

The Spirit of St. Luke

Transforming Ministry

Advent is about anticipating Jesus coming. Traditionally, Advent is a four week season before Christmas. But when you stop and think about it, *everyday* is Advent! Everyday we watch for Jesus! The gift of Jesus transforms our lives and our ministries!

In so many ways we as a church have been opening Christmas gifts early! Wait until you see the St.

Luke kitchen! Check out the new doors! We are so blessed not only by the great Schnable House proceeds that transform our entrances into the community of St. Luke, but the gifts transform us for thriving ministry in the community!

Our vision from God is to *be a thriving ministry in the community*. That means we must be driven to look outside,

first, for mission opportunities and not just focus on restoring an institution to be like it "was."

Transforming Churches are "rooted" in the Gospel and "moving" forward in mission. *Transforming Ministry Associates LLC* put out a publication in 2007 describing how Mission driven churches differ from Institutional Churches:

Institutional Churches

- talk about the church
- clergy dominated
- membership
- budgets
- focus on ourselves
- maintenance
- facility defines the church
- best days in the past

Missional Churches

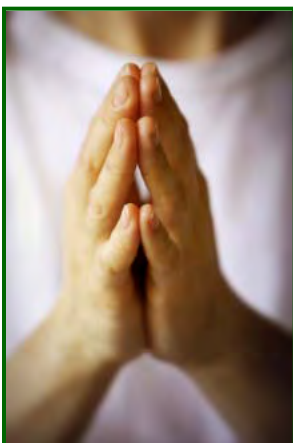
- talk about Jesus
- lay led
- discipleship
- long and short range plan
- focus on others
- mission
- mission defines the facility
- best days are the future

This Advent I invite you to be in personal transformation. Define your day

by mission, focus on others, be led by the Holy Spirit to talk more about Jesus than shopping. The best days are to

come! Christmas is a time of opening *the* gift of Jesus and being transformed by this great gift!

-- Pastor Lisa



New Advent Devotions in Lobby

We all need a daily prayer for Advent!

Advent means anticipating the "advent" of Christ. It is four weeks before Christmas. As Christians, we don't just shop, we draw closer to the light of

the world! Let us together focus on the power of prayer as we anticipate the "advent" of Christ this season!

December 2007

The newsletter of St. Luke Lutheran Church, an evangelical community in Christ.

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www.LutheranNeighbor.org

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St. Luke Leaders

Norm Houck, President
Greg Derwart, Vice President
Lisa Kleinwort, Treasurer
Bruce Amrein, Controller
Jackie Mongan, Secretary
Katy Lightner, Education
Gayle Caprio, Fellowship
Joe Benham, Community
Don Matthews, Property
Eric Haupt, Youth
Kristin Taylor, Stewardship
Jim Lightner, Evangelism
Edie Pavone, Worship/Music

Our mission

To share the good news of Jesus Christ with the church and the unchurched, to equip them to understand who they are as children of God and accomplish their purpose within the church, their family and the community, in the light of God's Word.



Break out your baking sheet for the Great St. Luke Cookie Exchange!

Tae Kwon Do Classes

Call Mr. Mike Carroll
410.746.5711.
Children: 6-7 pm;
Adults: 7-8 pm.



Cookie Swap - Dec. 9th, 12–1:30 pm

Tis the season for holiday baking and what a better way to get into the mood than to get tried-and-true cookie recipes (not to mention a variety of cookies for your friends and family) from your St. Luke family?

Here's how it works...

- ☺ While it's not required for the swap ☺, consider pitching in on the **Hanging of the Greens** when you're at the swap! Try it! It's fun! Help St. Luke welcome our neighbors!
- ☺ **Sign up** in the lobby and list the recipe(s) you will bring, if you can (so we

- don't wind up with 43 Toll House recipes, for example!)
- ☺ **Bake** up your mouth watering cookies... shoot for **5 to 6 dozen**
- ☺ **Plate 6 cookies** of each recipe for snacking during the exchange (disposable plate)
- ☺ **Package** the rest of the cookies, **6 to a bag** (zip-locks work well)
- ☺ **Attach** a copy of the **recipe** to each bag (include decorating tips, if you can!)
- ☺ **Attend the exchange** and put out your cookies - **eat, drink and**

- make merry!**
- ☺ You may **take as many bags** of cookies away from the exchange **as you brought**
- ☺ If you want to attend the exchange, but are culinary challenged (or accidentally scorch yours, etc.), bring cookies from a good bakery, packaged as above, and note which fine establishment did the baking. Please do this only as a last resort, as the whole idea here is to share recipes... but we don't want anyone to be left out, either!

