
The Parish Voice

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA

Volume 25, No. 3

March, 2008

In the Quiet Contemplation...

Dear Friends,

I have always been a morning person, and I treasure the quiet contemplation of the early part of the day. I usually can turn off the "busy" of my mind and calendar and hear the Lord more clearly this time of day. For me, it is a strengthening and prayerful time.

The season of Lent is like that for us in the Church. It is a time when we experience a quieter worship, a more reflective mood, and a time when we try to stop the "busy" of our community life, setting aside special time to hear the Lord anew.

Many of us "give up" or "take on" something during Lent to draw us closer to Jesus Christ. We do that to remember and give thanks that Jesus bowed His life to conquer sin and death forever on our behalf. We prepare for the celebration of Easter again by walking with Jesus through His suffering journey of the cross.

As you journey through Lent this year with Jesus, may you hear the life that God gives you in Jesus. The quiet, prayerful time is not an absence of that life – it is a time to experience the presence of God's love for you. Be prayerfully strengthened in Jesus' pain, for that pain is love borne for you.

*Jesus Comforts His Disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God; trust also in me."*

John 14:1

Your partner in mission and ministry,

Pastor Pat :-)

Lenten & Easter Services

Wednesdays during Lent:

Noon – 1:00 p.m. - Soup & The Word at Christ Church

4:00 p.m. - Quiet Communion

7-7:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer Service (no service March 19)

March 16 – Palm Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Communion with Procession of Palms

March 20 – Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Communion with foot washing

March 21 – Good Friday - 7:00 p.m. worship at Christ Church;

Noon to 3 p.m. prayer vigil at Trinity Lutheran Church

March 22 – Holy Saturday - 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at First Lutheran Church, Watsontown

March 23 – Easter Day - 10:00 a.m. Festive Easter Communion

Prayer Concerns . . .



**Remember
in
Prayer** *Members, Friends and Family
of Christ Lutheran Prayer
List...*

Inez Bingaman; Maxine Bingaman; Bob Boyer; Gene & Sandy Buck; Steph Byers; Harley Cameron; Evelyn Campbell; Karen Campbell; Ben Case; Miles Crawford; Mary Crocimus; Rose Deaner; Jane Dulaney; Jane Dietrich; Betty Dobbs; Cy & Christine Eminhizer; Fay Engleman; Betty Eskildson; Laurie Fisher; Simon Francis; Jeff Frederick; Joyce Frederick; Ned Germini; Landon Brown; Kellie Gross; Ida Mae Hartman; Frank & Bessie Hartzel; Sam Henney; Mindy Hewitt; Ben Housner; Jessica Huber; Michelle Ishler; Raymond Keefer; Marraine Kettel; David King; Lillian Longenberger; Corey Lose; Arlene Marason; Audrey Miller; Marc Miller; Tim Miller; Terry Moll; Dan Morgan; Ruthella Nesbitt; Robert Newman; Sue Newton; Hunter Page; Lola Pappas; David Pisani; Betty Raup; Jamie Reed; Kathryn Reitz; Orvis Rockey; Jim Russell; Judy Schneider; Tammy Schneider; Gary Scholl; Mike Slease; Laurie Smith; Mackenzie Snyder; Nancy Snyder; Mary Steeley; Dorothy Stevens; Charles Symanski; Ben Trego; Terry Valiquette; Sandy Wagner; Rose Walsh; Audrey Wands; Eric Watson, Jr.; Justin Watson; Stewart Watson, Jr.; Danette Weikel; Beth Wertz; Jack Wertz; Kathy; Jennifer

Homebound & Special Concerns Members...

Bill & Phyllis Albertson; James Bartlett; Carrie Bastian; Blanche Benfer; Caroline Bobb; Lucille Bruss; Mary Burns; Dr. Ken and Betty Jeanne Callenberger; Edith Coup; Anna DeHart; Betty Dotts; Gladys Fisher; Irmgard Gordos; Merritt & Doris Heffelfinger; Margaret & Tommy Kline; Mary Kathryn Leiby; Helen Manning; Dix and Pauline Reitz; Marguarite Ruth; Connie Sholly; Marie Springer; Leah Walker; Kenneth Webb; Nancy Weikel; Jeannine Wilkerson; Josephine Yocum

Military...

Adam Arndt; Todd Beck Jr.; Amy Brown; Joshua Brown; Justin Dorman; Matthew Dorman; Daniel Gonzales; Gabriel Gonzales; Justin Gonzales; Christopher Grimsley; Jay Milinichik; Anthony Nudson; Dan Moll; Brandon Rathfon; Glenn Snyder; Eric Strobeck; Stephanie Ulmer

More prayers needed...

