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The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine ...



PUBLISHED BY THE SELC DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

JAN/FEB 2010

happy
new
year

*Resolve to get
closer to
your Lord
in
2010*

Hope Lutheran Church (Melbourne FL)

Charters!

by Rev. Mark Moreno

On January 10th, Hope LC chartered as a congregation of the SELC District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod!

In-between the two morning services, a congregational meeting was held to celebrate the new beginning.

Hope Lutheran began worship on Sept. 11, 2005 as an outreach of Faith "Viera" Lutheran. Pastor Mark Moreno has been serving as the associate pastor at Faith as well as the mission planter at Hope. Since that time, Hope has had regular worship, Bible study, Sunday School and VBS as well as various small group ministries, men's ministries and women's ministries. All of the youth and confirmation programs have been shared between the two churches.

The original plan was for Hope to be planted in the growing area of West Viera. Due to the economy, that plan has not gone according to the script. West Viera is at least 10 to 15 years away from being developed, so Hope is considering other nearby areas to either purchase land and build or purchase an existing property.

Please keep all of our mission churches in your prayers and thank you for your continued support and encouragement! Hope will be having another new member class on Jan. 17 and welcome in 5 new families. May God's Word powerfully enable His Church to share the Gospel of Christ to a world so badly in need.



The people of Haiti need our prayers and our help! Ways to help can be found at the Lutheran World Relief website: www.lwr.org or Lutheran Church Charities: www.lutheranchurchcharities.org. For more information, see Page 5 and visit these websites.

CREDIT CARD CONTROL

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

DELINQUENCY RATE DOWN

A benefit of the economic crisis is the reformation taking place regarding credit card use. For the first time in a decade, more people paid their credit card bills on time in the 3rd quarter of 2009 than in the 2nd quarter. The delinquency rate on credit cards is also declining toward 1%. Lenders are being controlled with new legislative regulations to protect the consumer. The best credit card regulator, however, is still the consumer. Credit card control ultimately rests in the hands of the one using the card.

CREDIT CARDS:

BANE OR BLESSING?

When managed properly credit cards can be a great convenience and beneficial. When handled improperly, the result is financial disaster. Those who lived during World War II had the depression-era mentality of maintaining a balanced budget. If you couldn't afford it, you didn't buy it. If you didn't need it, you didn't get it. The idea to fully pay as you buy faded in the economic boom of the 50's. Easy credit enabled Americans to buy that larger home in the suburbs, the biggest refrigerator, the largest riding lawnmower, state-of-the art electronics, more expensive cars, etc. But for many the convenience of acquiring things easily via credit created the disruptive monster - DEBT! U.S. credit card debt jumped 25% in the past 10 years reaching \$963 billion in January, 2009.

THINGS CREDIT CARD COMPANIES DON'T WANT

CONSUMERS TO KNOW

Credit card companies prefer minimum monthly payments in order to make a profit on accumulated interest. As Jean Ann Fox of Consumer Federation of America puts it: "Credit card issuers make the minimum payment as low as possible not to do you any good, but to do them good." For example, if a person makes minimum payments on a \$2,500 balance at 18% interest, it will take 34 years to pay it off. By then, \$6,431 would have been paid in interest in addition to the original \$2,500!

GETTING RID OF CREDIT DEBT IS GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Those burdened with credit card debt should pay off the debt as soon as possible. This demands some serious self-denial and personal sacrifices. The advantages of being debt free are worth the effort. Financial stress will be diminished. Money saved by eliminating interest charges can be used to safely invest for future spending. There is great satisfaction in watching money multiply instead of being lost to creditors. The misuse of credit cards is poor Christian stewardship. God desires good management of the money He gives us. It is imperative to live within one's means. It is folly to spend more than is earned.