Installation of 2008 Council on Dec. 29th & 30th

First, St. Luke gives sincere thanks to the service and dedication of the 2006-2007 Church Council:

- Bruce Amrein**
- Joseph Benham**
- Gayle Caprio**
- Greg Derwart**
- Eric Haupt**
- Norm Houck**
- Lisa Kleinwort**
- James Lightner**
- Katy Lightner**
- Don Mathews**

Jackie Morgan
Edie Pavone
Kristin Taylor

And we welcome the 2008-2009 Council. Remaining in their current positions are:

- Joe Benham, Community Ministry**
- Gayle Caprio, Fellowship**
- Eric Haupt, Youth**
- Norm Houck, President**
- James Lightner, Evangelism**
- Katy Lightner, Education**
- Don Mathews, Property**

And serving on Council for the first time:

- Inca Cox, Stewardship**
- Paul Cox, Controller**
- Sandy Gonder, Worship & Music**
- Paulette Guion, Treasurer**
- Stephanie Youells, Secretary**

Take a moment to thank the outgoing Council and get to know the new council! Vice-President is open and suggestions for appointment welcomed by Council.

St. Luke Cookbook to Arrive in Time for the Holidays!

What a wonderful gift to give— one full of nourishment and love!

And what's better than a cookbook to raise funds for our much needed kitchen renovation?!

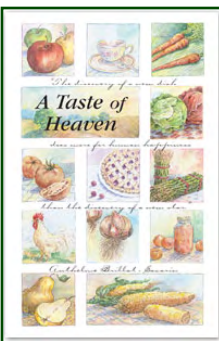
St. Luke hasn't published a cookbook since 1992. The 2008 edition will have brand

new recipes, including some you've recently enjoyed at the Summer Breakfasts, and it will also include some favorites contributed by dear members past. Get ready for "A Taste of Heaven!"

At only \$12.50 each, holiday giving possibilities are just endless! You can pre-order your copies of the

cookbook with these members of the Fun Raising Team—Sandy Gonder, Paulette Guion and Gayle Caprio.

There will also be a sign up sheet in the lobby in mid-November. When the books arrive in December, additional copies will be for sale as long as supplies last!



Growing, Learning & Fun!



Godspell is a faith club for all youth! Bring a friend!

Godspell I

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm. 4th - 6th grades. There seems to be a growing "need" for younger kids and, hopefully, this will be a feeder into Godspell II. Team Leaders: Lynn Pilachowski, John Welker, Pastor Lisa

Godspell II

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm-7 pm. 6th- 12th grades. Team Leaders: Eric Haupt, Lydia Nies, Pastor Lisa



Dec. 2nd Augsburg Worship

St. Luke is sponsoring

worship at Augsburg Lutheran Home! It's a great chance to do community ministry... come and visit Minnie Kurrle and Ethel Federer! Service is at 3:00 pm. Interested in carpooling? We'll be leaving St. Luke at 2:15 pm.



Dec. 8th Pizza with Santa

The North Harford Road Community Association is bringing Pizza with Santa to St. Luke. Come to the Lower Fellowship Hall from 11 am to 1 pm for pizza and crafts! Snow date is Dec. 15th.



Dec. 9th Hanging of the Greens

Come help make our

church welcoming! Each year we decorate St. Luke for the holiday season. Putting up trees, garland, lights, bows and candles! Many hands help make the work go quickly. Refreshments are provided. Come get into the holiday spirit with St. Luke!



Dec. 12th Men's and Women's Christmas Luncheon!

A joint Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Fisherman's Exchange. Sign ups will be in the lobby 2 weeks prior to the luncheon.



Caroling Party Dec. 15th Neighborhood Caroling and Après-Caroling Party!

At 6 pm, following the 5:00 service. We'll meet in the back of the church and then head out into the neighborhood to spread Christmas cheer. After caroling, it's back to the Orlando's for some St. Luke Christmas festivities, with everyone pitching in a little something. Call Carol Orland and let her know you will be coming and what you would like to bring. 410.254.0571



Dec. 16th Kids of the Kingdom Program Rehearsal

Come at 2pm to get ready for the Christmas program!