These are *member families* we have prayed for in Church since last issue: Lee Deaner; Donald Gray; Blaine & Dorothea Poeth; Anna DeHart; Betty Eskildson; Michael Hulsizer; Franklin Webb; Margaret Derr; Matthew Jones; Michael Reaser; Tim Walsh, Jr. & Gavin; Robert Derr; Scott, Maxine, Christopher Jones; Leah Walker; Evelyn Dewire; Mae Keefer; Shereen Miller; Tina & Jayden Patraw

For all the "big kids" who have recently assisted with youth ministries at Christ Church - teaching, mentoring, chaperoning, and just being there:

Larry & Barb Gray, Kellie Brouse, Steph & Lauren Byers, Ed & Penny Coup, Rose Deaner, Kay Dunn, Don & Laurie Fisher, Gerald Greenly, Jen Harrington, Heather Martin, Nancy Mensch, Kim Mitch, Betty Morgan, Pastor Pat & Pastor Keith, Judy Schneider, Donna, Rachael, & Julia Spear, Penny Ulmer, Pam Walsh, Harold Webb, and Ashley Winner.

Remember Blanche Benfer and family in the loss of their husband and father, Kermit. A celebration of Kermit's life will take place at Christ Church at a later date. Please watch the local newspaper and our Church bulletin for information about the date and time.

Also remember the family of John & Mary Becker, as they grieve the loss of their home in a fire that took place during our worship hour on Sunday, February 17. They live next door to our members, Nevin & Nancy Mensch.

Remember these leaders and congregational families as you offer your prayers this next month.

Thank You . . .

- To all who are giving generously to help with our hosting of this year's Soup & The Word at Christ Church. Special thanks to Betty Morgan for coordinating things for us!
- To all our Property folks who are working to complete our new bathroom. Special thanks go to Frank Hartzel and Roger Watts.
- To Steph, Lindsay, Lauren, Ryan, and Alyssa Byers and to Chuck, Kim, Brent, and Austin Mitch for all your help arranging this year's Souper Bowl of Caring!
- To all our youth and adults who participated in the Love Bags for the Children's Hospital in Danville. Thank you to all who attended, who made bags and purchased items for the children, and for all who offered prayer for this special ministry!
- To all our youth and adults who participated in and helped with our recent youth overnights and fun time! We had a great time!
- To our guest speakers in Lent – Marty Gates of Women in Transition; and Duff Ripka of LOVE, In The Name of Christ. We were blessed to hear of their ministries and ways we can continue to support those ministries.



Thank You Notes . . .

Thank you for your support of the Luscombe family through prayer and the "For Diana" CD fundraiser. With your assistance and the generous help of Thrivent, more than \$31,000 has been raised. Please keep Diana, Mark, and the kids in your prayers along with all of those in need the world over. God's peace and blessing to you and yours.

- Tobias Anderson
Faithful Folk: Making Christ Known

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and especially visits because they all meant so much. I always enjoy a visit to my home. It helps for those of us who now live with only memories, pets (!) We miss the company of others more! Thank you again.

- Betty Eskildson

Thank you so much for the opportunity to come and talk to you a bit about Gettysburg Seminary. I so appreciate your time and your commitment to the ministry of Christ's Church. As you know, you have a most gifted pastor – who has come to you out of Gettysburg and the work of the Holy Spirit. I thank you for your prayers and your open eyes for future leaders, and please keep Gettysburg Seminary before you as a possible place for gifts to support future leaders of the Church. Blessings,

- Pastor Cheryl Berner

Thank you for your gift of \$64 which will support all projects and activities necessary to carry on ministry.

- Rev. Timon C. Iverson,
Exec. Director, Global Health Ministries

I wanted to say thank you for the lunch at McDonald's. It was fun.

- Alyssa Byers

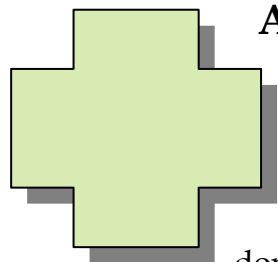
Thank you to Pastor Pat for the special service for my husband, Jim. Also, thanks to all for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and acts of kindness. God bless you all.

- Evelyn Campbell

I Am Thankful Note

I appreciated the gifts of all the music groups (staff and participants) that were shared with our congregation in worship on December 24, 2007 (and all Sundays).

- Ruth Greenly



American Red Cross

Food Bank – The Red Cross is collecting *peanut butter & jelly* for the month of March. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex. Thank you.

~ SANDWICH SALE ~

Thursday, March 13

Sign-up sheet in narthex

Order deadline – Friday, March 7

5th Sunday Hymn Sing - send in your favorite suggestions!

In March, we have the blessing of another 5th Sunday in the calendar, and that means another 5th Sunday hymn sing! Send in your favorites either by calling the church office or writing your selection on a piece of paper and placing it in the offering plate. (If your favorite hymn is not in either of our hymnals, let us know. We will print out hymns that are not in violation of copyright licenses if we can find them.) Be sure to call no later than

Easter Sunday so we have time to put together the hymn sing bulletin.

Let's lift up glory to the Lord with the music that has touched our lives in so many special ways!



Please note that *April's newsletter deadline* will be Friday, March 14, with assembly on Thursday,

March 27. Many thanks to Roger Watts for knowing just when to stop by the Church Office and remedy an equipment malfunction!

