



## Lutheran Congregational Services Inc.

# The Servant

*“Bringing God’s Gifts of Hope and Healing”*

A quarterly newsletter of Lutheran Congregational Services

### From the President

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of a prolonged political season. The continuous campaign appears to have become a reality. Unfortunately with this phenomenon there is a tendency to say, “Enough! I’m not going to listen any more.”

I urge you to resist the temptation and to listen even more carefully to what the various candidates for public office have to say. Seek to get past the name calling and political rhetoric and listen to what each candidate says about what she/he will do to bring change to the system so that it will be better able to respond to the needs of the poorest in our midst and so that it will become more fair and just for everyone, not just for some. This is particularly true as we prepare to elect a new administration to lead this country for the next four years.

While candidates and campaigns often claim that their cause is more righteous than their opponents’, don’t be fooled. God and faith are not the possession of a particular political party or candidate. In fact as Christians, you and I need always to remember what Paul wrote in Philippians, “Our commonwealth (citizenship) is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:20).” The work of politics (the art of governing) is a temporal work. As with all temporal things, it too will pass when God’s kingdom finally comes in all of its fullness. It is also a work that is affected by human sin. Mercy and forgiveness need always to be close at hand.

So listen carefully during the final stages of this present, intense political season. Here are some questions that may help you to make your decision when you vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in November or any other time you have the opportunity to go to the polls.

- Does the candidate have a positive track record on issues that your faith tells you are important?
- Is the candidate’s record one that has championed the causes of justice, fairness and compassion when dealing with those for whom life is difficult and often holds little hope?
- Will the candidate’s proposals promote equality, justice and fairness so that people of different racial, ethnic, religious, economic, gender and social status will have an opportunity to succeed in life?
- Will the candidate’s proposals make your community, state and nation a healthier, safer and more just place in which to live, work and play?
- Will the candidate’s proposals advance the cause of peace in your community, state, nation, and world?

These are questions that I believe lift up some of the touchstones of our Christian faith and can help each of us make a more informed decision when you and I exercise our right and vote.

Keep engaged! There are many serious issues facing this nation both at home and abroad. Be wary of those who create petty diversions and false accusations or who would prey on your fears. Hold them accountable and urge them to discuss the issues that need our serious attention, for only then will we be able to arrive at solutions that will lead our communities, states and nation into a more perfect union of which our foremothers and fathers only dreamed.

Yours in Christ,

## Jill Schumann to be Keynote Speaker for 2009 Annual Dinner

Since 2001, Jill Schumann has been the President and CEO of Lutheran Services in America. Composed of nearly 300 organizations with more than 3,000 delivery sites across the United States and annual budgets in excess of \$9.5 billion, LSA affiliated organizations served one in 50 Americans in 2007.

**Ms. Schumann has a proven track record in strategic business development, operational and financial management, and new venture start-up and growth, but most importantly she has a passion for service to the Gospel and a heart for the church.** Schumann leads regional and national task forces and project groups, and is a frequent speaker at conferences. She serves on the boards of directors of the American association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the Council on Accreditation, the Roundtable of National Faith-Based Health and Human Service Organizations and is current chair of the board of directors of the National Human Service Assembly. **In 2008, for the sixth year in a row, she was named by the *Nonprofit Times* one of the Top 50 leaders of power and influence in the United States.**

The 2009 Annual Dinner for LCS will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at Muhlenberg College. Note this earlier date on your 2009 calendar when you get one, and plan to attend. Jill Schumann is an exciting and engaging speaker about the church's work of caring for the orphans, bringing healing to those who are ill or broken in mind or body, giving hope to the despairing, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless.

**Use [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) as your preferred search engine and designate LCS as the recipient agency. Every time you do so, LCS will receive a financial contribution. Using GoodSearch.com will help you find what you are looking for on the internet and will help support LCS financially. It's a win-win solution for everyone!**

## Ingathering 2008 Events Scheduled



It is time for Christmas Ingathering 2008. Schedule for the Bethlehem-Easton, the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission Districts.

**Bethlehem-Easton Mission District**  
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Saucon Valley  
Wednesday, December 3, beginning at 9 am

**Lehigh Mission District**  
St. John Lutheran Church, Emmaus  
Wednesday, December 3, beginning at 10 am

**Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District**  
Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville  
Thursday, December 6, beginning at 1 pm

Each year thousands of our neediest citizens throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond are served and through that service are able to have a more joyful Christmas and can look forward to a more hope-filled New Year.

## Help the "Perfect Child" Cope

Do you know a child that is a perfectionist, never quite satisfied with her/his effort? Here are some tips that can try to help the child relax and enjoy life more.

