



THE CHIMES

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Rev. Luther John Bajus, pastor

Norridge, Illinois
60706-2994

Vol. XXIX No. 4

Bensenville Home Phone: 630.521.0196

Phones: Area Code: 708

Church: 456.8818

Church & Parsonage: 453.3514

APRIL, 2010

Fax & Working Office: 456.8818

Christ Is Risen and Lives

What Does He Mean to You Today?

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to Me,
even if it was just a few words,
asking my opinion or thanking me for something good
that happened in your life yesterday.

But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear.
When you ran around the house getting ready,
I knew there would be a few minutes for you
to stop and say hello, but you were too busy.

At one point you had to wait, fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair.
Then I saw you spring to your feet.
I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone
and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead.

I watched patiently all day long.
With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.
I noticed that before lunch you looked around,
maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me,
that is why you didn't bow your head.

You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to Me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's okay.

There is still more time left, and I hope that you will talk to Me yet.

You went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do.

After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV.

I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there

and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it

not thinking about anything,

just enjoying the show.

I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal,
but again you didn't talk to Me.

Bedtime I guess you felt too tired.

After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time.

That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you.

I've got patience, more than you will ever know.

I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well.

I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought
or a thankful part of your heart.

It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Well, you are getting up once again.

And once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you.

Hoping that today you will give me some time.

Have a nice day!

Your Living Friend and Savior,

Jesus



(Source Unknown)

*Easter Blessings
Pastor*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



A. 2	Joan Dein
	David Hitzke
A. 3	Kathryn Hanus Chang
A. 4	Joseph William Strejc
A. 10	Irene Katz
A. 11	Martha Durica
A. 13	Megan Noel Harris
A. 14	David Maurice Peck
A. 15	Paul Hudak
A. 15	Robert C. Lange
A. 17	Ruth Parat
A. 17	Mary Fickenscher
A. 19	Dorothy Filo
A. 22	William Brutto
A. 23	Adam Kenneth Harris
A. 24	Theresa Schmidt
A. 30	Linda Griesmann

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

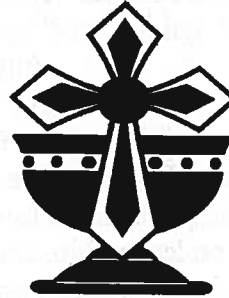
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A.	3	Andres and Robin Velez
A.	8	Edward & Joan Dein
A.	14	Kristy & Nicholas Casaccio
A.	17	Joseph and Jean Babchak
A.	22	Reinhold and Carol Bietsch
A.	22	Richard and Linda Griesmann
A.	29	Donald and Nancy Geis

APRIL GREETERS

A.	01 & 2	The Ushers
A.	04	Ronald & Ruth Parat
A.	11	Cindy & Christine Wolford
A.	18	Ruth Simko & Jean Larson
A.	25	Richard & Carla Petersen
May	02	James & Amy Wood



NEWS

from

ZION

Baptism: Joscelyn Mariah McCoy, born March 19, 1999, a Chicago, IL, to Kevin Marcus Muhammed and Amanda Lee-Anne McCoy, was brought to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, on March 21, and made a child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Her baptismal sponsors are Roger and Julie Stoller, in addition to her grandmother, Virginia Hill.

May the name of **Joscelyn Mariah McCoy** be recorded in the Book of Everlasting Life.

Romans 6:3-4

"All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Acolytes for April

A. 01	Ushers	Maundy Thursday
A. 02		Good Friday
A. 04	Jeffrey George & Tyler Johns	
A. 11	Alexis Johns & Austin Johns	
A. 18	Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez	
A. 25	Paige Peterson & Amanda Peterson	

May Acolytes

M. 02	Taylor Gizel & Logan Gizel
M. 09	Cindy Wolford
M. 16	Jeffrey George & Tyler Johns
M. 23	Daniel Dymitrowicz & Adriana Pilolla
M. 30	Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez

SELC District "Luther League" Youth Gathering

Eligible Youth: going into 8th grade or older for the 2010-2011 school year

July 8 - 11, 2010

Camp Wartburg, Waterloo IL (St. Louis area)

Theme: "Bear Fruit for Christ"

Motto: "I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5

Camp features a low ropes and high ropes course.

Retreat will focus on leadership, and some events will be lead by youth from host congregation based on the CLYFR program

"Wherever He Leads, I'll Go" Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

E-Mail: _____

D.O.B. _____

Registration By April 1st \$125

By June 1st \$140

After June 1st \$155

3 nights lodging, dinner Thursday thru
Lunch Sunday, and all activities included.
Please add \$10 per person if you will need
transportation to and from the airport.

No Cancellations or Refunds

Substitutions allowed before July 1st

Due to scheduling and transportation, no
registrations will be accepted after July 1st

For Registrar's Use Only:

Date: _____

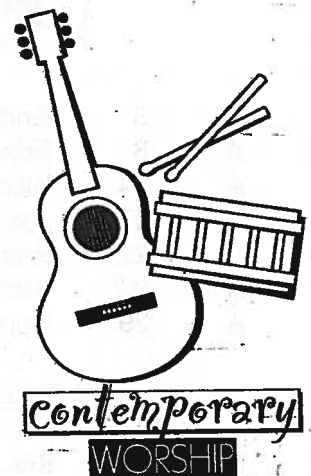
Registration Fee Received ☐ \$125

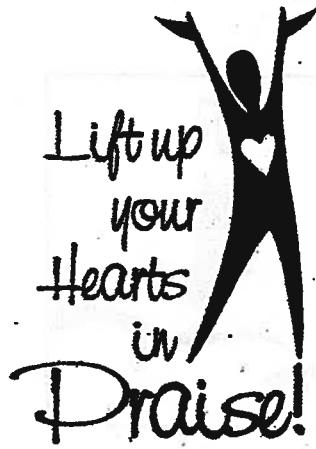
☐ \$140

☐ \$155

Transportation Fee: ☐ \$10

Total Paid: \$ _____ Check # _____





ZION WOMEN'S GUILD

REPORT ON ZION WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

March 9, 1020

Ten members gathered for a delicious luncheon of corned beef casserole, Jell-O and pistachio cake, provided by Marlee Johns and Virginia Mulik. Devotions, led by Pastor Bajus began at 1:10 PM with the singing of the hymn: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord. The devotion was entitled "Heart" Matters: A Look at Mary. Have you ever wondered about the relationship between Jesus and His mother Mary? We shared our thoughts as we read the many Bible verses regarding Mary's faithful heart, devoted heart and believing heart.

Virginia Mulik reported that she sold 28 Carson's Sale Coupons books, which enabled her to donate **\$140 to the Roof Fund**. Virginia, being co-chair of the **District Convention to be held here in May** distributed registration forms to those present. **Registrations must be sent by April 10.** For the convention, there is a need for two ladies for the registration table, drivers to take the attendees from Zion to Concordia, ladies to sell LWML items, and one delegate to the convention. Virginia asked that **everyone think about where they would like to volunteer.**

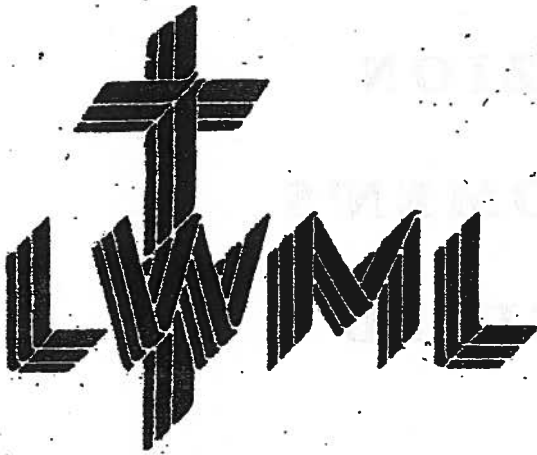
Marlee reported that she and Mary Mark will organize the Guild's Christmas Party for December 5; Marlee, Lillian Czarkowski and Anne Peck will take care of the Easter lilies. Marlee also reported that she has shampooed the carpets and returned them to the kitchen.

Pastor Bajus reported that the Mission Board and Board of Directors of the District will be meeting at Zion May 17-19, Dr. Richard Bimler and others will be meeting at Zion on March 22 from 9AM to 5 PM, and April 26-May 7 the Census Bureau will be holding training sessions at Zion. Pastor reported these so that we know not to schedule anything else at church on those days.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted, *Edith Constien*, Secretary





FAITHFUL HEARTS AND HANDS MEETING NOTES – MARCH 13, 2010

Nona Schipull opened the meeting with the Bible Study: "The Wellspring of Joy" (continued) from *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Fall 2008. Satan will do whatever he can to make our lives joyless, difficult and problematic. When we have difficult circumstances, we can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to help us triumph through our faith in God's love. "For the JOY of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:9-10.

Julie Stoller, Secretary, read minutes of the last meeting.

Sharron Schademann presented her Treasurer's Report.

Doug Schipull has contacted missionaries from Slovakia, currently in our area, regarding their willingness to make a presentation at Zion. Doug will follow-up with Pastor Bajus on this possibility.

Julie has been in contact with Keetra and Wilfred Muana to discuss the school supplies needed for a school his sister and her husband plan to open in their village in Tanzania. Julie has received a detailed list of the items needed and will give that list to Pastor Bajus for placement in "The Chimes." If anyone wishes to make a donation, instructions will be included with the list on where those donations will be collected. Keetra and Wilfred are very grateful for any and all donations.

A registration packet for the 12th SELC District LWML Convention was distributed. The convention, to be held May 14-16, 2010, will begin Friday, May 14th, with Registration, a light supper at 5:30 PM, and a Service of Holy Communion at 7:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. After the Worship Service, participants will proceed to Concordia University Chicago-River Forest, where the remainder of the convention will be held. Sharron Schademann has offered to serve as a delegate to the convention.

Faithful Hearts and Hands will meet at Zion on Saturday, April 3, 2010, at 10:00 AM to set up and prepare for the breakfast to be held Easter Sunday after the Worship Service.

Spring-cleaning of the church will take place April 24, 2010, at 10 AM. All those interested in cleaning and beautifying Zion will be most welcome. Many hands make the work go quicker! Lunch will be served to all volunteers. See you there!

LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION TO BE HELD MAY 14-16, 2010

The SELC District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will hold its 12th Biennial Convention on May 14-16, 2010 at Zion Lutheran Church-Norridge, Illinois, and Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois. Each LWML Society will be represented by two delegates, but all the ladies of each society are encouraged to attend. This year's Convention theme is "As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord," Joshua 24:15. The women of the Western Zone of the SELC LWML are hosting this event.