This Month's Special Appeal Envelopes - Hunger

(envelope provided with newsletter)

Have you ever been hungry?

Really hungry? Wondering if you'll live through the night hungry? Millions of people in the world deal with that every day. You have a chance to help them by supporting a Northern Lights event called the "30-hour famine." Its purpose is to help participants experience hunger, even in a brief time, that helps us understand what millions in the world know every day of their lives!

Youth, grades 6-12, and interested adults, are invited to abstain from solid food beginning after lunch on Friday, March 7, through Saturday, March 8, at 6 p.m. We will spend an overnight together at Trinity that Friday for those who wish, or you may participate by fasting at home. You drink liquids, as much as you want, but save any solid foods for Saturday evening. In fact, we will be offering a communion service at Trinity

following the fasting, showing our unity in serving others and our fellowship in Jesus Christ.

The overnight begins at 5 p.m. on March 7 and ends March 8 at 6 p.m. We will be worshipping, sharing, doing service projects, and supporting one another through the event. We will also be raising money to help the cause of hunger – hopefully with donations that members of our congregations will offer to support those participating in the event. Funds will help a local or global hunger need.

See Pastor Pat to participate in the 30-hour famine, or if you wish to support it financially, you may mark your donations “30-hour famine offering,” either on your regular offering envelope or in a plain envelope designated for the famine.

Most of all, pray that all who participate, all who receive from the gifts, and all who offer themselves in any way to help the hungry in our world have a greater understanding of what it means to be TRULY hungry and have to live that way every day.

This Month at the Milton Senior Center:

- ✓ Hot lunch each day at 11:30 a.m.
- ✓ Every Monday – 12:30 p.m. – play cards
- ✓ Every Tuesday – 10:30-11:00 a.m. – Healthy Steps/Weight Wise Program
- ✓ Every Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. – bingo
- ✓ Every Friday – 9:30 a.m. – Nickel Bingo; when breakfast served, bingo starts at 10
- ✓ Mon., March 3 – 11:00 a.m., Members Meeting
- ✓ Thurs., March 6 – 10:00-11:30 a.m., Surplus Outlet, Northumberland
- ✓ Fri., March 7 – 9:00 a.m., Breakfast at the Center, \$2.50
- ✓ Tues., March 11 – 12:00, crafts
- ✓ Tues., March 11 – 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00 p.m., Dept. of Revenue helping

with PA taxes/rent/property rebate. Call and sign up today!

- ✓ Thurs., March 13 – 10:30-1:00, Tom’s Restaurant, Catawissa
- ✓ Tues., March 18 – 1:00-3:00 p.m., Healthy Steps Fall Prevention Program. Sign up today! They need 25 people.
- ✓ Thurs., March 20 – 1:00-3:00 p.m., Healthy Steps Fall Prevention Program. Call to sign up. They need 25 people.
- ✓ Tues., March 25 – 12:00, crafts
- ✓ Wed., March 26 & Fri., March 28 (second class) – 1:00-3:00 p.m., Healthy Steps Fall Prevention Program. Sign up today; they need 25 people.
- ✓ Fri., March 28 – 9:00 a.m., Breakfast at Center, \$2.50

Any questions, call Karen McCaulley, Manager of Milton Senior Center, at 742-9435. The Center is located at 219 Filbert Street, Milton.

Christ Lutheran’s church website is full of



great information, resources, and pictures. Donna Spear, webmaster, updates the site every few days

with meeting and event information, pictures, and much more. You can check the calendar, view the weekly bulletins, access the newsletter, find prayers and scripture readings for the week, and locate contact information for ministry groups. Take some time to browse the website at www.christlutheranmpa.org and feel free to pass on any ideas, suggestions, pictures, etc. to Donna.

Social Ministry News

Winter Wraps - If you crochet or knit, we will again be accepting handmade hats, scarves and mittens throughout the year to give to the Local Red Cross and Haven Ministry in October to distribute to local families. If you would like to participate in this ministry, help yourself to the yarn from the basket in the narthex. Don't know how to crochet or knit but always wanted to learn???? Contact Penny Coup and we will connect you with someone to help you learn or consider offering some classes, if there is enough interest.

Prayer Shawls - We continue to need handmade prayer shawls for our Pastor and Prayer Ministry team to distribute to those who are hurting physically or emotionally. These prayer shawls are a wonderful reminder and gift of love from our congregation when faced with these challenges.

Easter Angels - We are looking for Holiday Angels who would be willing to deliver Easter mums and lilies and other gifts to our shut-in members. We are still finalizing the date when flowers will be available for delivery. If you are interested and able to commit a few hours to help deliver these Easter gifts, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Easter Card Shower - Our Christmas Card Shower was well received by both members of our congregation as well as those shut-in members who were the recipients of these notes of love. Being reminded that people are keeping you in their thoughts and prayers can be a powerful message especially for those alone or in ill health.

