

November 2005



DR. MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Church Door



## FROM THE PASTOR

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Our Slovak Zion Synod Western Conference Mission Exchange Sunday will be held on November 20th this year with the proceeds going to Romani. We decided to not do an actual pulpit exchange this year because of the high cost of travel between Muskegon and Chicago, and also having to do with the fact that Trinity Lutheran Church where Ivon Harris was pastor is currently being served by supply pastors.

November 22 is Christ the King Sunday which brings to a close the long season of Pentecost. The following Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent. It is hard to believe that we are poised to enter the season of Advent, the season of anticipation and hope. As Christians we live our life in anticipation and hope, anticipation of our Lord's return and in the hope that he brings. The last two verses of the Bible ends, leaving us in anticipation: *The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.* (Revelation 22:21-22).

Some people are convinced that our Lord will return soon, perhaps during this present generation. With the recent hurricanes, earthquakes and wars one could make a pretty strong argument that such is the case. Jesus said there would be earthquakes, wars, famines, plagues and such, but he also said that first the good news must be preached to all the people. That is the task he

has left for all Christians to do until he returns. I would like each of you to think of someone whom you could speak to about the Christ, the one who has made and continues to make a difference and impact on your own life. Many people who are not very active in their faith begin to think more about the Lord around the Christmas season, so it is a good time to invite them to come with you to worship. I mention this now because I know some of you will take a while to work up the nerve to talk to someone who is unchurched . . . And because waiting too long could be too late. But then we don't invite folks to come to church because we think the Lord is coming, but because we are responding to the mission our Lord has given to us.

At DML we are getting better at inviting friends, neighbors and family members to come with us to church. One of my favorite Psalms says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1). Many DML members are glad when they come to the Lord's house and it shows. The Lord is asking us to invite others to do the thing we are glad to do so it needn't be a difficult task. I believe the Lord is blessing our ministry together as we try to carry out the work the Lord has given us. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Pastor Dennis

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## Worship Assistants

## Lessons & Hymns

### November 6—All Saints Sunday

Deacon Andrew Kitchka

Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte Bethani Eggleton

Nursery Alice Doane

Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden

Tellers Tom & Donna Whitehead  
Gordon Eggleton

#### Lessons

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

#### Hymns

#174—For All the Saints

#331—Jerusalem, My Happy Home\*\*

#690—Shall We Gather at the River

#553—Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!

### November 13—26th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Laurie Tilden

Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte Emily Johnson

Nursery Polly Eagle

Ushers Emily & Bill Kitchka

Tellers Randy & Cindy Borreson  
Polly Eagle

#### Lessons

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

#### Hymns

#712—Listen, God is Calling\*\*

#649—I Want to Walk as a Child of the  
Light

#706—Eat This Bread

#766—We Come to the Hungry Feast

#781—My Life Flows on in Endless  
Song

### November 20—Christ the King

Deacon Tom Whitehead

Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte Matthew Kitchka

Nursery Lauren Johnson

Ushers Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf

Tellers LaVern & Irene Borreson  
Bill Kitchka

#### Lessons

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-  
24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

#### Hymns

#170—Crown Him with Many Crowns

#518—Beautiful Savior

#451—The Lord's My Shepherd

#495—Lead On, O King Eternal\*\*

### November 27—1st Sunday in Advent

Deacon Jan Wolf

Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte Becky Stroh

Nursery Nancy Johnson

Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa

Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa  
John Moore

#### Lessons

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

#### Hymns

#31—Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

#26—Prepare the Royal Highway

#33—The King Shall Come

#29—Comfort, Comfort Now My People

#27—Lo! He Comes with Clouds De-  
scending

# Congregation Council—Minutes August

## August 8, 2005

President Gene Broge called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

PRESENT: Cindy Borreson, Randy Borreson, Gene Broge, Emogene Cotal, Brian Doane, Pastor Stroh, Tom Whitehead, Vlado Simo (summer intern).

ABSENT: Gordon Eggleton, Nancy (Kitchka) Hamlin

EXCUSED: Russ Tilden

DEVOTIONS: Vlado led devotions with a reading from Deuteronomy 10:1-5

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting were presented. Cindy moved to accept the minutes. Emogene seconded. Approved. There was no meeting in July.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Reports as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 were presented in printed form. Cindy reported that the following transfers were made from the Reserve Fund: \$1,000 in June, \$1,700 in July. The next transfers will come out of the investments. Emogene moved to accept the report, Tom seconded. Approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor presented a written report and talked about some of the key points:

- Church sign: Pastor spoke with Bill Hutton at Trinity Lutheran about a getting a master electrician to get the permit from the township for the sign.
- Pastor reported that the keyboard has been ordered from Sweetwater Sound in Indiana and should arrive this week. Scott Cutting had recommended Sweetwater.

