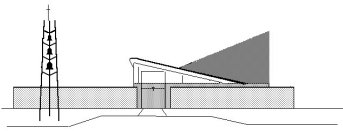


The Church Door



Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

January 2005

Happy
New
Year!!!

The Church Door

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events. Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or cborreson@charter.net) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.



We have a couple of big events coming up at DML in the next couple of months. The first is the Luther Film Festival and Annual Men's Chili Cook-off on January 15th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Since the release of DVD last November of the 2003 Luther film, I have been wanting to pick a date for a showing of it and Russ Tilden of the Men's Club was looking for a date for the Men's Chili Cook-off. We decided to have some fun and combine the two events. (I think Luther would have loved it!) We will sample the men's chili while watching the Luther video, something like a TV dinner.

I say "film festival" because I have also obtained a DVD of the older Luther film which was made 50 years before the release of the recent Luther film. This older one was nominated for several Academy Awards and although I have seen it many years ago, I wanted to see it again to compare the two films. We may not get to the 2nd film, given the fact that digestive juices will have begun their work on the chili, but we can if enough people want to see

it. We may, however, choose to put the showing of it off until February.

Please plan to attend what promises to be a culinary delight, an educational religious experience and just plain good fellowship.

The second event will be in on February 13 when DML hosts another Friendship Sunday. To make our Sunday special, Teen Challenge will be with us for worship and join us for a belated Transfiguration meals afterwards. The Dorcas women have graciously consented to change the date of their annual Transfiguration Meal to one week later so it would coincide with Teen Challenge being here. Last year Teen Challenge was very well received by our members and we look forward to having here them again.

Friendship Sunday has been scheduled for that date also and it would be a good time to bring a friend, especially a youth, but any friend will do. The stories of the men from Teen Challenge are inspirational to listen to, and we praise God for a special love and grace shown to these persons struggling to overcome previous substance abuse addictions. Of course, their music is always a pleasure to listen to as well.

Although every Sunday is a Friendship Sunday at DML, the Evangelism Team plans these special events to give each of our members an extra special reason for inviting someone who is unchurched to come to church with them. We do this for two reasons. One is that it is our belief that our Lord has and is calling each and everyone of us to invite the unchurched to come to church, to worship Him, the Lord of our salvation. The second is our hope that as we are responsive to the Lord's call, God will cause our numbers to grow as a community of faith.

I know it is a hard thing you are being asked to do, to ask someone to come to church with you, but what is it compared to the Red Sea which stood unparted before Moses and the Hebrews, or what is it compared to Joshua as he gazed at the walls of Jericho which stood between his army and victory. Moses and Joshua were not alone in carrying out the Lord's call and they were successful. If the Lord helped Moses and Joshua how much more will he help you in what he is asking you to do.

Grace, Mercy and Peace to all the Saints at DML,
Pastor Dennis

2005 Congregation Council

2003 – 2005
 Cindy Borreson—1
 Gene Broge—1
 Gordon Eggleton—1

2004 – 2006
 Emogene Cotal—1
 Stephen Hellman—1
 Tom Whitehead—1

2005—2007
 Randy Borreson—1
 Brian Doane—1
 Russ Tilden—1

Committee's

Property—Randy Borreson & Brian Doane
 Parish Education—Russ Tilden
 Social Ministry—Russ Tilden
 Evangelism—Emogene Cotal
 Stewardship—Steve Hellman (tentative)
 Finance—Tom Whitehead & Cindy Borreson
 Worship & Music—Cindy Borreson
 Mutual Ministry—Cindy Borreson, Randy Borreson, Gene Broge, Tom Whitehead

Thank you! Thank you!

- To John Moore for delivering the Sermon and Andrew Kitchka for leading worship on December 26th.
- To the Eve Circle for donating and decorating the Christmas Tree.
- The Borreson, Broge, Johnson, and Stroh families and the Worship & Music Committee for participating in the Advent Candle lighting at the beginning of the Advent Sunday services.
- To everyone who bought raffle tickets—\$208 was raised! The winners were:
- Blanche Vanderstelt won the Afghan
- Barbara Majersky won the Flower
- Charlene Thompson won the Vegetable Grater
- Gene Broge won the Vase
- Cindy Borreson won the Music Box
- To Nancy Kitchka for purchasing items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. You can read about the families helped this year on page 5.
- The Eve Circle would like to thank everyone for the donations to the St. Nicholas tree. The Muskegon City Rescue Mission was very glad to receive them. It made the children that are residence have a "Merrier Christmas."

