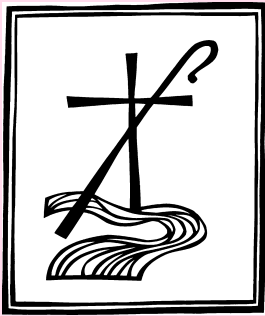


THE VOICE

FEBRUARY 2011



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

~ John 13:34-35

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the delightful things about being the mother of a pre-schooler is seeing the joy my daughter finds in the cycle of holidays. Each month it seems, brings another reason to celebrate, and it is great fun to watch her learn about the different holidays, what they mean and where they come from. Last Fall we began a new tradition at our house, making holiday decorations out of construction paper and taping them on the wall in our dining room. It began with a few orange pumpkins. Soon the pumpkins were replaced with turkeys, and then with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. As the Christmas decorations came down, something else had to go up. So, we set to work. Rachel wanted a house, but she was very clear that it was to be a house of love. Outside the house there are snowmen and evergreen trees, with snowflakes falling all around. But inside the house, there is only love. Rachel filled the inside of the house with as many heart stickers as she could fit. And above the house we made big valentine hearts that seem to radiate from the rooftop. It is truly a house of love.

I think this is a great reminder for us all. Isn't that what we all need and want, to live in a house overflowing with love? I think that's what we are about as a community of faith as well. We are a house of God, a house of love. We show love for one another, love for our neighbors and the world God made. So, how exactly are we a house of love?

We know the words of Paul in his famous discourse on love in 1st Corinthians 13: Love is patient and kind, it is not envious or boastful or rude. Love loves the truth, not wrongdoing. Love can stand up to anything. Love never ends. This kind of love can only come from God. This is God's perfect love, the likes of which we can only hope to emulate. Yet, we strive for this selfless love in our journey of faith. Of course, there are times, perhaps more times that we care to admit, when this kind of love is really, really difficult for us. There are times when it is just easier and more comfortable to love ourselves rather than the other. At these times we can only place ourselves before God and ask for help to love in deeper, stronger ways.

We ask God to help us learn to love one another, no matter what, even when it is difficult. We do this by caring for one another in times of deep crisis. We do this by giving generously of what we have for the sake of those less fortunate. We do this by spending time listening to others, even those who come from very different places and perspectives. We love one another by holding each other in loving accountability and responding with forgiveness and care when things go wrong. This is what makes us a house of love. This is how the world will know we are followers of Jesus.

One thing is sure; God's love for us will not fail or falter. May God's richest blessings be with us, as we together strive to build a house of love in this place.

In Christ,

Pastor Kathy

FAMILY PROMISE LUNCHEON

Please join us on February 27th as we celebrate the one year anniversary of our Family Promise Kick-Off in February of 2010. We want to thank all of the volunteers and those who contributed financial support. You are the reason that our first year was a success. If you did anything at all involving Family Promise, even offering up a prayer, please come to the luncheon. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry for the homeless here at Good Shepherd, please join us. Eager Beavers and our young people are especially encouraged to attend. There will be a sign up sheet on the Family Promise bulletin board. A free will offering will be collected but no church funds will be used.

Save the Date!

There will be a Lenten Activities Night for all ages on Sunday, April 3rd 4:30 – 6:30p.m.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

You are invited to experience fellowship and spiritual growth with other members of Good Shepherd in a Small Group. Last year, Good Shepherd had several Small Groups that met once a week in members' homes for study, fellowship, and prayer during the season of Lent. Two of these Small Groups have continued to meet throughout the year. Again this year, we plan to have several Small Group opportunities for Lent.

[Watch the bulletin and Count-Me-In cards for more details and the opportunity to sign up to participate in or to host a Small Group for Lent.](#)

Some comments from participants in last year's Lenten Small Groups:

- It was a spiritual blessing to me getting to know the members of the group on a more personal level.
- What a wonderful way to build relationships and grow together spiritually! It is nice to meet in someone's home, to experience the gift of hospitality.
- I have grown spiritually from our conversation. I also find praying for each other especially rewarding.
- It was wonderful to get to know the other members. I knew most from doing things together, but being together in this forum makes everything new. Thanks be to God for these growing relationships!