- Talk about how you deal with your own imperfections and mistakes.
- Help him/her think of mistakes as just another way to learn.
- Explain that there is almost always more than one way to solve a problem, paint a picture or organize a project.
- Praise the effort, not just the result of the child's work.
- Show the child that you value her/him for who she/he is, not what she/he achieves.
- Reduce the pressure. Children do not have to be in every activity or take every advanced class. Encourage time for just "goofing off" and being a child.

*(From "The 'Perfect Child'" Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth, August 2008)*

## Need a Supply Pastor?

If you are in need of someone to supply for you because of vacations or other absences, call LCS. Pr. Ritter and Pr. Smart, as well as Ruth Doty are available and eager to serve in this regard. You may also wish to have a special LCS Sunday emphasis or a presentation to an adult class/forum. Call the office at 610-770-9205 or e-mail us at [info@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:info@lutherancongregationalservices.org).

## Council Retreat Leadership Available through LCS

Is your congregation council looking for an opportunity to get away to do some planning, to improve its cohesiveness or to better understand its role? LCS can help. Simply contact Pastor Ritter at [dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org) or 610-770-9205. LCS will work with you to create a workshop or retreat that will meet your needs at an affordable cost. **Keep LCS in mind as you think about 2009 and any leadership development needs that your congregation might have.**

## Background Searches Offered to NE and SE PA Synod Congregations

LCS is now able to provide congregations with a low cost national background search process that can be used when hiring certain staff or enlisting volunteers for children and youth ministries. These background checks are made against a national criminal and sex abuse database, rather than only a Pennsylvania state database.

The service is totally web based and reports are generated to you within minutes of entering the individual's data. Finally, LCS is able to provide a "no fuss" monthly billing process.

If you are interested in signing up for this service, there is a one time setup fee of \$15.00. Based on your congregation's level of support to LCS, a background check would either cost \$14.00 per search or \$18.00 per search.

Please contact Kathy Reyher at 610-770-9205 or email her at [kathy@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:kathy@lutherancongregationalservices.org).



## Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

Eucharistic Visitor Training offered by LCS is available across Synod and across denominational lines over the past few years. Those who have taken the training and become Eucharistic Visitors tell us that they receive as much spiritually from their visits as the people they are visiting. Truly the real presence of Jesus Christ is not limited to the church sanctuary on Sunday mornings! A blessing on the many volunteers who assist their Pastors bringing the communion elements to the homebound members of their congregations!

### LEV Training still available for Fall 2008:

**October 11** at St. Peter's Lutheran, North Wales in the Southeastern PA Synod.

**November 15** at St John's Lutheran, Stroudsburg in the Northeastern PA Synod.

All Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training events are held on Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Participants need to bring a lunch, Bible, pen and paper for notes. Registration fee: \$22/person. Call 610-770-9205 or go online at [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org) to register.

### Redner's Receipts

Faith, Whitehall	\$ 1,020.42
Rosemont, Bethlehem	\$ 3,587.48
Miscellaneous	\$ 365.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,972.94</b>
<b>Gifted to LCS</b>	<b>\$49.73</b>



### Northeast Penn Sites

**Sunday, October 5 & 12**  
Zion United Lutheran, Brodheadsville  
2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November 6, 13, 20**  
Holy Spirit Lutheran, Emmaus  
7:00-9:00 pm

Cost is \$55 per couple. Couples can register and pay on-line at [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org) or by calling LCS (610-770-9205) and requesting a registration packet. Payment must be received before a registration is complete. Contact Pastor Smart at [kerry@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:kerry@lutherancongregationalservices.org) or 610-770-9205.

## A Prescription to Relieve Stress

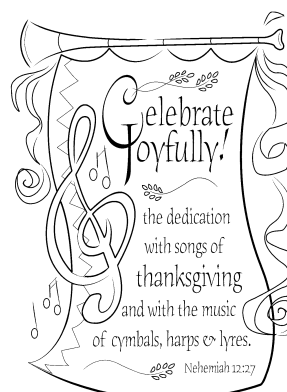
Stress is a part of our busy, get-it-done lifestyle. Here is something that you can do to deal with the cumulative effects of a busy day.

Inhale through your nose to a count of 10. As you inhale, your upper abdomen should expand, not just your chest.

Exhale slowly and completely to a count of 10.

Repeat this exercise 5 to 10 times. You can do this several times a day depending upon the degree of stress you are experiencing.

*(From "20-second stress stopper" Mayo Clinic EmbodvHealth, August 2008)*



## Disaster Volunteers and Celebrate!!

Each year in mid November when we meet, we assess the house volunteers and celebrate how God has blessed the efforts of disaster volunteers who have served in a variety of capacities for the good of our synod. Whether you are a team or an individual, you have donated or collected funds or materials, made quilts, hammered nails, taught Camp Noah, fed folks, or served in any other capacity this year or in the past, plan now to attend. Watch for more details on our site and in the synod e-news.