Please Help!

Please stay after church on Sunday, January 9th and help take our Christmas Tree down.

We have so enjoyed having in up but it must come down.

Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Nave. We can have as good a time taking it down as we did putting it up, as long as we're doing it with friends.

See you there!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact:

Deacons, Acolytes, Tellers	Cindy Borreson	(616) 846-2477
Lectors, Ushers	Janet Wolf	(231) 739-7328
Nursery	Jan Ward	(231) 799-0424

*Worship Assistants**Hymns & Lessons***January 2—2nd Sunday after Christmas**

Deacon Bill Kitchka
Lector Dave Justian
Acolyte Eric Burke
Nursery _____
Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden
Tellers Tom & Donna Whitehead

Lessons

Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12—20
 Ephesians 1:3—14
 John 1:10—18

Hymns

#39—Joy to the World**
 #57—Let Our Gladness Have No End
 #198—Let All Mortal Flesh**
 #70—Go Tell It On the Mountain

January 9—The Baptism of Our Lord

Deacon Laurie Tilden
Lector Lauren Johnson
Acolyte Andy Doane
Nursery _____
Ushers Emily & Bill Kitchka
Tellers Randy & Cindy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

Lessons

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns

#189—We Know That Christ is Raised
 #697—Wash, O God, Our Sons and
 Daughters***
 #486—Spirit of God, Descend upon My
 Heart
 #696—I've Just Come From the Fountain

January 16—2nd Sunday in the Epiphany

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Lector _____
Acolyte Bethani Eggleton
Nursery _____
Ushers Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf
Tellers LaVern & Irene Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

Lessons

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

Hymns

#652—Arise, Your Light Has Come!
 #649—I Want to Walk as a Child of the
 Light
 #766—We Come to the Hungry Feast
 #651—Shine, Jesus, Shine

January 23—3rd Sunday in Epiphany

Deacon Jan Wolf
Lector Rose Justian
Acolyte Emily Johnson
Nursery _____
Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa
Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
 John Moore

Lessons

Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

Hymns

#252—You Servants of God
 #233—Thy Strong Word
 #83—From God the Father, Virgin-Born
 #551—Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

January 30—4th Sunday in Epiphany

Deacon Cindy Borreson
Lector Cindy Borreson
Acolyte Andrew Kitchka
Nursery _____
Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa
Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
 John Moore

Lessons

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

Hymns

#712—Listen, God Is Calling
 #764—Blest Are They
 #765—Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
 #650—We Are Marching in the Light of
 God

Holiday Baskets

Thanksgiving Baskets

DML provided Thanksgiving baskets for two families this year.

One family was a single mother with two kids. They had recently lost a grandparent they were living with and didn't have the income from that person. They are struggling at this time and are in need of help. They were provided all the things for a complete Thanksgiving dinner, as well as other staples needed on a daily basis.

The other family was a father, mother and three children. The parents are searching for employment after losing jobs recently to the poor economy. They too were very thankful for the help and support. They sent a note and it was placed on the board in the entry.

Thanks to all who helped these families in need.

Christmas Baskets

DML provided Christmas baskets to families this year. More details will be printed in the February Newsletter.



Those in need of healing:

Brett Cavanaugh

Beryl Connelly

Bea Eggleton

Millie Fredrick

Stephen Hellman

Ann Hulka

Floyd Nickisch

Vicki Peterson

Jeannette Roach

Judy Slezak

(Irene Borreson's sister & previous member)

Paul Suchovsky

Lowell Tambling



Do you have a loved one 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 cborreson@charter.net and she will see they are included.

About Prayer

Said the Holy One to Israel, "I have told you that when you pray, you should do so in the synagogue in your city. If you cannot pray in the synagogue, pray in your field. If you cannot pray in your field, pray in your house. If you cannot pray in your house, pray on your bed. If you cannot pray on your bed, meditate in your heart."

What's Happening at Dr. Martin Luther?

Dorcas Circle

The Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on December 6th at Red Lobster; **12 women attended and were joined by Pastor Dennis. Thirty-six dollars (\$36) was collected towards the Missionary gift.** Gifts were given to Pastor Stroh, Pastor Michnay, and the Church.

