



The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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HAVEN EMPLOYEES – HELPING, CARING, LOVING, GIVING

by Terri MacFarlane, HR Manager

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith;” I Timothy 1:5 (English Standard Version).

Motivated by the courage and faith of a young boy, all 125 Lutheran Haven employees came together in March for a toy drive to benefit the Orlando Health Hematology & Oncology Center. Jason, the grandson of our ALF Administrator Sharon Bond and our Lead Landscape Team Member Milton (Butch) Bond, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor on Father's Day 2008 at age 6. Jason's heroism and resolve had been a witness to everyone at Lutheran Haven as he endured brain surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments over the past year. While our hearts and fervent prayers went out to this very special family daily, everyone wanted to be a more active participant in Jason's healing.



We discovered that after each chemotherapy session, each child chooses a toy out of a toy box, and the center's toy supply had begun to run low. Lutheran Haven's 5-member volunteer employee committee set up toy donation boxes all over campus for the entire month of March and was overwhelmed by the response received from our staff. Boxes and boxes of toys were presented to the Center on behalf of Jason, who now appears to be cancer free. God's mercy is evident in our lives each day and we feel so blessed to see the love of Jesus Christ clearly demonstrated by our caring staff, who looked beyond their own needs to touch so many others during challenging times. The committee plans to make this an annual event.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

Zion, Norridge, IL

by Rev. Luther Bajus



Pastor Arthur Constien Pastor
Luther Bajus

Continuing in our series of celebrating Zion's 100th Anniversary, the Rev. Arthur Constien was our Word Proclaimer, Sunday, March 29. Pastor Constien is a member of Zion.

The service theme was **Forever In the Hands of God the Son**. Psalm 31:14 served as the main text of his sermon, **“My times are in Your hands.”**

P. Constien also reminded the congregation of the Lord's assurance in Isaiah 43: *Fear not: for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are Mine.*

He pointed out the importance and significance of “hand-holding” by humorously referred to his first date with his wife, Edith. She took his hand as they walked into a dark theater. He misinterpreted her hand holding, and only years later did he learn that was her way

of slowing him down, because of his long and fast pace.

Following this inspiring worship, a delicious luncheon was served in the Fellowship Hall with light entertainment by local magician, Jim Krzek, who dazzled his viewers.

SELC DISTRICT FINANCES

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

2009 Congregational Goal Performance

[6 congregations above suggested 5.6% increase]

Tampa, FL	+233.3%
Youngstown, OH	+100%
Jackson Twp., OH	+27.8%
Clark, NJ	+10%
Wilkes Barre, PA	+6.6%
Massillon	+7.4%
11 congregations	+5.6%
6 congregations	+5 to 2 %
16 congregations	same
6 unreported	same
<u>7</u> decreased	(\$24,711)
52 congregations	

2009 Suggested/Accepted Goals

Suggested	\$601,562
Accepted	<u>564,441</u>



\$ 37,121 (-6.57%)

2009 Projected Contributions - \$536,218

\$564,441 (goals) x 95% = \$536,218

2009 SELC District Budget

Synodical Missions	\$200,000
SELC Missions	192,500
Lutheran Haven	61,000
Seminary Students	25,000
Two Seminaries	22,000
SELC Programs	46,000
SELC Services	<u>221,600</u>
2009 Budget	\$768,100
2008 Budget	<u>749,600</u>
	\$ 18,500 (+2.46%)

2009 Projected Budget Deficit

2009 Budget	\$768,100
Projected income	
Congregations	\$536,218
Investments	20,000
Assessments & Projects	<u>36,000</u>
	\$592,218
2009 Projected Deficit	<u>592,218</u>
(Deficit to be met from \$817,060 reserve)	\$175,882

Congregational Budget Receipts Comparison

2008 congregational contributions	\$546,965
2009 projected contributions	<u>536,218</u>
	(1.96% less) \$ 10,747

Communicant Membership

January, 2009 - 13,207 (down 297 - 2.19%)

Average per Communicant Contribution

2006 - \$41.89 2007- \$40.08 2008 - \$40.50

FUND THE MISSION!

What is the Mission? The "Great Commission" of Christ Jesus: "Go and make disciples of all nations!" (Matt. 28:19) The Mission is carried out when Christian stewards, *Ablaze*, use time, talent and treasure in the Stewardship of Discipleship.