After several months of labor, we are pleased to announce that our new website is up and operating. Items are better organized and it is easier to use and to find what you are looking for. There is also greater interactivity, for example, you can now post a response to the Thought for the Week. You can register and pay on-line for LCS ministries. You can make contributions on-line and much, much more.

We anticipate that more changes will be forthcoming, including even greater interactivity. We invite you to visit us and see for yourself at [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org).

This improved look has been made possible through The Kyle David Group web hosting services. LCS is very thankful for their services and encourages others to visit them on line at [www.kyledavidgroup.com](http://www.kyledavidgroup.com).

## Special Gifts

### In Memory of:

**Loved Ones** by M/M Robert S. Hassay, Sr.

**Helen & Robert Falk** by Carol & Paul Balascki

**Erwin Knecht** by wife Dolores J. Knecht

**Ernest J. Kotsch Sr.** by wife Dolores Kotsch

**Ralph Kressley** by Clarabelle Dengler

**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Moretz** by Rosemarie Moretz

**Anne & Erv Palasky** by Carol Dean Henn

**Al Pondelek** by wife Loretta Pondelek

### In Honor of:

**Kyle Kappel** by parents, The Rev. Gordon and Sheila Huff

**Grace Kohler's 90th birthday** by The Rev. Dr. Paul and Jane Ann Spohn

**Amy Rinker's 100th birthday** by The Rev. John & Mrs. Judy Schumacher

## LCS' Wish List

We are interested in obtaining a new Power Point Projector, a collapsible ladder, and two new HP flat screen monitors.

Donations or contributions toward these items would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

The Staff of LCS



## Spiritual Gifts Discernment Ministry Available

Do you have members who are searching for the meaning and purpose of their life? Are some looking for ways to become involved in ministries that will help them to feel more fulfilled?

Lutheran Congregational Services has a ministry that may help your members find that for which they are searching. *Discovering God's Vision for your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts* is an eight hour course that can be offered in a variety of formats to meet busy schedules. Through a sound, biblically based curriculum, the course can help participants **discover, develop and deploy** the gifts with which God has blessed them.

For more information you can e-mail Dennis at [dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org) or call him at 610-770-9205.

## Suggestions for Handling Family Conflicts

**Gather everyone together and appoint a moderator** – in the early going this should be an adult, but as family members learn the routine, the role can be rotated.

**Explain the ground rules** – there should be no name calling, blaming or labeling.

**Work on one problem** – clearly state the issue that is to be discussed and keep everyone on track.

**Encourage each family member to share his/her perspective without interruptions.**

**Brainstorm solutions and make no judgments.**

**Narrow the field.**

**Seek agreement.**

**If tempers flare take a timeout for cooling off.**

**Ask for help** – sometimes the issue at conflict is more than the family can handle by itself, then seek the assistance of a professional counselor, pastor or other professional.

## Openings Still Exist for Workshops for Confirmands

Looking for a way to enhance your church's Confirmation experience? How about signing the class up for one of LCS's Workshops for Confirmands!

Still fairly new for LCS is the "Birth to Death" workshop led by the chaplains at **St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem**. The Confirmands learn about ministering in a hospital setting while visiting the Trauma Bay as well as the Neo-natal and Adult ICUs. This workshop addresses issues of living safely and providing care and comfort in "life and death" crises. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 21, from 4:00 – 6:30 P.M.

We are now entering our third year of providing an opportunity to worship at a typical Jewish Sabbath Service. Rabbi Robert Lennick and the members of **Congregation Keneseth Israel** in Allentown (near Muhlenberg College) have graciously welcomed us into their community—including sharing some delicious deserts following the service! The workshop begins with an introduction to Jewish life and worship led by a member of the congregation and wraps up with a "talk-back" with Rabbi Rob. The next KI workshop will be on Friday, October 24, from 6:30-10:00 P.M.

Our newest workshop is a visit to the Mosque of the **Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley**. Dr. Waseem Akhter, Director of Outreach at MALV, will be our guide to the life, faith, and worship of Islam. Unfortunately, if you didn't already register your class for this workshop, I regret to inform you that it has already been filled! Maybe next year?

For those classes interested in a cross-cultural event, don't forget about the Three King's Pageant and Service of Holy Communion for Epiphany at **San Martin de Porres Lutheran Church**, Allentown. This year's Three Kings celebration will be held on Sunday, January 4, 12:30 – 3 P.M.