Cindy moved to accept the Pastor's report. Randy seconded. Approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Property:

- A realtor, Lucille Bulthouse, wants to obtain an easement along the east side of the church property in order to have access to property she owns behind the church. Cindy moved to reject the proposal. Tom seconded. Carried.
- The committee checked the sprinklers and noted that some of the heads were plugged by rust in the lines. They cleaned some of them but there is still more work to do.
- There has been no progress on replacing windows. Ron Heiss painted the windows by the lounge.

Evangelism: No report.

#### Finance:

- Tom reported on the meeting held 8/2/05. \$5,594.01 had been raised for the Stephen Hellman Fund. Cindy wrote a check to Thrivent for that amount. Thrivent will add \$2,000 to that amount and send a check for \$7,594.01 to Stephen.
- Discussed what the costs would be for the summer intern. DML is to pay:
  - Half of the air fare = \$512.50 – two DML families volunteered to pay
  - Health insurance = \$0.00
  - Stipend @ \$30/wk x 7 = \$210.00 – DML to pay
  - Total \$722.50

There is \$875 in the budget. Cindy will find out what Samuel Church paid Vlado per week for a stipend and we will

match it. She wasn't sure if it was \$30/wk or \$40/wk.

- The committee asked Cindy to provide a report each month that would show transfers, especially from Reserve and the Investments.

Parish Education: No report.

Social Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

#### Worship & Music:

- Committee planned the service for Sunday and for August. It will meet later in August to plan services for September.
- Rycenga Lumber will again loan a tent (awning) to the church for the outdoor service.

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: No report.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Dorcas Circle: No report.

Eve Circle: No report.

Men's Club: The Men's Club met at Mickey's Restaurant on August 6<sup>th</sup>. No serious business conducted, however.

Youth Group: No report.

Cindy moved to accept all of the committee reports, Randy seconded. Approved.

### PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Katerina Ondrejakova sent a letter and has received her degree.
- Gene received a letter from the Division for Global Mission (DGM) regarding Pastor Michnay and provided names of proposed new missionaries.

Continued on page 4

# Congregation Council—Minutes August and September

- Cindy Borreson requested the use of 2 tables and 20 chairs and Dave Justian requested the use of 2 tables and 12 chairs. Emogene moved and Brian seconded to approve both requests. Carried.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Cindy reminded Pastor to order a new altar Bible.
- The Council discussed what action it should propose to the congregation regarding Pastor's call. His 3-year term call expires on or about 9/15/05. Tom moved that the Council propose to the congregation that it extend an open-ended call to Pastor Stroh with the same terms and conditions in the call as the original call except the 3-year limitation would be removed. Cindy seconded. Carried. Gene will contact the Bishop to set a date after the Labor Day holiday for the congregational meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS:

None

Randy moved to adjourn, Emogene seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Whitehead

Council Secretary

## September 12, 2005

President Gene Broge called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

PRESENT: Cindy Borreson, Randy Borreson, Gene Broge, Emogene Cotal, Brian Doane, Pastor Stroh, Russ Tilden, Tom Whitehead

ABSENT: Gordon Eggleton, Nancy Hamlin

DEVOTIONS: Pastor led devotions with a reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 5.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting were presented. Cindy moved to accept the minutes. Emogene seconded. Approved. There was no meeting in September due to a lack of a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Reports as of August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 were presented in printed form. Cindy reported that all bills are current but she will probably need to withdraw money from the investments in the coming month to cover housing allowance costs.

- Gene requested that a statement be put in the Sunday bulletin whenever money is taken from the Reserved or Investment funds.
- Tom noted that the investment balances are updated quarterly and requested that the balance sheet include a note reflecting the dates of the balances.
- Cindy pointed out that there is a expense category called *Uncategorized* in the September cash flow statement. She will need to investigate that to determine what that is. She suspects it might be the payment to the Synod.

Tom moved to accept the report, Russ seconded. Approved. The

fund balances are summarized on page 3.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor presented a written report and talked about some of the key points:

- Pastor is planning to take vacation on 11/26/05-12/02/05 and 12/27/05-1/3/06. The Worship & Music committee will make arrangements to handle pastoral duties during that time. Pastor might change his plans, however, due to Advent 1 falling on 11/27/05.
- The Gideon's have asked to make a presentation again this year. Pastor and the Council want to support the work of the Gideon's but would like the Gideon's representative to stay through the full service. Pastor will invite the Gideon's to have someone speak at the end of a service.
- Stony Lake Conference Coalition has requested funding for 2006. Dave & Rose Justian have been our representatives but we have not had any reports. Gene will contact them to find out whether they have been attending and what their thoughts are about the work that has been done by the coalition. DML was not listed as one of the contributing congregations although we gave \$250 to it last year. Tom moved that DML contribute \$250 for 2006. Cindy seconded. Approved. This amount will go into the 2006 budget.
- Pastor reported that he has talked to Jim Fox of Phase II Electric about getting the permit signed off for the church's sign. Jim said it will take approximately an hour to inspect the wiring (est. \$50) plus the cost of the permits. Cindy moved to authorize the