TIME — Disciplined stewards take time to read the Bible and pray for the power to disciple others.

TALENT — Discipling stewards use their abilities to win others for Christ by witnessing where they are.

TREASURE — Disciplined stewards fund the Mission to go and make disciples where they cannot go.

CORPORATE FUNDING OF THE MISSION

Cooperatively, Christians fund the Mission through the corporate structure of district and synod. In the SELC District, church members contribute to their congregations, which, in turn, contribute to the district budget via annual goals (listed above). The SELC District, in turn, contributes to the LC-MS synodical treasury and finances district missions and ministries reflected in the district budget outlined above. To what extent is your congregation participating in the corporate funding of the Mission? What can be done to increase your congregation's fulfillment of Christ's "Great Commission"? What can you do?

ENGAGE IN THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING!

PROPORTIONATE (percentage) - REGULAR (weekly) - FIRST-FRUIT (giving to God first)

Happening Around Our SELC District

50th Anniversary for the Babels

Pentecost LC, Racine WI, will celebrate the 50th Ordination Anniversary and 50th Wedding Anniversary of **Rev. Milan J. and Elaine Babel** on June 14th, 2009.

Dr. Carl Krueger will be the guest preacher during the 9:00 am worship service, which will include renewal of vows.

An open house will be hosted from 3–6 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church/Concordia School, Sturtevant, WI. Call the church for more information 262-633-9674.

Calls

Rev. Joshua Hollmann has accepted the Call from Christ, Woodside (Queens NY). He will be remaining Montreal during the summer to provide support for the continuation of the Mission outreach ministry to the immigrants living in the area of our SELC Congregation, Ascension LC.

Rev. Jon Bender has accepted the Call from St. John, Cudahy WI to become Senior Pastor. Installation is set for 11am on Saturday, June 6th.

Rev. Warren Huffines has announced his plans to retire as Pastor of St. John, Granite City IL in September 2009.

Rev. Elowsky Receives PhD

Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky received his degree from Drew University on May 16th.

His dissertation *Participation in Antioch and Alexandria: Theodore of Mopsuestia's and Cyril of Alexandria's comments on Jesus' Words, 'That They May Be One,'* was approved by the committee "with Distinction."

Leaving Drew at the end of June, Dr. Elowsky will become the Executive Director (CEO) of the *Center for Early African Christianity*; with subsequent meetings in Africa (Dakar, Senegal) and then on to Brazil for a meeting with the World Evangelical Alliance. You can learn more about this center at www.earlyafricanchristianity.com.

Rev. Leach Receives PhD

Rev. Dr. LeRoy Leach (Holy Trinity, Yonkers NY) received his PhD in Missiology on May 22nd from Concordia Seminary, Ft Wayne IN.

2009–2010 SELC Vicar Assignment

Joseph Seifert (StL) to St. Luke, Oviedo

Gaven Mize (FtW) to Zion, Clark NJ

Steven Hoerr (FtW) to St. John, Massillon/ St. Mark Steubenville OH

A Predictable Future in Uncertain Times

submitted by Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor: Lutheran Haven & SELC District

Brad and Louise were tired of all the wild swings in the stock market and decided to do something about it. They wanted to create predictability in an unpredictable world. While they could never completely erase the ups and downs of the market, they did find a way of making it more tolerable by funding a charitable remainder annuity trust.

They decided to fund the trust after they discovered all it could do for them. They funded it by transferring some stock they had held for awhile. They did this without paying capital gains taxes and even received an income tax deduction for part of the amount. In return, they established the trust so it would pay them a fixed amount for as long as either lived. With careful planning, they could expect a lifetime of steady payments.

Since funding the trust, Brad and Louise still watch the market, but now they have added some stability to their lives. While the funds in their trust may go up and down, their payments from it will not. They also know that after a lifetime of payments to them, any funds remaining in the trust will go directly to support their favorite charity's mission. That brought them even more comfort than the payments.

What about you? Could you use some stability in an up and down world? Consider a charitable remainder annuity trust like Brad and Louise. For help in determining the right plan for you, e-mail Robin Paris at rparis@lutheranhaven.org or call her at 407-365-5676, ext. 1168.

