saw firsthand how a business approach quickly loses sight of the patient. "It has been documented in the *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine* that for-profit hospices have been known to provide fewer services to their patients. In fact, it was noted that terminally ill patients cared for by for-profit hospice providers receive only half the full range of available services," shared Krebs. "That's not acceptable. Hospice is a team approach and every component of that team - of that program, is equally important and should be offered to each and every patient."

Is it a case that ownership can affect the quality of care? Many believe that for-profit programs focus not on patient care, but rather on the bottom line for themselves and for their shareholders.

Approached by corporate for-profits in the past, Good Samaritan Hospice has refused to become a part of the business world of hospice and thus far has persevered. The program is the only non-profit hospice program founded on Christian principles serving the Greater Pittsburgh area as both a home based hospice and as a hospice residence. Care has always been provided to Good Samaritan Hospice patients in their own homes since the inception of the program a little more than eight years ago. Realizing several community residents facing a terminal illness could no longer safely re-

main in their own homes toward end-of-life, Good Samaritan designed, built, and opened the doors to the Good Samaritan House in Wexford - a 6-bed inpatient unit, to provide round-the-clock care at end of life. The house serves as home to all who enter.

Vision with regard to exceptional patient care has always been a part of Good Samaritan Hospice. In January 2005, Good Samaritan partnered with Concordia Lutheran Ministries to complete Concordia's service continuum by providing quality end-of-life care to their Cabot campus residents. It also provided the opportunity to extend Good Samaritan's service area to help those in Armstrong, Butler, and Westmoreland counties in need of hospice care.

This month, with the expansion of Concordia's Lund Care building, another extension of Good Samaritan Hospice will be presented. Good Samaritan Hospice at Concordia is a 10-bed inpatient hospice and respite wing included as part of the expansion. In addition to the private patient rooms, the wing includes a great room, kitchen/dining area, chapel and private gardens. Approved visitors are welcome 24-hours a day and overnight accommodations in the patients' room are available.

"Of course we are excited about the unit, but the true excitement is knowing that even more people in need of our care will be able to receive it and in a setting that is familiar to them. We've gone to great lengths to ensure that our unit offers all the comforts of home and for the extended family members to feel welcome," shared Krebs. "Until state representatives in the capital move on legislation which would require a certificate of need for hospice-or at a minimum, a thorough review of new hospice programs (especially for-profit programs) prior to opening their doors-we all are going to be faced with this ongoing competition. However, as long as the staff of Good Samaritan live by our hearts, and continue to provide exceptional care at a very special time of life we know we are doing all that we can."

Community residents are urged to write to their local representatives and urge them to move on legislation for the commonwealth to require a certificate of need for anyone wishing to begin a new hospice program in Pennsylvania. With everyone's help, we can assure that our community will have quality end-of-life care available to all.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Receipts October 12, 2006 through November 16, 2006

General Donations

Calvin & Alma Eggers - Albert & Joan Lucas - Richard & Susan Boggs - Rick McIntyre - Regis & Bernice Yeager - Kevin & Lori Rockwell - Dr. James & Doris Throne - Tom Schell - Norman Morgan - L.W.M.L. of Redeemer Lutheran Church - Dale & Helen Chapman - Paul & Judy Brand - John Huss Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society - Janet Inghram - Robert & Marilyn Sproule - James & Betty Lou Bauer - Gerline Gehr - Sheryl Fitch - George & Tanya Heidel - Gary & Tina Stone - Irvin & Vivian Sallach - Herb & Nancy Laich - Richard & Anita Neitzel. In honor of Fred & Kay Roehlich's 50th Anniversary by: Kathryn Canfield. In honor of Freda Azinger's 100th Birthday: Thomas & Margaret Kibel - Walter & Lillian Blocki - Wilma Byers - Joseph & Kathleen Arlof - Mr. & Mrs. Birtalan.

Congregational Donations

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Albion - Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville.

Good Samaritan Endowment Fund

Edith Lewis - Geraldine Williams - Dorothy Kitzki - Charles & Mildred Koenig. In memory of Walter Grimm by: Elizabeth Senulis. In memory of Edward McGovern by: Elsa Ellermann - Lydia Strehl. In memory of residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries by: Keith Frndak.

Capital Campaign Fund

Regis & ValJean Brown - Joe & Martha Schiedel - Charles & Sandy Purucker - Edith Waltenbaugh - Frank Fowler - Dr. Carl & Ida Bean - Harold & Ruth Dille - Peg Schelien - Ruth Frohn - Doug Bornemann. In honor of Haven III staff by: Joseph & Frances Michalek. In honor of Keith Frndak by: Bill & Shirley Freyer. In memory of parents by: David & Martha Alsing. In memory of Leota Boltz by: Beverly Haberstroh - F. Krzak. In memory of Roy Fischer by: Ira & Louise Spackman. In memory of Irene Ravigoni by: Richard & Cathy Haas. In memory of Mary & Micheal Leszon by: Robert & Rose Marie Miller.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Edith Fowler by: Karen Fowler - I.B.E.W. Local 1957 - Ruth Brewer. In memory of John Gizienski by: Brian Homes, Inc.

Concordia at The Orchard


Lynn Scott.

Concordia at Ridgewood Place

Ronald & Lisa Kazimer.

Staff Appreciation Fund

Jeffrey and Wanda Rall.

A framed photograph showing several hands reaching out to hold a heart-shaped pendant. The pendant is made of a dark, textured material with a lighter center. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned around the pendant, suggesting a collective effort or support. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light.

WE PUT OUR
FAITH IN
CARING.
And so have you.

Hands are meant to be held, and we want to express our heartfelt thanks for all the helping hands that have been extended to our family at Concordia in this difficult time.

When tragedy strikes and the road ahead seems darkest, it's only human to ask, "How could this happen -- and where can we turn for help?" The recent fire at Concordia Haven Apartments was a tragedy, but thanks to the thousands of helping hands of our firefighters, our staff, and the entire community, as well as the power of our God, not a soul was harmed and restorative efforts are already under way.

Your caring and faith have touched us deeply. We always count our blessings. And one of our biggest blessings is you. We are forever grateful.

134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023 tel: 1.888.352.1571 www.concordialm.org