**Congratulations!**  
**Bill Hulka**  
**(former member and organist)**  
**Received 5 top awards**  
**for his Irises**  
**At a local Flower Show and for**  
**being recognized as having the**  
**most (8) Blue Ribbons!**

# Congregation Council—Minutes September

Property Committee to get an electrician and get the permits signed off. Russ seconded. Approved.

- Pastor had a discussion with the Council about private baptisms. DML has done them in the past. Pastor will encourage public baptism but will conduct private baptisms, if necessary.

Cindy moved to accept the Pastor's report. Russ seconded. Approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property: No meeting

- The boiler has been turned on and is ready to provide heat when the "Occupied" button is pressed.
- The sprinklers have been turned off. One sprinkler head was lying on the sidewalk in front of the church. The sprinkler system needs to be blown out for the winter.

Evangelism: No report.

Finance: No meeting. The committee needs to meet to develop the 2006 budget for the congregational meeting on the 11/6/05. There will then need to be a special council meeting to review and approve the budget before the congregational meeting.

Parish Education: Russ distributed a written report about Las Posadas (The Inn), which is a traditional Mexican festival of candlelight processions representing the holy family's quest for lodging in Bethlehem. The committee will work with the choir and the students to put this on at church on one Sunday.

Social Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: There will be a Praise Service on 10/23/05. The committee is tentatively planning to have praise services in the five Sunday months.

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: No report.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Dorcas Circle & Eve Circle: Are planning the Bazaar scheduled for 10/29/05.

Men's Club: Met on 10/1/05.

Cindy moved to accept all of the committee reports, Randy seconded. Approved.

## PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Gene signed Pastor Stroh's Letter of Call and gave it to Tom with the Statement of Specific Responsibilities for him to complete the remaining information and sign. Tom will review the final documents with Gene and Pastor and then send both documents to Bishop Kucharek.

- It was noted that Pastor did get the new altar Bible.

- A letter was received from the Division for Global Mission and was given to the Finance Committee to discuss and make a recommendation regarding the funding of new missionaries to replace Pastor Michnay.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- The Annual Congregational Meeting for the election of council members and adoption of the budget will be held on 11/6/05.

Cindy, Gene, and Gordon have their terms expiring this year. Gene and Cindy will recruit candidates for the election.

- Tom and Donna Whitehead will

present a slide show on Sunday, 10/16/05, after the service of their experiences as Red Cross volunteers in Mississippi for the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

- The Advent 1 dinner will be on Sunday 11/27/05. Council is responsible for funding and putting on this dinner. The Council will buy the meat, rolls, and juice. Members of the congregation will bring side dishes and desserts. There will be a free-will offering and the money will fund Christmas baskets for the needy.

Russ moved to adjourn, Randy seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Whitehead  
Council Secretary



# What's Happening at DML

## Dorcas Circle

Next meeting is November 7 at 10:00 am in the Lounge. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Contact Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for more information.

## EVE Circle

Eve Circle meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is invited to join in.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

## MEN'S CLUB

Saturday  
November 5—  
9am

Breakfast at Mickey's

Please contact  
Tom Whitehead  
(231) 798-4454  
with any questions.

## BIBLE Club

The BIBLE Club is working on their Christmas Program, Las Posadas (The Inn). This is a traditional Mexican festival. The BIBLE Club, the Choir, the Men's Club will be working together to put this program on at Christmas..

If you would like to help, please contact Russ Tilden or Lauren Johnson.

## All Saints Sunday

November 6

If you have a loved one that has departed this life since last All Saints Sunday, please contact Cindy Borreson to have them remembered in our worship service on November 6th.

## Bible Study

Classes are held on Thursdays in the Lounge. Please join in, classes are much more enjoyable when shared with others.

2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

# Advent Dinner

1st Sunday of Advent—November 27, 2005

Immediately following worship

As is the custom, the Congregation Council will sponsor the dinner providing the meat, rolls, and beverages. A sign-up list will be posted on the bulletin board so we can plan to have enough food. A second sign-up list will be posted for those who wish to volunteer to provide the side-dishes for the dinner.

A freewill offering will be collected with the proceeds being used to provide Christmas baskets for area needy families.

Please plan to join us for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and recognition as we begin the Advent Season.