Ash Wednesday Luncheon

will be held on February 6th at Pappas Restaurant at 1:30 p.m. The meal choices are Crab Cake, or Chicken Francaise. The meal includes soup, potato, vegetable of the day, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$23.50 (which includes tax and tip), payable in advance. Please make checks payable to: Pappas Restaurant and give to Doris or Wayne Chlan. Watch for sign up sheet. DEADLINE for signing up and paying January 27th.

**Newsletter
Deadline is
December 9th.
Submit to
News@Lutheran
Neighbor.org or
Church Office.**



The St. Luke Kaffee Klatches will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Just as we did last year, we're keeping it simple—coffee, juice and just a little something to nosh on. Call Gayle at 410.661.6642 if you can host a klatch!



Fair Trade Foods Coming Again to St. Luke!!

Last year, fair-trade coffee, tea and chocolate were well received at St. Luke for the holiday. Social justice and great gifts! Look for information in the lobby!

**But when you
give a banquet,
invite the poor,
the crippled, the
lame, the blind,
and you will be
blessed.**

Luke 14:13-14



**Invite them to
the banquet,
so that the
Lord's house
may be filled!**

Who do you know
who would benefit
from the peace and
nourishment to be
found in the Lord's
house and at the
Lord's table?

With only the desire
to celebrate the
bounty of the Lord,
simply make the
commitment to invite
one person to share
His banquet this
month and every
month! And be at
peace with the an-
swer you receive!

Thank You To St. Luke, From St. Luke

To Bruce Amrein for ordering FOUR Assistive Listening Devices. See page 5 for details on obtaining one to use!

To Joyce McAdoo for defrosting the refrigerator and freezer in the Adult Learning Center. It has never looked so clean!

Thank you Frank Mann for landscaping ministry as he cleans Harford Road every-

day and tends to grass and flowers!

To Sandy Gonder, Paulette Guion, Don Mathews Pat Miller and Mark Hofmann Sr. for demolition to make way for a renovated kitchen!

To everyone who attended the congregational meeting!

To everyone who supported the youth Lock Out for the Homeless with coats and

sponsorships!

To Bruce Amrein for re-working the whole sound system in November. The audio amplifier serving the pair of JBL loudspeakers half-way down the side aisles, lobby speakers, and remote speakers was replaced with a 300W professional amplifier which now powers the JBL loudspeakers. Hear the Holy Spirit!

St. Luke Mail Bag & Family News



Eric Haupt on his new job with the Maryland State Transportation Department!

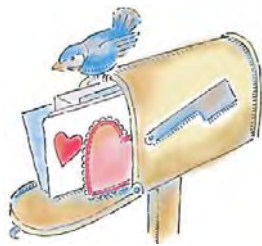
Katy Lightner on being awarded a contract with the Baltimore County School system for next fall!

Rosalie Most, RN, MS, upon her retirement from Union Memorial Hospital.

Danny and Bethany Griffin on the birth of Vadie Zora Griffin, and to proud siblings, Brett, Haley, Beau, Lacie, Jordan and Sydney.

for all that you do and all of your efforts associated with the Lockout. I do believe that the youth were impacted by trying to sleep in the cold. I know that I was (even though I took more than one bathroom break). One touching moment was the seriousness during prayer time. Additionally, the generosity of the congregation was amazing. I was surprised when we had 14 pizzas donated! The coats and blankets were wonderful and warm; they will be put to good use by those who are less fortunate.

Again, 'Thank You' for all you do. You are a blessing from God and are impacting the lives of the youth in the community. Love in Christ!



From Lynn Pilachowski—
Dear Eric Haupt, I just wanted to say 'Thank You'

From LaVern Rasmussen—
Dear Friends of Mar Lu Ridge, Year 2007 was more active than usual, especially with the resignation of Executive Manager Rod

Pearce, who after 12 years at MLR accepted position at an ELCA outdoor ministry camp near Ft. Collins, CO Our search committee is busy with the goal of having a highly qualified replacement by January 2008. Once again we are appealing to our trusted friends to contribute to our annual fundraising Campaign. We rely heavily upon this response. Please know that we cannot operate in the black without a hefty response. I hope we can count on you.

