

# St. Luke's

# MESSENGER

The newsletter of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

## REFLECTIONS:

### *What are you TAKING UP for Lent?*

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, marks the beginning of the forty-day season of Lent. It begins with Ash Wednesday, a day when we remember our mortality and ends with Holy Week and Easter when we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.

Lent is often talked about in terms of "self-discipline," specifically what you are "giving up" for Lent. How often have we heard people sincerely say that they are "giving up" meat or candy for Lent? How many wags have we heard saying that they are giving up liver for Lent (knowing that they never liked the stuff in the first place).

It's not that "giving something up" for Lent is *bad*; it's just *incomplete*. If Christ came to us so that we should have "*life and life abundantly*," then the discipline of Lent should be to pursue the things that lead to this life that Jesus offers and, at the same time, to try to eliminate the things that draw us away from it. Seen in this light, the ancient definition for sin – "missing the mark" – makes sense. Lent is a time when we "give up" those things that keep us from abundant life, and also "take up" those things that bring us closer to it. Traditionally the three things we take up in Lent are 1.) Prayer, 2.) Abstention from self-indulgence and 3.) Care for the poor (often called "alms-giving").

What are some of the ways that we can "take up" the discipline that Lent calls for? Here are some ideas:

#### 1) **Take up a deeper prayer life**, in one of the following ways:

a.) **Take up Midweek Worship:** We will be using the familiar and hauntingly beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer* for our Wednesday worship during Lent (except for Ash Wednesday). "Those who sing, pray twice": says the old maxim and as our prayers rise as incense before God, we find ourselves in a deeper relationship with God.

b.) **Take Up Spiritual Practices (Saturdays):** Beginning February 11th at 3:00 p.m. and continuing on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, there will be sessions in Spiritual Practices (each session is "stand alone" but are also a *course of exploration*) in the following areas: **Meditation** — to awaken to the life we are living; **Massage** — to loosen tension in the body; **Message** — journaling or drawing to discover ourselves. Led by Diane Barounis, Judy Koch, and Barbara Reynolds

c.) **Learn from Others:** Our library has books on prayer and I have others in my own personal library that I am willing to lend out. Remember that prayer is not telling God something that God does not know but rather acknowledging to God what is happening in your life. Prayer deepens our relationship with God.

- 2) **Take up a healthier path for yourself** – While all of us live very busy lives, and while each of us have certain genetic predispositions, each of us can live the healthiest life style we can live. There are an enormous number of web sites and books that speak to a healthy lifestyle. Find ones that speak to you. Exercise more (walking is great!) and eat better (less processed food, more raw fruits and vegetables). Your body is a temple, you know!
- 3) **Take up alms giving.** The number of people in poverty in this country continues to grow. Yes, there are some people who fall into poverty who are only looking for handouts. The vast majority of people who are poor want to work their way out of poverty and find a better life for their children. 49 million people in the US struggle with hunger, including 17 million children. Set aside some of the money you spend for indulgences – the extra coffee at Starbucks, for example – and donate to Bread for the World or Lutheran World Hunger or even our own Food Pantries (Maine Township and Elijah's).
- 4) **Finally, Take up your Cross!** Jesus, according to Mark (Mark 8:34) "called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" Jesus does not mean literally that each of his disciples should be crucified like he was (though many of the early martyrs were), but rather that we take up a "cross-shaped" life that has a vertical component (life with God) and a horizontal component (life with each other). It is a life spent communicating with God in worship and word, it is a life of service, spent in helping this world that God loves.

#### **So, what are you taking up, this Lent?**

God's blessings, and mine,

George Koch

## Birthdays in FEBRUARY

- 1 Edward Grendahl, Mark Hendee, Joyce Robinson
- 2 Laurie Wit, Robert Larson, Don Williams
- 3 Paul Edison-Swift
- 4 Heather O'Reilly
- 5 Peter Burrows, Bonny Baker, Debra Sanger
- 6 Christie Brooks, Claranne English, LaVerne Messersmith, Leila Wooley, Katherine Kolz, Emma Luehr
- 7 Ken Schoy, Olivia Feldner
- 8 Scott Berg, Ashley McClelland
- 9 Christopher Anderson, June Ehorn, Kimberly Delaney, Kristen Quitno, Tom Fisher
- 10 Dave Adams, Gary Clark, Michael Lynch, Kristina Pearson, Jenna Zawojski
- 11 Alice Doose, Olivia Post, Annie Raeder, Nolan Weber
- 12 Albert Ehorn, Audrey Walczak, Mike Luehr
- 13 Pam Boyce, Jenny Calahan, Anna Gartner, David MacArthur, Csilla Megyeri, Kristi Weber
- 15 Liam Farrell, Laura Smith
- 16 Kathryn Boyce, Michael Zajac, Kennedy Gallagher, Paul Montgomery
- 17 Andrew DeVooght, Carly Fenili, John Lichner, Jennifer Wessel
- 18 Jim Buskirk, James Organ, Graham Hills
- 19 Beth Humbert, Betty Lundsberg, Gail Pearson, Betty Shoemaker
- 22 Andrew Schafer
- 23 Grace Nilles, Katelyn Nilles, Jordan Rogowski
- 24 Mitch Celik, Jeff Greve, Dick Hayden, Samantha Schafer, Finn Quitno
- 25 Lance Weber
- 26 Beverly Ahlbeck, Jo Ellen Krantz, Brittany Brooks, Phyllis Meyer
- 27 Jerry Gudukas, Tim McCurry
- 28 Sarah Bennett, Stephanie Richter