The Convention will begin on Friday at Zion Lutheran Church-Norridge, Illinois, with registration at 3:00 p.m., a light supper at 5:30 p.m., and a Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. The Service will include a monetary ingathering for the Lutheran Haven. Empty computer print cartridges will also be collected at that time as a fundraiser for the upcoming LWML National Convention in Pittsburgh. Afterward, the group will gather at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Illinois where the remainder of the Convention will be held.

Highlights of the weekend Convention will include a Walk-a-Thon, a tour of Concordia University, and an optional tour of the nearby Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District. Bible Studies and Worship Services will focus on our Convention theme, and the Sunday morning Service will take place at the Concordia University Chicago Chapel on campus. On Saturday, business sessions will include a determination of the 2010-2012 Mission Grants, and the election of a full slate of officers for the District, including the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastoral Counselor.

Two exceptional woman speakers will be featured at the Convention. Jan Struck, of Struck With Laughter Ministries, is often heard at LWML District and National events, leading Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats. Jan, a noted humorist, will make a presentation at our Convention. Our second speaker will be Shari LeMonnier, a talented Christian artist and graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago. Shari, who has done over 100 Biblical paintings, will be the featured speaker at the Saturday evening Convention Banquet, and will share her story of how she decided to serve the Lord through her art.

The registration fee for the Convention is \$100.00, which covers the registration, meals and banquet, and other necessary Convention expenses. Registration forms must be postmarked by April 10, 2010. A late registration fee of \$125.00 will be charged for registrations postmarked after April 10th. Late registrations must be postmarked by May 1, 2010, which is the final deadline for late registrations. Checks should be made payable to the SELC LWML Western Zone. Copies of the 2010 Convention Registration Packet have been emailed to each Pastor in the SELC District. In addition, Registration Packets have been mailed to each LWML society.

Convention goers will be housed on campus at Concordia University Chicago in air conditioned dorm rooms. The cost of a dormitory room is \$30.00 per person per night for a single room. The cost of a double dormitory room is \$50.00 per night total, which is \$25.00 per person per night for a double room. Husbands and wives attending the Convention will be housed in a separate area of the dormitory. Day registration for all day Saturday only is \$55.00 per person. The charge to attend only the banquet on Saturday evening is \$30.00. Room and meal registrations must accompany the other materials in the Registration Packet. Checks should be made out to SELC LWML Western Zone, and the same registration deadlines apply.



WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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

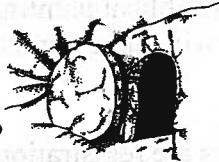
APRIL 2010

He was born . . .



. . . He died
on the cross

. . . He rose from
the dead



. . . So
that we
might live!

A blessed Easter
to you all!

As Parish Nurse @ St. Stephen's LC (Dickson City PA), I have had the privilege for the past 3 years to minister to our congregants with various health issues; be it taking them for a medical procedure/office visit, home visitations, or consulting with them about their medications. Most times after a visit I feel that I am the one being served as they offer me spiritual and emotional encouragement.

*As a Parish Nurse, mother, "nana" and the widow of a tissue donor, I have zeal to encourage and promote public awareness for the critical need for organ and tissue donors. As an active volunteer with **The Gift of Life** donor program, I've had the great honor to tell the story of my late husband's donation to many groups.*

Because I have the audience's attention, I've found this a wonderful opportunity to be a witness of the love of God through Christ Jesus. My husband was a teacher, a lay minister, Sunday school/youth group leader. His motto for the youth group was the acronym J.O.Y. He told them to always put Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. So with the help of God as I tell my story of Organ/ tissue donation to various groups, I also share with them how the love of God has sustained me for all the years after my husband's sudden death in 1996 at the age of fifty-one.

April is National Donate life month and I have included some information for our readers to consider. [SEE PAGE 3] It is my prayer that many will say YES to organ donation thereby alleviating much pain and suffering and giving many a second chance with a new life.

Frederick Buecher is quoted as saying: "The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt."

All God's blessings,

Marcia Rudat RN Parish Nurse
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Dickson City, Pa

SEE THE LUTHERAN BEACON IN FULL COLOR AT WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

SYNOD - DISTRICT FINANCES

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC District Stewardship Director

LCMS SYNODICAL BUDGET

Fiscal Year 7/1/09 - 6/30/10

Program Boards	\$59,113,686
KFUO Radio	3,591,666
Veterans of the Cross	462,675
Ecclesiastical Services & Commissions	2,957,646
Synodical Officers & Administration	3,333,369
General Administrative	18,827,454
Interest	227,500
Net adjustment	(7,110,618)
	\$ 81,403,378

Synodical Budget Comparison

2008-09	\$84,690,924
2009-10	<u>81,403,378</u>
	\$ 3,287,546 (-3.8%)

SELC DISTRICT 2010 BUDGET

LCMS Synodical Missions/Ministries	\$204,000
Support of Two Seminaries	22,000
Lutheran Haven	62,000
SELC Missions	155,500
SELC Services	240,000
SELC Ministries/Programs	63,500
	\$747,000

District Budget Comparison

2009	\$768,100
2010	<u>747,000</u>
	\$ 21,100 (-2.7%)

2010 SELC RECEIPTS & DEFICIT

Congregational Budget Remittances	\$513,000
Non-budget Receipts	7,000
Interest	20,000
Ablaze/Fan into Flame Projects	8,500
2010 Synodical Convention	<u>4,000</u>
Projected Total Receipts	\$552,500
2010 SELC District Budget	\$747,000
2010 Projected Receipts	<u>552,500</u>
Projected 2010 Deficit	\$194,500

The projected deficit will be met from a 12/31/09 treasury balance of **\$994,211**.