Thank you to  
Charles and Barbara Majersky  
for the piano bench  
in the Fellowship Hall.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 6, 2005,  
following worship

The purpose of this meeting is to  
approve the 2006 Church Budget  
and to elect Council members.

It is the privilege and  
responsibility of all voting  
members to attend this meeting.

## Love, Inc.

### Can you help?

A young mother of a homeless  
family asked Love Inc. for diapers  
and paper products.

Unfortunately, only a portion of her  
request was answered.

Love Inc. shelves are nearly  
empty!

Please consider giving paper  
products, personal care products,  
diapers or food.

Donations may be placed in the  
Purple container in the Narthex.

Thank you so much!

## Festivals and Commemorations

### **Tuesday, November 1** **All Saints Day**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. Our All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. Today, or on this upcoming All Saints Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

Our liturgy abounds with references to the saints and to our continual relationship with them. The preface for All Saints describes the relationship this way: "that moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory." Today and this week invite people to reflect on others--living and dead--who have moved and supported us in our lives of faith.

### **Thursday, November 3** **Martin de Porres, renewer of society, 1639**

Martin was the son of a Spanish knight and Ana Velázquez, a freed black slave from Panama. Martin apprenticed himself to a barber-surgeon in Lima, Peru, and

was known for his work as a healer. Martin was a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) and engaged in many charitable works. He was a gardener as well as a counselor to those who sought him out. He was noted for his care of all the poor, regardless of race. His own religious community described him as the "father of charity." His work included the founding of an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for dogs and cats. He is recognized as an advocate for Christian charity and interracial justice.

### **Monday, November 7** **John Christian Frederick Heyer, missionary to India, 1873**

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. He was born in Germany and came to the United States after his confirmation. He was ordained in 1820, established Sunday schools, and taught at Gettysburg College and Seminary. Heyer became a missionary in the Andhra region of India. During a break in his mission work he received the M.D. degree from what would later be Johns Hopkins University. He later served as chaplain of the Lutheran seminary at Philadelphia until his death.

Because of his work as a pastor, missionary, and medical doctor, his commemoration can lead us to be mindful of all who work for healing of both body and spirit.

### **Friday, November 11** **Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397**

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the army at age fifteen. One winter day, a beggar approached Martin for aid, and he cut his cloak in half and gave a portion to the beggar. Later, Martin understood that he had seen the presence of Christ in that beggar, and this

ended his uncertainty about Christianity. He soon asked for his release from his military duties, but he was imprisoned instead. After his release from prison he began preaching, particularly against the Arians. In 371 he was elected bishop of Tours. As bishop he developed a reputation for intervening on behalf of prisoners and heretics who had been sentenced to death.

Today, at the same time as we remember this soldier turned peacemaker, we remember the end of World War I and veterans of all U.S. wars. Let these commemorations together move us to pray and work for peace in our families, congregations, and nation.

### **Friday, November 11** **Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, 1855**

Kierkegaard, a nineteenth-century Danish theologian whose writings reflect his Lutheran heritage, was the founder of modern existentialism. Though he was engaged to a woman he deeply loved, he ended the relationship because he believed he was called to search the hidden side of life. Many of his works were published under a variety of names, so that he could reply to arguments from his own previous works. Kierkegaard's work attacked the established church of his day. He attacked the church's complacency, its tendency to intellectualize faith, and its desire to be accepted by polite society.

Kierkegaard's work makes room for doubt in the life of faith. He also served as a prophetic challenge to churches that may want to set aside paradox for an easy faith and the gospel for cultural acceptability.

### **Thursday, November 17**



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**Elizabeth of Thuringia, princess of Hungary, 1231**

This Hungarian princess gave away large sums of money, including her dowry, for relief of the poor and sick. She founded hospitals, cared for orphans, and used the royal food supplies to feed the hungry. Though she had the support of her husband, her generosity and charity did not earn her friends within the royal court. At the death of her husband, she was driven out of the Wartburg castle. She joined a Franciscan order and continued her charitable work, though she suffered abuse at the hands of her confessor and spiritual guide. Her lifetime of charity is particularly remarkable when one remembers that she died at the age of twenty-four. She founded two hospitals and many more are named for her.

**Wednesday, November 23  
Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100**

Clement was the third bishop of Rome and served at the end of the first century. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the Corinthian congregation still having difficulty with divisions in spite of Paul's canonical letters. Clement's writing echoes Paul's. "Love . . . has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others." Clement's letter is also a witness to early understandings of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

Clement's letter reminds us that divisions within the church are a sad part of our history and that pastoral love for people must be present amid our differing views of authority, scripture, and ministry.