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 2 Brian and Meaghan Tait
- 3 John and Mary Rhoton
- 4 Arthur and Nancy Stahlberg
- 8 Jeff Wilson and Patricia Gross
- 10 John and Cindy Nommensen
- 13 Keith and Nancy Lodding
- 27 Chris and Julie Stinnett

### THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

The congregation sends *THE LUTHERAN* (magazine of the ELCA) to members so that they may be informed about the work of the ELCA and have access to the thoughtful articles that are contained in the magazine. Members are encouraged to make a contribution that will help pay for the subscriptions that are sent. The 2012 offering envelope box contains a special envelope for your use in making such a contribution. It is located in the January section. The invoice for the subscriptions is paid in early February. You are encouraged to make your contribution today. You may also use a PEW ENVELOPE and designate your gift for *THE LUTHERAN*.

### THE MESSENGER IS NOW ON LINE

We continue to work towards getting the Messenger to as many households as possible **on line**.

First, *please make sure that the church office has your current email address.*

Second, all *households that have as current email address will receive the Messenger online via an email alert* issued through the St. Luke's email account.

Those who are already receiving the Messenger online will continue to receive it in the future and do not have to do anything. Those who have not yet signed up to receive this electronic copy rather than a paper copy may *sign up by using the link at the bottom of any email* from St. Luke's Lutheran Church *that includes the option "update subscription preferences" then click "Electronic Messenger instead of paper copy"*.

**If you do not have an email address you will continue to receive the Messenger via USPS.** We will also keep additional paper copies of the Messenger at the church on the rack across from the first floor wash-rooms.

Please make sure the church office has your current email address. Thanks!



# ST. LUKE'S MEMBER CARE

## IN THE FAMILY...

Our sympathy to Janet Hoiberg and family on the death of Janet's husband, Richard Plahetka (12-31).

## MANY THANKS FROM.....

June Albright for the beautiful altar flowers....Sandy Maher for the delicious Christmas cookies.... Harriet Bergstrom for the flowers that brightened her day.... Betty Shoemaker for the lovely flowers and the wonderful cookies....The Social Ministry Committee for the generous \$995 gift from the contributions to the Christmas Card tree. The money will be used for the food voucher program that assists individuals in their time of need.

## NEW GROUP FORMING

Do you feel like you are lacking in "me" time? Do you feel like the world is moving so fast you cannot keep up? Are you looking for a time of spiritual rest and renewal? Then this group may be for YOU! Come join us to explore how the practices of **Meditation, Massage, Message (Journaling) and Group Spiritual Direction** can enrich your spirit and deepen your relationship with God. The **Spiritual Practices Group** will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays starting February 11 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. right here at St. Luke's. All are welcome. To learn more or to sign-up in advance (which is encouraged), please contact Diane Barounis at 847-823-8902.

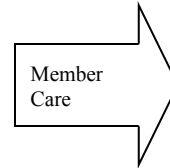
## CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

The Social Ministry Committee wants to greatly thank the following people in the congregation who participated in our Christmas Card Tree appeal : Thomas and Diane Barounis; Penny Boyer; Brad, Lynne, Emily and Madelyn Bugai; Jason, Amy, Matthew, Jake and Peter Burrows; Barbara and Lee Burswold; Sara, Liam and Evan Carolan; Gary and Barb Clark; The Corsello Family; Norm and Elsie Duncan; Diane and Bruce Erickson; June Feth; The Figler Family; The Gartner Family; Jeff, Susan, Larisa, and Eric Greve; Joanne and Bill Griebler; Jim and Iris Henderson; The Henehan Family; Harold Hjelm; Brenna, Chad, Brandon, and Charlotte Huovie; Carolyn and Lee Joesten; Art and Nancy Johnson; Janice Jordan; Angie and Wayne Krause; Katherine Larson; Robert and Anita Lichtenvoort; Dick and Laverne Messersmith; Phyllis Meyer; Phil and Lara Miller and family; Siri and Don Nelson; Ruth Olson; Burt and Iris Olsson; The Post Family; The Raeder Family; Barbara Reynolds; Lois Shaw; Ruth and Chester Smith; Del and Jo Stutzman; Ruth Trautman; Jim and Lu Trecker; David, Carol, Minda and Lanie Week; and Leila Wooley.