We will be accepting your Easter cards and/or personal notes for those shut-in members listed below. Your cards will be delivered when our Easter Angels deliver the Easter flowers. Here's an opportunity to "reach out to others"

while also saving a little bit on postage to mail the cards. The cards can be placed in the Easter basket in the narthex.

Shut-In Members: Bill & Phyllis Albertson, Carrie Bastian, Blanche Benfer, Caroline Bobb, Lucille Bruss, Mary Burns, Ken & Betty Jean Callenberger, Edith Coup, Anna DeHart, Betty Dotts, Gladys Fisher, Irmgard Gordos, Margaret Kline, Helen Manning, Merritt & Doris Heffelfinger, Tommy Kline, Mary Kathryn Leiby, Dix & Pauline Reitz, Marguarite Ruth, Connie Sholly, Marie Springer, Leah Walker, Ken Webb, Nancy Weikel, Jeannine Wilkerson, Josephine Yocum

SERVV Spring Bus Trip - Wednesday, April 16th is the date of the next bus trip to the Church World Service clothing sorting warehouse in New Windsor, MD. This trip is organized by Christ United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Catawissa but is open to anyone who is interested. Please contact Penny Coup if you would like to participate. Social Ministry funds will be used to underwrite your bus trip cost.



Witness Ministry Group

It is with great joy and excitement that I am writing this article because the Holy Spirit is stirring once again at Christ Lutheran Church. The newly formed Witness Ministry Group has been very busy after holding only two meetings. The group first met on January 14th with thirteen people who have made a commitment to God's calling. The following ideas were discussed at the two meetings and some have already been started:

1. Greeters for Sunday morning worship services. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or you are welcome to speak to Mae Jones. We are hoping to hold a training session in the near future.
2. Hospitality table with drinks and snacks before Sunday worship service. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Lauren, Lindsay, or Steph Byers.
3. Hosting more recital/concerts/public music events for the community.
4. Disaster Relief Team to help others in need. If interested, please talk to Roger Watts.
5. Outreach ministry to community through mass postcard mailings to households, radio advertising as well as TV Channel 8 CCN advertising.
6. Discussion of nursery options for worship service.
7. Outreach ministry to middle and high school students.
8. Tape recordings of services for shut-ins.
9. New church directory.

Our next meeting is scheduled for *March 10th* at 6:30 p.m. at Pastor Pat's home. If you are interested in joining the group or are interested

in participating in any of the projects, please feel free to speak to any member. Members are Ruth and Gerald Greenly, Harold and Stella Webb, Steph and Lauren Byers, Roger and Nancy Watts, Deb Bartlett, Betty Morgan, Mae Jones, Pastor Pat, and myself. We ask that you please include this ministry group in your prayers.

God Bless,
Rose Bolich



Youth Group Meeting

The youth group will meet on *Sunday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m.*, at the Church to discuss Easter Egg Hunt preparations and plans for other activities. Any questions, contact Larry & Barb Gray. Be sure to come!!



The youth will host an Easter Egg Hunt here at Christ Lutheran on *Saturday, March 15*. Watch your bulletins for more details, but mark your calendars now to reserve the date for this fun event!

Attention All Youth...

Would you like to be a Page at this year's Synod Assembly (Friday & Saturday, June 20, 21)? All youth grades 6 and up are invited. You would be persons designated to hand out information sheets to voting members. It's a great way to see the Synod in action - and to meet friends! You'll get a free t-shirt, too! See Pastor Pat if you are interested (meals and expenses are included; lodging can be arranged with help from your parents).

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 5, 2008

- Pastor Berner spoke about the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the concerns about growth and the resulting need for additional resources. As a result, a Crossroads Campaign for giving has been established. Pastor Berner stressed that the seminary is asking for prayers in this venture. A brochure about the Crossroads Campaign is available for more information.
- Soup and the Word is being held at Christ Lutheran each Wednesday at noon during Lent. Volunteers are needed for setup on Tuesday evenings as well as on Wednesdays.
- The Lenten worship services schedule is the same as last year. Wednesday evening services will focus on the hungry. There will be special speakers on two Sundays during Lent: Marty Gates from Women in Transition on February 24 and Duff Ripka of LOVE, INC. on March 2.
- Synod Assembly voting members were selected. This year's Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 20, all day, and Saturday, June 21, until 5 p.m. Rose Bolich will attend as a voting member with Kay Dunn as alternate; Pastor Pat will ask Ed Coup if he is interested in attending as a voting delegate with Stephen Moll as alternate.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting date is March 9, 2008.
- The Evangelism Witness Group discussed various items: Greeters on Sunday mornings; coffee hour will begin again; Roger Watts is organizing another Hurricane Katrina mission trip; increasing musical events for the public and the possibility of beginning a high school ministry; mass mailing of postcards about our church and possible radio advertising as well as Channel 8 CCN advertising about our worship services; creating a new church directory; and the use of nametags for ushers and greeters each week. Next witness meeting is March 10.
- The possibility of an Easter Egg Hunt was discussed. Pastor Pat will talk to Larry Gray about pulling the youth together for the event this year.
- Kay Dunn will be Vacation Bible School Director. This year's VBS theme is "Tropical Rainforest."
- Endowment Committee met and began creating a form for requesting endowment funds. The Endowment Fund Request Form is still in the informational gathering and developmental stage and any suggestions are welcomed.
- Property Committee--still working on the lighting fixture changes in the sanctuary.