Has your class experienced the pureed and molded foods at **The Lutheran Home at Topton**? Sign them up for Sunday, October 26, from 2 – 4:30 P.M. They will also play the "Aging Game" and learn about daily living with arthritis, hearing loss, vision problems and other issues of aging.

This year most of LCS's Workshops for Confirmands are being repeated in the spring. So if you can't get in this fall, register for "round 2." Just call or e-mail the LCS office for a copy of the 2008-2009 schedule if you can't find the one we already mailed to your church. We'll be glad to send another! Questions? Contact Pastor Kerry Smart, Coordinator of Congregational Services.

Registration fee: \$5/youth (contributing congregations); \$6.50/youth (non-contributing congregations).



That was the question posed by Ziegels Lutheran Church on September 16. That evening 15 of us worked to first understand what kind of threats were most likely to be faced not only by their congregation, but also by members and the community. Next we looked at what preparations were already in place and other steps that could be taken. What an exciting time!

Since Ziegels sends disaster volunteer teams out of our region several times a year, members know only too well how destructive and unpredictable nature can be. Many a time they've said, "That could have been us!" While they know that one cannot prevent destructive weather, pandemic or human caused hardship, much can be done to lessen the impact and to enable a congregation to respond immediately and even recover relatively quickly after an event.

What about your congregation? Do you have copies of important church records located outside the building? Have you encouraged your staff to develop personal disaster plans so that they will be safe, will know that their families are taken care of and will be able to more quickly devote attention to the needs of the congregation and community? Could you identify your most vulnerable and isolated members to community response teams? Do members know where you would worship if your building was not available?

If you would like assistance in exploring how your congregation can become better prepared, contact Ruth Doty, our Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator, 610.770.9205 or [ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org).

## We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Supporters June 17, 2008 through September 15, 2008

### CONGREGATIONS

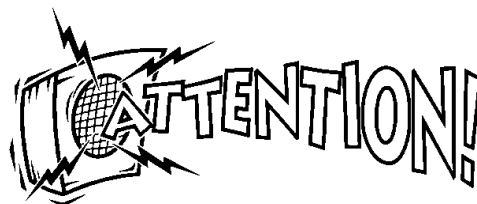
Atonement, Wyomissing  
Cedar, Cetronia  
Christ, Easton  
Christ, Lower Saucon  
Church on the Hill, Flushing NY  
Good Shepherd, Easton  
Grace, Tipton  
Holy Cross, Bethlehem  
Holy Cross, Moorestown  
Holy Spirit, Emmaus  
Holy Trinity, Bethlehem  
Holy Trinity, Slatedale  
Holy Trinity Memorial, Catasauqua  
Hope, Cherryville  
Hope, Tatamy  
Jerusalem, W. Salisbury  
Jordan, Orefield  
Luther Crest Chapel Fund  
Messiah, Bethlehem  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Quakertown United Methodist Church  
Redeemer, Allentown  
Robeson, Mohnton  
Rosemont, Bethlehem  
Salem, Bethlehem  
St. Andrew, Easton  
St. James, Allentown  
St. James, Coopersburg  
St. James, Geigertown  
St. John, Allentown  
St. John, Bath  
St. John, Coplay  
St. John, Emmaus  
St. John, Fogelsville  
St. John, Lansford  
St. John, Pen Argyl  
St. John, Sinking Spring  
St. John, Whitehall  
St. Luke, Freeland  
St. Mark, Bethlehem  
St. Matthew, Bethlehem  
St. Paul, Easton  
St. Paul, Trexlertown  
St. Paul, Whitehall  
St. Peter, Bethlehem  
Trinity, Lansford

Trinity, Pleasant Valley  
Union, Schnecksville  
Ziegels, Breinigsville  
Zion, Old Zionsville  
Zion-Lehigh, Alburtis  
Zion-Moselem, Kutztown

### INDIVIDUALS

Black, M/M Paul D.  
Bastian, M/M Linford S.  
Berkel, M/M David W.  
Brown, Mr. Elmer  
Crostley, M/M V.  
Dengler, M/M Frank R.  
Ernst, Rev. Debra K.  
Fulford, Joyce C.  
Gery, M/M William P.  
Harding, The Rev. Warren S.  
Hassay, M/M Robert S.  
Heist, M/M Robert E.  
Henderschedt, James  
Herman, M/M Kenneth D.  
Holland, Earl and Joan  
Huff, Rev. & Mrs. Gordon L.  
Keim, Thomas & Louise  
Knecht, Dolores J.  
Kocher, Virginia M.  
Kotsch, Dolores  
Leidy, M/M George W.  
Lieberman, M/M Walter G.  
Marshall, The Rev. Dr. Robert J.  
McCardle, M/M Neil N.  
Members of St. John's, Easton  
Moretz, Rosemarie E.  
Moser, Audrey S.  
Neel, Irene H.  
Pacala, Russel  
Phillips, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Leon A.  
Pondelek, Loretta G.  
Reimert, M/M Franklin W.  
Reitz, Phares O.  
Ritter, Bethann E.  
Ritter, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Dennis S.  
Rogers, Esther B.