Chet Norstrom and Sharon Oslin

MUSIC

While we have several weeks of winter remaining ahead of us, now is a good time to begin making plans for summer activities. There are many fine musical opportunities for young people. The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) sponsors two that I would like to draw to your attention.

LUTHER SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM

Celebrate our 30th anniversary by joining the 2011 Lutheran Summer Music program. We bring together 150+ young people from throughout the U.S. and abroad for four weeks of rigorous musical study and performance in a supportive community. We welcome qualified band, orchestra, choir, piano, and pipe organ students completing grades 8–12 from all faith backgrounds to join us.

WHO: 150+ band, orchestra, choir, piano and organ students completing grades 8-12 from the U.S. and abroad; 36 faculty artists from the best college music departments and professional ensembles; a team of dedicated counselors and staff.

WHAT: A four-week residential training and performance program rooted in a supportive community that is committed to your personal and musical success.

WHERE: Luther College is located three hours southeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in beautiful Decorah, Iowa.

WHEN: June 26 to July 24, 2011

WHY: If you're a young musician who loves music and is looking for a focused but fun way to spend your summer, LSM is for you. You'll make some of the best friends of your life while improving your music skills, exploring your faith, and learning about the rich musical heritage of the Lutheran church.

THE LUTHERAN YOUTH CHOIR OF NORTH AMERICA

The Lutheran Youth Choir of North America, in cooperation with the ELCA's Wittenberg Center in Germany, is offering a unique new two-year music festival program for American and German high school youth.

WHEN:	July 27 - August 9, 2011	WHERE:	Wittenberg, Germany
	July 23 - August 1, 2012		Chicago, Illinois

The Lutheran Youth Choir of North America, formed in 2005, is an international choir for high school youth (entering grade 9 through graduating grade 12). It is open to young singers from all Christian denominations. Students from nine different states and all regions of the US have participated in past summers. Thus far, the Lutheran Youth Choir has toured the Great Lakes States and Ontario, the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, and Germany "In the Steps of Luther and Bach".

Go to our website, www.lutheranyouthchoir.org, for further information, picture galleries and testimonials from students and parents.

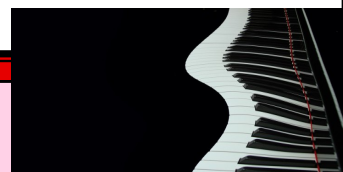
We have many talented young people in our congregation and extended families. These are outstanding opportunities for youth to grow as musicians and Christians.

David Bowlsbey
Director of Music

YOUTH NEWS

Dinner and Jazz Under the Stars

The Good Shepherd Youth Group cordially invites you to an evening of delicious food and musical presentations on the evening of February the twenty-sixth. Look for a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board in early February. Funds raised benefit youth activities, including Work Camp and retreats. We look forward to spending a wonderful evening with you!



February Youth Events

Middle School Decoration Night	Friday 2/4	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Middle schoolers unite! Help us prepare decorations for the youth dinner. A pizza dinner will be provided.		
Dinner Planning Youth Group	Sunday 2/13	5:00 – 6:30 pm
We will continue planning the youth dinner, and have a menu taste test.		
Dinner Planning	Saturday 2/19	3:00-6:00 pm
Dinner Planning	Sunday 2/20	5:00-6:30 pm
Food Preparation	Friday 2/25	7:00 pm
Dinner and Jazz Under the Stars	Saturday 2/26	3:00 – 6:00 pm
It's finally the day of the dinner! We will finish preparations from 9:00 am – 12 noon, break for lunch, and then meet back at 3:00 until the end of the dinner.		
Superstars for Hilltop Competition	Saturday 3/5	
Join us at the YMCA for some good, fun competition that supports Hilltop programs.		