2010 SELC CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

Due to the economic downturn, only a 1% increase was suggested for 2010 in comparison to a 5.6% increase suggested in 2009.

2009 suggested goals	\$601,562
2010 suggested goals	<u>570,075</u>
	\$ 31,487 (-5.2%)

Goal Performance (2/1/10)

4 ... above 1%	
7 ... +1%	
5 ... same	11 decreases \$21,140
11 ... decreased	11 increases <u>3,536</u>
<u>25 ... unreported</u>	Negative \$17,604
52 ... congregations	

2009 Average per Communicant - \$40.16

AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO INCREASE OVERALL CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Six week "Consecrated Stewards" or "Consecration Sunday" stewardship programs are an effective way to increase congregational member giving. Recent increases in annual giving include: St. Matthew, Wilkes Barre, PA, +\$24,579; St. Lucas, St. Louis, MO, + \$37,000; St. John, Cudahy, WI, + \$64,843; Ascension, No. Olmsted, OH, +\$18,850; Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH, +\$13,150.

Contact SELC trained leaders for information: Rev. Warren Huffines (Western Circuit) 1-618-604-3779; Rev. Thomas Soltis (Central Circuit) 1-440-582-6140; Rev. Joseph Weatherell (Eastern Circuit) 1-732-429-7090; SELC Stewardship Department (tomas1231@sbcglobal.net)

THE CHURCH IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The Great Recession has triggered economic uncertainty and cautious spending. Giving for church purposes has been affected as well. Congregational members, however, should remember that, whatever the economic climate, the three Biblical principles of **Proportionate, Regular, First-fruit Giving** still apply. If a Christian is receiving less, God still expects a percentage of the reduced income. Some members, not adversely affected, actually may be in a position to increase their percentage of giving – and they should – if their giving is well below the tithe (10% of income). LCMS President Gerald Kieschnik recently spoke of "purse strings" being tightened throughout the Church. He reported:

Church workers are leaving and losing their positions in ministry due to dwindling congregational offerings, while, at the same time, the mission fields that lie before us have never been riper. We still have a mission to accomplish - to make disciples for Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In times of economic crisis, many are pursuing information regarding personal money management. The stewardship page in our SELC District website (www.selc.lcms.org) has articles on the subject.

About Gift of Life

by Marcia Rudat RN, Parish Nurse, St. Stephen's LC - Dickson City, PA

Since 1974 Gift of Life Donor Program has coordinated more organ donations than any other program in the United States. Since 1974 Gift Of life has served as a link between donors, and patients awaiting life saving transplants, coordinating over 25,000 vital organ transplants, 500,000 tissue transplants. Gift of Life is the primary source of information regarding all aspects of organ and tissue donation and transplantation for approx. 10 MILLION people and 151 hospitals in eastern Pa. southern New Jersey and Delaware.

In addition to their clinical activities, Gift of Life devotes significant resources to raising awareness and understanding on the donation process. It offers programs in schools and to church, civic and business groups.

Donation is one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity we can offer to another human being.

Question; *If you or some one you loved dearly needed an organ or tissue to live, WHO would donate?* Please keep that question in mind as I continue. . .

1. Currently there are over 90,000 men , women and children waiting for life saving organs, here in PA over 6,650 people await transplants.
2. Eighteen people die every day due to lack of available organs.
3. One donor can help up to 50 people by donating organs/ tissues.
4. Donation can help a family find something positive in the loss of a loved one.

Who can be a donor??

1. Anyone: from birth to age 65 and older. The medical team will determine at the time of death.

2. If you are under 18 parental or guardian consent is required. My late husband, David, donated tissues and corneas in 1996. I received a letter that said because of his donation of corneas, that two people now have the precious gift of sight.)

So you see transplantation is about HOPE... and hundreds, if not thousands of people each year are given this special gift by families they will never know. YOU can be that family.

How do I become a donor? There are two easy steps:

1. Check yes for organ/tissue donation on your driver's license card or photo I.D.or go to www.donatelife-pa.org and sign up on line.
2. Complete, sign and carry your donor card) after you have done either of these two things it is very important to tell your family of your decision.

What organs can be donated?

1. Life saving organs is: heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, pancreas, intestines.
2. Tissues are; bone, ligaments and tendons needed to repair injured or diseased joints or bone, Corneas, heart valves and skin for burned victims.

How are donated organs allocated?

By match with donor, medical urgency, and amount of time on waiting list. A persons age, gender, race, ethnic origin or wealth do not affect who receives available organs.

Will age or health problems disqualify me? NO, everyone should consider themselves a potential donor. MEDICAL TEAM WILL DECIDE.

SO the question still is if you or someone you loved dearly needed an organ transplant to live, who would donate???

Some people who have had transplants are.... Mickey Mantle. The late PA Governor Robert P Casey, George Lopez the actor, Mandy Patinkin who does the Crestor commercial had a corneal transplant.

Permit me to read, if you will, from the book of Matthew Chapter 25, vs. 34 and following. *then shall the King say to them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me. Then shall the righteous say to him "Lord when did we see thee a stranger and took thee in or naked and clothed thee? When did we see thee in prison and visited thee? And the King shall say unto them..."verily I say unto you. In as much as you have done it to the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me!!*

If you or someone you loved dearly needed an organ to live, who would donate?

May God richly bless you in making your decision

Happening Around the SELC District

Call:

Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky has accepted the Call to join the theological faculty of Concordia University, Mequon WI. He will continue to lead the African Early Christian Church Fathers' Commentary on Scripture. An installation of the Concordia WI faculty is tentatively set for August 1, 2010.

