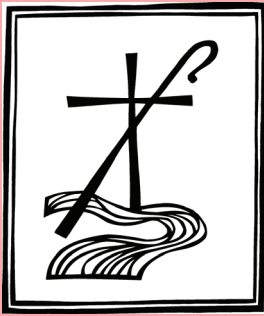


THE VOICE

FEBRUARY 2012



**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

**Ash Wednesday/Lent/
Health Ministry 2**

Music 3

Youth News 4

**Prayer Line/
Lunch Bunch 5**

Family Promise 6

LCS 7

Council Corner 8

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
~ Isaiah 55:1

A Samaritan woman came to draw water,
and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
~ John 4:7

Dear Friends in Christ,

Water is life. Without water, there is no life. I will always remember my father's enthusiasm a few years ago, when scientists felt confident they had found evidence of water on Mars. Where there is water, there is life. Without it, life cannot be sustained.

We are water. 60% of our body is water, with 70% of our brain and 90% of our lungs made of water. Without it, we could not survive. It is no wonder then, that water plays a central role in our lives of faith. We look to the waters of baptism that wash us from sin and bring us to new life. Think of how many of the great stories of our faith involve water, from the waters of creation, to Noah and the great flood, to Moses parting the Red Sea. Water was central for Jesus too, as his power is revealed through changing water into wine, calming the stormy waters and even walking across the sea. On a deeper level, Jesus offers living water for all who wish to come and drink.

Over the next two months, we will take a water journey. In these weeks leading up to the beginning of Lent, we will consider what it means to be walking wet. This is an invitation to consider your life, and how God's waters of grace and love might flow through you. It is a baptismal calling, as we respond to the great things God has done in our lives. On February 19th, the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins, you are invited to make a commitment for the following 40 days, to take on an act of service or a spiritual practice. This can take on many forms, from joining a small group or Bible study, to helping out at Emmanuel Dining Room or LCS. There is a sea of opportunity!

Then, during the season of Lent, consider taking a Lenten Journey. We will wade through the waters together, reflecting on some very familiar stories while also encountering some less well-known experiences of God at work in the water. As the two scripture passages above remind us, we are invited to come and drink, but also to share that living water with others. This should be an exciting journey together.

May you live each day drenched in the love and grace of God through Jesus, and may that love overflow in you for the world!

Peace and joy!

Pastor Kathy

BOOK OF FAITH LENTEN JOURNEY: WATER MARKS

This year's Lenten Journey will explore the crucial role of water in our lives of faith. We will use the book *Water Marks* by Diane Jacobson, which contains scripture, reflection from the author, wisdom from tradition, a psalm fragment and brief prayer for each of the 40 days of Lent. You may use this book for individual or family devotion, or there will be opportunities for small group discussion each week.

The book's weekly themes explore God's actions and our life of faith from the waters of chaos and creation to the waters of repentance and redemption. We will dwell on the water that satisfies all thirst, the waters of our Baptism, and the water which flows from the Garden of Eden to the new Jerusalem. Wednesdays during Lent our worship will focus on themes from the book. If you would like to purchase the book, please sign up on the Count Me In form in your bulletin. Books are \$8 each and will be available beginning February 12th.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

7:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning February 29

Supper at 6 p.m/Worship at 7 p.m

Making Sense of the Christian Faith

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

The Tuesday afternoon Adult Study continues this month. We are walking through the major tenets of the Christian faith, using the easy-to-read format of the "Making Sense" series. A sequel to the very popular *Making Sense of Scripture*, David Lose's *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* is written in the same conversational, accessible, and thought-provoking style. This time the topic is theology, as David introduces readers to seven central doctrines of the Christian faith, taking them up in the order of the Biblical narrative: creation, sin, covenant & community, incarnation, atonement, church & Holy Spirit, and eschatology.

HEALTH MINISTRY

The next topic for our seminar series will be "Navigating within the Healthcare System" presented by Susan Hammond. Susan is a certified geriatric care manager and is licensed as an occupational therapist and nursing home administrator. She will be presenting information related to preventing hospitalization and re-hospitalization, what to do if hospitalization is necessary, understanding your Medicare benefits related to hospitalization, and planning for your long-term care needs with Medicaid.

The seminar will be held following the 11 o'clock service on **Sunday, February 26, 2012**. A healthy lunch will be served.

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 one that I would like to draw to your attention.

LUTHER SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM

WELCOME to the 31st annual 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, intentional 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 24 to July 22, 2012

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.

HOW: The LSM application process begins online at www.lutheransummermusic.org. This is also where you'll find information on financial aid. Applying is easy – check out the website today.

We have many talented young people in our congregation and extended families. This is an outstanding opportunity for youth to grow as musicians and Christians.

David Bowsbey
Director of Music



I want to express my thanks to all who gave me support on the death of my brother, Bill Evans, especially for vocal support, sympathy cards, prayers and flowers. A special thanks to Pastor Kathy for her concern and spiritual presence during other family crises in my life.