- Carpeting has been installed in the choir room, and the new handicapped accessible bathroom is just about finished.
- Staff Support Committee is developing a staff handbook, is working on revising the job application form, and is considering celebration bags for staff.
- Steph Byers talked about the success of Souper Bowl Sunday on February 3.

The complete record of the meeting minutes can be viewed on the church website at http://www.christlutheranmpa.org/minutes_fe_b5_08.pdf or you may pick up a copy in the church office during normal office hours.

Update From Our Lay Leader-In-Training

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have now been in the Lay Leadership Course since September of 2007. It has been a wonderful experience for me, and many interesting things have happened. In October at our second session together, I became ill and had to be transported to Geisinger Hospital by ambulance. It turned out to be nothing serious. Because I had the flu and was dehydrated, it caused me to pass out, obviously scaring my classmates. Praise God that several of my classmates, whom I didn't even know yet, walked me out to my car and discouraged me from driving. While one of them had me laying down in the backseat of my car, another was calling for an ambulance. I was told that while I was being transported to the hospital, all my classmates were praying for me. How wonderful! How powerful! While I missed most of that day's session,

Kellie Brouse and other classmates graciously shared their notes with me. Since that day's session was on how to write sermons, you will need to forgive me if my first sermon at Christ Lutheran is less than perfect.

November and January's sessions were the study of the Old Testament. Our instructors were absolutely fabulous. I never knew how much I didn't know until these classes. The homework we have, and the instruction we are getting is comprehensive and to me, somewhat overwhelming. It is hard to put into words how much I have enjoyed this. I'm still a bit scared, but am slowly thinking that I am actually learning something. Did you know there are actually 623 commandments??? Don't ask me to repeat them, 'cause I haven't learned that yet!! Everyone in the Lay Leadership Program is required to do opening devotions several times throughout our two year adventure. I volunteered to do them in January, not because I was overly confident, but rather I wanted to do it before I lost my nerve. My devotions were centered on the story of the Good Samaritan. I selected this because of my experience in October when I fell ill and my classmates helped and cared for me. I actually thought of this lesson when I was being transported in the ambulance, which is another reason I volunteered to do opening devotions. You are probably wondering how I did. Well, I thought the message was very good, but the delivery left something to be desired. Maybe between more studying, more preparation, and help from God, I will continue to improve.

In February, we will continue to study the Old Testament. Honestly, I can hardly wait until then. Even though we are in class the entire day doing very intensive studying, the day goes very fast. I have thoroughly enjoyed this and feel truly blessed to be there. I want to thank Pastor Pat for encouraging and supporting me, and I want to thank everyone in our congregation for their prayers and

support. Your prayers are important to me, and I ask that you continue with them. Thanks be to God.....and stay tuned for my next installment.

Sincerely,
Ed Coup

Volunteer News At Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village

An Open House is planned for Wednesday, March 12, from 9-11 a.m. (snow date: 3/19) at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village in the Lobby of the Nursing Care Center, 889 Fairground Road, Lewisburg. Come and learn about the volunteer needs of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village and Diakon Hospice Saint John. Join them for a sweet treat and a warm beverage and hear about available opportunities. For information, please call Emily at 523-4244.

Become a part of the Diakon Hospice Saint John Team. Volunteer to visit terminally ill patients at Buffalo Lutheran Village. A volunteer is a good neighbor who gives a helping hand; is a good listener and reassures with kind words of encouragement. Training

will be held on Fridays, March 28, April 4, 11, and 18 from 1-3:30 p.m. at Buffalo Lutheran Village, Village Common, 6 Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg. Contact Cathy

Nursing Home Volunteers



Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator, at 570-459-6778 or sweeneyc@diakon.org. for more information.

Annual Palm Sunday Dinner

The Milton Fire Department (121 Ridge Avenue) will be hosting their 15th Annual Palm Sunday Dinner on March 16 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The menu will include ham, mashed potatoes, filling, gravy, rolls, beverage, dessert and your choice of two of the following: corn, lima beans, applesauce or coleslaw. If you like to bake, donations of desserts will be appreciated and can be brought to the Fire Department Friday, March 14, thru Sunday morning, March 16. There is free delivery of meals to senior citizens living within the borough of Milton. Call 742-9895 on March 15 or 16 for delivery. Cost is Adults/\$7, children 4-12 years/\$4, children ages 3 and under/free.

HandUP Foundation News

You may have noticed that the clothing barrel is missing in the narthex...all donations must now be taken to the store located next to the Ben Franklin Craft Store. In the near future, they are hoping to open a recycling center on Mahoning Street. Stay tuned to the Newsletter for details as they become available!