Meetings continue on the 1st Monday of each month at 10:00 am. See Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle's 1st meeting of 2005 will be the 2nd Tuesday of January 11th at 6:30 pm.

They hope to see some new faces joining them.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.



A sign-up sheet for 2005 has been put on the bulletin board. Please select a special Sunday to honor or remember a loved one. The cost is \$20.00 and you will be billed directly by Muskegon Floral for the flowers.

BIBLE Club

The B.I.B.L.E. Club presented their Christmas Program at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

The Congregation very much enjoyed the program which involved many people from our congregation.

Actors were: Russ Tilden (shepherd), Tom Whitehead, Nathaniel Johnson, and Emily Johnson (wisemen), Ben Stroh (shepherd boy), Becky Stroh (angel), Lauren Stroh (servant), Jeff and Michelle Ward (Mary and Joseph), Olivia Ward (baby Jesus), Lauren Johnson and Laurie Tilden as (narrators).

Those involved in the production were Lauren Johnson, Lauren Stroh, Nancy Johnson, Jan Ward, Mrs. Zahrt (Shelly's Mom who made Jeff & Shelly's costumes) and Pastor Dennis who provided the incense.

The B I B L E club will resume on Sunday January 12th.

Thank you to Everyone who participated!!!

MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meetings the 1st Saturday of each month.

January's Meeting:
Nino's Restaurant
Saturday, January 8th at 9:00 am.

Contact Russ Tilden at 616-844-0883 with questions.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 16 Following worship

The purpose of this meeting to:

- Accept Committee Report
- Receive Financial Reports

As a member of DML it is your privilege and responsibility to attend this meeting. Please plan to be there.

Daily Scripture & Prayer Guide

2005 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

DAY 1

Called to Spiritual Maturity

(1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Scripture

Hosea 2:21-23, *I will say to Lo-
ammi (not my people), "you are my
people."*

Psalm 24, *Who shall ascend the hill
of the LORD?*

Colossians 1:25-28, *The mystery
that has been hidden throughout the
ages.*

John 15:1-8, *I am the vine, you are
the branches.*

Prayer

Gracious God, you continue to call us to spiritual maturity. You desire to name us as your own. Open our hearts and minds to the greatness of your calling and help us to walk in unity – in communion with Paul and Apollos and Cephas – as we proclaim and place ourselves at the service of your redeeming work in the world. Amen.

DAY 2

God Gives the Growth (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

Scripture

Genesis 1:26-2:9, The LORD planted a garden in Eden.

Psalm 104:24-31, You renew the face of the ground.

Romans 8:14-25, Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Luke 8:4-15, These are the ones who, when they hear the word... bear fruit with patient endurance.

Prayer

O God, we thank you for the

confidence and blessing which you offer to those who work for the coming of your reign in this world. Help us to find new ways to carry out your work in the service of those around us. May we serve, rather than seek to be served, and may your healing power be at work among us. United as one family of your only Son, may we be faithful stewards of your creation so that you may be known to all men and women, great and small, by all things and all people, as the true living savior and creator of all. Amen.

DAY 3

Christ Is the Unique Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

Scripture

Isaiah 28:14-16, *I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.*

Psalm 118:16-24, The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19-22, *Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

Matthew 7:24-27, *(The house) did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.*

Prayer

Lord our God, through the work of the Holy Spirit you have established in Christ the unique foundation on which your church is built. We thank you for what you have done for us in Christ. We thank you for continually upholding your church in the midst of all attempts to

destroy it. Help us by your grace that we may build on the foundation you have laid down in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DAY 4

You Are to Build on the Unique Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:12-13).

Scripture

Nehemiah 2:17-18, *Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.*

Psalm 127, *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

Matthew 20:1-16, *A landowner... went out... to hire laborers for his vineyard.*

Prayer

God, we thank you for your unique gift of life and peace in Christ. You have given our churches many different gifts. Help us see this diversity as an enrichment to building your house in this world. Let us witness to what strengthens our unity and encourage all that helps us to bring your love to the people with whom we are living. Amen.

DAY 5

God Judges Our Efforts to Build (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

Scripture

Genesis 4:2b-10a, Am I my brother's keeper?

Psalm 51:1-4, 9-13, Against you, you alone, have I sinned.

Daily Scripture & Prayer Guide

2005 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (continued)

Philippians 2:1-5, Regard others as better than yourselves.