CREDIT CARD CONTROL

1. Limit yourself to one or two major cards.
2. Do not borrow from one card to pay another.
3. Protect your card with diligence.
4. Be sure to get your card after every purchase.
5. Do not give your card number over the phone unless dealing with a reputable company.
6. Immediately check your statement for incorrect transactions.
7. Keep your credit card account and emergency numbers in a safe place.
8. Pay the FULL amount due on your statement well ahead of the payment due date.

DISPEL GREED & BE CONTENT

The shortest route to unhappiness is discontent fueled by greed, envy and covetousness. I Tim. 6:9-10 warns: "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction." Heb. 13:5 advises: "Be content with what you have."

Live within your means!

St. John (Cudahy) Celebrates 35 Years of Ministry As Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger Retires from the Parish Ministry



St. John LC of Cudahy WI announced the retirement of Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger, Jr from the Parish Ministry. The Congregation will be hosting an evening event on Sat., February 13th at Pulaski Hall to celebrate 35 years in the Public Ministry of our Savior, Jesus, with 30 of those years at St. John,

Cudahy. Reservations required for the evening event—call the church office at 414-481-0520.

Born in Wyandotte MI, child #12 in the blended Krueger household. Carl graduated as Valedictorian of Ecorse High School, with a full scholarship to the Univ. of Michigan—Ann Arbor. He graduated in 1970 with a BA in Psychology & Philosophy and minors in Greek and German.

Carl entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield IL, spending the third year as Vicar in Marquette MI serving Redeemer LC, along with being the Campus Pastor for Northern Michigan University. Carl was awarded a Masters of Divinity degree in 1974 and was placed in his first Call as Pastor of Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical LC of Gary IN, where he served from 1974 until 1979. He then accepted the Call to be Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church of Cudahy WI, where he has served continuously until his scheduled retirement, February 28, 2010.

St. John LC of Cudahy is located one block from the Lake Michigan bluffs, adjacent to Sheridan Park. St. John Child Development Center has been in the daycare business since 1974, serving approximately 90 children a day/year round. In 1993, Cross of Christ LC of Cudahy closed, but Rev. Krueger worked with the South Wisconsin District of the LC—MS to arrange for St. John to acquire both the Church and parsonage property. St. John renamed the Church building, St. John Life Enrichment Center, using the facility for a number of community-based activities and additional worship services. In 1999, St. John Congregation completed a \$2 Million renovation of the Lake Drive property, widening the Sanctuary, adding two levels of 5,000 square feet each for office area and an expanded fellowship hall, adding two entrances and a second parking lot, and making the entire Lake Drive facility handicapped accessible by installing 2 elevators. St. John sold the Life Enrichment Center in 2005 to the South Milwaukee-Oak Creek School District for a computer-based high school education program.

Rev. Krueger joined the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, as a Chaplain in 1984, and retired in 2004, attaining the rank of Chaplain, Lt. Col. During his military service, he was deployed to Japan, Germany, Italy, France, and England. He had been activated during Operation: Desert Storm. His Chaplaincy included ministry to the bereaved at the tragic explosion of a KC-135 Tanker at Mitchell Airport, which killed 5 Air National Guardsmen. His professional military education included Senior Wing Chaplain School, Suicide Prevention Trainer, Critical Incident Response Trainer, and

AirCommand and Staff Diploma. Rev. Krueger was chosen as Veteran of the Year—2000, by the City of Cudahy Veterans Committee. In 2004, he was awarded the Martin of Tours Medal by the LC—MS Ministry to the Armed Forces. Since 2003, he has served in the appointed office of Milwaukee County Veterans' Service Commissioner.

Rev. Krueger began work with The Lutheran Radio Church Service—the longest continuous weekly religious radio broadcast in the United States—serving as programmer, liturgist, preacher, and LCMS Director, for 10 years.