The total amount of money donated was \$995 and it will be placed in the Food Voucher Program at St. Luke's.

## MEAL FOR MEMBERS

Would you benefit from receiving a meal? Are you just out of the hospital or are you in need of help? Please go to the St. Luke's website at [www.stlukespr.org](http://www.stlukespr.org), find the member care page to access the menu form or send a message to [stlukesmembercare@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesmembercare@gmail.com) or call the church office to leave a message for Member Care. We'd be happy to help.



## FLOWER DELIVERY

Would you be willing to help deliver flowers from our Sunday services to sick or shut-in members of St. Luke's? To add your name to the list of those who deliver these cheering bouquets, please call Iris Henderson at 847-823-1828. Thanks so much!

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET

Copies of the 2011 Annual Reports Booklet are available on-line at the St. Luke's website or in hard copy in the atrium for those who missed the annual meeting on January 28. The supply is limited so please, take only one.

## COOKBOOK CORRECTION

If you purchased a copy of "A Taste of St. Luke's", please make the following corrections in your books:

**Grandma Christian's Molasses Bars** (p.152): The correct number of eggs is 2.

**Aunt LouAnn's Sugar Cookies** (p.153): The correct amount of vanilla is 2 tsps.

If you've given the cookbook as gifts, please let the recipients know about these changes as well. We apologize for the errors.

**ST. LUKE'S STAFF**  
847-825-6659

*Rev. Dr. George Koch*, Interim Lead Pastor - ext. 11  
*Rev. Patricia Hewitt*, Interim Associate Pastor - ext. 12  
*Rev. Kristina Weber*, Associate Pastor - on sabbatical  
*Rev. Dr. Malcolm Minnick*, Pastor Emeritus  
*Anne Krentz Organ*, Director of Music Ministries - ext. 14  
*Melinda Hoiland*, Director of Children's Choirs - ext. 15  
*Jeannine Oakes*, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries - ext. 16  
*Jeanne Rice*, Parish Coordinator - ext. 10  
*Annette Kern*, Office Administrator - ext. 17

# COUNCIL NOTES

## January Council Summary

- Welcomed Interim Associate Pastor Patty Hewitt to St. Luke's.
- Approved, subject to audit, the reports of the financial officers.
- Approved the designation of \$5000 from the Betty Anderson Trust for use in 2012.
- Designated that any 2011 year-end balance be placed in the Contingency Fund for use as needed.
- Approved the recommended 2012 Spending Plan for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting with a recommendation for adoption.
- Authorized the treasurer and assistant treasurer to make payments for staff salaries and benefits during January, 2012 at the schedule approved by Council for 2012, as well as to pay other necessary invoices that are included in the 2012 Spending Plan.
- Approved an agreement with our current architects, Jaeger, Nickola & Associates Ltd., to complete the drawings for the second floor build out, at a cost not to exceed \$5,500 funded from the dedicated account for this project.
- Received reports from cabinets and committees regarding pending activities and programs that will be offered to the congregation.
- Received a status report from the Nominating Committee.
- Appointed Nicole Dolson, David Duffy and Janet Wasilewski to serve as delegates to the Metro Chicago Synod meeting in June, 2012, with the council having the authority to name alternates, if necessary.
- Expressed sincere thanks to Jason Burrows, Nicole Dolson and Joel Kwasigroch who are completing their council service.
- Set a special council meeting to follow the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 29, 2012 for the purpose of electing officers for 2012.

## 2011 FINANCIAL UPDATE—

2011 was a year of transition and adjustment. Pastor Larson resigned and moved with Rebecca to Switzerland in March. Interim Lead Pastor George Koch assumed his duties May 1. A total of 34 member households were removed: by death 20, transfer from the area 10, and other 4. These losses along with decreased giving (recession) meant that for the first time in years, St. Luke's revenue for the Spending Plan for mission and ministry fell short by about \$50,000. Through good management, we were able to live within the financial resources available.

Another new factor – a number of contributors who normally make a year-end gift to the ministry program redirected their gifts to the Building Fund. This means that leadership must inform the members of the variety of needs and encourage support to both ministries and mortgage as we move forward. There is a paper entitled **Needs and Concerns** (In the Annual Report booklet) that deserves your reading and reflection. The paper outlines the several areas of need that are before the congregation as we enter 2012.