**Wednesday, November 23  
Miguel Agustín Pro, priest, martyr, 1927**

Miguel Pro grew up in the midst of oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore he carried out much of his ministry in private settings. He worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at the car of a government official, and assassinated by a firing squad. Just before the guns fired he yelled, "Viva Christo Rey!" which means "Long live Christ the king!"

Make plans for work that can be done on behalf of the poor in the upcoming weeks. Raise questions about what long-term solutions may bridge the gap between rich and poor.

**Friday, November 25  
Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748**

Isaac Watts was born in England to a nonconformist family, people who thought the Church of England had not carried its reforms far enough. As a youth, Watts complained to his father about the quality of hymnody in the metrical psalter of his day. That was the start of his hymnwriting career. He wrote about 600 hymns, many of them in a two-year period beginning when he was twenty years old. Some of Watts's hymns are based on psalms, a nonconformist tradition, but others are not. When criticized for writing hymns not taken from scripture, he responded that if we can pray prayers that are not from scripture but written by us, then surely we can sing hymns that we

have made up ourselves.  
**Tuesday, November 30**

**St. Andrew, Apostle**

Andrew was the first of the twelve. He is known as a fisherman who left his net to follow Jesus. As a part of his calling, he brought other people, including Simon Peter, to meet Jesus. The Byzantine church honors Andrew as its patron and points out that because he was the first of Jesus' followers, he was, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." Together with Philip, Andrew leads a number of Greeks to speak with Jesus, and it is Andrew who shows Jesus a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew is said to have died on a cross saltire, an X-shaped cross.

We too are called to invite others to the life of Christ that we will celebrate during Advent and Christmas. In what ways will the church that bears the light of Christ lead others to meet Jesus?



**Thanksgiving Day  
November 24, 2005**

## A Report from Tom and Donna Whitehead: Our Experiences as Red Cross Volunteers in Mississippi

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After seeing the pictures of the devastation caused down south by Hurricane Katrina, we decided we wanted to do something to help the relief efforts. We stopped at the Muskegon Red Cross chapter on Friday of Labor Day weekend and learned that we would need to go through a compressed training program and then make a 3-week commitment as volunteers. We quickly decided that we would do it and obtained approval from our employers to take leaves of absence. We underwent intensive training at our local chapter Red Cross office -- 30 hours training in 3 days. The class had about 25 people in it who were all prepared to leave immediately for the South to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As of October 7, our local chapter has sent 98 persons to the area, most of them new to the Red Cross, and training for new volunteers continues weekly.

We left on September 13 for Montgomery, AL. Others in our class were sent to Baton Rouge, LA as well as Montgomery but none of them were on our flights. Montgomery was the regional headquarters for Red Cross disaster relief services for Alabama and Mississippi. Volunteers from many states and Canada were converging there to offer whatever help they could. Within 2 hours of registering at Montgomery, we were on our way to Hattiesburg, MS with 6 others to serve as caseworkers.

Caseworkers are people who meet one-on-one with people seeking emergency financial assistance. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, the need was so large and so widespread that the Red Cross needed to use an expedited process of delivering services. The operations center at Hattiesburg was at the First Bap-

tist Church where 200 volunteers were served a much-appreciated breakfast each morning by church members before dispersing to their assignments. The caseworkers traveled in groups of 18-30 people to set up service centers in Hattiesburg and outlying towns. The local people and evacuees from the coast lined up for hours for their chance to meet with a caseworker. After verifying their identification and the number of people in the household, we were able to give the clients assistance in the form of a check or a debit card for a minimum of \$360. The amount varied depending upon the size of the household. By Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Red Cross had disbursed \$34 million in the seven counties serviced by the Hattiesburg Red Cross chapter. This is money that was made possible through the generosity of the American people through their donations and was an enormous help to these people as they tried to put their lives back together.

It was truly amazing to see how hundreds of volunteers could converge from all over the U.S. and Canada, receive instructions, and immediately begin making a difference to the community. All of the volunteers were on assignments of 3 weeks or less, so there was a constant turnover, yet things ran more smoothly than one would have expected. The Red Cross calls this "organized chaos". We were told that normally two-thirds of the Red Cross workers at a national disaster have been volunteers before and therefore bring experience to the effort. For Katrina, however, it appeared that 90% of the volunteers were first-time volunteers.

The devastation we saw in Mis-

issippi, especially along the Gulf coast in Gulfport and Biloxi, was unbelievable. The damage in the coastal areas was caused by the wind, rain, and flooding from the storm surge, while farther north around Hattiesburg the damage was mostly wind and rain damage from the hurricane itself and the tornadoes it spawned. Many homes were destroyed by trees falling on them. A lot of the people we spoke to had no insurance. Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the country and many times we saw it in the people that came into the service centers. But amazingly, we didn't hear anyone complain about what they had lost. Frequently their response would be: "but others have it worse."