In 1997, Rev. Krueger was elected as District President of the SELC District of the LC—MS. In 2009, Rev. Krueger was elected to his fifth three-year term as District President, serving as ecclesiastical supervisor for 55 churches (with their respective pre-schools, day cares, and elementary schools), the Pastors, Teachers, and all other professional church workers, scattered in 12 States and 2 Canadian Provinces. Formerly, Rev. Krueger had served as the SELC District Mission Board Chairman, where he was involved in the planting of 8 new Congregations: Lake Mary FL (1984); Manchester NJ (1986); Macungie PA (1987); Orland Park IL (1990); Crown Point IN (1992); Galloway NJ (1992); Viera FL (1996); Tampa FL (1999).

While District President, Rev. Krueger has served on the Vicarage and Candidate Placement Committee, as Chairman of LCMS Convention Committee for Higher Education, as Presenter to the 2006 Theological Conference for the Minnesota South District, as Chaplain/Preacher/Bible study leader for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and Lutheran Church Foundation annual gatherings, and as District President-in-Residence at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne IN. In 2008, Concordia University of Mequon WI awarded Rev. Krueger an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his service to the Church, the nation and the community.

Rev. Krueger has served his local community as President (12 terms) for the Cudahy/St. Francis Interfaith Older Adult Program; Chairman of the Board (9 terms) for Project Concern of Cudahy / St. Francis; and founding member of The Healthier Communities Initiative of St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek. Rev. Krueger and St. John, Cudahy have worked co-operatively with Aurora Health Care to provide a Parish Nurse for the Congregation and the Community for over 15 years.

Rev. Krueger is married to Dianne (nee Charron), a licensed dental hygienist. The Kruegers have been blessed with 5 children (which includes two sets of twins), and five grandchildren. Most of the extended Krueger family still lives in the Milwaukee area, and all gather weekly at the Krueger home for Sunday dinner.

As Rev. Krueger retires from the Parish Ministry of St. John LC, he will continue to serve as District President for the SELC District, and as Milwaukee County Veterans' Service Commissioner.

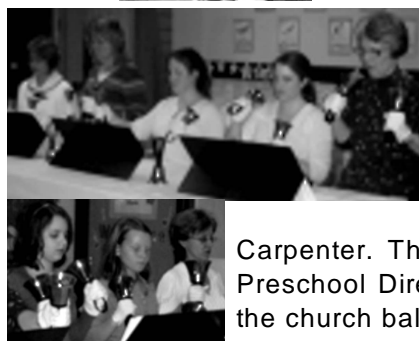
Christmas Celebrations Abound at St. John (Massillon OH)

by Colleen Pohlod



FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION

The Board of Elders at St. John LC coordinates the distribution of food baskets for area needy families at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. In addition, the Fellowship Club organizes a gift collection at Christmas so the children of the families receiving food baskets can receive a present or two from the church members. This "caring and sharing" ministry is a blessing to those giving and receiving!



HANDBELL CHOIR —

The St. John LC Handbell Choir has been busy this past Christmas season. They debuted in Dec. by providing dinner music during one of the Advent suppers at church. This was followed by performances at the Canton Regency Nursing Home, the St. John LC Preschool Christmas program, and the Christmas Eve pre-service concert at St. John LC. The group is made up of some very enthusiastic, talented, and hard-working members: Connie Ribaud, Emily Ribaud, Marty Brown, Amanda Brown, Erin Houston, Meghan Houston, Deb Stocker, Barb Leffler and Shannon Carpenter. The Director of this fine group is Mrs. Alicia Pazzo, who is also the church's Preschool Director /Teacher/Music Teacher. The group practices several times a month in the church balcony. "Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song". (Psalm 95:2)



JR. YOUTH ADVENT SUPPER —

The Jr. Youth group is raising funds to attend Camp Lutherhaven in Indiana for a week this summer. The group is led by Mrs. Lou Ann Gotch and Mrs. Anita Telloni. Fundraisers thus far include a bake sale, Advent suppers and gift-wrapping, with plans for more events this Winter/Spring. Pictured here at one of the Advent suppers are: Mrs. Telloni, Matthew Zittel, Andrew Pohlod, Daniel Pohlod, Abigail Harrill, Larissa Russert, Olivia Byrne, Elizabeth Sailer, Peter Pohlod, Andrew Zittel, Blaze Davis, Douglas Byrne, and Rachel Sailer.