Matthew 25:14-30, A man... summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them.

Prayer

God, through your coming to us in Jesus and through using fallible people, you have shown yourself to be a vulnerable God; we thank you that you still trust us to offer service and work for the building of your kingdom. Keep us alert to your will and purpose and open our eyes that we may see the true needs of people around us. Enable us in humility to learn from one another, that we may be united in our mutual accountability and devoted in service for your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 6

You Are God's Temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27, God created humankind in his image.

Psalms 8, What are human beings that you are mindful of them?

1 Peter 2:9-10, God's own people.

Matthew 16:24-27, If any want to become my followers.

Prayer

Eternal God, you created heaven and earth, you created human beings in your divine image, giving each of us identity and dignity. We thank you for your gift of life – life that binds us to you and to your

creation. Help us – as Christians and as churches – to receive your gift in all its fullness so that we may be able to overcome whatever limits or reduces your gift of life. Fill us with your good Spirit so that we may grow into the image of Christ and become his image in the world. Amen.

DAY 7

Folly and Wisdom, Life in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:18-20).

Scripture

Job 32:7-33, It is... the breath of the Almighty, that makes for understanding.

Psalms 14:1-7, The LORD looks down... to see if there are any... who seek after God.

1 Corinthians 1:17-30, God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

Matthew 10: 17-25a, It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Prayer

O God, full of wisdom and truth, you made known to us the folly of your love when humanity crucified your only Son, Jesus, and when you raised him from the dead as the Christ, we began to grasp your great wisdom. We pray you, keep us in the steps of your Son on the narrow road to Life. May we proclaim the good news of salvation by the cross of Jesus Christ which witnessed to life for all. May your Church today stay faithful to him who is its unique foundation and may it

lead all nations to the wisdom of your Spirit. Amen.

DAY 8

You Belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 3:21-23).

Scripture

Isaiah 44:1-8, *I am the first and I am the last.*

Psalms 89:1-4, *Your steadfast love is established forever.*

Revelation 4:1-11, *Worshipping the one who lives forever and ever.*

Mark 9:33-35, *Whoever wants to be first must be last.*

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for making us one in Christ. Give us imagination and courage to build your church together in unity and love. Make our lives and the lives of our churches a witness to your love for us and for the whole creation. Grant us unity in our time, O Lord. Amen.



Church Council Minutes—December 13, 2003

CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 pm by President Jan Wolf.

DEVOTIONS 2 Peter 1:3-11 about perseverance.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cindy Borreson, Gene Broge, Emogene Cotal, Pastor Stroh, Tom Whitehead, Janet Wolf

GUESTS: Newly-elected members of the 2005 Council: Randy Borreson, Brian Doane, Russ Tilden

EXCUSED: Gordon Eggleton, Beulah Justian

ABSENT: Steve Hellman, Betty Proksa

The normal order of business was suspended to elect the officers and to determine committee assignments for 2005. The following people were nominated and elected unanimously as officers:

President: Gene Broge
 Vice President: Randy Borreson
 Secretary: Tom Whitehead
 Treasurer: Cindy Borreson

The following committee assignments were made:

Church Property
 Randy Borreson
 Brian Doane

Parish Education
 Russ Tilden

Social Ministry
 Russ Tilden

Evangelism
 Emogene Cotal

Stewardship
 Steve Hellman (tentative)

Finance
 Tom Whitehead
 Cindy Borreson

Worship & Music
 Cindy Borreson

Gordon Eggleton and Steve Hellman were not present and therefore were not officially assigned to any committee. They will be asked to join a committee at the next Council meeting. Each committee must have at least one Council member

on it but the Council member does not necessarily need to be the committee's chairperson.

Installation of Officers and Council members will be on Sunday, 12/19/04.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the November 8, 2004 Council meeting were presented in written form. Cindy moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Gene seconded. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2004 was presented in printed form. Gene moved to accept the report, Tom seconded. Approved. The fund balances are listed on page 9.

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

- Pastor will take his last week of vacation starting Sunday, Dec. 26th. He will ask Andrew Kitchka to lead the service. Tom W. will be backup. John Moore will read the sermon.
- January 15th will be the Men's Club Chili Cook-off and Martin Luther Film Festival, showing the 2003 Martin Luther Film.
- Gene moved to accept the Pastor's report. Emorene seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports

CHURCH PROPERTY: The new members of the committee agreed to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

EVANGELISM: Committee met. Will have Friendship Sunday on Feb. 13th and will include Teen Challenge. Will have the Transfiguration Day meal that Sunday also.