### General Fund –

Offerings for Spending Plan Ministries	\$645,963
Seasonal including Christmas	18,475
Total Offering	\$664,438
Other Income and Carry Over	\$ 35,520
Total Revenue	\$699,958
Total 2011 Budget EXPENSES	\$687,265
Cash Flow Balance	\$ 12,693
REMINDER: 2011 Budget was \$ 755,575	

### Building Fund –all sources

GIF Pledges and Gifts	\$110,479
LYLS Pledges and Gifts	\$154,982
Total	\$265,461

### Total Contributions to Budget and Building \$929,899

**Beyond Our Walls** – *Mt. of Olives* - \$1,211; *Concordia* - \$792; *RefugeeOne* - \$2,624.

**World Hunger** - \$28,391.53

**Disaster Response** - \$1,129.25

**Major Repair Fund** - \$3,762

**Food Pantries** - \$ 870

**Christmas Card Tree** - \$1,115

NOTE: There were additional gifts for Memorial/Special Gifts, Bequests and Trusts and other contributions received. All of these are placed in dedicated accounts for use as approved by the Congregation Council or as designated by the donor and approved by the council.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## FIRST TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next meeting will be on February 7 at 8:00 am beginning with our pancake and sausage breakfast prepared by our two chefs, Carl Blomgren and Art Johnson.

After breakfast we will hear from our speaker, Lee Burswold. His topic will be "How to Build an Art Piece in One Easy Lesson."

Ask your friends to come along and enjoy breakfast and a great speaker. No need to be a St. Luke's member. All are welcome. If you need a ride call Howie at 847-698-0152 or Don at 847-825-3673.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2012

Did you receive your 2012 Offering Envelopes? At the request of our financial folks, we ask that you no longer use your 2011 offering envelopes. Please use the 2012 envelopes only. Thank you.

## THE DEADLINE FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPCOMING WEEK'S PARISH NOTES IS MONDAY AT 9:00 AM

(sorry, no exceptions). Here are some helpful tips to make it easier for you to submit announcements for either the Messenger and/or the bulletin/parish notes:

1. Type (preferable) or print your announcement clearly.
2. Provide your name and a daytime contact number in case we have any questions.
3. Indicate *Messenger* and/or bulletin. And, in the case of the bulletin, the Sunday(s) you would like the information to appear.
4. **In order to conserve paper, inserts will appear in the bulletin for a two-week period only.** (The weeks need not be consecutive.) Please indicate which two Sundays you would like the information to appear and submit it in a "camera-ready" format. Thank you!

## THE CENTER OF CONCERN

The Center of Concern Auxiliary is hosting two Bunko Parties on February 10. Bunko is a fun dice game that anyone can play –no experience necessary! Two Bunko parties will be held to benefit The Center of Concern, a social service agency in Park Ridge. The events will be held on Friday, February 10 at the South Park Recreation Center (Talcott and Cumberland) in Park Ridge. The first event, "Bunko and Lunch" for men and women will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Later, "Ladies' Night" will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. \$15.00 ticket includes Bunko games and prizes, choice of beef sandwich or mostaccioli, dessert, coffee and tea. Wine, beer and pop will be available for purchase. Contact Nancy at 847/ 318-1008 to make your reservations, and your tickets will be held at the door. Please indicate whether you would like to come for the afternoon or evening session and whether you would like beef or pasta.

## ASH WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON



There will be a light lunch served following the 11:00 Ash Wednesday service February 22nd. If you would like to attend please sign up on the sheet on the Congregational Life bulletin board across from the coat rack or call Clare English at 847-698-4948.

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Women of the ELCA are holding a networking event for young adult moms on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1pm to 4pm at the Nail Bar in Elmhurst. Check out the invitation at the link below if you are interested! There is limited space, so participants must RSVP by emailing: [elizabeth.mcbride@elca.org](mailto:elizabeth.mcbride@elca.org) by February, 6.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO BASKETS TO RAFFLE

Hey Youth Gathering parents and supporters! Back by popular demand in February is the Pasta Dinner and Basket Raffle. As the February 12 date approaches, please begin thinking about putting items together for a theme basket to help raise funds for the next National Youth Gathering.



Basket ideas are endless. Consider baskets such as children's books, movie night, Italian dinner, car wash, spa day, cake decorating, new baby, Valentine romance, Easter goodies, and sports fan. If you're interested, contact Laurel Hensel at 847-685-0994 or [laurelhensel@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelhensel@yahoo.com). Thank you!