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS BAKING



Baking Slovak pastries at St. John LC is a tradition twice each year. The hard-working members of the Martha Society, along with other volunteers, bake for a whole week in December, and then again before Easter each year. Baked with love are: delicious nut crescent cookies, poppy seed bread, prune bread, nut bread, white bread, cheese bread and pepperoni rolls. It is a labor of love to be sure! People in the church

and community look forward to the bake sales. The funds raised by these sales are generously donated by the Martha Society to meet many needs at the church. Thanks ladies!!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The children of St. John LC prepare to participate in the midweek Advent service and present the Sunday School Christmas program. This year's program was based on the great hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come", which unpacks the miracle of the two natures of Christ (human and divine).

St John Celebrates Consecration Sunday

by Rev. Jon Bender

St. John LC (Cudahy, Wi) celebrated their second Consecration Sunday on October 18th, 2009. The results were worth celebrating—167 giving units (individuals or couples) submitted estimate-of-giving cards. Results from these “faith promises” represented a 20% increase more than was given in the past 12 months.



The Consecration Stewards Team facilitated multiple activities and events. In the weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, letters were mailed, reservations for the brunch and lunch were collected, posters were placed around the church, and several members presented personal stewardship testimonies during worship services. Team members also provided a special Bible study focused on Christian stewardship. Congregational leaders attended a special Governing Board dinner, and personally visited any members the following week who had not made reservations for the celebration meals.

On Consecration Sunday, the congregation had the privilege of hearing the guest speaker, Rev. Warren Huffines, one of the SELC District's Consecrated Stewards representatives and pastor emeritus of St John, Granite City. Pastor Huffines emphasized that our giving is not just one more “plate” to balance, but it is our joyful faith-filled response to our loving, gracious, and generous God. In celebration of the opportunity to consider our joyful response, a delicious brunch was served after the early service, and a lunch followed the late service. The following week, every member who submitted an Estimate of Giving Card received a thank-you letter from the Consecration Sunday co-chairs.

St. John rejoiced in the opportunity to celebrate God's abundant blessings through the Consecrated Stewards program. St John's Board of Stewardship hopes to continue to hold the Consecration Sunday event annually.

Concordia (Macungie) Partners with Diakon Lutheran Social Services

by Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis

Concordia Lutheran Preschool in Macungie PA provides preschool programs for 87 children ages two to five years of age. As an active ministry of the congregation, we strive to provide service projects for our preschoolers and their families.

We have formed a partnership with the Diakon Lutheran Social Services located in Topton, PA. Each Christmas season since 2005, we've provided Christmas gifts for the children within their foster care system. Preschoolers, their families, the staff and the congregation purchase gifts from the foster children's wish list. The number of children each year has ranged between 80 and 100. This Christmas we provided 83 foster children with gifts.



To fully involve our preschoolers, they each created a Christmas ornament bearing a message. This year we created Christmas trees with the message *Jesus Is The Reason For The Season*. The gifts and ornaments are delivered to the Diakon offices by a team of parents, siblings, extended family and the preschool director. It is our hope that these children will come to know the love of God through the support we provide.

Haiti . . . a Land in Need!

Eastern District Aid Team in Haiti

The day before a 7.0 earthquake struck, a Missionary Team based out of First Trinity LC, in Tonawanda NY arrived in Haiti. They are safe but have some specific prayer requests to lift up these missionaries and the people of Haiti:

- * That God would keep the mission team safe
- * That the team would be a witness and help
- * That roads and airports are restored quickly so that relief workers and aid can arrive soon

The Haitian Lutheran Mission Project reports that although they haven't heard from Pastor Isaac, The Haitian Health Foundation (located within walking distance of Pastor's home in Jeremie) said there was some damage but nothing like Port Au Prince.