FINANCE: The checking account balance is \$3.88 with all bills paid

except for snow plowing, which is due in January. It appears that most of the budgeted amount for Pastor's housing allowance will be paid from the investments. This money had been budgeted to come from the investments but the Finance Committee had hoped that we would be able to pay some of it from current expenses. The intent has been to gradually use less from the investment accounts each year so that by the time the investments are exhausted, the congregation would be able to pay the full amount from regular giving. The council directed the Finance Committee to review this situation at its next meeting to determine whether we are making satisfactory progress.

PARISH EDUCATION: Have been working with the children on the Sunday School program.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: No report.

STEWARDSHIP: No report.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Will meet again on 12/18/04 to work on the Christmas program and plan the services for January.

MUTUAL MINISTRY: No report. Next meeting will be 1/22/05.

Special Committee Reports

- Dorcas Circle & Eve Circle – Received a grant of \$1300 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This will be added to the money already received from the bazaar. This money is now in the Designated Fund.
- Men's Club – Next meeting: Saturday 1/8/2005 at Nino's on Sherman Blvd. A Chili Cook-off will be held on 1/15/05.

Petitions & Communications

None

Unfinished Business

- Cindy paid \$61.89 for ham, punch, rolls, and plates for the Advent Dinner. The cost was to be spread among the Council members so each Council member owes Cindy \$6.18.
- Tom received some information from Dave Justian regarding the Stony Lake Conference meeting in November. Dave, Rose, Gene, and Blanche attended the meeting. Dave and Rose are to be the delegates from DML.
- A question was raised about the status of the DML color brochure. Randy will call or write Steve Hellman about it.

New Business

Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting and Gene seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Whitehead
Church Secretary

LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$5,643.21
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,870.05
WH—State Tax Liability	<u>\$247.15</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$7,760.41</u>

**Breakdown of Giving for Loan
(Loan payment \$456.48)**

December 2003	\$911.00
January 2004.....	\$302.00
February 2004	\$373.00
March 2004.....	\$419.00
April 2004	\$1,218.00
May 2004	\$717.00
June 2004	\$505.00
July 2004.....	\$764.00
August 2004.....	\$722.00
September 2004.....	\$438.50
October 2004	\$924.50
November 2004.....	\$298.50

Summary Information for October

Average Attendance for October = 65
Offering Needed to meet 2004 Budget
\$7,830.54
Amount Received toward Budget \$5,267.50

**Financial Information
November 30, 2004**

ASSETS

Cash & Bank Accounts

Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$2,298.64
Cash Account	\$0.00
Savings – Reserve	<u>\$3,656.03</u>
Total Funds for General Operations	\$5,954.67

Funds for Special Purposes

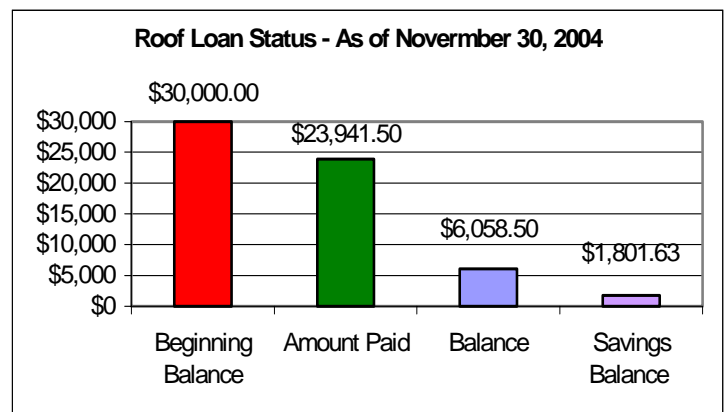
Savings—Designated	
Roof Fund (Loan)	\$1,801.63
Church Repairs	\$1,769.88
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$1,622.89
Kitchen Fund	\$350.20
Men's Club	\$275.91
Youth Group	<u>\$149.39</u>
Total Savings—Designated	\$6,038.90
Savings – Memorial	\$6,707.50
Savings – Social Security	<u>\$1,116.59</u>
Total Funds for Special Purposes	<u>\$13,862.99</u>