Beacon deadline for August/September issue is JULY 12TH

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

100th Anniversary Celebration Continues

at St. John LC, Massillon, OH!

by Colleen Pohlod

One in the Spirit: United in Christ and With Each Other is the theme of St. John LC 100th Anniversary which is being celebrated in 2009 with six special worship services. The emphasis of the May 3rd special service was on Confirmation and The Lord's Supper. Over the last 100 years, St. John's has confirmed more than 1,000 members. A listing of all these confirmands was compiled and displayed by member Barb Leffler. The service began with a processional led by the cross, the 100th Anniv. banner, confirmation students and teachers, then Pastor & Elders, all joyfully singing "The Church's One Foundation".

An added bonus at this special anniversary service was The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.....times two! The two infant cousins baptized were Isabella Elaina Sturm and Zachary Ivan Sturm, born just five days apart in January. The Holy Spirit at work through water and the Word further highlighted our unity with the Good Shepherd in Word and Sacrament and with each other. Pastor Telloni's sermon "Following Confirmation, Following Christ in Communion with Him and His Church" was based on John 10:11-18. Both the Adult Choir and the Sunday School Choir sang special anthems. The Adult Choir, under the direction of Dr. Lewis Porter, sang Christ, My Shepherd, Welcomes Me. Mrs. Alicia Pazzo accompanied on the flute. The Sunday School Choir, directed by Lou Ann Gotch, sang Holy Spirit, Bless, with soloist Rick Sailer accompanying on the guitar.

The Catechism students in grades 5-8 participated and led the congregation, along with Pastor, in reciting from Luther's Small Catechism "The Sacrament of the Altar".

Once again, this special anniv. service was focused on God's Word and on His grace and love for His people. A delicious brunch was served in the Fellowship Hall, compliments of the Martha Society. A brief program followed, led by

Congregational President, Marty Pohlod. Current member, 95 year old Andy Bartko, was present and acknowledged as a Confirmation student from 1927. A photo of the 1927 Confirmation Class was included in the bulletin, which had 19 students, 3 of whom are still living. During the brunch, Pastor Telloni provided, and then briefly reviewed, a sample Catechism exam for all to test their Catechesis comprehension! Several members then stood and shared their personal recollections of their Confirmation class years (i.e. memorizing, in Slovak, 140+ questions and their answers, to be verbally tested in front of the congregation!!) Members from almost every decade of Confirmation classes were present.

St. John's next 100th Anniv. Service will be July 5th, at 9:30 am. The focus will be on Marriage and Family & Renewal of Marriage Vows, with Guest Preacher Rev. Kenneth Ballas (SELC Central Circuit Counselor). We look forward to another spiritually rich worship and fellowship time with our brothers and sisters in Christ, both near and far!



P. Telloni & The Sturm Families



Sunday School Choir



Youth Cleaning Crew

Confirmation Retreat Welcomes 31 East Coast Students

by Pastor Joe Weatherell



The fifth annual Confirmation Retreat was held at Camp Lebanon in Lebanon, NJ on the weekend of April 24th to 26th. Students from congregations in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania came together for fellowship, Bible study, games, and fun. The theme for this year's retreat was **The Sacraments**. There were games, skits, and devotions all based upon the theme. Five different pastors and one vicar led the instructional sessions which covered the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, along with Confession & Absolution and the Office of the Keys. P. Andy Dzurovcik

from Zion, Clark and P. Phil McClelland from Peace, Galloway each led sessions concerning the sacrament of baptism. P. Ron Jones from St. Paul, Raritan led the discussion on Confession and Absolution. Vicar Peter III from Zion, Clark instructed the youth on the Office of the Keys. P. John Perling from St. Paul, Greenwich and P. Ray Malec of Concordia, Bethlehem each led sessions on the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

There were 31 students in attendance representing St. Paul, Greenwich, CT; Zion, Clark, NJ; St. Paul, Pompton Lakes, NJ (NJ District); St. Paul, Raritan, NJ; St. John, Bound Brook, NJ (NJ District); Peace, Galloway, NJ; Concordia, Bethlehem, PA; and St. John's, Hazleton, PA.

As a service project, the kids painted one of the cabins at the camp on Saturday afternoon. The weekend wrapped up with Divine

Service at the outdoor Green Cathedral on Sunday morning. Next year's retreat is scheduled for April 23-25, 2010.



Are You Registered for the District Youth Gathering?

by Tim Hasko

Many groups are already registered for this historic "Luther League" youth gathering, "A Space Coast Odyssey", hosted by mission congregations in FL!