SELC Congregation requesting Placement of a Seminary Graduate/Candidate:
Holy Cross, Lake Mary FL

SELC Congregation Calling from the "field":
St. John, Granite City IL

SELC Congregations requesting Vicars:
St. Luke's, Oviedo FL
Zion, Clark NJ
St. Mark, Steubenville OH / St. John, Massillon OH
St. John, Hazleton PA

Closure:

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Massillon OH (Jackson Township) has closed as of February 28, 2010. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund has taken ownership of the property.

The child day care continues under new ownership/management.

Mark your calendars!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO
April 27, Vicar Assignment Service
April 27, Graduate / Candidate Call Service

Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne IN
April 27, Vicar Assignment Service
April 28, Graduate / Candidate Call Service

Eastern Circuit Pastoral Conference
May 3-5, St. John, Emporia VA

Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees
May 6-7, Oviedo FL

SELC District LWML Convention
May 14-16, Concordia University Chicago (River Forest) IL, hosted by Zion, Norridge IL

SELC District Mission Board
May 17, Zion, Norridge IL

SELC Board of Directors
May 18-19, Zion, Norridge IL

LCMS National Convention Floor Committee meetings:
May 21-24, St. Louis MO

SELC Luther League Convention
July 9-11, St. Lucas, St. Louis MO

LCMS National Convention
July 9-17, Houston TX

Everybody has a (meat)ball at St. Paul's Annual Spaghetti Supper . . . by Laura Dianis

More than 145 hungry mouths managed to eat 525 of Joann Fuss' homemade meatballs, 28 pounds of Bea Walko's spaghetti and a vat of Sandy Grant's special tomato sauce at the annual St. Paul Lutheran Church (Greenwich, CT) spaghetti supper. The event originated 33 years ago as a fundraiser to help congregation members in need, but for the past two years, it has raised funds for the church's technology and facility upgrade.



"The event just keeps growing, and we look forward to it every year," said dinner chairman Gene Bliska, who has organized the event since its



LtoR: Cooks-Terry Harrington, Marion Kochka, Rosemarie Nassr, Bea Walko

inception, and has been the church's organist and choir director for more than 55 years. "In November, we're already getting calls: 'Is it still on the last Saturday in January?' Even when we had a blizzard one year, 37 people still came out to support the church."

So, if the past(a) is any indication, when the last Saturday in January rolls around – you can guarantee there will be the St. Paul church's annual spaghetti supper.



LtoR: Volunteers Gene Bliska, Laura Dianis, Myrna Marsh, Jack Dobrucki, Maryam Mortenson, Laura O'Connor

In memory of . . .



CAROLYN J. SOLTIS

On Feb. 10, 2010, at the age of 76, Carolyn Johanna Soltis, wife of Rev. Thomas Soltis, departed from this life to be with her Lord forever. Interment took place at Maple Hill Cemetery, Wilkes Barre, PA, on Feb. 15. Rev. Gary Scharrer of St. Matthew LC conducted the service.

A Memorial Service took place on Feb. 18 at Holy Trinity LC, Parma, OH. Rev. John Milligan conducted the service, assisted by SELC District President, Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger. Carolyn was born on April 22, 1933, in Caro, MI, the daughter of Rev. Alfred W. and Emma M. (Salomon) Trinklein. She was baptized in Caro, MI, on May 7, 1933 and confirmed on May 25, 1947, at St. Matthew LC, New York City, where she also was joined in marriage to Rev. Thomas Soltis on July 21, 1956. They were blessed with two children, Gregory and Gretchen.

Carolyn attended Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, and Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, IL, to become a Lutheran school teacher. She taught at Lutheran schools in Mineola, NY, and Elyria, OH. She also served her Lord as organist, choir director and church secretary. With her husband, Thomas, she served three SELC District congregations: Sts. Peter & Paul, Lorain, OH; Holy Trinity, Yonkers, NY; Holy Trinity, Parma, OH.

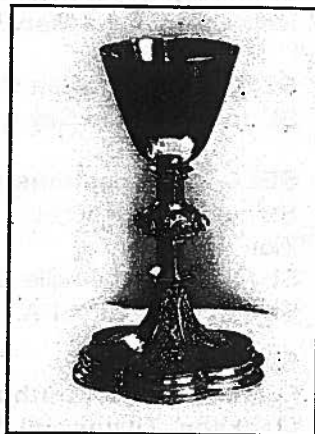
She is survived by her husband; a son, Gregory; a daughter, Gretchen Marlette and husband, Kenneth; a grandson, Walter; two sisters, Sylvia Mendelman & Judith Cunningham. A brother, Rev. Michael Trinklein, and a sister, Mary Lou Dinkel, preceded her in death.

AN SELC MYSTERY

By Rev. George D. Pivan

The founding of the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church, now the SELC District of the LC-MS, took place at a meeting held from September 2-4, 1902 at St. Peter LC, in Connellsville, PA. Ten pastors and four laymen were present. Rev. D. Z. Laucek was elected the first president of the new church body.

In 1904, when Rev. Laucek celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination, he was presented with a chalice by his brethren in office. President Laucek in turn presented the chalice as his gift to the church.



Have you seen me?

According to information passed on by word of mouth this chalice was used at conventions of the SELC for a number of years. Then, for no reason that can be determined, it ceased to be used and it disappeared from the scene.

As the present time no one seems to know what happened to this chalice or where it might be.