I am a retired ELCA pastor serving a second time as the Interim Executive Director at Mar-Lu-Ridge. Every year I make sure that I give to the year-end appeal. There are many appeals that come my way but none I consider more worthwhile.

Mar-Lu-Ridge
3200 Mar-Lu-Ridge Road
Jefferson, MD 21755

Usher Schedule

December 9:00

Ann Haupt
Kim Anderson
Krista Salsberg
Zach Egner

December 11:00

Gayle Caprio
Dennis Caprio
Stephanie Youells
Bo Cochran

January 9:00

George Boellner
Lucy Boellner
Edith Pavone
Frank Mann

January 11:00

Patricia Miller
Jackie Mongan
Joe Benham

Usher Reminder

Someone from each team should be assigned to record the attendance in the book.



Shut-In Outreach

Send a Birthday card:

12/13 Mrs. Mildred Amrein

Renaissance Gardens at
Oak Crest Village
8832 Walther Blvd.
Room 326 North
Baltimore, MD 21234

12/24 Mrs. Edna Melzer

Good Samaritan Nursing
Center, Room 417
1601 E. Belvedere Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21239

12/29 Mrs. Anna Grate

3219 Acton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234-4714

1/13 Mrs. Dorothy Hostetter

5428 Hilltop Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234-4714

1/14 Mrs. Katherine Pate

c/o Mrs. Candy Provenzano
3326 Texas Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



Deliver a Poinsettia!

Sign up to deliver a poinsettia to our homebound friends! Brighten some one's Christmas! Sign up at the round table in the lobby! You can pick up the poinsettias on December 24th, 25th, 30th and 31st.

We Keep In Prayer

Members of St. Luke

Carolyn Bochau, Dolores & Frank Brittingham, Bob and Kathy Burke, Anna Grate, Dorothy Hostetter, Bob Jordan, Dot McCann, Naomi Riggleman, Irene Schwartz

Friends of St. Luke

Evelyn Appell, Joan Booz, Elizabeth Eddinger, John Frank, Carl Cadron, John and Gloria Kowalewski, Kristin Mueller, Brian and Connie Wallace



Altar Guild Help Needed

The Altar Guild needs help with setting up the Altar for Sunday services.

We will instruct you. Setup takes a half hour, more or

less, on Saturday. You only need to serve one month per year.

Call Ruth Hobine at 410.426.6894.



Our Deepest Sympathy

To the family of **Virginia Doenges**, especially her two daughters Diane and Carole. Also to the family of **Bertha Robertson**, friend of Lynn Pilachowski. And to the family of **Virginia Boyd**, friend of Lucy Boellner.

Assistive

listening devices now available!

Let Pastor Lisa know if you want one. It will be yours to keep as long as you have need of it. It's easy to use and requires only occasionally replacing the battery to maintain it!



Altar Flowers

Call the Church Office to reserve the date you would like. The flowers are \$14.50 per vase.

Youth LockOut = Learning + Service



Fill up the cart!
With non-perishable items. The cart is in the chapel. We have an emergency food bank at St. Luke. If you know someone in need, see Pastor Lisa or call the Church Office.

Homeless Person's Memorial at the Charles and Monument Streets on Friday December 21st at 4:30 pm.

Connecting!

"We wish there was a group for couples at St. Luke." "I wish there was a group for older singles." "I miss Dinner & Movie nights."

Fellowship hears you! In December there will be sign up sheets for small groups in the lobby. If you've been interested in connecting with folks at St. Luke, now's your chance! If you have ideas for small group ministries, call Gayle at 410.661.6244.



Youth who participated: Ashley, Zoe, Aaron, Zach, Richard, Vincent, Tierra, Tim, Steven, Corey, Ashley J, Paula, John, Greg, Caitlin, Brendan... along with Mr. Eric, Ms. Lynn, Mrs. Lydia, Pastor Lisa and Mr. Steve Hiss from Helping Up Mission

Thank you again to everyone for your prayers and donations for the LockOut for the Homeless on November 4th and 5th! We have learned a lot about homelessness this past year. Whether it is natural disaster like Southern California or Gulf Coast, or the crisis of debt and drugs, there are over 3,000 people homeless on any given night in Baltimore City. Over 350 are homeless children and youth!