## ALMS GIVING DURING LENT

The Lenten season begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. During the Lenten season, Christians are encouraged to pray, study the scriptures, worship, assist others and give alms. Opportunities to assist in doing each of these things will be available to members of St. Luke's again this year.

To assist in the ALMS GIVING, the following resource is available: Beginning with Ash Wednesday there is a weekly offering envelope available for the six weeks of the season plus offering envelopes for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. That is a total of 8 offering envelopes plus Easter Sunday. If one were to decide to give \$25 per envelope plus \$100 for the Easter offering, it would total \$300. If 200 member households did that, the total would be \$60,000. Such an INGATHERING OF ALMS would make it possible to support the mission and ministry for 2012 and restore items that were removed from the 2012 Spending Plan because of the lack of funds.

As you consider your Lenten Journey, please set a goal for yourself in ALMS GIVING that is a part of your Lenten discipline.

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Great News!

Through very generous giving, St. Luke's contributed \$28,391 to the ELCA World Hunger Campaign in 2011.

Thank you to all of you who were able to assist in our effort to surpass our 2011 ELCA World Hunger Campaign goal of \$27,000. These funds help fuel the ELCA's efforts for Relief, Education, Advocacy, and Development to create sustainable methods to help those in need.

Every little bit helps!



### MEET PR. KEVIN JACOBSON, ELCA MISSIONARY IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SURINAME.

**Where is Suriname?** On the northeast coast of South America, Suriname is the smallest independent country and one of the most ethnically diverse in the Americas. Most of its 500,000+ citizens are descended from African slaves and East Indian, Indonesian and Chinese indentured servants, brought to this formerly Dutch colony to work in sugar and rice plantations. Amerindians native to the area live in the interior. Dutch and Creole are the predominant languages, along with Hindi, Javanese and English. Suriname is a land of lush tropical vegetation and rain forests, rich in bauxite from which aluminum is made. Suriname received its independence from the Netherlands in 1975.

**Why Suriname for missionary service?** The religious landscape is diverse as well: Hindus, Muslims, Roman Catholics, Moravians, Lutheran and indigenous religion adherents. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS) invited the ELCA to send a pastor to assist them in implementing a leadership development plan for the whole church. Pr. Kevin also serves the oldest ELKS congregation, Martin Luther Kerk, begun in 1742 by Dutch sailors. He has a masters' degree in education as well as a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary.

**As one of Pr. Kevin's sponsoring congregations, St. Luke's is blessed to have the opportunity to get acquainted with ministry partners in South America.**

## BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

As the building project was taking shape in 2009, we recognized that we would not have sufficient funds to implement all of the parts of the master plan. Several items were removed from the initial plan and set aside as “construction alternates”, which could be completed when funds became available. Early in the project, we realized sufficient savings from competitive bidding to allow the first of the alternates, the atrium skylights, to be added back into the plan. Thanks to additional fundraising and more savings, we were able to add the gym air conditioning, several additional fellowship hall upgrades and the initial phase of the kitchen to the project as well.

A portion of the upper level of the new addition was left unfinished in the initial project. In the initial plans, this space was divided into four rooms, a rehearsal/multipurpose room, an instrument storage room, an office for the music staff and the kitchen’s pantry. A separate rooftop heating and air conditioning unit was designed for this space, but was never installed. So this unfinished space does not currently have any air conditioning and has only rudimentary heating. (Two choir robe closets in this area were also originally omitted from the project, but we were able to complete them late in the project.)

In July 2009 our general contractor estimated that it would cost approximately \$63,000 to complete this unfinished space. As yet, this remains our best estimate, although we did some “behind the scenes” work during the project that should make the buildout project simpler and hopefully more economical as well. In recent months several substantial memorial gifts have been designated for the completion of this space, but the total of these gifts remains well below the contractor’s 2009 estimate. It was decided that better cost estimates were needed in order to decide how and when to try to top off the fund and to begin construction. But the 2009 drawings that we had were not adequate to use in asking contractors for more precise estimates.

At their January meeting the congregational council accepted a proposal from the architectural firm who designed our new building, Jaeger, Nickola & Associates, to update their work in this part of the upper level and to prepare the detailed drawings and specifications that contractors will need to give us accurate 2012 cost estimates. The architectural work should be done in February and we can then move to obtain fresh cost data. So sometime in the spring we should have a better sense of how much additional funding will be required to make a fully-completed upper level a reality and when it might be completed.

## EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD TRIP TO FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been hard at work memorizing the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. On Sunday February 5 they will participate in worship at Fourth Presbyterian where the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is recited after all have received communion. Parents, please check your e-mail and send in your RSVP!