As the majority of food and water supplies for most of the island come through devastated Port Au Prince, there is certain to be widespread starvation.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is prone to natural disasters and ill-equipped to respond to such disasters.

This earthquake is the most powerful to strike Haiti in more than 200 years.

EMPORIA VIRGINIA CONGREGATION CONCLUDES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Rev. George Daniel Plvan

The year-long centennial celebration of St. John the Baptist Lutheran Church of Emporia, Virginia, climaxed and was concluded on Sunday, December 13, 2009 with a Festival Worship Service and a Fellowship Dinner.



P. Stephen Bocklage

During the course of 2009 special Worship Services were conducted which highlighted the past, the present, and the future vision of the congregation. Former pastors returned to deliver the sermons on these occasions while the worship leader for each of them was the Reverend Stephen Bocklage.

Approximately 250 members, former members and friends were present for the Festival Worship Service, which was held in the sanctuary, and for the Fellowship Dinner which took place at the Ruritan Clubhouse.

Leading the worship was Pastor Stephen Bocklage. He was assisted by Pastor George Plvan, one of St. John's former pastors. He served as the lector, reading the Scripture Lessons, and also chanted the 23rd Psalm in the Slovak language, a tradition of Evangelical Lutherans who came from Slovakia in Eastern Europe and founded the congregation. The anniversary sermon was delivered by Rev. D. Paul L. Maier, Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI and 2nd Vice-president of the 2.5 million member LC-MS. Included in the worship were songs in the Slovak language by children of the congregation as well as a speaking of the Lord's Prayer in Slovak by Morgan Dianis. The acolyte was Colin Swenson and the crucifer was Kyle Swenson. Phyllis Brna served as organist, Anna Bocklage as trumpeter and Choir Director and Marilyn LeGrow as handbell choir coordinator. To accommodate the overflow crowd in-house TV was available in the educational wing classrooms.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Paul Maier, Rev. Steve Bocklage, Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, Rev. George Plvan

The Fellowship Dinner at the Ruritan Clubhouse followed. The meal was served by Mark's Catering and the large crowd was quickly and efficiently served.

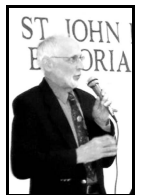
Families of the congregation were invited to prepare pictures and historical documents from the past which were placed on large display boards for the people to examine. These proved to be of great interest to former members and friends who had been away for many years and who could recall their time spent at St. Johns in Emporia.



L to R: Betty Ann Barrett, Rev. John Bauer, Ken Ryals (Pres. Congregation), Rev. Steve Bocklage

Mr. Ken Ryals and Mrs. Butler Barrett served as master and mistress of ceremonies. They alternated in introducing guests and submitting information on the 100 year history of the church. It should be noted here that in 1959, Charles Sabo, father of Mrs. Barrett, and president of the congregation at the time, served as master of ceremonies for the Golden Anniversary of the church.

One of the congregations former pastors, John Bauer of Colorado Spring, CO was the main speaker at the Fellowship Dinner. He reminded everyone of experiences he had when he served St. John Lutheran



Rev. John Bauer

Church in the 1970s and encouraged the people to remember their heritage and to continue to do the work of the Lord in the years and decades to come.

Congratulating the congregation on its centennial was Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, pastor emeritus of St. John LC, Cudahy, WI, and president of the SELC District of the LC - MS. He commended the people of St. John for their dedication and devotion and urged them to remember the struggles and sacrifices their forefathers made when they first came to Greensville County and Emporia at the start of the 1900s.



Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger

Former servants of the congregation who were present included Rev. Michael Brondos of Richmond, VA who served as a Vicar (Intern) and came away from the church with a wife, the former Amelia Zalman. Rev. Al Bruning of Ashland, who served as Interim Pastor for the congregation prior to the arrival of Pastor Bocklage, together with his wife Marge, was also present. Among the guests were Pastor and Mrs. Herb Dorn, Pastor Emeritus of Grace LC in Richmond.