Notes to the Congregation

From the Council President, John Crum

We live at a time in history that has as one of its characteristics what are known as "limited wars;" limited in the weapons used, the military resources applied, our military and diplomatic goals, and in geographic area. These wars are limited to those who are not in them; to those in them it is war, total war. Several members of our congregation have served in recent wars. We included them in our prayers, both in church and on our prayer lists. In addition, relatives and friends have also served, many of whom were not on any prayer list. We need to put all of them on a prayer list; and, not just those who are serving overseas. Events in Texas and elsewhere have shown us that serving inside our country can also be dangerous. Let us rededicate ourselves to supporting those who serve.

If a member, or relative, or friend of a member is serving in our armed forces here or overseas, please provide a name and a location. Send it to John Crum, jcrum@udel.edu, or to the church office so we can maintain a list for the Voice.

Thanks,

John Crum



Bob Mackey, longtime member of Good Shepherd, passed away May 14, 2010. In loving memory, the Mackey family planted his favorite flower, a lilac bush, with his ashes near the church driveway entrance.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Endel (Tom) Toomsoo who died on January 18. A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd on March 5th.

Thanks Knitters!

There will be lots of warm hands and heads in Wilmington this year thanks to your warm hearts.

Once more the Mitten tree was full to overflowing. Here is the inventory:

Gloves: 12 pairs for infants, 33 pairs for children and 4 pairs for adults.

Hats: 1 for an infant, 20 for children and 20 for adults

Scarves: 2 for infants, 3 for children and 15 for adults

Some people knit all year round and I've already sent many hats and mittens to the Clothes Closet. Thanks to all of you (as well as the wool donors) and a special thanks to Joyce Fox, Sarah Hess and Rosie Wilbur, our Master Knitters.

~Nancy Griffith

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Jane Bartlett, mother of Laurie Abel, who died on January 5th.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Andrews, brother of George Andrews, who died on January 11.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of William C. Hiddemen, father of Bert Hiddemen, who died on January 17th.

For Women From Women needs flannel sheets for their midwife kit project. If you have flannel sheets or fabric we will convert them into receiving blankets. The women of 2FW thank you for all of your support for our various projects!

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

<u>PRAY FOR:</u>	<u>CONCERN:</u>	<u>REQUESTED:</u>
DAVE BARRELL	Ocular Melanoma	Nancy Wolfe
SUZANNE BEAM	Breast Cancer	Betsy Lengel
SETH BLOOM		Janet James
KATHY COUPE	Pancreatic Cancer	Sally Heinz
PATRICIA DILLON	Brain Cancer	Nancy Wolfe
THE GREEN FAMILY	Loss of 9 yr old daughter	Pauline Raughley
DONNA HARRIS	Back Procedures	Self
INEZ HAYNES	Stroke	Ruth Ellefson
TRINA HAXTON	Auto Accident	Susan Wendt
BOB IERIEN		Pastor Kathy
ED KASCH	Prostate Cancer	Fran Dixon
LINDA LARKIN		Self
BETH MICHENER	Leg Surgery	Betsy Lengel
JAMES PERSOLEO	Colon Cancer	Carol Lee Waslic
MEGAN PIERCE	General Well Being	Janet James
JUNE ROBINSON	Continued Care	Debbie Sheridan
HARRIET SHEALY	Continued Care	Pastor Kathy
OTIS SHEALY	Continued Care	Self
SHARON SHELANSKI	Neck Fusion	Fran Dixon
KAREN SPEAKMAN	Wife-Caregiver	Phyllis Bierstedt
WALT SPEAKMAN	Neurological Degeneration	Phyllis Bierstedt
NANCY WILSON	Lung cancer	Susan Wendt



Friends & families of those persons removed from the prayer line thank everyone for their prayers and concerns.

Prayer requests may be made by calling Pastor Kathy at the church office, (302) 478-3030 or Faith Moyer at (302)-475-3122.