~Nancy Reynolds

YOUTH NEWS

Dinner Planning 4:30 – 6:00pm Sunday, February 5th

Join us as we plan for the youth dinner.

Youth Group and Dinner Planning: Taste Test Edition 4:30 – 6:00pm Sunday, February 12th

It's time to finalize our recipes for the youth dinner. Come help us choose the best dish!

Dinner Planning and Pizza Party 4:00 – 6:00pm Saturday, February 25th

Come help us finish decorations and planning for the dinner. We'll have pizza for dinner!

Youth Group and Dinner Planning 4:30 – 6:00pm Sunday, February 26th

Dinner Prep Friday, March 2nd

It's go time! We will meet Friday evening to start preparing food and setting up decorations for the dinner.

Youth Dinner Saturday, March 3rd

Come experience the Wild Wild West! We will host the youth dinner in the evening, and meet earlier in the day to set up decorations and prepare the meal. Thanks for all your hard work!

Hilltop Superstars Saturday, March 10th

Come support Wilmington's Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center by joining our Good Shepherd Superstars team(s). We will go to the YMCA and compete in fun sporting events such as wallyball, an obstacle course, basketball hot shots, swimming races, and racquetball. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Youth Retreat March 16th – 18th

Our Annual Youth Retreat will take place the weekend of March 16- March 18. We are going to spend the weekend learning more about our faith, spending time outdoors, enjoying great fellowship, and having a generally awesome time!

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

PRAY FOR:	CONCERN:	REQUESTED BY:
KAREN BARTKOWSKI	Massive Stroke/Heart Attack	Donna Harris
SUZANNE BEAM	Breast Cancer	Betsy Lengel
ROE BLUME	Lung Tumor	Pastor Kathy
DONNA HARRIS	Breast Cancer Surgery	Self
KELLY HARROUN	Breast Cancer	Chris Otto
TRINA HAXTON	Auto Accident	Susan Wendt
KARLA KLUMP	Cancer	The Wolfe's
JOE MAZUR	Severe Infection	Pastor Kathy
BOB MELEGA	Dementia	Victor Melega
JAMES PERSOLEO	Colon Cancer	Carol Lee Waslic
JOE PRUCINO	Lung Cancer	Sally Heinz
PAT REUSS	Critical	Betsy Lengel
GEORGE ROBINSON	Kidney Cancer	Dottie Chidester
JUNE ROBINSON	Continued Care	Debbie Sheridan
SUE SHANK	Valve Surgery	Barbara Keller
OTIS SHEALY	Continued Care	Pastor Kathy
SWAGGART DANNY	Cancer	Barbara Keller
GAGE TOBIN	Kidney Problems	Nancy Koch
KELLY TYSON	Cancer	Kaye Tyson
HELEN TORGERSON	Continued Care	Bob Torgerson
DON UMBRECHT	Cancer	Pat Umbrecht
NANCY WILLIAMS	Well Being	Janet James



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.

LUNCH BUNCH

FEBRUARY 16

Bring your lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall at noon.
Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided.

John Strobel, who will have returned from his 18 day trip to South America just two days before, will tell us all about what he and Barbara experienced. Thanks to host, Trudy Maier.

On March 15, Lunch Bunch will return to Vita Nova, the very well done student-run restaurant at the University of Delaware. Thanks to host, Stu Randa.

Watch for the sign up sheets for both dates. All of you are invited to join us.

Thanks, Nancy & Jim Simpson

MITTEN TREE items have been distributed - some to Hilltop and some to Hanover Church Clothes Closet. Please remember that this is just a project we do at Christmas, but is distributed all winter. Thanks to all who knitted or purchased!
"Warm hearts make for warm hands and heads!" We gave 26 pairs of mittens, 5 hat and mitten sets, 37 adult hats and 9 children's hats.

FAMILY PROMISE

Dear Friends of Family Promise,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Good Shepherd has completed two years of hosting for Family Promise and we are going to start to get ready for our first hosting in 2012 on **February 12**. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

2012 Hosting Schedule

February 12

May 20

August 12

November 4

Save The Date

On February 25th, Family Promise will be celebrating 2 years of ministry in Delaware. Please plan on coming to a luncheon and silent auction at Westminster Presbyterian Church from 11am - 2 pm. More details to follow.

Opportunity for giving to Family Promise

Recently one of our members participated in a "Gift of Time" program at her work. In this program, her employer contributed to Family Promise for her gift of time to the work of Family Promise at Good Shepherd. Perhaps other organizations have similar programs.

Family Promise Needs Your Help

Can you donate your time and your service to Family Promise? To get involved and for more information contact Carolyn Gordon, Executive Director of Family Promise of NNCC at: carolyn.gordon@familypromisede.org or 302-998-2222

Housing

Are you a landlord that will work with a family or know a property owner that is willing to work with our families?

Employment

Is your company hiring entry level positions?

Auto-mechanics/Donation of Vehicles

Our families, if they have cars, need to keep them running and are in need of low cost repairs. In addition, many of our families are in need of a vehicle.