The 100th Anniversary Committee consisted of: Carolyn Fajna, Chair, and members Evelyn Ewing, Barbara Suessmann, Betty Anne Barrett, Anna Bocklage and Trina Taylor.

MAY 14TH – 16TH, 2010 . . . Save the Dates! Plans are well under way for the SELC LWML District Convention to be held May 14th – 16th at Concordia University, Chicago in River Forest, Illinois.

We'll have worship service on Friday evening at Zion in Norridge, Illinois. Saturday's activities will be in the Oak Park-River Forest room at Koehneke Community Center. We'll have Bible Study on Saturday and Sunday, election of officers, selection of 2010-2012 Mission Grants and goal, an exceptional presentation of Christian Art, and LOTS of Christian fellowship. LWML Treasurer, Helen Miller will be our national representative. There will be other surprises along the way. Watch for registration material coming soon.

Human Care — LWML

by Nona Schipull, SELC District Human Care Chairman

The apostle John tells how Mary anointed Jesus' feet with expensive ointment. When Judas complained, Jesus said, "The poor you always have with you." (John 12:8) He ministered to all people whatever their needs.

A Lutheran organization that is serving the poor among us today is Orphan Grain Train. They sponsor orphanages in countries such as Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia. They



Grain Train still a presence in Biloxi

provide "grain" and other food to hungry children and adults in many countries. This "train" also delivers clothing, medical supplies, school supplies, and Bibles to people around the world. In addition, they sponsor prisons, hospitals, and mobile clinics.

In their Fall/Winter 2009 Newsletter, Rev. Ray S. Wilke tells us that in Ezekiel 16:49 God says, "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters were arrogant, overfed, and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy." (NIV) Orphan Grain Train has heeded this warning and is focused on helping the world's poor and needy.

You may send monetary contributions and/or clothing and other supplies to them. Items always in short supply are: infants and children's clothing, gently used summer clothing for people of all ages, new all-cotton underwear and socks for all ages, quilts, and comforters. For more information, call (402) 371-7393 or check the website, www.ogt.org for a regional office near you.



National Youth Gathering

July 17-21, 2010

New Orleans, LA

by Rev. Mark Moreno, SELC District Coordinator

Space is still available for the 2010 Gathering. We encourage you to register soon. After March 1st, participants will be admitted for the late registration fee of \$325. (Payments must be postmarked on or before March 1st.)

Five SELC churches have already registered [Macungie, Parma, Oviedo, Viera, and Racine]. It would be a blessing for many more youth and churches in our district to join in this event. No matter how big or how small, youth groups and individual youth are encouraged to attend.

As SELC District Coordinator, I want to do anything I can to help your group get to New Orleans. For more information, please contact Pastor Moreno at 321-242-1610 or at www.vierawest.org.

I want to thank all who offered prayers and encouragement during my recent hospitalization. The day after surgery, my surgeon said, *Well, you can tell your Pastors and family and friends that their prayers are what did it - I certainly can't take the credit for what I was able to accomplish with such minimal invasion.*

Gail Peterson

This is your newsletter—Articles & Photos are welcome! E-mail submissions to:

gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com

Please **submit articles as separate attachments** in the program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.] — **NOT as an e-mail.**

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments **[NOT as part of your article—JPEG format preferred.]**

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE
IS FEBRUARY 12TH**



Family of Rev. John Hartwig, who was called to his eternal rest on January 11th, after a long battle with declining health. He served as pastor of St. John the Baptist LC in Emporia VA from July 1977 to January 1986.

Rev. Samuel Mozolak at the death of his wife, Mildred. Pastor Mozolak served at Pentecost LC in Lakewood, Ohio from 1958 until he retired in 1980. Mildred and Sam lived in the Cleveland area for a number of years after retirement until health issues made it necessary for them to relocate to Pittsburgh, PA close to where their son, Harvey, is an ELCA pastor.