Rothrock, M/M Richard L.  
Rummel, Frederick G.  
Schmuacher, The Rev. & Mrs. John E.  
Schupsky, Harold J.  
Sheriff, Bron  
Siegfried, James F.  
Siegfried, Robert R.  
Soraruf, Alma C.  
Spohn, The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Paul H.  
Terhune, The Rev. & Mrs. C. Frank  
Wagner, Ethel J.  
Walz, Anna E. B.  
Woodson, Patsy  
Worman, Miss Frances R.  
Young, M/M Kenneth W.  
Ziedonis, Jr., The Rev. & Mrs. Arvids



second quarter. Thank you to those who let us know of the omissions. We apologize for the oversight.

## **“Journeys Through Grief” Seminars Fall 2008**

***“It isn’t for the moment you are struck that you need courage,  
but for the long uphill climb back to sanity, faith and security.”  
Anne Morrow Lindbergh***

LCS continues to offer it’s six-week Grief Support Seminar, “Journeys Through Grief.” Those who have attended this seminar tell us it was a big part of their healing process.

### **East Penn (Emmaus) Area**

Wednesday evenings

October 15 through November 12, 7-8:30 p.m.  
at the Moravian Church, 146 Main St, Emmaus

Led by Mrs. Sylvia Havlish

Sponsored by Bachman, Kulik and Reinsmith Funeral Homes, P.C. and Horace W. Schantz Funeral Home

### **Easton Area**

Thursday evenings

October 2 through November 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry Street, Easton

Led by the Rev. Dody Freed

Sponsored by Ashton Funeral Home, Inc., Finegan Funeral Home, and Strunk Funeral Home, Inc.

### **Oley Valley**

Wednesday evenings

October 1 through November 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
at Frieden’s Lutheran Church, Memorial Hwy, Oley

Led by the Rev. MaryAnn Hamm

Sponsored by Blankenbiller Funeral Home

Registration is required for all of the Grief Support Seminars.  
Call 610-770-9205 or go online at [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org).

## ***Jesus Calls Us. . . to Action!***

*November 1, 2008 (9:00 am - 3:30 pm)  
(8:30 am—Registration & Refreshments)*

*at*

***Union Lutheran Church  
Schnecksville, PA***

***Keynote Speaker: Andrew Genszler, ELCA***

This day focused on advocacy is designed to help professional leaders,  
social ministry/service team members, congregational council members and others  
**learn what it can mean to walk humbly with God, to love kindness and to do justice.**

**See registration form included in this newsletter**



## 10th Annual LCS Golf Outing

LCS 10th Annual golf outing took place on August 25 at the Wood Country Club. Once again God gave us a glorious day of sunshine and fellowship.

Congratulations to those who won the tournament and the raffle prizes. Also, a big thanks to all who helped LCS with this important fundraiser. We couldn't have done this without the volunteers, businesses and individuals who donated items for our goody bags and for the raffle. The agency raised approximately \$8,000!

**First place lowest gross score:** Carl Bieber, Frank Morgan, Jeff Odgren, John Odren

**Second place lowest gross score:** Michael Saraceno, Michael Schwentner, and Joe Tulio

**First place lowest net score:** Michael Bednar, Sr., Michael Bednar, Jr., Jodi Eslinger, and Glen Reitz

**Second place lowest net score:** Bob Bogensberger, Danny Dieter, Mike Younger, and Joel Zimmerman

### Prize holes:

Hole #2 Mike Schwentner  
Jodi Eslinger  
Hole #5 Mike Bodnyk  
Hole #6 Henry Vogt  
Hole #15 Norman Lucas  
Hole #17 Eric Dieter

### Major Sponsors:

The Kyle David Group  
(golf towels)  
Attorney Bradford D. Wagner  
(golf balls)  
Waitz Corp. (annual trophy)  
Central Lehigh County Chapter,  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Upper Northampton County Chapter,  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Lower Northampton County Chapter,  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