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday February 5, high school youth will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for the Maine Township Food Pantry. As the Super Bowl approaches, please consider not just who you hope will win the football game but the many people who depend on support from the Food Pantry. Thanks in advance!

### CONFIRMATION IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, HOLY COW SCHEDULE

During the month of February our students will continue their unit on the Lord’s Prayer. Ash Wednesday all students are invited to join their families at either the 5pm or 7:30pm worship service and there will be **no class or drama**. During Lent our class will meet from 7pm – 8pm. All students will attend the worship service from 7pm – 7:30pm and then meet in small groups for discussion until 8pm. Drama Troupe will meet after worship at 7:30pm and end at 8:15pm. Parents are welcome to attend worship with their sons/daughters and the youth will receive points for your presence! COW dinner will be available from 5:15pm – 6:45pm. Please see the below schedule for Wednesdays during Holy COW - February 29 – March 21 (note that there will be no class on March 28 due to Spring Break and on April 4 all are invited to attend the Seder Meal with their families as there will be no class).

5:15pm – 6:45pm	Dinner available
6:00pm – 6:45pm	Youth Choir
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Confirmation (worship and then small groups)
7:30pm – 8:15pm	Youth Drama Troupe

EDUCATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

# EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

## Adult Forum- Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 am



**2/5 Is Children's Music Just for Children?**- **Melinda Hoiland**, Dir. of Children's Music, will lead a discussion about the importance of music in the lives of children and as they grow into adulthood. Come and share your memories of singing or playing when you were a child and hear how God's children of all ages at St. Luke's are growing in their faith through music. You'll even have a chance to play one of those Orff instruments you've always wanted to get your hands on.

**2/12 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs**- Psalm 23 is a favorite bible passage of many worshipers. Did you know that there are four hymn versions of this psalm in our hymnal? We will explore these and other hymn versions of psalms at the forum on Sunday, February 12. Led by Director of Music Ministries, **Anne Krentz Organ**, this session will be **held upstairs in the choir room from 9:45-10:30 a.m.**

**2/19 Scandinavian Folk Dancers**- On February 19th at **9:45 am in Henderson Hall**, Adult Forum will be sponsoring a demonstration of Scandinavian folk dance called Leikaringen "Heimbug". **Karl and Glenna Pearson, and Jill Crooker** plus others will perform a variety of Norwegian and other folk dances for our entertainment. Leikaringen Humhug is the oldest existing Scandinavian folk dance in the Chicago area. Please join us in enjoying this special treat!

**2/26/12 – To be announced!**

*All are welcome!*

## Adult Education - Wednesday evenings 7-8 pm

**February 1, 8 & 15- Pastor Paul Stone leads a 6-part Bible Study of Daniel**- This Old Testament book focuses on Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and was originally written in two languages: Hebrew and Aramaic. The first six chapters are stories, some of which include visions. The last six chapters are primarily visions. Daniel is a book of consolations. The message is clear: evil will not have the final word! Daniel also gives us a model for prayer.

*All are welcome!*



## Library Notes

What does faith have to do with fitness? What is the connection between being spiritually well and physically well? Author Tom Hafer answers these questions in his book [Faith and Fitness: Diet and Exercise for a Better World](#) as he explores the connections between a strong faith and everyday lifestyle choices. Filled with practical ideas about food, exercise, and total wellness, the book includes a theology of fitness, directions for exercises at various levels of fitness, and informative material about proper diet that enhances personal health and supports sustainable agricultural practices.

Welcome to all Sunday School classes as they visit the library to find books that reinforce their class lessons. Our children's section has many Bible stories and collections, plus books on Jesus' life and ministry. One of the most appealing is [Jesus](#), written and illustrated by Brian Wildsmith. It encompasses highlights of Jesus' life, from birth to Pentecost, including his teachings and miracles. The illustrations are striking and beautifully done.

For those looking for a way to introduce the Lord's Prayer to a young child, [I Can Pray with Jesus](#), by Debbie Trafton O'Neal may be perfect. It explains the Prayer line by line in terms a child can understand, and includes a section that shows simple sign language children can use as they recite the Prayer.

# EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

## 2012 YOUTH GATHERING – NOLA!!

Our Youth Gathering participants and chaperones have been busy preparing for the event in small group studies and by organizing fundraisers! Please hold our small groups in your prayers as we prepare for this amazing event!