Sam (from Newark, N.J.) and Millie (from Johnstown, PA and N.J.) were married in 1941. Sam was serving in his first call at what is now St. Mark - Steubenville, OH at the time. Later Sam served as Associate Pastor of Holy Trinity (then in Cleveland - now in Parma, OH) and then at Holy Emmanuel (then in Minneapolis. MN) before coming to Lakewood to serve Pentecost LC (which became part of the new congregation - Grace Lutheran of Lakewood, OH in 2003, now being served by Rev. George Hansell). Sam served the SELC when it was a separate Synod (the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church, and then the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) and when we became a District of the LC-MS in a number of offices, including Executive Secretary of the Mission Board in the early to mid 1970's.

Mrs. Mary Moschler at the death of her husband, Thomas on December 31, 2009. Mary is the Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer of our Lutheran Haven, Oviedo FL. Her husband, Tom, has struggled for a number of years with chronic heart problems. Mary and Tom have one daughter, Maggie.

St. Luke's (Oviedo FL) Concert Series
Continues in February
Join us on Saturday, Feb. 13th

Arrive early - at 6:00pm - and meet Eltan Avitsur, Israeli Guest Composer for WMFE-90.7FM *Masterworks PRESENTATION*.

At 7:00pm, The University of Central Florida Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Laszlo Marosi, will present *Music of the East*.

Lutheran Haven

Guest Cottage Program Expands

Wondering what life is like at the Haven or do you just need a break from the cold? We can take care of both.

We've just expanded our Guest House program! You can stay for just a night or now, up to six months. We have one and two bedroom furnished cottages. Nothing extra to pack when you come see us. Everything from linens, knives and forks, pots and pans. We have it. Indulge yourself.

Don't forget, we're close to all the major attractions and the beaches! And our rates are the same all year round. Make your reservation today. Call Debbie at (407) 365-5676.

We'd love to show you around!

Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism Mission Moment

January 6 began the season of Epiphany when we celebrate the coming of the wise men "from the east" to see the young King of the Jews. In spite of the hymn "We Three Kings," we do not know how many magi there were, nor whether they were kings, wise men, Jews or Gentiles. Some believe that they were Jews, originating from what is now present-day Iran.

A sizeable group of Jews still lives in Iran today, remnants of the exile after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122) because the Iranian government seeks to destroy it. Call us at 314-645-4456, see us at www.lije.org, or e-mail us at rtvkeyve@aol.com.

Lutheran Haven Christmas Seals Impact

by Donald Kovac, Executive Director



When the hospital transport vehicle dispatched Marie to our nursing home, the first visual image she encountered was the stained glass window of Jesus in the Haven's nursing home lobby. Then, she said, she knew she was in the right place and everything would be okay.

That stained glass image of Jesus has been on the face of our Christmas seal for the past four years. As soon as you walk in the front door,

you know you are in a different place. That image says what we are all about. It is a visual display of our mission. It is a powerful message imprinted on the hearts of those who seek care and comfort.

We thank you for using the seal as part of your Christmas message this past year. And thank you for your support in helping all the other Maries who depend on others for their long term care needs in our nursing home and assisted living residence. God bless you this New Year in abundance!

From Fearful Flight to Bountiful Blessings

by Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor for the SELC District and Lutheran Haven

"I've learned to trust in the Lord completely," sprightly 74-year old Edie Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio, told Pat Bilow, Gift Planning Counselor, during one of her several visits. "But I didn't learn that as a young girl."

Edie continued to relate how she had come to that point. During World War II she and her parents fled their home on foot in the middle of the night with just the clothes on their backs to avoid the Russian occupation of their small town in Poland. Praying in fear for her life, Edie was grateful when they reached a relative in Czechoslovakia. As a 17-year-old at the time, she and her cousin dressed in ill-fitting, dark clothing with babushkas to hide their hair. They put charcoal on their faces in fear of being raped.