### Hole Sponsors:

Gilbert Funeral Home, Inc.  
Elsie & Bob Bell  
Jean & Owen Bastian  
Kichline's Service Station, Hellertown  
Marilyn J. Schoenborn  
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries  
Grace Realty Co., Inc.  
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hanover Ave.  
Susan & Dennis Ritter  
Repsher & Shook Painting & Papering  
People First Federal Credit Union  
7-11, Hellertown  
Christ Lutheran Church, Hellertown  
Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits, LLP  
Peripheral Systems, Inc.  
Catherine's Rug Service  
Jerry & Linda Latchic  
Gladys Borger  
Faith Lutheran Church, Whitehall  
The Rev. Sandy Wisco  
Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc.  
Hellertown Subway  
Concannon, Miller & Co., PC  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley

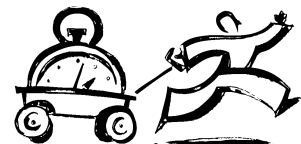
## LCS Remembered with



Recently LCS received gifts from several congregations as they closed the last time. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Easton gave a gift of \$10,520.87 which is to be used to further its ministry in the Easton area. The Board authorized \$9,000 of this gift to be placed in the agency's endowment fund.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cementon gave gifts totaling \$14,592.40. The money is to be used to further its work in disaster response.

These congregations have been faithful partners with LCS and they will be missed, but their legacy of caring and service will continue.



*Fall Back*  
Daylight Saving Time Ends

Saturday, November 1, 2008

## **Ships' Logs: Camp Noah 2008**

### ***The Good Ship Prattville***

The last time we wrote, our team from Friedens, Oley was in Prattville, AL working with 50 children who had experienced a tornado in February. Upon its return, the team reported that of the three camps they have led, this was by far the most effective. Part of the reason was that the camp was held only a few months after the incident. Another is that the host pastor, Rick Mason, had walked the streets, knocking on doors to seek out the children who were most affected by the storm. Once again the local community rallied to assist with the needed space and supplies.

Here are some of the stories our team members heard:

- One preschooler took shelter with his family in the hallway. When they emerged after the tornado, the rest of the house was gone.
- An older child and her sibling hid in a closet, but the babysitter, in her fear, abandoned them. After the tornado passed, not only was the house severely damaged, but they were worried about their care-giver.
- A first grader told of hiding in a closet with her mother, who screamed and prayed the Lord's Prayer throughout the entire ordeal.
- On the last day of camp, a parent related that one of her friends had adopted a child from Central America several years ago, but that up until that point the child and adoptive parents had only a distant relationship. This child attended Camp Noah. During this week the child hugged her parents and told them that she loved them! (Sometimes Camp Noah helps to heal many other traumas, some of which we are never aware.)

Not only were the quilts that were sent from our synod to be given to each child treasured by the children, the team overheard one mother say that they had lost everything and this was the first quilt or blanket for their new home.

Once again the team was privileged to witness how God's good Spirit brings healing and growth through the combination of the story of Noah with loving adults who encourage children to be children and to process their experiences in their own unique ways. The crew from Friedens, Oley, has already signed on for another year! What a group!

### ***The Good Ship Rushford***

Then there were the four volunteers from our synod who set out for southeastern, MN. Their adventure began as they teamed up with a group from Glen Cary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to caravan to Rushford, where they joined with members of that community to present Camp Noah.

Why Rushford? In August 2007 this tiny town experienced 10 inches of rain over several days which was then followed by 17.25 inches on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Local dikes just couldn't handle that much water. Two thirds of the town was flooded. The Waste Treatment plant and a trailer park were destroyed.

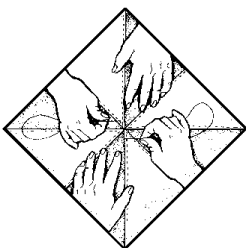
School started as usual on September 4, but that was about the only normal thing that happened for a long time. Seventy houses had to be demolished. There was no electricity for several weeks. Two of the city wells had been contaminated and there were porta-johns in the streets. The whole town rejoiced the day they were able to flush their toilets, but it was weeks before they could do laundry, shower, or cook with the water. Since the town's only grocery store had been hit, residents had to travel 20 miles to the next one.

Gwen, one of our team members, taught second and third grade girls. She writes that while some said at first that they hadn't been affected much by the flood, as the stories came out, they realized that all had been affected by the lack of toilets and having to travel so far for groceries. Some had to be rescued by firemen and leave their pets behind. One saw a rabbit drown in the yard. The co-teacher for this class who was vacationing in Connecticut at the time actually saw her house on national news as well as trucks floating down the street. Most of the girls had had to move multiple times or had had families or friends move in with them. Some were still not back in their homes. You can read more about their individual stories in the September *Partners in the Spirit* of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. (<http://www.godslove.org/publications/partnersinthespirit/2008/09/5.html>)

Once again our team members reported that not only were they amazed at how the three different participating groups were able to work together smoothly, even though they only met the night before camp started, but the Camp Noah curriculum really worked wonders. During the week Gwen noticed a few shy smiles break on the face of one child whom adults had reported had

been so sweet before the flood, but seemed very sullen and angry since the event.