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$19,817.66

Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance

LB Money Market—Cash	\$1,306.17
LB Fund	\$29,703.62
LB Income Fund	<u>\$41,097.45</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$72,107.24</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$91,924.90**



Festivals and Commemorations

Saturday, January 1—The Name of Jesus

The observance of the octave (eighth day) of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Until the recent past, Lutheran calendars called this day "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." The emphasis on circumcision is the older emphasis. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already in his youth, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that he makes new through the shedding of his blood, now and on the cross. That covenant, like Jesus' name, is a gift to us and marks us as children of God. Baptized into Christ, we begin this new year in Jesus' name. Sustained by the gift of his body and blood, we will find that this year, too, we will be sustained by the gift of Christ's body and the new covenant in Christ's blood.

Sunday, January 2—Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, pastor, 1872

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. From the small town of Neuendettelsau he sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine. His work for a clear confessional basis within the Bavarian church sometimes led to conflict with the ecclesiastical bureaucracy. Loehe's chief concern was that a parish find its life in the eucharist, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. Many Lutheran congregations in Michigan, Ohio, and Iowa were either founded or influenced by missionaries sent by Loehe, and the chapel at Wartburg Theological Seminary is named in his honor.

Loehe's vision to see the eucharist at the center of parish life can lead us on to think about ways that the incarnate presence of Christ in communion sends us out in a life of ministry and mission.

Wednesday, January 5—Kaj Munk, martyr, 1944

Munk, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, was an outspoken critic of the Nazis who occupied Denmark during the Second World War. His plays frequently highlighted the eventual victory of the Christian faith despite the church's weak

and ineffective witness. The Nazis feared Munk because his sermons and articles helped to strengthen the Danish resistance movement. In one of his sermons for New Year's Day he wrote, "The cross characterizes the flags of the North [Nordic countries]. . . . Lead us, thou cross in our flag, lead us into that Nordic struggle where shackled Norway and bleeding Finland fight against an idea which is directly opposed to all our ideals" (*Four Sermons*, trans., J. M. Jensen. Blair, Neb: Lutheran Publishing House, 1944).

Munk's life and death invite us to ponder the power of the gospel in the midst of social and political conflicts. Offer prayers for those who face persecution and for those who resist and challenge tyranny.

Sunday, January 9—Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, c. 710

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England, particularly through his direction of an influential school where many church leaders were instructed.

The growing awareness of the multicultural life of the church leads many to discover surprises in the church's history; for example, that an African missionary such as Adrian would have been influential in the development of the church in England, a church sometimes perceived only as Western and European in its history. Within parish groups, use the example of Adrian to explore the cross-cultural influence within the ancient church.

Thursday, January 13—George Fox, renewer of society, 1691

Fox severed his ties among family and friends in search of enlightenment. He found no comfort in the traditional church, and he became an itinerant preacher. His preaching emphasized the abiding inward light given by God to believers as the real source of comfort and authority. His preaching led to the establishment of preaching bands of women and men known as the "Publishers of the Truth." In time, these preachers established local communities that came to be

known as the Society of Friends, or Quakers. During visits to the Caribbean and North America, Fox witnessed the evil of the slave trade, and he founded the abolitionist movement in England.

Quakers are known for the long period of silence in their meetings. Consider growing into the practice of silence in worship. Be mindful of the ways that silence breaks the hectic pace of life and leads us to attend to the wisdom of God in spoken word and through service to others.

Friday, January 14—Eivind Josef Berggrav, Bishop of Oslo, 1959

In 1937, Berggrav was elected bishop of Oslo and primate of Norway. In 1940, he was asked to negotiate with the Nazi regime in order to ascertain its intentions regarding the social and religious life of the Norwegian people. Rejecting any compromise with the occupation forces, he left the negotiations and demanded that the Nazis recognize the rights of the Jews and the autonomy of the church. Deprived of his episcopal title in 1943, he was placed under arrest, only to escape and remain in hiding in Oslo until the end of the war.

During the season of Epiphany, the life of Berggrav is another witness to the light of Christ. His life raises questions for believers today about the readiness to risk title, power, and prestige to speak for victims of injustice and seek truth in the midst of evils that face us in the world.

Saturday, January 15—Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968

Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the

Festivals and Commemorations (continued)

Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968.