After being transferred to a refugee camp in Germany, Edie married a young GI and started a new life in America. Two sons later, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor and given a 50% chance to live through the surgery. "It was then that I really put my full trust in the Lord. Through God's grace, I survived the surgery and vowed to live my life for God," she told Pat.

At age 57, after an unforeseen divorce, Edie began working at a day care center. "It was important to me to stay out of debt, plus I loved working with the children."

Edie prayed to be a good steward for the Lord. She began by purchasing small shares of stock. Her "dribs and drabs" grew bountifully through the 1990's. Edie desired to return to the Lord some of the material wealth with which He had blessed her. Her Thrivent agents, Joy Schwartz and John Hoover, were invaluable as both professional

advisors and friends. This eventually brought Ms. Bilow to meet with her, Joy and John.

A series of talks, fueled by some of Edie's scrumptious European torte cakes, brought about a consensus of the minds. Edie and her favorite ministries would be best served through a gift annuity. The substantial increase in income enabled her to purchase a life insurance contract for her sons to replace the stock she used for the gift annuity. Because this was an irrevocable gift, she also received a sizeable tax deduction and a partial bypass of the capital gains tax. Most importantly, the remainder upon her death will go to the ministries she has designated for the Lord's work here on earth.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," Edie told them in gratitude. "I didn't think it was possible, but we've accomplished everything I wanted. The Lord is so good!"

The concept of using the income from a gift annuity or trust to fund an insurance policy is a sound one. It can pay the premium on Long-Term Care insurance if that is your need, or it can fund a "wealth replacement" policy as it did in Edie's case.

If you would like to hear more about possibilities like these, contact Robin Paris. She can create illustrations showing you just how these options can multiply the gifts God has given you to benefit you today, your heirs tomorrow, and Lutheran ministry forever. She can be reached at 407-365-5676, or by email at rparis@lutheranhaven.org. Oh, and by the way, Pat Bilow, formerly the Gift Planning Counselor for Ohio, now serves the LWML nationally and is a personal friend of Robin's.

2010 SELC EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 1 Deadline for District Reports, LCMS Convention Workbook
- 1-3 Eastern Circuit Pastoral Conference, Peace, Manchester NJ
- 9,10 Central Circuit Pastoral Conference, St. John, Massillon OH
- 9,10 Western Circuit Pastoral Conference, Holy Trinity, Whiting IN
- 11,12 Placement Committee meeting, Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne IN
- 13 Celebration of Retirement from the Parish Ministry, Rev. Carl Krueger, St. John, Cudahy WI 6pm-11pm
- 17 Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
- 20-23 Council of Presidents, International Center, St. Louis MO

MARCH

- 6 Deadline for LCMS Convention Overtures
- 10 Deadline for Nominations: LCMS President and First Vice-president
- 14 100th Anniversary Celebration, St. Matthew, Norton OH
2:30 Worship Service; 4pm Dinner
- 28 Palm Sunday

APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday, the Celebration of the Resurrection
- 22,23 Placement Committee and Final Slotting of Candidates and Vicars, St. Louis MO
- 24 LCMS Floor Committee Chair and Vice-chair meeting, St. Louis MO
- 24-27 Council of Presidents, International Center, St. Louis MO
- 25 Council of Presidents meets with Concordia, St. Louis, Faculty
- 27 Call Night, Concordia, St. Louis MO
- 28 Call Night, Concordia, Fort Wayne IN
- 29 Council of Presidents meets with Concordia, Fort Wayne, Faculty

May

- 3-5 Eastern Circuit Pastoral Conference, Emporia VA
- 5-7 Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, Oviedo FL
- 14-16 SELC LWML Convention, Concordia, River Forest IL (Zion, Norridge, hosting)
- 17 Mission Board, Zion, Norridge IL
- 18,19 Board of Directors, Norridge IL
- 21-24 LCMS Floor Committees, St. Louis MO