The HandUP Foundation has several programs available to help the surrounding communities. One of them is a Vehicle to Work program which helps individuals obtain a vehicle to either look for work or continue working at their current position. They are now offering to purchase nice vehicles from persons buying vehicles from dealers. If the dealer offers \$500 or less for the trade-in, they'll match the offer (no push-pull-or tow-type vehicles). Call Mandy at 742-3000 for more information.

Upper Susquehanna Synod Council Meeting Highlights

Each Upper Susquehanna Synod Council meeting has many items on the agenda for discussion and adoption. The meeting on February 7, 2008 was no exception. Bishop Driesen brought recommendations for pastoral/congregation changes. Discussion was held on technical changes which will bring the synod office into the 21st century. A new policy on synodical support to congregations in times of maternity/paternity leave was adopted. The vice-president and secretary reported on monetary gifts given to the departing synod staff as a small token of the Upper Susquehanna Synod's appreciation for their service. All of the committees reported on the many activities happening within the synod. A continuing resolution to the Synod's Constitution was adopted regarding the necessity of criminal background checks for the synodical officers. This resolution came as a recommendation from the ELCA. Members to the synod's standing committees were approved. A model Child Protection Policy was adopted and will be forwarded to congregations for their use in establishing guidelines for their congregations. The Bishop has received a request for the establishment of a task force on Domestic Violence. The Synod Council will meet in retreat on April 5, 2008.

Draft of Proposed ELCA Social Statement on Sexuality Available March 13

The draft of the ELCA's proposed social statement on human sexuality will be available March 13. The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality met in Chicago Jan. 25-26 to complete

its work on the draft and give final instructions to its writing team.

The task force received a final report on responses for "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality" -- part three of the "Journey Together Faithfully" study materials for members of the ELCA -- and the group spent eight sessions reviewing draft material of the social statement in closed, off-the-record sessions.

"When social statements are in the actual process of being written, things are very fluid," said the Rev. Peter Strommen, bishop, ELCA Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Duluth, and task force chair. "This is our last meeting before the draft is released. The task force continues to work very hard, securing participation from the entire group," he said.

Members of the church can expect a draft document that is theological and examines human sexuality from a "deep Lutheran perspective," said Strommen. He said the task force hopes the social statement will serve to benefit the church's discussion on the topic of human sexuality.

"A social statement needs to build a theological foundation that engages the social context. On something as broad and complex as human sexuality, specific topics cannot be addressed comprehensively. The social statement's implementing resolutions will lift up the areas that need greater attention from this church," said Strommen.

"One way of picturing the social statement is a bridge. We seek to fashion a theological bridge that can handle the heavy traffic of human sexuality issues of our times and (to) do so without losing our evangelical focus," said Strommen.

The draft of the proposed social statement on human sexuality will be posted at <http://www.ELCA.org/faithfuljourney> and sent to clergy and other professional leaders of the ELCA. Between March and November, a series of hearings on the draft document will be held across the church. The hearing for the

Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held on April 27 at 2:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church of Milton, PA. Members of the task force will participate in the hearing and gather feedback on the draft until Nov. 1.

A proposed social statement on human sexuality is due in early 2009. The final proposed statement will be given to the ELCA Church Council with a request to place the document on the agenda of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for action. The assembly will be held Aug. 7-13, 2009, in Minneapolis.

Local Global Mission Event Brings the World to Your Doorstep

If you've never had the chance to travel to an ELCA Global Mission Event, here's your chance to attend a regional event with all of the flair of the big GME's! The Region 8 Global Mission Event will take place on May 23-24 at Trinity Lutheran Church of Camp Hill, PA. Registration begins at 4:30 pm Friday, and the event concludes with worship late Saturday afternoon. In between, enjoy the global sounds of worship, a keynote address by Dr. John Nunes, President of Lutheran World Relief, a variety of workshops with nationally known speakers and guests, visiting with former and current missionaries, a global festival, an international lunch, fair-trade marketplace, and much more! Special programs for children, youth, and young adults make this event a priority for the whole congregation. Registration fees: \$20 - adult; \$15 - youth (ages 11-17); \$10 - child (ages 3-10); \$50 - family (add \$5 for at-door registration).

You can see Pastor Pat for registration information and forms.

Singers Invited to Join Synod Assembly Choir

Singers from across the Upper Susquehanna Synod are invited to join together in one synod choir for an offering of song at the synod assembly's Festive Worship service on Saturday morning, June 21 at 10:00 am, Susquehanna University's Weber Chapel. Those who wish to sing should have experience singing with choirs from their home churches. It is helpful that singers read music, but not required. Rehearsals will be arranged and conducted by Dr. Susan Hegberg. All those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Dr. Hegberg by May 1 at hegberg@susqu.edu (570-374-0767).

Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission

Small dividend checks getting you down? Make a gift of stock and receive fixed annuity payments at much higher rates than your current dividends. You receive an income tax deduction and the ministry of your choice receives a wonderful gift. For more information how to make gifts to your favorite ministries call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at 570-374-2044 or call the ELCA Foundation, 800/638-3522, ext. 2970 or visit our website at www.elca.org/fo.