Congregations may choose to remember King by singing "We shall overcome" (TFF 213) or "Holy God, you raise up prophets" (TFF 299).

Monday, January 17—Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356

Antony was born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, and was one of the earliest Egyptian desert fathers. Born to Christian parents from whom he inherited a large estate, he took personally Jesus' message to sell all that you have, give to the poor, and follow Christ. After making arrangements to provide for the care of his sister, he gave away his inheritance and became a hermit. Later, he became the head of a group of monks that lived in a cluster of huts and devoted themselves to communal prayer, worship, and manual labor under Antony's direction. The money they earned from their work was distributed as alms. Antony and his monks also preached and counseled those who sought them out.

Antony and the desert fathers serve as a reminder that certain times and circumstances call Christians to stand apart from the surrounding culture and renounce the world in service to Christ.

Tuesday, January 18—The Confession of St. Peter—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is framed by two commemorations, today's Confession of St. Peter and next week's Conversion of St. Paul. Both apostles are remembered together on June 29, but these two days give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place. During these weeks of Epiphany, with their emphasis on mission, consider holding an ecumenical worship service with neighboring congregations to embody the

unity we share in our confession of Christ, a unity granted us in our one baptism, a unity we yearn to embody more fully. The hymn "We all are one in mission" (WOV 755) could be sung at this service.

Wednesday, January 19—Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, missionary to Finland, martyr, 1156

Henry, an Englishman, became bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, in 1152 and is regarded as the patron of Finland. He traveled to Finland with the king of Sweden on a mission trip and remained there to organize the church. He was murdered in Finland by a man whom he had rebuked and who was disciplined by the church. Henry's burial place became a center of pilgrimage. His popularity as a saint is strong in both Sweden and Finland.

Today is an appropriate day to celebrate the Finnish presence in the Lutheran church. Consider singing "Lost in the night" (LBW 394), which uses a Finnish folk tune. During Epiphany we celebrate the light of Christ revealed to the nations, and martyrs such as Henry continue to reveal that light through their witness to faith.

Tuesday, January 25—The Conversion of St. Paul—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

Today the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to an end. The church remembers how a man of Tarsus named Saul, a former persecutor of the early Christian church, was led by God's grace to become one of its chief preachers. The risen Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and called him to proclaim the gospel. The narratives describing Paul's conversion in the Acts of the Apostles, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians inspire this commemoration, which was first celebrated among the Christians of Gaul.

The entire Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives us a chance to consider our calling in light of Paul's words in Galatians that all are one in Christ. The hymn "Bind us together" (WOV 748) can be used to pray that Christ will continue

to hold us in our baptismal unity.

Wednesday, January 26—Timothy, Titus, and Silas

Following the celebration of the Conversion of St. Paul, we remember his companions. Today, we remember Timothy, Titus, and Silas. They were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul. He accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece, and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

This festival invites the church to remember Christian leaders, bishops, pastors, and teachers--both men and women--who have been influential in the lives of individual members as gospel signs of the light of Epiphany.

Thursday, January 27—Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe

Today we remember three women in the early church who were companions in Paul's ministry. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a diakonos, a deacon in the church at Cenchreae, near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service, looked after many people.

Today provides an opportunity for congregations to reflect on the ministry of women, ordained and lay, wealthy and poor, who have given of themselves in service to the church and to the ministry of the gospel in their congregations.



January 2005

1 The Name of Jesus

Thank God for All Saints Lutheran Episcopal Mission in Pueblo West, Colorado, and Pastor Wesley Dunbar. All Saints held their first worship service Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004.

2 Christmas 2

God almighty, we pray that your Spirit of peace may reign within the people of Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

3 Pray for Pastor Julie Rowe, as she begins her work as communications assistant for Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem, Jordan and Palestine (ELCJ). Pray also for the ELCJ and its witness in a turbulent region.

4 Pray for Pastor Stephen Deal, the regional representative for Central America. In this role he assists the ELCA in its accompaniment of churches throughout the region. Pray for Martha Giron, Steve's spouse, as she helps the Costa Rican Lutheran Church train women in arts and crafts and sewing, so they can generate some income for their impoverished families.

5 Pray that God strengthens the ELCA synodical bishops for their work on behalf of God's mission and that during their meeting they build strong relationships and grow spiritually.