When? July 16–19, 2009

Host Groups: Faith & Hope Lutheran Churches, Viera FL.

Room Accommodations: Courtyard by Marriott, Melbourne FL (don't book rooms directly, they are included in the registration!)

Gathering Site: Redeemer LC, Melbourne FL

Speaker: A Real Live Astronaut!!

Night at the beach, Fellowship and Bible Study, Servant Events, and Lutheran Youth from all over the country.



Youth packing school supplies for Orphan Grain Train at last summers gathering in Hazleton PA

"Shine like stars in the universe, as you hold out the Word of life!" Philippians 2:15-16

Registration forms are available on the Luther League website www.lutherleage.com. For more information contact: Pastor Mark Moreno rock_moreno@yahoo.com or Tim Hasko timhasko@execpc.com.



SELC DISTRICT LWML SPRING RETREAT

by Cheryl Rusiecki, Eastern Zone Pres.

The SELC District LWML sponsored a Spring Retreat on May 1st to 3rd, at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA. The Districts who participated in the Retreat were the SELC, the Atlantic District, the Eastern District and the English District.

Friday night began with preparation School Kits and Grooming Kits. We also collected walkers and canes. The ingathering items will be sent to the Orphan Grain Train and will eventually be sent to Nicaragua.

Saturday morning began with Opening Devotions. We then spent the day studying the retreat program, "A Time for...", based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. As the day progressed, we learned how to use our time to the Glory of God.

Robin Paris, Lutheran Haven Foundation Gift Coordinator spoke to us about Lutheran Haven and Sharon Roegge, SELC District LWML President and Maureen Consiglio, Atlantic District LWML President spoke to us about the National Convention to be held in Pittsburgh in 2013 and they told us we were part of a coalition of Districts (New England, Atlantic, Eastern, New Jersey, SELC and English) that will host the convention.

The ladies enjoyed meeting women (and men) from other districts and are interested in joining together in the future for another retreat.



HUMAN CARE-LWML

by Nona Schipull, SELC District Human Care Chairman

I was reminded today of the story of the good Samaritan. Caring for others means caring for all people because God greatly loves each of us. The LWML has quite a few resources to give us ideas and guidance. These can be found in their catalog or online at www.shop.lwml.org.

1. With Care and Compassion (catalog #14880) is a book with chapters about social ministry, inreach, outreach, spiritual resources, and health and wellness. The Love in Action chapter has a Gifts from the Heart checklist.
2. Meeting and Event Planner (catalog #14223) has a monthly listing of Human Care activities.
3. Buddy Check (catalog #59126) is a new booklet with bedside devotions to use when caring for or visiting shut-ins.

Other districts share ideas in their newsletters. Here are a few ideas for you to consider.

1. Host a "2 for" gathering! When stores have Buy 1, Get 1 Free sales, set aside the extra item. The LWML can collect these at a gathering and donate items to a food pantry.
2. Have an "Undie Sunday." Collect new underwear for a pre-selected mission, homeless shelter, etc.
3. Look for people in need by reading "Making a Difference" from Lutheran Church Charities at www.newsletter@lutheranchurchcharities.org.

Finally, PRAY for others. Make your own list for daily prayer, and schedule time during your LWML meeting for "Human Care" prayer time. Ask God to show you and lead you to be a good Samaritan. Human Care is God in Action through YOU! If you have ideas to share with our sisters in Christ, email me at ndsmusic@mindspring.com. **"Let us search and try out new ways and turn again to the Lord."** Lamentations 3:17

Look to the Hills . . . God Reigns!

by Sharon Roegge, SELC District President

The LWML convention is right around the corner! Between June 25-28, attendees of the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention will gather in Portland to be nourished by the Word, inspired with songs of praise, and encouraged in service to God and others through the many speakers and Convention activities. Check www.lwml.org for updates and news during the convention.

