

The Ev. Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Avenue
Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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The Parish

Messenger

SEPTEMBER, 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR, HADDONFIELD, NJ

September Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed August 26, 2008

NURTURE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Focused Fellowship Groups this Fall

In the Mission Statement for The Lutheran Church of Our Savior one of the faith disciplines our faith community professes to participate in is to “nurture personal and spiritual growth through fellowship.” While a Riversharks game or church picnic might nurture personal growth among the congregation in the context of a fellowship event, it is unlikely they would grow spiritually. The Christian Education Committee recognized there is room in our ministry to provide greater opportunities for members and visitors to nurture personal and spiritual growth through fellowship, and now has created an opportunity for it.

With the changes to the 9:15 worship leadership schedule (Pastors Zschech and Englehardt will now rotate every 4-5 weeks irrespective of the early and late worship preaching schedule) there is now an opportunity for the pastors, and even other volunteers, to lead a four to five week “Focused Fellowship Group” on a particular theme that is meant to nurture personal and spiritual growth. In September Pastor Englehardt will lead a four week class introducing the five year ELCA emphasis on reading the Bible entitled, “The Book of Faith Initiative” (check out detailed information at the ELCA website elca.org). Pastor Zschech will lead the Newcomer Orientation classes in October, and in December will likely lead one pertaining to Advent and preparing for Christmas.

Rather than try to guess what adults in the congregation would be interested in attending a 45 minute small group discussion that focuses on a particular topic, the staff will be seeking the congregation’s input. During worship in September surveys will be passed out with the bulletin that will have nine or so topics they think people might be interested in. There will also be one or two blanks for people to offer other suggestions. Please circle three to four of topics you would be interested in attending a Focused Fellowship Group gathering if it was offered.

The goal would be to have from 7-10 people attending these in the narthex or Room 112 each week depending on the topic. Strong knowledge of scripture will never be required, only a willingness to talk about one’s faith as it relates to the topic. And of course, there will be coffee and food to facilitate fellowship and conversation. The leadership at Our Savior hope this new addition to the 9:15 time slot will be a welcome addition to the congregation’s keeping of the Sabbath day and strengthening of one’s faith and relationship within the community.

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:15 IN OCTOBER

Whether you plan on formally joining the Lutheran Church of Our Savior as a member on Sunday, October 26 or simply want to learn more about the congregation’s ministry and Lutheran heritage the Newcomer Orientation classes are where you want to be in October. They will be held in Room 112 in the back hallway of the ground floor near the Wayne Avenue entrance. Childcare for children up to age four is available in the nursery and all others are welcome to come to the orientation although Pastor Wayne will make childcare available in the Youth Room on the same floor if parents notify the office in advance.

Contact the church office by phone (429-5122) or Pastor Wayne Zschech directly via email (pastorwayne@oursaviorhaddonfield.org) if you plan to attend. The four week, 45 minute classes will cover a brief history of Our Savior and our current mission statement as well as that of the Lutheran Church, an overview of the marks of Christian discipleship and how that is lived out as a member of the congregation, and an introduction to the members of the Congregation Council and their areas of ministry as well as a tour of the entire building. Please consider attending if you’ve been visiting for a while or even just one week. We look forward to enhancing your faith and worship life as best as possible and invite you to be a part of our faith community.

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord,
proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs,
and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.*



FROM THE PASTOR

“A WORD OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS”

Pastor Wayne Zschech

It doesn't seem to matter what age you are today, life seems to be in chaos most of the time. Elementary age children are being whisked off to sports practices and games as well as piano or dance lessons and a recital here and there. Teenagers have mountains of homework for all those advanced classes that will supposedly help them get into a respectable college of their choice provided they get mostly A's with a few B's thrown in. On top of that they now have sports practices every day of the week with games on the weekends along. Others who are in the band have rehearsals four times a week with a game and competitions on the weekend. Throw in a few other extra-curricular activities and is it any wonder our children give us a hard time when we ask them to throw a load of laundry in or set the table?

Adults don't have it any better. Parents are responsible for making sure the children get to all these practices, rehearsals, and games on time and then pick them up when they're over along with either working a full time job or taking care of the home or maybe even both. The demands of work seem to be growing as the years push on with longer work weeks being the norm rather than the exception. And with a somewhat unstable economy the comfort of job security has given way to the chaos of downsizing.

Seniors aren't without chaos either. Aging bodies mean increased medical attention and subsequent costs. Trying to figure out how to afford those costs on a fixed income when medical benefits and coverage seem to be either dwindling or diminishing can be a constant source of chaotic frustration in a time of life that was supposed to be more relaxed and worry-free.