We feel fortunate to have been able to volunteer for this assignment. The people receiving assistance as well as other people around the area blessed us many times over. At the end of our long days, we would go into a restaurant for dinner and it became very common for a waiter or someone else to notice our Red Cross insignias and come to our table to thank us for helping them. It was a heartbreaking and heartwarming experience that will remain with us for a long time.

After returning to Muskegon, we gave a presentation about our experiences at a Coffee Hour following a service, complete with pictures. If you missed it, you can see the pictures on the Internet at <http://toms-pix.phanfare.com> and <http://warrens-pics.phanfare.com>. Warren Hill is a volunteer from Sarasota, FL who was part of our group and who generously allowed us to include some of his pictures in our presentation.

# Financial Information— September 30, 2005

# We Pray

## ASSETS

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook .....	1,692.41
Cash Account.....	\$0.00
Savings - Reserve.....	\$3,646.34
Total for General Operations .....	\$5,338.75
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Building (Projects) .....	\$2,058.57
Church Repairs.....	\$3,069.88
Hellman Fund .....	\$74.50
Evangelism .....	\$69.00
Eve Circle.....	\$1,472.77
Kitchen Fund .....	\$357.55
Men's Club.....	\$262.91
Youth Group .....	\$149.39
Total Savings—Designated....	\$7,514.57
Savings - Memorial .....	\$4,226.98
Savings - Social Security ....	<u>\$1,184.19</u>
Total for Special Purposes .....	\$12,925.74
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$18,264.49
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance (as of 6-30-05)	
LB Money Market—Cash.....	\$2,414.30
LB Fund .....	\$31,790.54
LB Income Fund .....	\$38,770.33
Total Investments .....	\$72,975.17
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS.....</u></b>	<b><u>\$91,239.66</u></b>

## LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$ (1.74)
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$2,088.57
WH—State Tax Liability	\$310.31
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,397.14</u></b>

## Summary Information

### August

Average Attendance—**68**

Offering Needed  
to meet 2005 Budget                      \$7,008.65

Amount Received  
toward Budget                              **\$5,744.05**

## Friends and Family in the Military

### Kevin William Sellon

*(Mike & Carol Sellon's son)*

United States Army

Serving in Iraq

### Sgt. Kenneth W. Hawkins

*(Tom & Betty Proksa's nephew)*

United States Army

Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

### AJ-3 Lisa Pepera

*(Virginia Kolarik's granddaughter)*

United States Navy

Serving on the USS Kitty Hawk

### E1 Lynzie Heiss

*(Ron Heiss's daughter)*

United States Army

Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

Do you have a someone special you would like included in the prayers or added to our prayer list? Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at newsletters@dmlc.org and she will see they are included.

*Pastor John Adam (former DML Pastor)*

*Robert Carey (Kris Garrow's grandfather)*

*Brett Cavanaugh (Clif Hellman's nephew)*

*Beryl Connelly*

*Millie Fredrick*

*Stephen Hellman*

*Ann Hulka*

*Tom Hulka*

*Beulah Justian*

*Vicki Peterson*

*Nancy Rizzo (Ann Markgraf's daughter)*

*Paul Suhovsky*

*Lowell Tambling*



## PRAYER VENTURES

**1** Pray for God's blessing on Messiah Lutheran Church in South Los Angeles (California) and its part-time pastor, Vivian Martin. The congregation is developing a community outreach program through their adult learning center and seeks computers and equipment for the center.

**2** Give thanks for those who contribute to and read "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" ([www.elca.org/jle](http://www.elca.org/jle)) as it seeks to provide a place for learning, conversation, and discernment.

**3** Remember diaconal minister Jessica Nipp, who serves as managing director of the ELCA Wittenberg Center in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. Jessica helps ELCA members explore and engage the Lutheran tradition in order to inform, guide, and renew the church's mission today.

**4** Across the United States, more than 50 new ELCA congregations could be started. Ask God to lift up Spirit-filled, passionate leaders—lay and clergy—who will help the church grow in areas of the country with expanding populations and areas with new ethnic populations.

**5** Pray for Pastors Ann and Jonathan Sorum as they serve in Bratislava, Slovakia. Jonathan serves as professor at the seminary and Ann is assistant pastor at the English-speaking congregation. Give thanks for the gifts shared through the companion synod relationships between the ELCA Slovak Zion Synod, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C.. Synod, and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic.

**6** **All Saints Sunday**  
Gracious God, we give you thanks for the witness of Christians, known and unknown, in Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

**7** Pray for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission located in a remote, isolated area of the Navajo Nation Reservation at Rock Point, Arizona. The mission is 54 years old and provides worship, housing, educational and medical services, a thrift shop, and a food pantry. Pray especially for the children who come to the Mission School after a weekend of struggling with poverty.