Our city is short on beds and organizations. Helping Up Mission is one of the largest missions with 421 beds. Our youth remind us we can make a difference when we all pull together to focus on God's plan!

gallons of hot chocolate, McDonald's, candy, sodas, cups and potato soup!

- † Members of New Creations Fellowship Church, Westminster, who also support Helping up Mission, kept our kids in prayer that night!
- † Joe Benham made press releases and a fire pit for us.
- † Frank Mann put up the orange fencing.
- † John Welker got us most of the

† We had 16 youth participate in the event in 41 degree weather!
† 45 coats and 14 blankets donated!
† We were blessed by the kindness of members and strangers with 14 pizzas, 6

boxes and hauled them away.
† Eric Haupt and Lynn Pilachowski helped Pastor Lisa survive the whole night!
† Over \$300 was raised for Helping Up Mission and Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network!
† Sponsors: Anne Haupt, Joe Benham, Dennis Egner, Kathy Egner, Sandy Gonder, Jackie Mongan, Jim Lightner, Lisa Kleinwort, Cathy Savoie, Steve Mentzer, Pat Miller, Katy Lightner, Elriede Ashton, Karen Cochran, Barbara Schwartz.
† We also had a visit from Steve Hiss of **Helping Up Mission** shiss@helpingup.org sent this picture of our drop donation Monday morning! Frank Mann helped deliver and we were blessed!



Last year we sent 5 youth to RoadTrip! Let's top this!

2008 is January 25th-27th

This year the gathering is January 25-27, 2008 at the Baltimore Sheraton downtown. For all High School Youth! Deadline to register is December 9th! Cost is

\$185 per youth! Scholarships are available! Get a form from Mr. Eric at info@LutheranNeighbor.org or: www.demdsynod.org/youth.html

Women of St. Luke Raise \$700



(With a little help from our men!)



The annual WELCA Flea Market and Bake Sale raised over \$400. With matching funds from Thrivent Finan-



cial for Lutherans the event netted over \$700 for benevolences. Recipients will include Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network, Helping Up Mission, House of Ruth and the Maryland Food

Bank.

Fun, fellowship and good food were enjoyed by shoppers and volunteers alike! Thank you to everyone who donated treasures and came out to support us!



Mark your calendar: Next meeting is December 15th!

January 19th—WELCA Day of Renewal

Meet Pastor Ginny Price, Assistant to the Bishop, who will be leading the Bible Study for this event!

Ladies, mark your calendars now for The Delaware-Maryland Synodical

Women's Organization "Day of Renewal" on January 19th (snow date is January 26th).

It's just around the corner at Epiphany Lutheran Church at Marluth and Raspe Avenues! Carpooling will be

arranged for anyone who would like it. Stay tuned for more details and prepare to start the New Year renewed!



Welcome Uriah J. Moore as Saturday Music Minister!

Alternative Worship Service (AWS) has extended an invitation for Uriah Moore to begin as Minister of Alternative Worship on January 5, 2008. We were so blessed to have five candidates officially apply.

Uriah brings keyboard experience, energy and is knowledgeable about technology. He will work with us on tweaking our grant application for "guest" musicians, new music, and publicity. Uriah graduated Cum

Laude from Towson University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Piano Performance. He is finishing his Master's of Music Education degree.



Uriah is the Sunday music minister at St. John's Lutheran, Pimlico, has assisted Amazing Grace, East Baltimore, and is Choir Di-

rector at Gwynn Falls Elementary school's after school program.

He has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Synod Musician from The Delaware-Maryland Synod.

Please welcome Uriah, introduce yourself and consider trying the AWS choir! Rehearsals for the AWS will be at a new time, Saturdays at 3:30 pm, beginning in January.



December 29th Honoring Teresa Guion!

We have been very blessed by Teresa Guion's ministry! Teresa has graciously led us through the interim. She brought harmony, a beautiful voice and a new sound with her guitar. We give thanks to God for Teresa and pray for her Sunday music ministry at her church.

Dec. 2nd, 12 pm Music & Worship meeting open to all! Meet in the Library.



Note New Rehearsal Times !