Certainly in an election year we are hearing candidates talk about some of these issues and making promises of what they will do to alleviate our pain and suffering. Despite all their best intentions history has proven that Jesus' first word from the cross is true for all attempts to solve our problems on our own, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Somehow we need another source to provide us with a message of hope in the midst of our chaotic suffering. We need a word of hope we can trust will not let us down and will keep us grounded in the midst of the worst of times.

This is why I gather with the people of God on Sunday for worship. I know how chaotic my life is. I know how chaotic their world is too. And in the midst of our chaos, of walking through our respective valley of the shadow of death, we long to hear God's word of hope for new life. We need to hear that no matter how bad our life may be the God who raised Christ from the dead will give new life to all those who trust in Him.

Gathering to hear this word of hope on Sunday morning in worship is different than simply "going to church". It's more than just fulfilling a religious obligation. Instead, it is something I look forward to doing, and need to do in order to keep the rest of my week and life centered on the one source of true hope in my life of chaos, the God of new life offered in the risen Christ Jesus. I hear it in the hymns sung, scripture read, sermons preached, prayers offered, and the choir anthems offered in praise. This year, amidst your world of chaos, I invite you to join me as the baptized community of Our Savior gathers for worship to hear God's word of hope offered again and again each week. And as St. Paul wrote to the Romans, it is a hope that will not disappoint us.

WELCOME

Cindy Randall as New Office Assistant

Hello, what a blessing it is to serve The Lord and this Body of Believers here at LCOS! I look forward to speaking on the phone with you or meeting you in person. I live in Collingswood with Rob my husband of 19 years this month, along with our four children, Jared, Rebekah, Zachary & Hannah. We attend a local church and enjoy serving The Lord as a family. I love studying The Word, gardening, and fellowshiping with family & friends. ~ Cindy

**New Office Email;
info@oursaviorhaddonfield.org**

With the addition of Cindy Randall to the staff the need for a business office email address was created. By the time you receive this the new email for corresponding with the church office will be **info@oursaviorhaddonfield.org**. When corresponding with the church office please make note of this in your email contact list or when seeking or providing information to either Monica or Cindy.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Romans

Whenever you have been in church to worship on a Sunday morning since June 1 and continuing through September 14, you have listened to the Second Reading from Romans. The letter to the Romans is the longest of letters attributed to Paul. Romans seems more reflective and less tied to immediate problems than other New Testament letters. Many of Paul's great themes – grace, faith, justification, freedom, and hope – are here. Encounters with Paul's message are often life-changing. Join us on Monday nights at 7:30 PM or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM for about an hour and a half each week in Room 112. We begin the week of September 22 (22 and 24) and end the week of November 17 (17 and 19), with the exception of the week of October 13 (13 and 15) when I will be on vacation. Pastor Englehardt is your discussion guide.

COLLEGE NOTES

Please keep these young men & women in prayer as they leave home for college this year.

Scott DiCrescenzo
Caitlyn Rosalie Ebbenga
Gregory Warren Gitzes
Kathleen Frieda Keck
Michael Koval
Nicolas Miano
Kristopher Randall
Christian R. Stine
Elizabeth Ann Wallace

Dean College, MA
College of the Atlantic, ME
Camden County College, NJ
University of Maryland
Rutgers College of Engineering, NJ
Loyola College, MD
Lebanon Valley College, PA
The College of New Jersey, NJ
Ursinus College, PA

ATTENTION SENIORS!

SENIOR GAME DAY

**NO GAME DAY IN JULY OR AUGUST
NEXT DATE IS:**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, AT NOON

BINGO PINOCHLE BRIDGE ~ COME OUT AND HAVE FUN!

FOOD AND DRINKS (SODA) SERVED

BEST OF ALL . . . IT'S FREE!

RSVP: BETTY KEENE OR ELEANOR GAINES

SIMPLY GIVING

A Simple Choice - A Generous Response

Simply Giving is an automated giving program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. It's designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry.

By participating in Simply Giving, you can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering to our congregation.

To learn how you can participate in Simply Giving, contact Monica Ebbenga in the church office.

Let Simply Giving help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into a generous response.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033
(856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245 (fax)

www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

**Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
Nursery Provided at 9:15 & 10:30 AM**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Rich Amme	Worship & Music
Kim Anderson	Youth
Brian Bell	Property
Jack Berrigan	Treasurer
Bill Cowan	Secretary
Charles Coleman	Christian Education
Mike Fallon	Congregational Resources
Larry Friant	Vice President
Dale Kredatus	Financial Secretary
Betsy Kuehn	Social Ministry
Deb MacBride	Christian Education
Bobbi Newsham	Fellowship Development
Juhan Runne	Personnel
Kathy Simpkins	Seniors
Hans Underwood	Youth
Eric Woltz	Worship & Music
Dave Wyche	Communication

MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

Cathe Bare
Jack Berrigan, ex-officio
Paul Clark
Paul Knauer
John Laughlin
Bob Mirabello, ex-officio
Laura Oakes
Stacey Shaw
Elizabeth Woltz
Wayne Zschech, ex-officio

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Wayne Zschech, Senior Pastor
Glenn A. Englehardt, Associate Pastor
Monica Ebbenga, Office Administrator
Cindy Randall, Office Assistant
Eric Ebbenga, Organist
Patricia Shaw-Green, Dir. of Music
Linda Powell Cherub Choir
Bob Knight, Custodian
Jeff Gross, Night Lockup
Shirley Bramble, Nursery Care
Beth Hill, Altar Guild
Bonnie Richards, Sunday School Supt.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Lynne Boyle, Kathy Shone, Joan Candia
Counters: Bob Mirabello, Chuck & June Davis, Carol Lichter, Meggan & Larry Myers

September 7

Coffee Hour: Welcome Cindy Randall
Readers: 8-Tom Weber 10:30-Deb MacBride
Communion Assistants: 10:30-Bill Cowan, Dale Kredatus
Ushers: 8-Eric & Betty Woltz 10:30-Bob Mirabello, Mike Stolarick
Acolytes: 8-TBA
 1030-TBA

September 14

Coffee Hour: Senior Game Day Committee
Readers: 8-Laura Oakes 10:30-Danielle Deery
Ushers: 8-Jim & Jane Evans 10:30-Bob Mirabello, Mike Stolarick
Acolytes: 8-TBA
 10-TBA

September 21

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild
Readers: 8-Bill Neveling 10:30-Ken Carpenter
Ushers: 8-Jim & Jane Evans 10:30-Bob Mirabello, Mike Stolarick
Acolytes: 8-TBA
 10-TBA

September 28

Coffee Hour: Pantry Committee
Readers: 8-Tom Cheney 10:30-Becky Bogina
Ushers: 8-Jim & Jane Evans 10:30-Bob Mirabello, Mike Stolarick
Acolytes: 8-TBA
 10-TBA

September 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



		SEPTEMBER
Mon	1	Labor Day, church office closed Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	2	Social Ministry, 7 PM Executive Committee, 7:30 PM
Wed	3	Tai Chi, 4 PM
Thurs	4	Working Arm, 9:30 AM Adult Bells, 7 PM Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sat	6	SCS Teacher Training, Ewing, NJ
Sun	7	Rally Day Worship, 8, & 10:30 AM Reflections Worship, 9:15 AM SCS Teachers Installed, 10:30 AM Confirmation Class, 6 PM
Mon	8	Prayer Group, 7 PM
Tues	9	Church Council, 7:30 PM
Wed	10	Children's Bells, 3:45 PM Tai Chi, 4 PM Children's Choir, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Bells, 7 PM Memorial Gifts, 7:30 PM Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	11	Adult Bells, 7 PM Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sun	14	Worship, 8, & 10:30 AM Reflections Worship, 9:15 AM Confirmand Blessing, 10:30 AM Acolyte Training, 6 PM
Mon	15	Faith Circle, noon Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wed	17	Children's Bells, 3:45 PM Tai Chi, 4 PM Children's Choir, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Children's Church, 7 PM Youth Bells, 7 PM Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	18	Adult Bells, 7 PM Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sun	21	Worship, 8, & 10:30 AM Reflections Worship, 9:15 AM Confirmation Class, 6 PM
Mon	22	Prayer Group, 7 PM Pastor's Bible Study, 7:30 PM
Tues	23	Senior Game Day, noon
Wed	24	Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 AM Children's Bells, 3:45 PM Tai Chi, 4 PM Children's Choir, 4:15 PM Cherub Choir, 4:30 PM Youth Bells, 7 PM Youth Choir, 8 PM
Thurs	25	Adult Bells, 7 PM Adult Choir, 8 PM
Sun	28	Worship, 8 & 10 AM Reflections, 9:15 AM
Mon	29	Prayer Group, 7 PM Pastor's Bible Study, 7:30 PM

NEW LOOK FOR 9:15 WORSHIP THIS FALL

Despite a declining worship attendance at the 9:15 worship, from an average worship attendance of 65 in 2004 to an AWA of 30 so far this year, there is a faithful core who regularly attend and for good reason. They love the interactive reflection led by the pastors that focuses on the scripture reading for the day and worshippers get to talk about with each other during worship. "I've been a member for ten years and it's only been in the last two that I've really become close to other members due to this worship," said one congregant. Another added, "This service is special to me because it gives me an opportunity to talk about my faith with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ like never before." Another unique aspect of the worship time is the fact it offers Holy Communion every week, insuring those who may come irregularly that God's grace of the sacrament is always offered when they do attend.