**8** Pray for Pastor Aaron and Lynette Albrecht as they serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. They work with the ministry and outreach programs of the Hongo Lutheran Church, Tokyo, and provide leadership in the Hongo Student Center, a ministry among university students in the area.

**9** Thank God for Mission Founders—individuals and congregations—who generously make funds available, over and above their regular mission support, to start ELCA congregations. Their gifts help to make Christ known in growing and changing areas of the United States.

**10** Praise God for the positive work being done by Pastor Ogden-Howe and the leadership team of Christ the Servant Church (Denton, Texas). Ask for continued guidance of the Holy Spirit as they work together to transform their ministry.

**11** Pray for Alicia and Pastor David Brondos in Mexico City. He teaches at the Theologi-

cal Community of Mexico, an ecumenical association of theological schools that includes the Lutheran Seminary.

**12** Pray for Faith Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona, and for Pastor Renee Geiger and Hector Carrasquillo as they begin ministry with Latinos in their community. Pray that they reach many with the gospel and create opportunities for cross-cultural conversation about their ministry.

**13** **Pentecost 26**  
O God, we give you thanks for your Spirit that continues to embrace the churches in Italy and Malta.

**14** Give thanks for the ministry of Rebecca and Dr. Kris Hartwig, who are offering palliative care services through Selian Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania. Pray for a fruitful collaboration between the Hartwigs and Selian staff members as they incorporate prayer and spiritual care into a new African model of palliative care.

**15** Give thanks for Pastor Dan Brandt and the people of First Lutheran Church in Waco, Texas. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as they redevelop and transform their ministry in this racially mixed town that is home to Baylor University.

**16** Pray for Linda and Dr. Mark Jacobson, who are entering their 21<sup>st</sup> year as missionaries to Selian Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania. Thank God for the Jacobsons' gifts in linking western and Tanzanian health care providers and technology as they increase access to quality healthcare in Arusha.

**17** Pray for Kendra Shemak and Ruth Klavano as they begin teaching English as a second language at a university in China under the auspices of the Amity Foundation. Give thanks for all Amity-based teachers who serve throughout China.

**18** Give thanks for Elsie and Jerry Weyrauch (Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marietta, Georgia) and their pioneering work in suicide prevention, including the initiative that led to an ELCA message on “Suicide Prevention.”

**19** Give thanks to God for the 67 international students studying around the world this year with scholarships from the ELCA Global Mission program unit. May God strengthen the ministries of the over 600 companion church leaders who have been educated with ELCA funds since 1988.

**20** **Christ the King Lord God, in the midst of economic and social challenges, we pray that you will give strength and wisdom to the people of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. On this Universal Children’s Day, we especially lift up children and youth everywhere, that they may grow in wisdom and knowledge.**

**21** Pray for Pastor Mahlon and Nancy Beke-dam and their participation in the life, witness, and ministry of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mahlon serves at Yukigaya Lutheran, a congregation in Tokyo. Nancy witnesses with women in the area through Bible studies and quilting groups.

**22** Pray for the cross-cultural committee of the Southwestern Texas Synod as it prepares to assume leadership for cross-cultural conversation about ministry matters in its synod.

**23** Praise God for Carin and Dr. Lennart Persson in Thailand. Lennart teaches New Testament at the McGilvary School of Theology of Payap University in Chiang Mai.

**24** On this Thanksgiving Day, remember with thanksgiving all those who have donated to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal or to ELCA Disaster Response. Pray that they are filled with a deep sense of participation in God’s ministry among all people.

**25** Thank God for the ministry of Jim and Karen Noss, partners in the ELCA mission in Cameroon. Jim provides leadership support to mission personnel and technical support as requested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon. Karen offers hospitality to visiting companion synod delegations.

**26** Ask God for a clear vision of how the ELCA can help new ministries move into permanent facilities in this era of high land costs. Ask God, too, for generous individuals and congregations who will offer their financial support for the purchase of land and buildings and for owners who will make land available at modest rates.

**27** **Advent 1**  
**God, we lift up the people of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan,**

**that they may find peace and security.**

**28** Give thanks for Adults Saving Kids, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for its prophetic struggle against the commercial sexual exploitation of youth, including its call for the ELCA message on “Commercial Sexual Exploitation.”

**29** On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, give thanks for the richness of gifts shared in the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the ELCA New England Synod, and the Southeast Michigan Synod.

**30** Thank God for the work of Steve and Bethany Friberg as Steve continues to reactivate medical dispensaries in North Maasailand in Tanzania, and Bethany works with Maasai women to create and market beadwork internationally.