*Our thanks to the many generous donations from individuals, congregations and chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for once again helping to support this ministry. Watch for opportunities to join in Camp Noah later this year and in 2009.*



### Quilt More Than a Quilt?

Quilts are made with love and sent to those affected by disaster. It's hardly said a word this year, for Camp Noah and Lutheran

World Relief (LWR) continued to pour into the agency.

This summer we shipped 270 quilts to various Camp Noah locations, including the one in Prattville. Leaders there reported how touched the children were that someone would make a quilt for each of them. They reached for their special quilt not only during story time, but also when they needed a touch of comfort. How special it was to the children to take this piece of Camp Noah home at the end of the week!

This past winter Pr. Adeliz Mendez from San Martin Lutheran Church, Allentown, and our own Carol Pertuit took one van full of large quilts to the LWR warehouse in Maryland. By the time this is in print, another van load will have been delivered, which will complete our response to the 2007 earthquake in Peru. Quilts sent to LWR provide not only warmth for sleep, but are also used as shelter and to wrap up belongings when a family needs to move.

How do you get involved? Just start cutting, sewing and tying! Quilts for Camp Noah should be child to adolescent size, starting at approximately 3 ½' x 4' and ranging to almost twin size. These can be brought to LCS. Quilts for Lutheran World Relief are 60 x 80 and must follow LWR guidelines which can be found at [www.lwr.org/parish/quilts.asp](http://www.lwr.org/parish/quilts.asp). These should be

shipped or taken to their headquarters outside Baltimore. If your congregation is already involved in making and taking quilts to LWR, please let us know so we can refer others to add to you who might have questions or want to pool resources for transportation.

## The News From Drums

If you've read the recent newsletters, you will remember our project to build a house for the Orlando family just north of Hazleton whose house was flooded three times in 26 months. The *great* news is that Kelly, the mother, is recovering from her surgery in June and the house is almost completed. We hope the family will be moved in by mid October.

There is other news. In mid July the Orlando's 16 year old son shattered his leg in an accident. Healing will take a long time and involve considerable medical treatment. Needless to say, this has added even more stress to the family.

There is an old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines." We not only took advantage of the good weather, but also of the many skilled volunteers available this summer. As we reported in July, the Sons of a Carpenter team from Weisenberg Lutheran got the entire structure raised, roofed, and sided in just two weekends and even constructed the interior walls. They were followed by teams from places like Oley, Frenchtown, West Lawn, Lititz, Easton and Susquehanna University as well as many smaller groups and faithful local volunteers. Christ Conyngham graciously hosted some of these teams, providing not only a place to stay, but many bountiful meals as well.

Up until late summer donations kept up with expenses. Knowing how much stress the family was experiencing, certain that FEMA would not be able to extend their use of the trailer, and aware that bad weather was just around the corner, we continued to work, trusting that God would provide. Not all of the costs for this project have been covered as of this newsletter.

There is other very good news. The house is almost completely furnished with donated items that are in really good condition! It is amazing to witness how people respond in such varied and generous ways when they hear of a need!

Praise God that this project is almost complete and that the Orlando family will soon move back "home"! **Praise God for the community and faith that have grown as God's people work together for the good of their neighbor! Pray for the continued healing of the Orlando family! Pray that the needed funds will be found!** Watch for details about when we will join together once more to celebrate and bless this house!

*Our thanks to the many individuals and congregations as well as the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, and chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their help in funding this project. Further donations can be sent to Lutheran Congregational Services, 1923 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109. Please mark the memo: "House in Drums"*



## Despite Bayou It Was a Very



"What a tribute to people who help!" said Pastor Elizabeth. "Despite pouring rain from the remnants of Hurricane Hanna, the Benefit for the Bayou 2 held at Emmanuel's Lutheran Church was a very good day!" Almost 300 people dodged the drops and slogged through the puddles on

September 6 to laugh and eat, enjoy the music, check out the crafts and silent auction, and even splurge on a massage. Some came just to donate funds to help build a house in Biloxi. "What a tribute!"

Benefit for the Bayou 2 is part of an effort by the Northern Lehigh Mission District to raise \$25,000 to help build a house in southern Mississippi using the combined efforts of Habitat for Humanity, ELCA Disaster Relief and volunteers. This project is just one more way that members of our synod demonstrate their belief that God does not abandon God's children in need. Rather, God, through God's people,

sticks with those who are hurting, sticks with them for the long haul, even when other disasters are making headlines.

Further contributions to assist this effort can be made out to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, and sent to 3175 Valley View Drive, Bath, PA 18014. Please mark "Benefit for the Bayou" in the memo.