Then there's the impact this worship time has on education. With the pastor's leading this worship according to the current preaching schedule there has been little opportunity for either pastor to lead a discussion group or teach a class on Sunday mornings. Greater opportunities for members and visitors to deepen their competence and confidence in the Christian faith also needed to be addressed.

Pastor Wayne Zschech and the rest of the worship staff came up with a proposal they presented to members of the Worship and Music and Christian Education Committee, as well as core attendees of the 9:15 worship. After much discussion and many helpful insights the respective ministry committees endorsed a 9:15 worship format and subsequent opportunity for pastor and non-pastoral led small group discussion groups that includes the following:

- The name will be Reflections Worship as the interactive reflection was the most valued component by those regularly attending.
 - No choirs will be scheduled to sing at this worship. All choirs will now be scheduled for the 10:30 worship time.
 - No acolytes or ushers will be needed for this informal but intimate worship.
 - It will meet in the chancel where the Adult Choir typically sits to promote a greater sense of intimacy and facilitate conversation (seating capacity approx. 30-35)
 - Holy Communion will still be offered weekly.
 - A songbook with more praise songs will be created for the worship by Pat Green.
 - The Reflections Worship may use Power Point like Sticky Situations in the summer.
 - Pastors Zschech and Englehardt will rotate leading this worship irrespective of their preaching schedule for the early and late worship times. This will allow for each to lead a discussion group in 4-5 week blocks (see article on "Focused Fellowship" in this Messenger issue).
- It is the hope of the Worship and Music Committee and pastoral staff that this new format will better facilitate the key aspect of this worship for those who regularly attend as well as provide a greater number of the congregation to participate in life long learning and living the faith through small group discussions. The staff welcomes any feedback or suggestions that might improve this new format.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP ADOPTS THREEFOLD FOCUS

Senior High Youth Group will be wearing trifocals this year! After an exciting meeting with Kim Anderson, the lead advisor for the group, Pastor Wayne Zschech and Kim came up with a plan for focusing on three aspects of Christian living for the entire year and around which the events will be planned.

1. Faith Formation Events are any meeting or retreat that nurtures the youth and adult's spiritual growth and deepens their faith. These might include faith "Talksheets" produced by Group Youth Ministry or the Synod Winter Retreat to Harvey Cedars.

2. Service Events are events such as the 30 Hour Famine, Souper Bowl Sunday collection for World Hunger, making dinner for My Father's House, and the Summer Mission Trip.

3. Play or Fellowship Events are anything held on meeting nights that facilitate greater relationship bonding within the community by playing games or socializing, and includes the Pocono Whitewater Retreat in spring.

There is a catch though. While in the past youth were never excluded from any event or activity there will be certain criteria for youth to be eligible to attend the big events. Youth are to have participated in at least one Faith Formation and Service Event prior to the Harvey Cedars Retreat and two of each prior to the Pocono Retreat. Meetings will be held more frequently, twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights from 7:00-8:30 unless scheduled otherwise. A full listing of the year's events will be posted on the Youth bulletin board outside the church office after the first Senior High Youth meeting on September 14 at 7:00.

After a great Summer Mission Trip the new year is looking very exciting, and the advisors and Pastor Wayne look forward to a vibrant youth group. They even hope to attend the National Youth Workers Convention held in Pittsburgh this November to improve their understanding and leadership of youth ministry at Our Savior. Don't forget to bring a friend on September 14.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY BEGINS SEPT. 7 AT 6:00

Another year of confirmation ministry with catechetical instruction is about to begin. The class of 24 seventh and eighth grade youth along with parents serving as Guides will cover the sacraments, elements of worship, and Apostles Creed at biweekly Learning Events (Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30), and our Lutheran heritage on the fall retreat. The youth will also receive acolyte training on September 14 during the regular Sunday Learning Event time.

The class utilizes Power Point presentations for instruction and discussion as well as singing songs and scripture memorization. Small group discussions on the Learning Event themes are led by the adult Guides who are typically parents of the confirmands. Parents are also able to participate at home by utilizing the Living Journals that include Home Huddle materials for each night of the week. Parents and youth would then share the highs and lows of their day, read a passage of Scripture, talk about how it might relate to their lives, pray for each other, and then offer a blessing to one another. The Living Journals also allow parents whose children are unable to attend a class due to a conflict to provide "home school" catechetical instruction on the theme that was missed. Oddly, this is exactly the format Martin Luther designed for children to be formed in the Christian faith when he wrote the Small Catechism. The confirmation youth and their parents will participate in a Blessing Litany during the 10:30 worship on September 14.