### JoEllen Krantz

Haley Besler  
Meg Boyce  
Kelly Golbeck  
Lauren Sargeant  
Jessica Stinnett  
Jenny Wessel  
Sam Zaug

### Cindy Davenport

Jonathan Augustine  
Maddy Baer  
Heather Besler  
Colton Cannon  
Britta Hoiland  
Dylan O'Reilly  
Alex Zaug

### Gerry Mears

Jenny Calahan  
Olivia Cattau  
Danielle DiChristofano  
Justin Gustafson  
Delaney Thomas  
Aurora Walker  
Henrik Weber

### Tim Freedlund

Dean Cannon  
Jarrett Gustafson  
Zach Lahey  
Soren Ramsey  
George Sargeant  
Jimmy Sweeney

### Chris Ramsey

Alex Gowlovech  
Lauren Melidosian  
Gus Post  
Greta Ramsey  
Eric Richter  
Paul Zawojski

## VOLLEYBALL AND SMALL GROUPS

All high schoolers are welcome to join Volleyball and Small Groups on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 4pm – 5:30pm. Youth Gathering small groups will meet during this time. All play volleyball for 45 minutes then we split into groups for discussion! If you are not going to the Gathering but would like to join a small group there is a group JUST for you!! Please contact Jeannine Oakes to join a group.

## PRESIDENT'S DAY LUTHERDALE RETREAT – A CHICAGO YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK EVENT

The folks who bring you the Ultimate Lock-In now bring you a Lutherdale Retreat! There's still room if you're interested! All 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to attend. We leave at 5pm Friday, February 17 and return Sunday, February 19 at noon. Cost is \$110. Contact Jeannine Oakes ASAP to sign up!

## YOUTH GATHERING BUS CARAVAN – HOW TO GET 350 PEOPLE TO NEW ORLEANS AND MEET A LOCAL NOLA CELEBRITY ALONG THE WAY!

St Luke's will be joining nearly 350 Metro Chicago Synod youth from 27 churches: from Libertyville to Wheaton to Homewood and beyond! Jeannine Oakes and a few youth leaders from our local Youth Ministry Network have been spearheading this effort since last summer. What an amazing opportunity for our young people to travel and attend the Gathering with so many of our neighboring Lutherans! Once in NOLA we will participate in a Prayer Pilgrimage that will take us to several places where Kimberly Rivers Roberts and Scott Roberts sought safety during Hurricane Katrina. Kimberly and Scott are the lead characters in the film *Trouble the Water*. Before the 2009 Gathering St Luke's hosted a screening of this film and then Jeannine organized the Prayer Pilgrimage in which this summer's Prayer Pilgrimage is based. An additional 100 youth and chaperones will join our bus caravan in this Pilgrimage and all will participate in a closing Eucharist at which Kimberly Rivers Roberts will preach! Kimberly has become a local hero and celebrity as the film *Trouble the Water* was nominated for an Academy Award. She now gives motivational talks across the country and has started her own business. The Youth Ministry Network will sponsor a screening of *Trouble the Water* on April 22 at 4pm at Maine East. Contact Jeannine Oakes for more info or to buy your tickets in advance. This will be a great way to support our youth and those planning this event!

## MISS JEANNINE OUT OF THE OFFICE AT YOUTH LEADER TRAINING IN NOLA

Jeannine Oakes has been serving as the Youth Gathering Coordinator for our Synod and will be attending a training and planning session in New Orleans prior to the Youth Ministry Extravaganza on February 7 and 8. She will then attend the Extravaganza beginning February 9 and return to Chicago February 11 in time to be at worship on Sunday, February 12 (pray for mild weather so her flight is on time!). At this Youth Gathering event Jeannine and our Synod's YG Coach Penny Harney of Our Saviour's Arlington Heights will get details in order to plan our big "Practice Discipleship" day as a Synod at the Gathering this Summer! She is also excited about plotting out the Prayer Pilgrimage with Penny Harney and Lauren Busey of Trinity Evanston and scouting out some additional locations for the journey! Ask her about her findings when you see her February 12!



**DON'T FORGET! PASTA DINNER ON FEBURARY 12 AT 5:00 PM**

# WORSHIP and MUSIC

## Choir schedule for February 2012

Date	Occasion	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Sun. Feb. 5	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Sanctuary Celebration Ringers	Chancel Celebration Ringers
Sun. Feb. 12	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Youth Recorder Consort	Chancel Recorder Consort
Sun. Feb. 19	Transfiguration	Sanctuary	Chancel
Wed. Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. service	5:00 p.m. Cherub, Junior, Orff Ensemble	7:30 p.m. Chancel, Sanctuary
Sun. Feb. 26	Lent 1	Chancel	Youth
Wed. Feb. 29	Mid-week Lent service	7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer	

### Children's Choir Schedule for Ash Wednesday

4:15 p.m. Orff Ensemble

4:30 p.m. Cherub and Junior Choirs

5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Family Service led by the Children's Choirs



**Lenten Mid-week worship** will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning on February 29. This year we will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* service, written by Marty Haugen. Consider adding this spiritual, prayerful worship experience to your routine during the Lenten season.