If anyone knows anything about this chalice or its whereabouts they are invited to contact our SELC District archivists, Rev. Donald Hayas and Ruth Janosik rj2002dh@juno.com or Rev. George D. Pivan gdplvn@verizon.net.

A warm welcome to our newest SELC Pastor . . .



Seminarian Jacob Gaugert received the Call from Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther (Chicago), at the CTS-Ft. Wayne Call service in February.

He was born and raised in Sullivan WI (pop.611) where his family held membership at St. John's LC for generations. Baptized and confirmed at St. John's, he also served as a Sunday school teacher and Christmas pageant director while still in high school.

After graduating from Concordia University in Mequon, WI (majoring in Biblical and Classical Languages), he began seminary studies at CTS, Ft. Wayne, which included fieldwork at Trinity LC/Iglesia Luterana Santisima Trinidad.

From October 2006 til July 2007, he studied as an exchange student at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule (the seminary of the LCMS sister church in Germany) in Oberursel Germany. On his return to the states, he was assigned to his American vicarage at Trinity LC in Norman, OK.

Pastor-Elect Gaugert's ordination and installation will take place on April 17th.

Being "Comfortable" and "Comforting": Is It Possible for Us Christians to Be Both?

by Pastor Ken Ballas, Em.

"Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God!" (Isaiah 40:1). "Fear," "love," "trust," "honor," "respect," and, yes, "comfort" – these all happen to be examples of English words that can be used as verbs as well as nouns.

The phrase "comfort level" has become increasingly popular in our language. Surely there is nothing wrong with wanting to be at least modestly "comfortable" as individuals or families for whom most of us would do most anything to love and protect. So why even suggest a possible distinction between being comfortable and comforting?

Consider the close juxtaposition between these two concepts or attitudes on the part of our Lord Jesus on His [yes, our!] Cross? Our Brother-Savior is obviously anything but "comfortable" in the days and hours leading up to His self-imposed crucifixion. Yet He finds it possible to comfort or be comforting to His executioners, His grieving mother, student-disciple John and each of us on that memorable Friday that men call "Good."

When is the last time any of us thought or said, "I am not particularly *comfortable* doing such or so?" Especially for us believers there are certain things in life that make all of us feel *uncomfortable*. Whenever, however, we use our own particular "comfort level" as a precondition or excuse for avoiding wholeheartedly engaging ourselves in doing what God obviously wants all His redeemed people to be doing in relating to other people for whom His Son also lived and died and rose again, then we have a real "sin problem."

The biblical word "comforter" is not only a common designation for God the Holy Spirit (see John 14-16) but also is used as reference to our Lord Jesus

in 1 John 2:2! The word group from which we derive the word "Paraclete" is variously translated as "Advocate," "Counselor," "Helper," or "Encourager." Hearing a swim team coach literally shouting *from the sidelines* an encouraging "Go!" "Go!" to a nearly exhausted athlete swimming the breaststroke each time his or her ears break the surface of the water appropriately also suggests ours thinking of our "*parakletic*" God as "Coach!" With two persons of the Trinity ever interceding for us to our Heavenly Father to forgive us those times in our daily walk with our Lord when we were more concerned about being "comfortable" than comforting — with so much going for us, we can read and take to heart these opening verses from 2 Corinthians 1 in a new and life-changing light:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. Our hope for you is firm, because we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Comfortable or Comforting? Because of Jesus, Ultimately, Both as His Joy and Peace Are Given to Each of Us to Share with Others!

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome! Send submissions to:

The Lutheran Beacon

c/o Gail Peterson:

1210 Ambra Dr. – Viera, FL 32940-6755

email: gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com

Questions? 321-752-5519 or 954-401-8452

Deadline is the 12th of each month

Please submit articles as separate attachments in whatever program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc. - NOT as emails]

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [preferably .jpg format and NOT as part of your article].

When sent by snail mail, photos must be received by the 6th of the month. If you want them returned, attach a note and send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The JOY of Skiing! by Tim Hasko, President SELC Luther League

Under the theme **Be Joyful Always** [based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18], 67 people from six different congregations and Concordia University WI met in snowy Wisconsin for the annual SELC Western Circuit Ski Trip. Some youth skied, some snowboarded, some opted for the tubing hill, and still others preferred the "nachos and hot chocolate" version of skiing.



Our CUW YMIN team consisting of Jenna, Russell, Gary (from Oviedo), Scott, Kyle, Nicole, Ashlee, Micah, and Alissa introduced us to some interesting "Get-to-Know-You" games, including the longest one in Luther League history!



After six hours of night skiing, the youth returned to Racine for closing devotions, Kangaroo Court, and a lock-in. We had to add a new category of Kangaroo Court fines this year, for all of the youth involved in excessive texting, and for all youth making up fines against Carl from St. Louis. Other noteworthy fines included those youth who made it down the ski hill without actually skiing.



The rest of the night was spent playing ping pong, watching movies, playing board games, hanging out, and apparently having a carrot fight as evidenced by the cleaning crew in the morning. After an inspiring worship service Sunday morning ending with Luther League favorite hymn "God Be With You", the CUW team sent us on our way with a closing devotion.



We are looking forward to seeing everyone again the District Luther League Youth Gathering July 8 – 11 at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, IL, hosted by the St. Lucas, St. Louis group!