NOW'S THE TIME

If you've ever thought of joining one of our choirs...here's your chance. You don't have to be a professional singer or ringer to be in the choir. If you can carry a tune, like to sing, and love having fun and fellowship – come check us out! The Adult Choir meets on Thursday nights with Bells at 7:00 PM & Singing at 8:00 PM. Youth Choir meets on Wednesday nights with Bells at 7:00 PM & Singing at 8:00 PM. Children's Choir meets on Wednesday, Bells at 3:45 PM and Singing at 4:15 PM. Come join us!



What Would Jesus Do?

...ask us all to do "for the least of these", just as we did, pulling together yet again to make such wonderful gifts for the friendship camp participants. This year we had about 40 congregations participate and the entire cost was covered by for Thrivent Chapters, North West, North East, North Shore and south West.

I want to personally thank every congregation and person that helped in any way. Whether you did 10 of 500, each one was needed and will be cherished.

Thank you for saying yes when asked, and I hope you will say yes when asked again next year.

Your 2008 Bosnia Home Team Craft Coordinator,
Sarah Zadoroznyj
Zion, Garfield

HELP WANTED!

There is a special need for extra help for the Pantry!

Needed are drivers & packers!
Please call or email Nancy Gulick.
Instructions will be provided!!

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

By Betsy Kuehn

Results of Bosnia Fundraiser- Thank you to all who donated to the Bosnia fundraiser to support Ed Nace for his trip to Bosnia from June 21 to July 5 as part of the International Service Team of the New Jersey Synod. The congregation donated a total of \$2427.16 + \$800.00 in matching funds from Thrivent, for a total of \$3227.16 (an updated total from the July/August messenger).

Pack-A-Sack- Thank you to all who donated school supplies for the Pack-A-Sack collection. The supplies will be distributed to homeless children in grades pre-k thru 5th grade in South Jersey through the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council (IHOC).

My Father's House - Thank you to all who prepare meals each week for the 14 girls at My Father's House. Meals have been scheduled thru the end of the year. Contact Jan Amme or Maureen Bell if interested in preparing a meal. Remember to save your receipts. We must have \$2,400.00 in receipts to receive the \$800 supplement from Thrivent.

Pantry Needs

Just a reminder to remember the Pantry when shopping and pick up a few extra items. Current Pantry needs include pasta, spaghetti sauce, toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, and juices. Donations can be left in the box by the Wayne Avenue entrance. Also, help is needed to pack and deliver food. Sign up sheet is outside the Pantry.

Thank you.

Looking ahead to the Fall

Come Together Sunday- Social Ministry is scheduled for September 21st during Coffee Hour. Please come down and see all that Social Ministry is doing.

LCOS Care Packages (Eva Shaw) – Attention parents of college students!! We plan to send out care packages to college students & military personnel sometime in the fall, also in late winter. Please send names, addresses, & e-mails of college students or military personnel to Eva Shaw.

Holiday Food Drive – Donation envelopes and bags will be available beginning 11/2, also 11/9, 11/16, deadline 11/23. We will request \$800 in matching funds from Thrivent.

Advent Giving Tree – Tree will be in the Narthex beginning 11/23, also 11/30, 12/7. The deadline to return gifts is 12/14, as committee members will be organizing gifts in Parish Hall.

Meeting dates: We meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Fall meeting dates are 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, and 12/2. If anyone is interested in being part of our committee, please call or e-mail Betsy Kuehn.

Thanks to the following people for helping with the pantry in June, July & August: **Lauren and Femi Adejewon, Charlie Coleman, Danielle Deery, Pat Reiter, Juhan Runne, Senior Game group,**



Eva & Stacy Shaw & family, Molly Smith, and Seniors and other congregation members for donating canned goods.

Thanks to **all who cook meals** for My Father's House each Tuesday.

Messenger helpers: **Jane Evans, Lynn Boyle, Eleanor Gaines, Jean Schroeder, Louise Mowrer, and Betty Keene.**

Office Helpers: **Sue Underwood, Jane Evans, Ward Laubach, Jaime Fallon, Arlene Stolarick.**

IN HARM'S WAY

Lt. John L. Gaines, aboard USS Vicksburg
Colonel Richard Howley, serving in Iraq,
PFC Jonathan Keck, serving in Iraq,
Michael Miano, stationed in Nepal with "Doctors without Borders", working with health issues in the Kalikot region. His role is Logistics and he helps get supplies in for the medical team.

Keep all who serve our country and preserve our freedoms in your prayers!



Visit us
on the Web

www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

Stop by to check the calendar, read the *Messenger* or just find out a little bit more about us!

CONTACT COMMUNITY HELPLINES

Reaching out to others is a calling that comes from the heart.

CONTACT Community Helplines offers exceptional training and flexible volunteer opportunities. The helpline is a free confidential, 24-hour hotline that provides therapeutic listening, as well as information and referrals to callers from Camden, Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem Counties. You will learn how to communicate more effectively with your family, friends, spouse and co-workers, while giving back to the community.