### Revised Lenten COW schedule beginning Wednesday, February 29

4:30-5:00	Cherub Choir	6:00-6:45	Youth Choir
5:00-5:45	Junior Choir	7:00-7:30	Worship – <i>Holden Evening Prayer</i>
5:15-6:45	Dinner	8:00-9:00	Celebration Ringers
5:45-6:30	Orff Ensemble		



**Camp Allegro Music Camp** will be held July 9-13, from 9:00 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's, for children entering Kgtn.-6th grade. This summer we will present a musical called "Elijah! God's Faithful Prophet" during worship on Thursday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Melinda Hoiland, melinda.hoiland@comcast.net or (847-384-9375) with questions or if you'd like to help in any way.

### St. Luke's to host ALCM Composers Colloquium, Feb. 3-4

Approximately 30 Lutheran church music composers will gather at St. Luke's to share ideas and compositions, hear speakers, attend skill-shop sessions, and interact with publishers. The public is welcome to attend the opening *Hymn Festival* using hymns by ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) composers, on Friday, Feb. 3, at 1:00 pm, led by Anne Krentz Organ and David Cherwien. All are also welcome to attend the *Morning Prayer* service on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 9:00 a.m. Both events will be held in the sanctuary.

# WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Pastor Kristi Weber continues her sabbatical through February 21<sup>st</sup>. Like in January, we are fortunate to have ordained members of St. Luke's to preach and preside in her stead. We are happy, in February to have Pastors Kathie Bender Schwich and Paul Stone preach, and Pastor Don McCoid preside.

Lent also begins in February and Pastor Kristi returns to preside on Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday in Lent. She will return to the pulpit March 4<sup>th</sup>. Shown below are the Worship Opportunities for February, as well as lessons, themes and leaders.

## **February 5<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 5**

*(Jesus heals Peter's Mother-in-law and casts out many demons)*  
Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Preacher, Kathie Bender Schwich; Presider, George Koch

## **February 12<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 6**

*(Jesus cures a leper)*  
2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Preacher, Paul Stone; Presider, George Koch

## **February 19<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration**

*(Jesus is transfigured in front of Peter, James and John)*  
2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Preacher, George Koch; Presider, Don McCoid

## **February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

*("beware of showing your piety before others...")*  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Preacher, George Koch; Presider, Kristi Weber

## **February 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent 1**

*(The Temptation)*  
Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Preacher, George Koch; Presider, Kristi Weber

*St. Luke's Youth invite you to*

## *A Pasta Dinner*

*Gift Basket Raffle/Silent Auction*

*Sunday, February 12*

*5:00 - 8:00 pm*

*St. Luke's Henderson Hall*

*Dinner and raffle tickets will be on sale  
Sundays January 29, and February 12.*

**Advance Tickets:**

**\$ 8.00 adult**

**\$ 4.00 child**

**\$30.00 family**

**Tickets at the Door:**

**\$10.00 adults**

**\$ 5.00 child**

**\$35.00 family**

**Raffle Tickets:**

*\$1.00 per ticket, OR \$5.00 and get 6 tickets*

*Raffle Tickets* may also be bought  
the evening of the dinner.

*Raffle drawing* will be at 6:00 pm.

**Auction items will be on display during Sunday ticket sales.  
You need NOT be present to win raffle and auction items.**

**All proceeds to sponsor  
St. Luke's ELCA Youth Gathering participants.**

**WEDNESDAY COW SCHEDULE FOR  
FEBRUARY 1, 8, AND 15**

4:30 ~ Cherub Choir  
5:00 ~ Drama Troupe  
5:15 ~ Junior Choir  
5:15 ~ COW meal  
5:30 ~ Confirmation  
6:45 ~ Orff Ensemble  
7:00 ~ Youth Choir  
7:00 ~ Adult Education

**ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE  
FEBRUARY 22**

11:00 ~ Worship with distribution of ashes  
12:00 ~ Lunch  
4:30 ~ Children Choirs  
NO COW  
5:00 ~ Worship with distribution of ashes  
7:30 ~ Worship with distribution of ashes  
No Youth Choir

**HOLY COW SCHEDULE BEGINS  
FEB 29**

**\*\* HOLY COW \*\***

4:30 ~ Cherub Choir  
5:00 ~ Junior Choir  
5:15 ~ Cow Meal  
5:45 ~ Orff Ensemble  
6:00 ~ Youth Choir  
7:00 ~ Holden Evening Prayer  
7:30 ~ Confirmation  
7:30 ~ Adult Education

**REGULAR COW SCHEDULE RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4**