You are invited to join the **Sunday Choir** in rehearsal from **10 to 11 am on Sunday morning** in the Music Room, located downstairs, off of the Sunday School hallway! **Saturday Choir** rehearses at 6:45pm every Thursday in the Sanctuary through December. **In January, rehearsal time will be 3:30 pm on Saturday.**



In the midst of violence, brokenness and abuse, Christmas is meant to be a time of new life, God's love and comfort. This year we are inviting everyone to donate a brand new or nearly new teddy bear of any size or color to the Teddy Bear tree in the back of church. **PLEASE**

DELIVER BEARS BY 12/17/07.

All teddy bears will go to children and families in the House of Ruth Maryland. House of Ruth is a shelter for domestic violence victims. Members have gone to House of Ruth when they had no where safe to turn.

There are over 50 women in House of Ruth currently, many with children. The location is secret. The bears will be a sign of God's love from St. Luke. For more information visit www.hruth.org
24 hour hotline:
410.889.RUTH



A Life of Joy

Reflection by Mark Quade

The Reverend John Schreiber, Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod, tells a story about a visit to a parishioner he made while he was a young pastor. It was one of those stewardship campaign calls where he knew, at some point, that he was going to have to ask for her coming year pledge. He dreaded that moment, because this woman was a single mother on a very low income – poverty level. She struggled to get by, he knew, but the church council had agreed to an "every member visit", and this woman was on his list.

On the day of the visit, Schreiber found himself sitting at her kitchen table, making small talk and generally avoiding the subject of why he was there. Finally, she got to the point, saying something like, "I suppose you want my pledge." He stammered that he'd been hesitant to ask, knowing her circumstances.

With her pledge card lying on the table between them, she laid her faith on the line: "I want to pledge thirty dollars a week." Schreiber was dumfounded, saying "I know how much you make - you can't afford that!"

That's when the loud and clear lesson came through as the woman replied, "It's the least I can do. Jesus gave everything and all for me. Write it down."

It's easy to imagine a broad smile on her face at that moment. The comfort and happiness would light up the room. Think about the emotions flowing through her as she made that sizeable financial commitment.

That woman, who had little in the way of material comforts, who just managed to get by and squeezed out a hand-to-mouth existence, pledged \$30 a week to her church. And she did it with confidence and no small amount of joy. She had been blessed, and she knew it.



Maybe it starts with Luke 21:1-4 (CEV): "Jesus looked up and saw some rich people tossing their gifts into the offering box. He also saw a poor widow putting in two pennies. And he said, "I tell you that this poor woman has put in more than all the others. Everyone else gave what they didn't need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had."

Maybe that's just it, she knew she gave from what she had, or what she had first been given. The woman John Schreiber visited that day modeled the life of a steward. That's a strong lesson she teaches us.

- We don't give because

we're pretty well off and won't miss a few bucks.

- We don't give because we somehow feel obligated.
- We don't give because we owe "dues to the church".

Sometimes we get so caught up in our giving that we forget why we're giving. We forget about our joyful response. The women in the Luke 21 story and in Pastor Schreiber's congregation knew exactly what their reasons were. Do we?

When we give from what we have - and with an awareness of all the blessings we have - that's when we truly become joyful. That's when we become true stewards. God leads us there. As the psalmist writes in Psalm 16:11: "You show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore." There is a fullness of joy just from being in God's presence, and that joy shows up where we least expect it.

We give in joyful response and often it's a joy we haven't known before. After all, it's the least we can do.

- Where is the joy in your stewardship journey?
- Take a piece of paper and write a short paragraph that describes the kind of joy you think the woman from Pastor Schreiber's congregation felt. How is it simi-

(continued on p. 9)

A Life of Joy (continued from p. 10)

lar to the joy you feel when you give to your congregation? How is it different?

- What percentage of her income do you think the woman from Pastor Schreiber's congregation was giving? If you gave that per-

centage, how do you think you would feel about the income you'd be giving away?

If someone was telling a joyful story about you and your stewardship, what

would it be?

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What You Should Know About Year End Contributions

Many people don't realize the date of the check is **NOT** the determining date for their contribution. Sometimes people will date a check December 31, even though they wrote it on January 1, thinking that the date is what counts.

One of two dates is the one that counts: either the date on which the church receives the check or the date a check is postmarked when mailed.

If a member writes a check

on December 30, but does not bring it to the church until January 2, the donation has not been made until January 2 and will be recorded in the new year.