*A Feast for the Soul
 Good Shepherd Women's Retreat
 Son and Sands Retreat Center
 Ocean City, MD
 April 8th-10th, 2011
 6 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Sunday*

Rescheduled from last September! The deadline to register is **March 15th**. This time away will explore ways to deepen our spiritual lives through various practices of faith, and mutual conversation and relationship-building time. We will center our days in worship and prayer, enjoy morning walks and worship on the beach, and simply enjoy getting to know one another in community.

Cost is \$60, which includes housing, meals and transportation. Sign up on the Count Me In form or on the bulletin board. Questions? Contact Pastor Kathy. All are welcome!

HILLTOP LUTHERAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

In October, 1961 the Zion Lutheran Neighborhood House opened to the families, and especially the kids of the Hilltop area of Wilmington. It was a social ministry outreach of Zion Lutheran Church which, at the time, was in the process of moving its worship location from 6th and Jackson Streets, to its present home at Lancaster Avenue and Bancroft Parkway. The people of Zion, who had a presence in that neighborhood since the late 1800s, wanted to maintain that presence in Hilltop. However, the Neighborhood House became more than a presence. It moved from being Zion's primary Social Ministry outreach in center city Wilmington, to THE Lutheran Social Ministry outreach in Wilmington, along with Lutheran Community Services (LCS).

Over the years, as the economy and times changed, the Zion Lutheran Neighborhood House became the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, reflecting that more general Lutheran outreach. And both the Center and its outreach grew. What began as organized playground activity became a day care, a venue for sports teams, before and after school care, tutoring, computer learning, a clothing bank, a food bank, summer camp, early learning center, not to mention the annual Thanksgiving Basket and Christmas Toy/Clothing drives. It also became known as a safe haven, an oasis from the drugs, poverty, and hopelessness that sometimes surrounds the Center.

The Hilltop Center also went from a line item in Zion's annual budget to a \$1.3 million stand alone ministry with funding coming from local Lutheran Churches, Federal, State, and municipal governments, local banks, other non-profits, and philanthropic agencies and individuals up and down the state. However, one thing has remained constant and that is the name over the door. It still says "Lutheran" Neighborhood Center. Not just Hilltop Center, not Baptist Center, not AME Center, not anything else. That's what it said in 1961 and that's what it says as the center observes its 50th anniversary of service to the people of the Hilltop area of Wilmington.

As this anniversary year continues, you'll see more about the Center and its ministries. We hope you read them, maybe become a volunteer at the center, and accept our thanks for your continued support of the Hilltop LUTHERAN Neighborhood Center for the next fifty years and beyond.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES



Thrivent Year-end Support

Demand for food and housing help was stronger than ever during 2010, and in recognition of that, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans really stepped up their support. Thrivent has many ways it helps. The Mid-Atlantic Care in Regions program provided us with a \$3,000 matching grant for the annual year-end giving project. And the Thrivent Foundation provided LCS a \$5,000 Lutheran Community Economic Outreach Bridge Grant in October, then followed it up with an additional \$10,000 challenge grant in December. The local Chapter is also a big supporter of LCS events and projects. Sometimes that support is indirect such as the December 2010 donation from Zion Lutheran for \$2,000. Those funds came from Zion's successful Fall Festival that received matching funds from the New Castle County Chapter of Thrivent. We are also the occasional recipient of Thrivent Choice funds. Thank you Thrivent! With their help we can continue "**Sharing God's Blessings by Helping Others in Need**" all year long.

FAMILY PROMISE

Annual Fundraising Luncheon and Silent Auction

February, 26, 2011

Would you, your small group, or your business be willing to donate an item to Family Promise's Silent Auction next month? If every congregation affiliated with Family Promise of NNCC could donate **six** items, we'll have OVER 100 items to auction off at this event!

Here are some ideas!