ANSWER THE CALL.

BECOME A CONTACT VOLUNTEER.

For more information, please call (856) 795-5073.

www.contacthelplines.org

Helplines' Telephone Reassurance Program provides daily telephone calls to isolated and homebound senior citizens residing in Camden and Gloucester counties. The calls are made by trained volunteers who initiate emergency procedures should the senior fail to answer at a pre-arranged time. The program's goals are to not only check on the senior's physical well being, but also to provide support and reassurance that someone cares.

The services are free of charge.

The program is also looking for people who can spare 10 minutes of their time to make a local call to a lonely senior citizen. Volunteers are trained in their homes and also make the calls from their homes.

To enroll in the program or to volunteer, please call the program coordinator at 856-795-4980, Monday – Friday, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM

YOUTH GROUP 2008-09 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Are you in high school, or will you be entering high school in the fall? Do you like hanging out with people your age and doing fun things together? If so, then come join the youth group in September for what is shaping up to be another great year. The first event of the year is a "lock-in," in which all new and returning members of youth group sleep over in the church. During this time, we get to know each other and plan events we will be participating in throughout the year. These events include volunteer opportunities and service projects, meetings and gatherings, and trips and retreats, to name a few. If you're interested in taking part in any of that, next time you see Pastor Wayne or Pastor Englehardt, tell them you want to know more about the youth group, and they'll give you the information or contacts you need. Other than that you can just ask around and you'll find us. We use the green and purple room downstairs in the church next to the bathrooms.

Don't miss out on fun opportunities to serve God and create warm memories here at LCOS. Come join the youth group and make new friends. We're looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

GERMAN TRIP IN 2010

Join Pastor John Collins of Faith Lutheran Church, Lavallette, NJ, for 9 days in early July of 2010, "9 days: Steps of Martin Luther with The Passion Play of Oberammergau." Touring the German countryside, visiting Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Leipzig, Eisenach, Erfurt, Nuremberg, and Munich among others. Relive the Reformation movement in Lutheran Germany and witness the world-famous Passion Play. See Pastor Englehardt for necessary information.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 3:30 PM

One calling the church office between these hours can generally expect to reach a church staff person to talk to.

FACES OF LCOS

Organist Eric Ebbenga – A Man and His Music

Eric Ebbenga's email address accurately describes Our Savior's organist for the past 14 years – iplaytunes.

He teaches Music Theater at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and is involved regularly in musical productions in Philadelphia.

Just this year, he has served as assistant conductor for *Les Miserables* at the Walnut Street Theater, is preparing to conduct *Candide* at the Arden Theater, conducted and contributed original music to *This Is The Week That Is* at 1812 Productions, where later this year he will conduct and orchestrate *Cherry Bomb*.

And Eric has been involved in well over a dozen major productions at theaters in Philadelphia.

But on Sunday mornings, Eric Ebbenga is regularly found in the corner of the chancel in The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Haddonfield.

"I don't mind being on the side, out of sight . . . that's not a big deal to me," Eric said about his role as church organist. "The congregation sees me as the church organist but that is just a small part of my life."

Growing up in Lansdale, PA and having graduated from North Penn High School, Eric graduated from Temple University with a B.A. in Piano Performance and later earned his master's degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Music.

"I started playing piano when I was 7," he said, "and I've played ever since along with clarinet and saxophone. My dad was a church organist at the Presbyterian Church when I was a teen-ager."

Eric's first position as a church organist was as an 18-year-old at North Wales (PA) Baptist. He later played for Old Zion Lutheran in Philadelphia, Jenkintown United Methodist and St. Matthews Lutheran in Chester Springs.

"I grew up as a member of Gwynedd Square Presbyterian . . . and I have a lot of memories growing up there and the church being a big part of my life," Eric said. "My dad was very involved in the church and my two younger sisters still attend there. Music in the church has always been a big part of my life."

"Our church choir always performed Handel's *Messiah* and that made a huge impression on me," he continued. "It was the highlight of my year and it remains one of my favorite pieces."

Eric, 40, and his wife Monica and two daughters, Caitlyn, 18, and Carley, 3, live in Haddon Township. They are active members of Our Savior. Monica is the church secretary and a member of the adult choir. Caitlyn is an acolyte and has taught Sunday School for several years. And Eric and choral director Pat Green are responsible for the incredible music that resonates through our church each week.

"Some of my highlights have been performing *Amal* and the *Night Visitors*, a small opera; making a Christmas music CD; I've done some arranging; writing the anniversary hymn; doing the Celtic service; attending the worship jubilee two summers ago; and the Gloria as well as all the special concerts," Eric said.