*Prayer Ventures* is a guide to daily prayer for the global and outreach ministries of the church. The Sunday prayers, based on the New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World Council of Churches, take us on a prayer journey through various parts of the world. In addition to their use for daily prayer, *Prayer Ventures* can be incorporated into the prayers at Sunday worship.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. *Prayer Ventures* is produced by ELCA Outreach and Global Mission, in cooperation with Communication Services. Contact either of the units for additional information: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Tel. 1-800-638-3522.

*Prayer Ventures* is available electronically. Visit us at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## From Our Members...

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### “I Can Hear Just Fine”

Three sisters ages 92, 94, and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, “Was I getting in or out of the bath?”

The 94-year-old yells back, “I don’t know. I’ll come up and see.” She starts up the stairs and pauses, “Was I going up the stairs or down?”

The 92-year-old is sitting in the kitchen table having tea and listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, “I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood.” She then yells, “I’ll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who’s at the door.”

*Submitted by Mary Panozzo*

Just because you and I are weak doesn’t mean we cannot be used by God. Don’t worry, because:

Moses stuttered. David’s armor didn’t fit. John Mark was rejected by Paul. Hosea’s wife was a prostitute. Amos’ only training was pruning trees, Solomon was too rich. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Timothy had ulcers. Peter was afraid of death. Lazarus was dead. John was self-righteous. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Gideon and Thomas both doubted. Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Elijah was burned out. John the Baptist was a loudmouth. Martha was a worry-wart. Mary was lazy. Samson had long hair. Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse? So did Peter, Paul—and many others.

Sooo—if God can use the aforementioned, we can be used as well.

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Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot. Janet

God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me. Love Alison

Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you? Charlene

Dear God, is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita

Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nancy

Dear God, I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too. Glenn

Dear God, my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis

Dear God, do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does? Nathan

Dear God, did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

Dear God, in bible times, did they really talk that fancy? Jennifer

Dear God, how come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do any now? Billy

Dear God, please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. Peter

Dear God, maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother. Larry

Dear God, I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet. What's up? Don't forget. Mark

Dear God, my brother told me about how you are born but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say? Marsha

Dear God, if you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. Barbara

Dear God, is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business? Donny

Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God. Charles

Dear God, it is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? Jeff

Dear God, I am doing the best I can. Really !!!! Frank

And, saving the best for last

Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool. Thomas

# November 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p><b>6:30 pm Finance Committee</b> <b>7:30 Special Council Mtg</b></p> <p><i>All Saints Day</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>5:30 pm Property Committee</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>2 pm &amp; 7 pm Bible Study</p> <p><i>Martin de Porres, renewer of society (1579-1639)</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>9 am Men's Club at Mickey's</b></p>
<p>6 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club Annual Congregation Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>10 am Dorcas Circle</b></p> <p><i>John Christian Frederick Heyer (1793-1873); Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg (1682-1719); Ludwig Nommensen (1834-1918); missionaries</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>6:30 Eve Circle</b></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2 pm &amp; 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Martin, bishop of Tours (c. 316-397)</i> <i>Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher (1813-1855)</i></p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 <b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club Gideon's presentation</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>6:30 pm Congregation Council</b></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2 pm &amp; 7 pm Bible Study</p> <p><i>Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society (1207-1231)</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>10 am Worship &amp; Music Committee</b></p>
<p>11 <b>Christ the King</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Clement, bishop of Rome (d. c. 100)</i> <i>Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr (1891-1927)</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>NO Bible Study <b>Thanksgiving Day</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>9 am Mutual Ministry Committee @ Mickey's</b></p>
<p>11 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club Advent Dinner</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>6:30 pm Evangelism Committee</b></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Andrew, apostle</i></p>	<p><b>Barbershoppers Concert</b> Saturday, December 10 – 7:00 pm Please watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for more details.</p>		

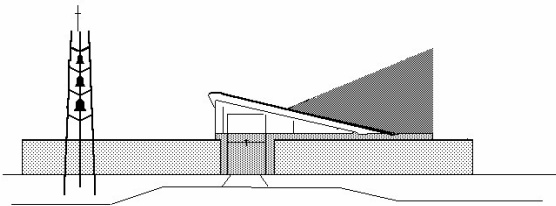


# The Church Door

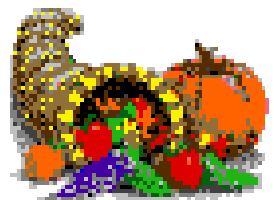
The Newsletter of  
Dr. Martin Luther  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

*November 2005*

We're on the Web  
[www.dmlc.org](http://www.dmlc.org)



**Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church**  
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**November**