If a member writes a check on December 30, but puts it in the mailbox after the last pickup on December 31 and therefore it gets postmarked January 1, the donation is recorded in the new year.

If the member writes the check on December 30 and puts it in the mailbox so it

gets postmarked December 31, it gets counted in that year even though the church does not receive it until the new year.

Anything put in the offering plate on the first Sunday of January, that does not have a postmark on it to verify the date sent, is counted as contributed in the new year.

From Richard H. Goodlin (pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Baltimore, and tax preparer for Jackson-Hewitt)

Evangelism Corner

Hi friends,

As we travel through this season of Advent, we celebrate our hope!! Christ Jesus is our hope!! Too often in the world of today we are gripped by fear. There is fear of war, fear of economic decline and joblessness, fear of crime, fear of illness, fear of despair, and fear of loneliness. We see this everywhere, in the news, in movies, television, books and in our conversations

with one another. Yet hope has entered the world, has entered our lives, in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For St. Paul this hope meant everything. Paul had hope in all circumstances. Paul traveled far and wide to bring this hope, this Good News to others. Paul's words ring loud and clear: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord." This is the Good News the Advent celebrates. We need to re-

discover hope today, and share this hope, this Good News with others. St. Paul's words remind us of this hope and calls us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Let us recapture this sense of Christian hope and Christian love that our Lord has so richly graced us with through His son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christ's Peace!
Jim Lightner



The Inn at St. Luke

The inns and lodges all around Bethlehem were crowded that night. The air was heavy with sounds of complaining and bickering. Everyone was much too busy to notice the two weary travelers who desperately needed a place to stay.

Again this year we want to use the Inn to rally one another to "close the gap" and meet our congregation's financial needs for the year!

\$23,500 Regular
\$16,000 Deficit
\$39,500 TOTAL

So each of the 50 lights = \$790

Every week we will light the lights in the INN for every increment of \$790 in offering to general fund. Our goal is \$39,500! It's big, but God is BIGGER! We work as a team in faith! You can also make a memorial gift to the **General Fund.**

Let's finish the year in the "black" and let God's light shine!



**Saturday,
December 29th
at 5 pm
And Sunday,
December 30th
at both 9am and
11 am**

**Free Flu Shots
at St. Joseph
Medical Center
Call to register!
410.337.1479**



**12/1 from 10-2
1/12 from 10-2**

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jas on sobbed all the way home in the back of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy said, "Pastor said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home and I want to stay with you guys."



**Submitted by
Carolyn Bauer**

Health Ministry Update—Drunk & Drugged Driving

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. Impaired driving will affect one in three Americans during their lifetime. In 2004, 16,694 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, accounting for 39% of all traffic-related deaths in the United States (NHTSA 2005). December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Month (3D Month) by Presidential Proclamation.

Quick Facts about Drunk and Drugged Driving

- † An alcohol-related motor vehicle crash kills someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injures someone every two minutes (NHTSA 2005).
- † Drugs other than alco-



- hol (eg. marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths. These other drugs are generally used in combination with alcohol. (Jones et al. 2003).
- † More than two-thirds of child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-related crashes during 1997-2002 were riding with the drinking driver; only 32% of them were properly restrained at the time of the crash (Shults 2004)

Impaired driving is no accident-nor is it a victimless crime. It is one of America's deadliest problems. Driving a car or riding a motorcycle while impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant.

Please remember to **"Give the Gift of a Lift"** this holiday season. **"Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk"**.

Please look on our Health Ministries cart for Fact and Information Sheets regarding this serious topic. The above information provided courtesy of the CDC and www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

~ Anne Haupt, RN

Thank You to 2007 Council Members from Pastor Lisa

This past year has been full of big projects, or "firsts!" In addition to the "regular" ministries, we had many big decisions and projects on our plate. I am so thankful for all the dedication, prayers, and hearts of every member of the 2007 Council. We are so blessed by each person's time and talents.

Even with the many blessings and achievements, this past Council has been finding its way through differences in opinion and differ-





ences in style. "Conflict" itself is not bad. Every church and family experiences disagreement. It's how we deal with conflict that counts. No wonder Paul talked about the church being like the body with various "members" and "different gifts" and yet one body ... (please see I Corinthians: 12).