"I also look forward to the special services at Easter and Christmas," he added. "I love when we can add other instrumentalists. I plan to do more of that. I like things to be different, if I can facilitate something fun and different, I look forward to that."

Eric's talent has been our congregation's blessing.

THANKS TO VBS VOLUNTEERS

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our wonderful, giving, talented volunteers in VBS 2008 this year. Our teachers, Kate Erdy, Jaime Fraizer, Lauren Gebhart, Janet Tyrel, Arlene Stolarick, Catie Ebbenga, Alexandra Gitzes; assistants: Becky Bogina, Lily Gregorio, Holly Harrington, Noelle Quanci, Nicole Fallon, Kelly Harrington, Karen Graeber; craft director, Mary Pat Reiter, assistants Pat Reiter, Lisa Quanci, and Sue Manicelli, snack: Eva Shaw and Linda Doherty; recreation director, Greg Gitzes, assistants, Hayden Remphrey, Johnathon Mazeika, Spencer Fallon, Ethan Quanci and Nate DeMarino, music director, Heather Vaughn and assistant Maureen Agnew, musical cds, Heather Vaughn, Thursday evening program set up/clean up, Linda Doherty, Eva Shaw, Stacey Shaw and Karen Graeber, office: Monica Ebbenga. I would also like to thank Deborah MacBride for all her recruiting and help.

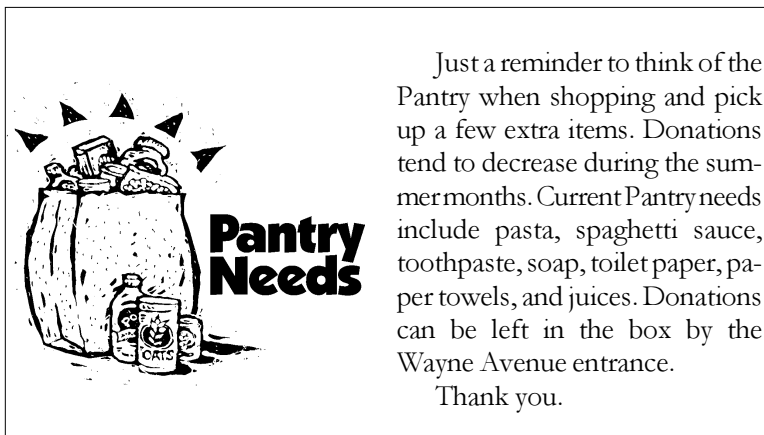
Thank you to Pastor Wayne and Pastor Engelhardt for the Christian leadership with the children. Pastor Wayne your excitement during the week was so sweet and energetic with the kids, they just got so excited each morning at opening when you explained their daily Bible lesson.

Thank you for a great nine years as VBS director but, I have to announce this was my last year as director. I find that it is too difficult to properly prepare ahead of time for VBS and be on the PTA executive board at my children's school, and coach my daughter's softball team. Spring and the beginning of the summer are a very difficult and extremely busy time for the Remphrey household. I feel that since I cannot commit 100 percent to VBS like I did in the past when my children were younger, my time has come to pass it on to some one who can.

Thank you for all your support and the happy memories, I truly enjoyed the week each summer I spent with all of you. You all have a special place in my heart.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Hugs, Susan Remphrey



Just a reminder to think of the Pantry when shopping and pick up a few extra items. Donations tend to decrease during the summer months. Current Pantry needs include pasta, spaghetti sauce, toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, and juices. Donations can be left in the box by the Wayne Avenue entrance.

Thank you.



EXPLORING GOD'S DREAM THROUGH PRAYER

Come pray with us on Saturday,
November 1, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Martin Luther wrote "God's kingdom will indeed come without our praying ... But we ask in our prayers that it may also come to us." God has a dream; it is His dream and we cannot prescribe when or how it will happen. But God prefers not to work alone! We have an important part in God's dream; our praying helps us to stay connected to that dream.

This world is filled with the activity of God. Completely apart from anything we do or deserve, God continues to work in the world that he created. The Bible tells us much about how God works. In fact, scripture is clear that God's work is not random involvement. God's movement in the world is filled with purpose. God has a dream. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God made clear that the dream was near wherever Jesus was at work.

Jesus often referred to God's dream as the "kingdom of God." When Jesus arrives he says, "The kingdom of God is at hand." In the abundant life of Jesus, we experience this kingdom in our own lives; in acts of discipleship, we share it with others. God isn't finished with this world. God's dream is to include everyone, and God pays special attention to those whom the world leaves out.

Whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer we say, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We are praying for radical transformation and the healing of our world. We are urging God to finish the work – to let God's love rule and have peace, justice, and mercy reign.