*If your group or congregation is raising disaster fund or sending teams outside our synod, please let us know here at Lutheran Disaster Response Network-Northeastern Pennsylvania so that we can help spread the word.*



## Honor Linda Latchic

Linda is the 2008 recipient of the **Benefit for the Bayou**. It is given each year at our Allentown, Pennsylvania Synod's **Celebrate** event. This year the event will be held on Friday, October 12, at 4:30 pm in

Moyer Hall on the Muhlenberg College Campus.

From 1991 thru 1998, Linda was a member of the Board of Directors and served for 2 years as recording secretary for the board. She was a member of the agency's Benefits/Affairs Committee also during that time. She and her husband, Gerard, are strong financial supporters of LCS' annual appeal and along with Linda's mother have sponsored the band for many years at the agency's Spring Fling and most recently for the agency's *Wine, Music & Food* event at Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery. Linda has assisted at Phon-a-thons, recently served on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee of LCS and helped with the Annual Dinner for a number of years. She also provided volunteer leadership for the agency's Workshops for Confirmands for several years under Dick Roth.

Linda is active in her faith life through St. Joseph Lutheran Church, Allentown. She is presently a member of the Congregation Council and recently served a term as President of the council and congregation. She is a trained Lay Eucharistic Visitor, a member of Altar Guild, a money counter, lay assistant, reader and greeter. She helps in the kitchen at church as needed, as well as in other ways that support the mission and ministry of the congregation.

She and Jerry have been married for 28 years and live in Allentown. Linda is a trained nurse and

presently works as an Ophthalmic Tech with a local Ophthalmologist.

Previous recipient's of this award are **Robert Bell (2007)**, **Brad Wagner (2006)**, **Sue Weber (2005)** and **Owen & Jean Bastian (2004)**.

When you see Linda, give her a pat on the back and a well deserved "Thank you!" It is because of faithful servants like Linda and the other past recipients that LCS is able to continue serving congregations and their leaders as they make Christ known.

**URGENT:  
Dealing With  
Unwelcome "Guests"  
(Like Dolly, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike)**

There have been far too many unwelcome visitors in the U.S. and around the world this year! Flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, you name it! We often feel helpless in the face of so much destruction and human need.

Lutheran Disaster Response headquarters in Chicago reminds us that much can be done even before sending out volunteers:

- 1) Join in prayer. God is our refuge and strength.
- 2) Collect items that we *know* will be needed, like flood buckets and other kits clearly defined by a response organization.
- 3) Encourage generous financial support. Response agencies such as LDR have already been severely taxed this year.

For worship resources go to: [www.ELCA.org/worship](http://www.ELCA.org/worship). For kits, see this page. For info and updates on ELCA disaster response or to donate funds go to [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) or [www.LDR.org](http://www.LDR.org). Funds can also be sent to the synod office.



**Urgent Need for Disaster Kits:**

*All of the items below will be badly needed. Remember, however, not to collect or ship things unless you know there is a need for them and that there is an organization that is ready to receive and distribute them. Don't forget to factor in how to get items to their location.*

**Flood buckets:** UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). <http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket>. Warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA

**Emergency clean up kits:** Church World Services. [www.cws](http://www.cws). Also hygiene, baby, and school kits. Warehouse in New Windsor, MD (1888.297.2767).

**ONE+PLUS KITS:** Designed around the idea that when relief efforts pour in, there is often plenty of canned food for distribution but no one has a can opener. (*Call us before you collect to find out where to send these.*)  
Contents: A sturdy can opener, utility candles, wooden matches, pencils/pens, pencil sharpener, spiral notebook, rubber bands, paper clips, package of sterile wipes, pair of scissors, pair of rubber gloves. Pack in plastic container about size of shoe box or boot box.  
Optional: dishcloth/tea towel, scrub sponge, scotch tape, sharpie pen, small sewing kit, fingernail clippers, clothes pins, duct tape, your own comforting touches.

**"S.T.U.F.F." KITS  
(Sheets, Towels, Utensils for Families)**  
(*We got this idea from our Washington, D.C. affiliate*)  
Contents: new or *clean* and *gently* used:

Twin sheet sets  
Full or Queen sheet sets  
Towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth)  
Stainless steel silverware sets  
Cooking utensil sets (spatula, large spoon, etc.)  
Inexpensive pots/pans sets  
Leave in original wrappings or wrap each "set" in clear plastic, secure with clear plastic tape and securely label if the contents are not obvious (e.g. size of sheets).

*Let us know if your congregation  
collects these or other items.*

*We may be able to help groups  
connect to reduce shipping costs.*