Dentistry & Eye Care

Many of our families come to us uninsured.

Haircuts and Hairstyling

Our families need a boost in self esteem when applying for jobs and having interviews.

Private Childcare

Donation of Household Goods

We do have storage for furniture now

Could you conduct a workshop on a skill development topic?

~ Lee and Ralph Klesius

Lutheran Community Services Inc. (LCS)

2011 Annual Report to Congregations

In 2011, we adopted a special theme for our annual Room at the Table free fundraising breakfast – “Helping More Than Ever Before.” When we created that we were thinking along two tracks, first, that we would likely be helping **more people** in 2011 than in any preceding year. Secondly, we wanted to stress that we help in **more ways** than ever before.

More People: The number of food clients we helped in 2011 was up significantly over 2010. In 2010, we provided food for 57,375. Year-end projections suggested that we would help over 64,000 people in 2011. The strong demand for food assistance continued throughout the year, and pressed LCS to reach its full capacity.

More Ways: One way we helped “more” in 2011 was by providing extras like nutrition information. With a grant that we got from the Lutheran Home and Hospital Foundation, Inc., we developed a nutritional literature program to assure that along with the prayer we put in each bag or box of food, we put something to help low income folks learn to eat better. In this way, we believe we are having “more” of an impact on their lives.

Our **housing** help is hampered by our capacity to process and deliver the financial assistance so many people need. In 2011, at our headquarters at 1304 North Rodney Street, Wilmington, we received over 3,300 housing assistance phone calls. Since we provide about 200 loans and grants per year, you can see how overloaded our system is. One way we deal with demand exceeding our capacity is to close the housing assistance program periodically. In 2011, we accepted inquiries on 149 of the 250 business days in a year that we are open. Therefore, in terms of housing assistance, our headquarters is open 60% of the time.

One of the really exciting strategies that we adopted in 2011 that will increase that percentage is to hire a **volunteer coordinator**. Part of their job will be to recruit, orchestrate the training of, and assign more housing volunteers at both our headquarters and the LCS FAITH Center at 226 N. Walnut St. in Wilmington. We began advertising this job in 2011 and expect to do the hiring in early 2012. In this way, we can increase our capacity to provide more housing help.

Looking ahead, our **strategic plan** tells us that we will probably be helping fewer people but with “more” financial assistance and “more” follow-up. Research has shown that this is the way to have a major impact on people’s lives – longer, larger support and regular contact. This directive will be in large part financed by a \$50,000 grant that we received in 2011 from DSHA.

Marketing of LCS is the key to continued successful **fundraising** initiatives. In 2011, the board of trustees has worked on several strategies to increase awareness of LCS. These include the addition of the phrase “since 1959” in the logo to underscore the expansive experience LCS has in the social service field. We also created labels for the food we give away that explain that the food has been “Brought to You by LCS.”

COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on January 11, 2012. Laura Hinds led devotions that were focused on "Faithful Leadership Hurts" since decisions need to be made that are not always unanimous and may have impact on part of the congregation.

We received 'thank you' letters from Gettysburg Seminary, Sunday Breakfast Mission and Lutheran Community Services for donations we made to them. Pastor Kathy highlighted that the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season went well. I'm sure all of us appreciated the effort Kathy put in to make this season so meaningful... *Thank you, Kathy!*

Malcolm Styer highlighted that we ended the year well with 98% of our pledges received which is quite good while expenses were 96% of budget leaving us with a \$16,144.88 surplus for 2011. The Church Executive Committee recommended a proposed distribution for these funds and a motion was approved by Council to present this recommendation to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Two budget overages of more than 10% that were approved during the year were formally authorized by Council. Council also approved the distribution of the HVAC tithe. You may remember we approved a 10% tithe of HVAC cost to go towards benevolence with the remainder, if any, to be disbursed at Council's discretion. We collected \$73,938 in pledges and the final cost of the HVAC was \$63,458 which was much less than projected due to the great work by the HVAC Committee led by Kay Gallogly. This left us with a \$10,480 surplus. Council authorized moving \$6,346 of the surplus to Lutheran Community Services for utilities relief and the remaining \$4,134 to the Building and Grounds Reserve.

Minor changes to the Memorials and Gifts Policy were discussed and approved.

Sharon Oslin discussed the Congregational Meeting agenda which was then approved. There were no changes to the proposed 2012 budget that will be presented at this meeting.

The final business done via email after the meeting was to approve the Mission Endowment Fund committee's recommendation for distribution of funds to be presented to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting. This year \$11,900, which represents <5% of the rolling average in the account as directed by the bylaws, will be distributed per their recommendation if approved by the Congregation. This is good news since the Mission Endowment Fund is now large enough that we should have continued annual disbursements going forward. These funds will be split between local, regional and global ministries to further our Christian outreach and help in the world.

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: lcsde@gmail.com

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 and Sandy Andrews

Church Council President: Sharon Oslin

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 submit 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