Come pray with us on Saturday, November 1, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

There will be a variety of ways to experience the joy of prayer, including: Walt Wangerin (author of *Book of God*), via DVD, leading us in small group discussion about the Four Acts of Prayer; a "Stretch & Pray" demonstration of prayer positions; famous prayers; praying through music and art; the opportunity to personally experience the meditative inspiration of the Labyrinth; a devotional booklet to take with you.; and even more ...

~Pastor Englehardt

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS IN THE BOOK OF FAITH

Have you ever experienced what one might describe as a "call" from God? Why might God call you?

How willing are you to speak the truth, especially when it may not be well received?

We cherish and defend the freedoms that we as Americans have claimed for more than 230 years. But just how free are we?

How do you feel about the gap between what you want and what you can have? Do your desires outstrip your abilities or opportunities? There is a tension. How does this tension affect the way you feel about God?

The Word of God speaks to me. The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ.

Together, as a community of faith we speak to each other. We have a calling as the people of God. Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture.

Join me on Sunday mornings in September for a Pastor's class from 9:15-10:00 AM in Room 112 as we open the Book of Faith together and explore answers to the questions raised above.

Pastor Englehardt

THE ASPHALT GOSPEL Adult Forum, Sundays at 9:15 AM starting Sept. 7

Sometimes you have to go a long way to make a difference.

In 2006, six ordinary people set out on a walking journey to change the face of Christianity in America. *The Asphalt Gospel* tells their story.

A 2,500 mile life-changing walk across America ... *The Asphalt Gospel* tells the story of six ordinary people determined to spread a message of compassion and inclusion in the midst of the intolerance of the Christian Right. Join them as they walk to Washington D. C. and share their surprising and moving story of hope.

Join us Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Parlor:
September 7, 14, 21, 28 and October 5.

For more information, contact Monica Ebbenga.

THRIVENT CORNER

Financial discipline is essential in achieving one's financial goals.

Delaying today's gratification for tomorrow's rewards

Americans don't follow the sage advice of Benjamin Franklin: "A penny saved is a penny earned." Savings rates in our country have hit an all-time low – for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2005, Americans' personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was negative 0.5 percent (*Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Dept., February 2006*). Getting started is relatively painless when balanced against the rewards it holds for future goals. Start by setting long-term goals like saving for a family vacation, for a down payment on a home, car or boat or a home improvement project. Making the commitment to forgo morning coffee from the neighborhood coffee shop or lunches out with co-workers all can contribute to your monthly savings goal. Think about how those outings add up over a month. Spending \$5 each morning at the coffee shop adds up to \$25 a week and \$100 a month. Ten dollar lunches twice a week add up to \$80 a month. Over one year by forgoing both you can easily save more than \$2,100! Now that's a great start towards a wonderful reward.

This information is presented as a public service by financial representative for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans George C Welker, FIC. For more information call George at 856-546-0500.

Registered representative for securities offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55415-1665, 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836), a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Member NASD. Member SIPC.

TAI CHI CONTINUES ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 4 – 5 PM

This ancient art, led by Martial Arts Instructor Jack Poupard, meets in the Parish Hall. Come and observe, then learn the simple to master yet effective movements of this valuable exercise program. We are also considering again the possibility of a class at night (Friday or Thursday at 7 PM); talk to Pastor Englehardt if interested.

MONDAY NIGHT PRAYER GROUP

We continue to meet at 7 PM on Mondays in the church library (just off the narthex going toward the nursery). Since we meet year-round, even on Monday Holidays, you are welcome to drop in at any time to join us for our half hour of prayer. Each week this year we have been praying alphabetically for 8 or 9 households of our membership; postcards are sent and requests (which as asked will be kept confidential) are always welcome. Recently we began praying for our church mission statement, which appears on the front cover of each week's Sunday bulletin.

This Fall, probably on a Saturday in late October, we will be hosting another "prayer workshop" which will include the Labyrinth and other means for examining and experiencing one's prayer life. Details will be in the September Messenger.

The Labyrinth is an ancient form of prayer.

We are gathering volunteers to assemble the labyrinth and welcome guests during the week of October 26-November 1. The committee will need to set up the Labyrinth on Saturday Evening, October 25, rotate through the week to welcome guests in the evenings, and pack up on Saturday Evening, November 1.

No previous experience necessary. Sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Or contact Deb MacBride.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER

We Lutherans are "called to be a public church." The "2008 ELCA Voting and Civic Participation Guide" booklet helps to prepare voters for the upcoming November elections by providing background information on important issues like: domestic hunger, domestic housing, domestic healthcare, global poverty and hunger, global warming, immigration, peace and conflict (Iraq, Israel and Palestine, Darfur). All or parts of the booklet can be made available to you. See Pastor Englehardt or go to www.elca.org/advocacy to download the resource yourself.