SELC Luther League Eastern Circuit

Retreat and Convention Update

by Pastor John Perling

February 12-14, 2010

YMCA CAMP BERNIE

Port Murray, New Jersey



Churches who sent delegates:

St. Paul Evangelical LC, Greenwich CT
 Holy Trinity LC, Garfield, NJ
 Zion LC, Clark, NJ
 Redeemer LC, Manchester, NJ
 Peace LC, Galloway, NJ
 Guest Congregation: Peace LC, Scranton, PA

Luther League Eastern Circuit Officers:

President **Michelle Palmer**, St. Paul, Greenwich
 Vice-President **Eric Dimauro**, Peace, Galloway
 Secretary **Chelsea Almeyda**, Peace, Galloway
 Treasurer **Joe Frost**, Zion, Clark
 Pastoral Adviser **Pastor John Perling**, St. Paul, Greenwich

Total Participants: 57

38 High School and Middle School Youth
 15 Adults Counselors
 2 Elementary
 2 Pre-School

\$310 was raised to be split evenly between the Luther League Scholarship fund and the Luther League Mission Fund

News From the Haven

by Donald Kovac, Executive Director

Haitian Earthquake Response Update

Meetings with Lutheran Haven's Haitian employees continues, as ways to help their families back home are discussed. Most of the families, some whose homes are still intact, are still frightened to sleep inside; most are sleeping in shelters outside their homes. To date, \$5,700 is available for assisting our employees' families which includes \$2,500 from the Haven Board of Trustees and \$3,200 from Haven residents. Lutheran Haven is also a member of Lutheran Disaster Response in Florida. The Haven hosted a meeting with LDR in early March where a briefing was given on the Lutheran church's response to Haitian disaster.

Guest Cottage Program Response

The response to our new Guest Cottage program has been great, says Debbie Pulliam, Haven receptionist responsible for reservations. *I'm getting a lot of calls and my book is filling up fast!* Under the program, guests can now stay up to six months. Eight, one and two fully furnished cottages have been put into service for this program. Guests can stay for just a night or now, up to six months. For reservations call Debbie at (407) 365-5676.



Human Care

by Nona Schipull
SELC District Human Care Chairman

Since the powerful earthquake caused massive devastation in Haiti, many people have made donations of money, water, food, and other types of supplies for the Haitian people. Lutheran Church Charities in Addison, Illinois, has shipped containers of donated goods to Haiti. Now they are sharing fund raising ideas.

One interesting project is the "water bottle collection." St. Paul Lutheran School, Norwood Park, IL, used the necessity of water as a springboard for fund raising. Students were given a bottle of water. After they drank the water, they were to begin filling the bottle with coins to be used to provide water and other supplies for Haiti.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:35, *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.* We serve and obey Jesus when we give to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. For more ideas, or to share your fund raising ideas go to their website, www.LutheranChurchCharities.org.

The 2010 SELC LWML District Convention will be held at Zion LC (Norridge IL) and Concordia University Chicago (River Forest IL) May 14-16, 2010. More information is being sent to each society as well as complete registration documents.

NEWS FLASH . . . JUST RECEIVED FROM Rev. Gregory Walton, President of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lenten greetings to you all as we begin those final weeks of this season that truly points us to the hope we have within us, the risen Lord Jesus! The Psalmist wrote, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

We have learned of the murder of Pastor Doris Jean Louis, the father of Lutheranism in Haiti, truly one of God's saints. Apparently as he was entering his residence on

Friday, March 12th, he was attacked by some men and brutally murdered ... no further details at this time.

The needs in Haiti continue to be great, and if your congregation is able, please continue to raise support for these brothers and sisters in Christ. You can direct those gifts through the District Office or through Mission Haiti in Davie, FL. But most importantly, let us keep the family and friends of Pastor Doris Jean Louis in our prayers, that the legacy of his life might continue to loudly proclaim the Gospel he loved about our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Happening Around the LC-MS

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) *Do you serve, or would you like to serve, Spanish-speaking people in your community, with the Gospel? Or, are you planning a mission trip to Central or South America?* If so, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation has a free resource that will soon be available to you: the Spanish edition of the Holy Bible, bound with Luther's Small Catechism.

To pre-order copies, visit the LHF website at www.LHFmissions.org/Spanish Bible Poll where you can also take a poll to help LHF decide how many copies of the Bible/catechism to print, in what version, in hardcover or soft cover. LHF's materials are provided at no charge.

Ft. Wayne (CTS)

April 13: Election of officers and prep of auction baskets for Lutherfest; 1:00 pm in Luther Hall.

Also, save the date for the **Fifth Annual Lutherfest on April 16, 2010**. As always, Lutherfest will be a fun evening of entertainment and great food. The event also serves as the Guild's annual fundraiser for their project for seminary students. This year the group is working to replace all the washers and dryers in the student dorms and allow the machines to be used at no charge. What a blessing that will be for students!

For additional information concerning educational opportunities and events at CTS, please contact: Jayne Sheaffer, CTS Director of Public Relations, 260-452-2250 or PublicRelations@ctsfw.edu.

ST. LOUIS (CTS): The Office of Admissions and Ministerial Recruitment at CTS announces a clarification of the March 31 application deadline. Applicants may apply for the 2010-2011 Academic Year until June 30, 2010. This reinterpretation has not superseded the March 31 deadline. The March 31 deadline still applies and is the preferred deadline for applicants to follow; and March 31 is the only deadline which will offer an applicant the best opportunity for financial aid and on-campus married housing.

For details regarding this interpretation, please consult the Concordia Seminary Web site, www.csl.edu, and go to "Admissions." Contact the Office of Admissions and Ministerial Recruitment at 800-822-9545, or admissions@csl.edu for questions.