- Quilters could donate a quilt
- Those who knit or crochet could make prayer shawls or a baby blanket
- Youth groups might donate hours of assistance
- Caregivers might donate hours of respite service
- Tickets to sporting or cultural events
- Time at your beach house
- A catered dinner at the home of the winning bidder
- Theme baskets are always a hit
- Artists can showcase their work
- Ask your favorite restaurant or service provider (i.e., hair dresser) to donate services

Would your business provide a financial donation of \$100 to \$1,000 to help defray the costs of the event? All merchants that provide financial support to defray auction costs, or donate an item for the auction, will receive recognition in our Event Program as well as on our website and blog.

Donation forms were sent to your Family Promise Congregational Coordinator. Contact them for a form or email us to get one. Return the donation form and notify Kathy Hunsicker of any basket themes by **Feb 1** at fampromauktion@yahoo.com.

Donations can be dropped off to the Family Promise Center **Feb. 7-18**. If items need to be picked up by Kathy, please contact her with specific needs. **All items must be received by the 18th in order for proper acknowledgement to be made.**

Donations are tax deductible.

COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on January 12th and again on the 23rd after the Annual Meeting to elect new officers. The new Council members are Laura Hinds, Nancy Koch, Betty Setterquist and Martin Uniacke. Elected to the Council Executive Committee as officers of your church were Sharon Oslin, President, John Schneeweis, Vice President, Malcolm Styer, Treasurer and Rick Bogda, Secretary. Ann Bogda was also unanimously affirmed as the Financial Secretary. Council members will be installed on January 30th.

On January 12th, John Crum led devotions where we discussed the quote by Reinhold Niebuhr, "Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone, therefore we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiving."

Malcolm Styer gave the financial report which was approved as submitted. He highlighted that we under spent the budget by 5.6%. We received 96% of our pledges; however we were \$11,439 short in our non-pledging estimated giving, for a total shortfall of \$30,921. The church was unable to make any of its year-end benevolence payments, which totaled \$16,400..

Pastor Kathy gave an update highlighting upcoming activities, pastoral care concerns and preliminary planning for Adult Education, Lenten worship, Confirmation and Small Groups. She also highlighted the office break-in that occurred on January 6.

Council approved the slate of 6 candidates for the 4 open Council positions. They include Laura Hinds, Nancy Koch, Jill Mackey, Jim Richer, Betty Setterquist and Martin Uniacke. Although only 4 will be elected we want to thank all the candidates for being willing to serve in this important capacity. Council also approved two candidates, John Otto and Jolene Perry, for the Mission Endowment Committee, and they were subsequently approved at the annual meeting.

The agenda for the annual meeting on January 23 was approved along with the 2011 proposed budget.

It was also highlighted that the Columbarium Committee has received enough niche commitments and donations to move forward on the project. The next steps are to get the rules and regulations approved by Council and the contract signed. If you are still interested in purchasing a niche at the discounted price, please do so now by contacting Ann Bogda, Kevin Loney or Pastor Kathy. Once the construction starts, the niche prices will rise from \$2500/\$1250 to \$3000/\$1500 for double/individual niches. If you are interested in supporting this project with a gift, please see the above people or make your gift in your offering clearly identifying it for the Columbarium Project. These monies will be used to provide landscaping, sidewalks, benches and other beautification efforts. Thank you to the Columbarium Committee for making this ministry a reality for our church

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Please feel free to contact any Council member with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Council,
Rick Bogda

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1530 Foulk Road

Wilmington, DE 19803

(302) 478-3030

E-mail: goodshepherd@cavtel.net

On the web:

www.goodshepherd-wilmington.org

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 11:00 AM

Church Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Ierien

Youth Minister: Katie Mulrey

Secretaries: Susan Wendt, Chris Otto and Sandy Andrews

Church Council President: John Crum

Director of Music: David Bowsbey

Handbell Director: Margaret Love

Parish Administrator: George Huemmrich

Parish Nurse: Heidi Preisendanz

Sexton: Bob Moyer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator: Nancy Griffith

Voice Editor: Nancy Huber

Note to Contributors:

For the next issue, please turn
in your articles by February
15th. If you would like to send a
contribution by e-mail, please
send an attachment in Word to
nancyhuber@comcast.net