SELC District Convention Committees

June 22 – 25, 2009

Nominations and Elections

(Elected at the SELC 2006 District Convention)

Mr. Alan Mercer (Eastern Circuit - Peace, Galloway NJ)
Rev. James Rice (Central Circuit) - Activated for Military Service, Unavailable)
Mr. Ronald Hoehnke (Western Circuit - St. John, Cudahy WI)
Rev. Mark Moreno (Southern Circuit - Hope, Melbourne FL)
Rev. Edgar Anthony (Central Circuit - Sts. Peter & Paul, Lorain OH) **Chairman**
(Appointed replacement for Rev. Rice)

Board of Directors liason: Rev. John Telloni

Resolutions Committee

Rev. Ron Jones (Eastern Circuit - St. Paul, Raritan NJ)
Dr. Gene Veith (Eastern Circuit - St. Athanasius, Vienna VA)
Rev. Jerome Panzgrau (Central Circuit - John Hus, Arnold & St. John, Brackenridge PA)
Mrs. Dianne Harter (Central Circuit - Sts. Peter & Paul, Sharon PA)
Mrs. Ardyne Kirn (Western Circuit - Resurrection, Crown Point IN)
Mrs. Joyce Ongstad (Western Circuit - Holy Cross, Alsip IL)
Mr. Gary Guiles (Southern Circuit - St. Luke=s, Oviedo FL)
Rev. David Haara (Southern Circuit - Family of Christ, Tampa FL)
Rev. Paul Biber (Western Circuit - St. Lucas, St. Louis MO) **Chairman**

Board of Directors liason: Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik

Credentials and Registration

Mrs. Anna Bocklage (Eastern Circuit - St. John, Emporia VA)
Mrs. Ruth Janosek (Central Circuit - Grace, Lakewood OH)
Mr. Edward Eckert (Western Circuit - St. John, Cudahy WI)
Mrs. Mary Cook (Southern Circuit - Faith Viera, Rockledge FL)
Rev. George Hansell (Central Circuit - Grace, Lakewood OH) **Chairman**

Board of Directors liason: Rev. Chris Cahill

Press Committee

Mr. Donald Roegge (Eastern Circuit - St. John, Hazleton PA)
Mrs. Joanne Segedi (Central Circuit - Christ the King, Lodi OH)
Rev. Luke Jacob (Western Circuit - Pentecost, Racine WI)
Mr. George McAllan (Southern Circuit - Holy Cross, Lake Mary FL)
Rev. Jeff Stone (Central Circuit - Calvary, Parma OH) **Chairman**

Board of Directors liason: Mr. Richard Martin

Advisor: Mrs. Gail Peterson, Lutheran Beacon Editor

Convention Facilitator: Rev. John Telloni

Nominated by the Congregations of the SELC

SELC District Convention — June 22nd–25th, 2009

For the Office of SELC District President:

Nominated and Agreed to allow their names to stand for election:

Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger, Jr.	St. John, Cudahy WI	Western Circuit
Rev. John Telloni	St. John, Massillon OH	Central Circuit

The following SELC Pastors were nominated for the Office of SELC District President, but declined to allow their names to stand for election:

Rev. Wally Arp	Rev. Joel Elowsky	Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis
Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik	Rev. Ron Meyr	

For the Office of SELC Vice-President:

Nominated and Agreed to allow their names to stand for election:

Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill	Christ the King, Lodi OH	Central Circuit
Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik	Zion, Clark NJ	Eastern Circuit
Rev. David Haara	Family of Christ, Tampa FL	Southern Circuit
Rev. Paul Hoyer	Holy Cross, Lake Mary FL	Southern Circuit
Rev. Steven Lange	Living Word, Orland Park IL	Western Circuit
Rev. Ron Meyr	Faith Viera, Rockledge FL	Southern Circuit
Rev. John Telloni	St. John, Massillon OH	Central Circuit
Rev. Dr. William Utech	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO	Western Circuit
Rev. Wally Vinovskis	Concordia, Macungie PA	Eastern Circuit

The following SELC Pastors were nominated for the Office of SELC District Vice-president, but declined to allow their names to stand for election:

Rev. Scott Abel	Rev. James Douthwaite	Rev. Gerald Kovac
Rev. Wally Arp	Rev. Joel Elowsky	Rev. Ray Malec
Rev. Luther Bajus	Rev. John Gutz	Rev. Chris Ongstad
Rev. Otto Baker	Rev. George Hansell	Rev. Jerome Panzigrau
Rev. Kenneth Ballas	Rev. Jeffrey Harter	Rev. Gary Schuschke
Rev. Jon Bender	Rev. Warren Huffines	
Rev. Kevin Bergmann	Rev. Ron Jones	