We are the church. Ministry is often learning forgiveness. Caring about our brothers and sisters I feel is our highest priority. And if

we can't repair our relationships, then no building project is worth repairing.

Thank you members of Council for working so faithfully in ministry and on so many projects together that have helped St. Luke to move forward. We have new people joining Council for the first time. St. Luke, please continue to pray for our new Council, holding each member in prayer.

I anticipate a new year and new beginning for us ALL OF US in the body of Christ!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00p Alternative Worship 6:30p AA 
2 9:00a Worship 9:00a Kids of the Kingdom 10:00a Sun. Choir 11:00a Worship 8:00p NA 	3 7:00p AA	4 10a Bible Study 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do	5 5:30p Godspell II 5:30p Executive Council 8:00p NA	6 10a AA 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do 6:45p Sat. Choir	7 8:00p AA	8 10:00a Pizza with Santa 5:00p Alternative Worship 6:30p AA 
9 9:00a Worship 9:00a Kids of the Kingdom 10:00a Sun. Choir 11:00a Worship 12:00a Hanging Greens 12:30p Cookie Swap 8:00p NA Newsletter Deadline	10 7:00p AA	11 10a Bible Study 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do 7:30 NHRCA General Mtg	12 12p Joint Men's & Women's Christmas Luncheon 5:30p Godspell II 6:00p Church Council at Pastor Lisa's 8:00p NA	13 10a AA 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do 6:45p Sat. Choir	14 8:00p AA	15 Noon WELCA Meeting 5:00p Alternative Worship 6:00p Christmas Caroling + Fellowship 6:30p AA  
16 9:00a Worship 9:00a Kids of the Kingdom 10:00a Sun. Choir 11:00a Worship 2:00 Children's Rehearsal 8:00p NA 	17 7:00p AA	18 10a Bible Study 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do	19 5:30p Godspell II 8:00p NA	20 10a AA 3p Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do 6:45p Sat. Choir	21 8:00p AA	22 5:00p Alternative Worship 6:30p AA 
23 9:00a Worship 9:00a Children's Christmas Program 10:00a Sun. Choir 11:00a Worship 8:00p NA 	24 5:00p Family Candlelight Service 7:00p AA 9:30p Caroling Festival 10p Candlelight Service Church Office Closed	25 10a Christmas Day Family Worship  Church Office Closed	26 NO Godspell II 8:00p NA Church Office Closed	27 10a AA NO Godspell I 6p Tae Kwon Do Church Office Closed	28 8:00p AA Church Office Closed	29 5:00p Healing Alternative Worship and Council Installation 6:30p AA  
30 9:00a Healing Service NO Kids of the Kingdom 10:00a Sun. Choir 11:00a Healing 8:00p NA 	31 7:00p AA Church Office Closed		 = Communion at service(s) this day. New, monthly and special events are in Bold Type. Check our website for late breaking calendar updates! http://LutheranNeighbor.org/web-calendar.htm  = Healing service(s) this day.			
						

Remember those in Harm's Way

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. Ephesians 2:14



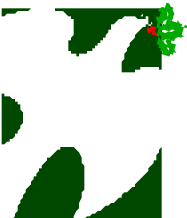
As we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, let's reach out to those in harm's way. Our men and women overseas appreciate knowing they are not forgotten. Take a moment to show you care. Visit www.americasupportsyou.com or www.LetsSayThanks.com

And always, pray for peace.

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7001 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

An Evangelical
Community in Christ!



Address Service
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Dated Material

December 2007
Newsletter

Celebrate Christmas!!



Saturday, December 22nd— Advent Worship

5:00 pm, Alternative Worship

Sunday, December 23rd - 4th Sunday in Advent

9:00 am, Family Advent Worship

With Children's Christmas Program

11 am, Traditional Worship and Choir Cantata

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

5:00 pm, Candlelight Service

Alternative Worship with Holy Communion. A celebration with contemporary music!

9:30 pm, Christmas Carol Festival

Join the congregation in lifting up timeless favorites as we prepare for our celebration of Christ's birth!

10:00 pm, Candlelight Service

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion.

Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas Day

10:00 am, Family Christmas Worship

Show your family that the reason for the season comes first! Join with your church family on Christmas morning, parents and kids, to greet the Christchild!

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