Mission Opportunity - Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Turbotville

Our neighbors at Holy Spirit, Turbotville, are planning to complete their new church building this year. We have an opportunity to assist them by offering ourselves and our resources - by buying supplies, helping to build walls, paint, clean up - you name it!

See Pastor Pat if you would like to participate in this local mission opportunity - and stay tuned as they let us know when our help is most needed!

Like to Golf???

Camp Mount Luther's Third Annual Bishop's Open Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, May 12, 2008, at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. Starting time is 12:30 p.m. with registration and lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Camp Mount Luther is holding this event again to have some fun and also raise funds in order to better the youth in a faith-based camping program. Save the date, come out and meet Bishop Robert L. Driesen, and help in this endeavor! Tournament proceeds will go toward the 40 By Faith Campaign to enhance the ministry of the camp. For more information, contact the Camp office at 922-1587 or check out the website: www.campmountluther.org.



Bishop's Open Golf Classic

There's More!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more - a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more - a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more - the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!



Treasurer's Report for January



	Begin. Balances 1/01/08	Receipts thru 1/31/08	Expenses thru 1/31/08	Curr. Balances 1/31/08
Current Expenses	14,103.86	8,900.95	-12,108.56	10,896.25
Synod Commitment	0	349.16	0	349.16
Local Benevolences	729.00	424.00	-300.00	853.00
Building Fund	9,884.99	130.10	0	10,015.09
Parking Lot Fund	6,000.00	0	0	6,000.00
TOTALS	30,717.85	9,804.21	-12,408.56	28,113.50
Average Receipts per week				2,225.00
Need per week to meet Budget				2,817.00
Projected Deficit				-36,746.00

Brett Seibert	3/2
Doris Heffelfinger	3/5
Joyce Frederick	3/6
Lindsey Mensch	3/7
Heather Martin	3/8
Joanne Ficks	3/9
Ryan Solomon	3/9
Russell Bastian	3/10
Harry Berger	3/10
Justin Winner	3/12
Terry Benfer	3/13
Jerrold Roush	3/13
Bebe Bolich	3/14
Ryan Byers	3/14
Andrew Millett	3/14
April Mullin	3/14
Vanessa Schneider	3/14
Pastor Pat Pittsnogle	3/16
Robert Hoffman	3/17
Terry Valiquette	3/19
Corey Danowsky	3/20
Michael Gautsch	3/23
Linda Bastian	3/25
Penny Coup	3/25
Kathleen Cresswell	3/25
Janet Six	3/25
Bonnie Hauck	3/27
Trisha Keister	3/27
Leroy Ishler	3/28
Jonah Hall	3/29
Rachael Spear	3/31
Stella Webb	3/31



P. Franklin & Bessie Hartzel	3/5	65 years
George & Dawn Umholtz, Jr.	3/18	31 years
Pr. Pat & Pr. Keith Pittsnogle	3/20	9 years
Russell & Linda Bastian	3/26	42 years

March Worship Participants

Altar Guild: Connie Mensch, Kim Herr, Kelly Schneider, Ida Snyder

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Participants</u>
March 2	Terry & Rose Deaner, Chuck & Kim Mitch	A - Sydney Blosser L - Rose Bolich S - Brittany Snyder & Rose Bolich SS - Roger Watts Prayer Team Minister - Rose Bolich
March 9	Nancy & Roger Watts, Barry Yeager, Judy Schneider	A - Linea Brouse L - Lindsay Byers S - Bebe Bolich & Rose Deaner SS - Stephen Moll Prayer Team Minister - Mae Jones
March 16 Palm Sunday	Larry Gray, Betty Morgan, John & Trent Wargo	A - Blake Wargo T - Curtis Schneider & Grant Wargo C - Brody Gray L - Penny Ulmer S - Penny Ulmer & Heather Martin SS - Roger Watts Prayer Team Minister - Kellie Brouse
March 20 Maundy Thursday	Don & Laurie Fisher	A - Linea Brouse L - Nancy Walters S - Ed Coup SS - Stephen Moll (also on Good Friday) Prayer Team Minister - Ed Coup
March 23 Easter	Gerald & Ruth Greenly, Glenn & Ida Snyder	A - Amanda Johnson & Julia Spear T - Justin Winner & Rachael Spear C - Brittany Snyder L - Roger Watts S - Rose Bolich & Rose Deaner SS - Roger Watts Prayer Team Minister - Rose Deaner

If you are unable to participate on the dates you are scheduled this month, we would ask that you please contact the following people so arrangements can be made for someone to take your place:

Altar Guild:	Rose Bolich	568-8433
Ushers, Lectors, Servers & Sound System:	Church Office	742-7473
Acolytes, Crucifers, & Torchbearers:	Kellie Brouse	742-2115

MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am-12 noon - Milton Little League
2 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Holy Eucharist; Healing Service 1-2:30 pm-Holliday Model Agency 1:30 pm-Northern Lights Mtg. @ Trinity 7:00 pm-Youth Meeting	3 6 pm-Brownies/Girl Scouts 6 pm-Ballroom Dance	4 <i>8 am-Sermon Study Group</i> 6:30 pm-Jr. Bells 7 pm-Council	5 <i>8:30 am-Milton Ministerium Mtg.</i> 12-1 pm-Soup & The Word 3 pm-Bible Study 4 pm-Healing Service 6:30 pm-Sr. Bells 7 pm-Prayer Service Sr. Choir after worship	6 <i>8:30 am-Conf. Pastors Meeting</i> 2 pm-Bible Study 3-9 pm - Dance	7 5 pm-30-Hour Famine Youth Event @ Trinity, Milton, thru 6 pm 3/8➔	8 8:30 am-Auth. Lay Worship Leaders' class
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00- Sunday School 10:30-Holy Eucharist; Annual Congregational Meeting 1-2:30 pm-Holliday Model Agency	10 6 pm-Brownies/GS 6:00 pm- Ballroom Dance 6:30 pm-Witness Mtg. @ Pastor Pat's	11 <i>8 am-Sermon Study Group</i> 7 pm - Jr. Bells	12 12-1 pm-Soup & the Word 3 pm-Bible Study 4 pm-Quiet Communion 6:30 pm-Sr. Bells 7 pm-Prayer Service Sr. Choir after worship	13 6 am-Red Cross sandwich prep./sale 2 pm-Bible Study 3-9 pm - Dance	14 Newsletter Deadline ☺	15 8-12 noon-Milton Little League Easter Egg Hunt-time TBA
16 Palm Sunday 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Holy Eucharist; Procession of Palms; Home Communion 1-2:30 pm-Holliday Model Agency	17 6:00 pm- Brownies/GS 6:00 pm-Ballroom Dance	18 <i>8 am-Sermon Study Group</i> <i>Blessing of the Oils @ St. John, Mifflinville</i> 7 pm-Jr. Bells	19 12-1 pm-Soup & the Word 3 pm-Bible Study 4 pm-Quiet Communion 6:30 pm-Sr. Bells 7:30 pm-Sr. Choir	20 Maundy Thursday 2 pm-Bible Study 3-9 pm - Dance 7 pm-Communion Service w/foot washing	21 Good Friday 7 pm-Worship service	22 7 pm-Easter Vigil @ First Lutheran, Watsontown
23 Easter Day 9:00-Sunday School 10:00-Holy Eucharist	24 OFFICE CLOSED No Brownies/GS 6 pm-Ballroom Dance	25 <i>8 am-Sermon Study Group</i> 6:30 pm-Finance 7 pm-Jr. Bells	26 3 pm-Bible Study 4 pm-Quiet Communion 6:30 pm-Sr. Bells 7:30 pm-Sr. Choir	27 9 am-Newsletter Assembly 2 pm-Bible Study 3-9 pm-Dance	28	29
30 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Holy Eucharist; Land & Seasons Service <i>Pastor Pat @ ELCMA Planning Mtg., State College - 3/30 & 3/31 ➔</i>	31 11 am-Women's club 6 pm-Brownies/GS 6 pm-Ballroom Dance					

Text Key: **Bold** - Christ Lutheran Events

Italics - Pastor Pat's Activities

Plain - Community Events



The Parish Voice

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA
Vol. 25 No. 3 March, 2008



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
10:30 A.M.

*Come, be a part of our annual family
discussion as we celebrate the year's
ministry and make decisions together!*

**Mission Statement of
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

We are called by God to follow Christ's example
and teachings by worshiping, witnessing, learning, supporting one
another, and reaching out to others.



Public Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (unless previously noted in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter). Please feel free to stop by with bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter articles.

Deadlines:

Bulletin announcements are due in office by Wednesday afternoon at 2 pm.

Newsletter articles are due in office by the 15th of each month (unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar).

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 14 with assembly on Thursday, March 27.

Please feel free to e-mail secretary@christlutheranmpa.org with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

ADDRESS CHANGE/ADDITION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

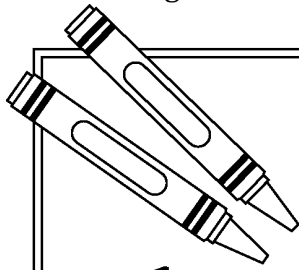
State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____

Public Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 am – 2 pm
Phone (570) 742-7473
Pastor E-mail: pastor@christlutheranmpa.org
Secretary E-mail: secretary@christlutheranmpa.org
Church Website: www.christlutheranmpa.org

Staff:

The Rev. Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle, Pastor
Lorei Comerer, Church Office Manager
Donna Spear, Webmaster
Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music
Brett Hosterman, Organist
Donna Spear, Jr. Choir/Bell Director
Dale Kriner, Treasurer
Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary
John VanKirk, Custodian
Bob Greenly, Groundskeeper



Just for **KIDS**

For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." **N** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

W **E**

John 3:16,
NIV