ST. LOUIS (CTS), together with Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. (POM), will host "Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy—Theology and Practice," on May 24-28 on the Seminary campus. The workshop offers unique accredited training for chaplains, peace officers, and pastors, focusing on effective Christian ministry to and through law enforcement.

Registration cost is \$340. This includes four breakfasts, five lunches and three dinners, plus CEUs for full participation. Limited on-campus housing is available on a first-come basis. Housing is dormitory style with shared bathrooms and showers. Rooms are on the 2nd floor and are not handicapped accessible. Rates are \$30 per night for single or couple and \$17.50 per night for a shared room.

ST. LOUIS (CTS), will host its 8th Annual Day of Homiletical Reflection on Wednesday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Seminary's Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium. The event is designed for pastors, students involved in homiletical education, and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world. The registration fee for the Day of Homiletical Reflection is \$25.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486, ce@csl.edu or visit the Seminary's Web site at www.csl.edu for a downloadable brochure.

WHO IS LWR? Lutheran World Relief, an international nonprofit organization, works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves. With partners in 35 countries, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies. LWR is headquartered in Baltimore, Md. and has worked in international development and relief since 1945. LWR is a ministry of The LCMS Synod.

Members of Lutheran World Relief's communications staff have been recognized by the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) for their work in print publication, video, graphic design, advertising, and social media.



4321 N. Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54919-0001
Phone: 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836)
E-mail: mail@thrivent.com • www.thrivent.com

November 30, 2009

Zion Lutheran Church
8600 W Lawrence Ave
Norridge IL 60706

Dear Pastor:

During this time of Thanksgiving, we'd like to encourage you to recognize the Thrivent Financial congregational coordinators who volunteer in your church. With the Care in Congregations® program ending on December 31st, it's a good time to thank these dedicated volunteers. You could deliver a personal thank-you and/or recognize them in your church bulletin or during service announcements. The coordinators in your congregation are:

Sharlene M Prien
Ruth E Simko
Sharron L Schademann

We, too, are thankful for these members and plan to acknowledge their service. In the upcoming weeks they will receive a letter of appreciation and a small gift from Thrivent Financial. We appreciate these members and their accomplishments through the Care in Congregations program.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to update you on some other changes we mentioned in our previous letter:

- **Thrivent Choice:** Development continues on this new giving program that will launch in the spring of 2010. It's designed to give Thrivent Financial members choice – and for eligible members, one of the choices will be directing charitable funds to your congregation.
- **New role for Thrivent Financial congregational coordinators:** Work is progressing on defining a new role for the congregational coordinators who volunteer in your church. Volunteers who serve in the new role, which will be significantly different from the current role, will help to increase the positive impact Thrivent Financial and its members have on your congregation through a variety of programs and offerings. The new role will be introduced in early 2010.

We are excited about the options Thrivent Financial members in your congregation will have for giving and helping your congregation in the future, through the Thrivent Choice program and other opportunities. We hope that you share in our enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bruce Nicholson".

Bruce Nicholson
Chairman, President and CEO

DIRT CUPS

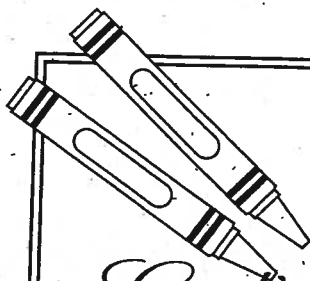
Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



Just for

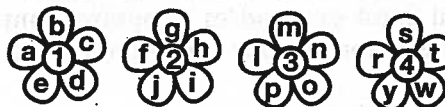
KIDS

God's teaching is like....

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.

CODE



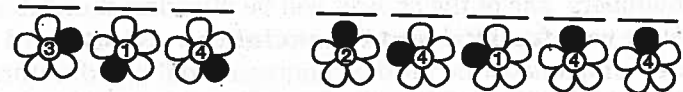
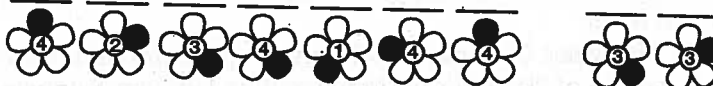
"Let my teaching fall like



and my words descend like



like



like abundant



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants



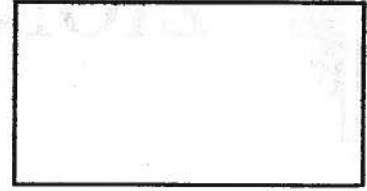
ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL, 2010



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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
8600 West Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706-2994



The Lord is Risen!

BLESSINGS TO:

Sunday Schedule

Worship	-	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	-	10:35 a.m.
Youth/Adult Class	-	10:45 a.m.

LWML Convention - All Women Invited
May 14, 15, 16, 2010

Easter Continental Breakfast

Hosted by Faithful Hearts and Hands

Menu will include:

Potato Casserole

Egg, cheese & ham casserole

Mini pancakes with syrup

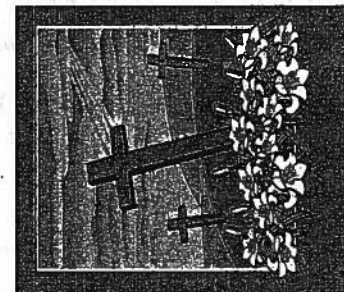
Bacon and sausages

Bagels with cream cheese

Hard boiled eggs

Assorted Easter pastries

Juice ~ Coffee ~ Tea ~ Milk



Free Will Offering