6 The Epiphany of Our Lord

Pray for Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, its pastor, Cesar Arroyo, and his wife, Aida, as they share the good news with people in North Hollywood, California. Pray especially for partners to renovate their building.

7 Praise God for the refugee ministry of St. Andrew Church in Cairo, Egypt, served by Lynn and Richard Allhusen. Thank God also for Rachel Eskesen as she di-

rects the children's English program, coordinating teacher schedules and daily activities for this refugee ministry.

8 Remember Heidi Shaker in her work with the Contact and Resource Center of Lebanon, a ministry founded to help meet the needs of victims of Lebanon's civil war. Today it works to enhance the future of Lebanon's disabled and has become one of the leaders in social rehabilitation of physically disabled people in Lebanon.

9 Baptism of Our Lord – Epiphany 1

Merciful God, we remember with hope the gift of peace. Grant your peace upon Saudi Arabia, the other countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and Iraq, that the power of your love may be known.

10 Remember Elizabeth Lord in her new assignment as an English teacher at Kyushu Gakuin School, Kumamoto, Japan, part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC). Pray for all teachers and students who participate in this education program and ministry of presence in schools of the JELC.

11 Pray that a ministry team will be found for the ELCA mission field of Lake Ann, near Traverse City, Michigan. The ministry team, in partnership with the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and area congregations, will share the hope that is Christ with a growing population.

12 Rejoice with Resurrection Lutheran Church, in Buffalo, New York. After a two-year vacancy, the congregation called Gary Steeves as their pastor.

13 Remember Lisa Burke and Kimberly Warnes, who are teaching at Ramesses College for Girls, a school of the Synod of the Nile of the Evangelical Church of Egypt. Both are participants in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

14 Pray that the Holy Spirit guides and inspires Pastor Paul Cheung and Grace Chinese Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington, as they organize their outreach to both first- and second-generation immigrants.

15 Pray for Lara Forbes, working with the Costa Rican Lutheran Church in youth and children ministries and enabling communication with the delegations that go to Costa Rica to learn and share with their Lutheran brothers and sisters. Thank God for the companion relationship between the Southwestern Texas Synod and the Lutheran Church in Costa Rica.

16 **Epiphany 2
Lord, who through a vision to your servant John of Patmos revealed yourself amid the seven churches of Asia, encouraging, reproving, and challenging those first Christian communities, continue to walk with today's churches in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey.**

17 Thank God for the ministry of the schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jerusalem (ELCJ) as they reach out with God's love to all people, even in the midst of hardships. Pray for Andrew Willis, who is assisting Dr. Charlie Haddad, the director of ELCJ schools.

18 Pray for Jane and Pastor Ted Zimmerman in their ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK). Ted teaches in the field of New Testament studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary and assists with pastoral leadership of one of the congregations of the ELCHK.

19 Praise God for the growing Latino ministry of Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and pray that they find the resources to purchase an appropriate site for this ministry that serves the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

20 Pray for Pastor Ivis LaRiviere-Mestre and the congregation of San Martín de Porres as they reach out to the growing Latino community in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

21 Pray for Laura Wilkinson, serving with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program in Egypt. She teaches English to the staff of Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development, an NGO that aims at improving the quality of living for the poor and deprived people in Upper Egypt.

22 Give thanks for the continued “shuttle ministry” of Drs. Helmut and Rotraut Diefenthal, who spend ten months a year at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania, and two months a year in Minneapolis, raising support for the school. We pray also for some of the companion relationships that exist between ELCA synods and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania: Northwestern Ohio and Dodoma, Northwest Pennsylvania and Karagwe, and Lower Susquehanna and Konde.

23 **Epiphany 3**
Almighty God, grant your wisdom and love upon the people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, that they may live in peace and harmony.

24 Remember Barbara and Pastor John LeMond as they serve within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. John teaches church history, theology, and world religions at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, and coordinates interfaith programs with the Tao Fang Shan Centre.

25 Praise God for Calvary Lutheran Church in Belleville, Illinois. Calvary’s developing ministry trains people who are physically challenged to be ministry leaders.

26 Pray for Karen Gabe as she pursues full-time Chinese language study in China in preparation for a long-term counselor/trainer assignment. As a member of the Christian Foreign Fellowship, Karen also assists with volunteer counseling services among the Chinese and expatriate communities of her city.

27 Give thanks to God for Rachel Evans, Gretchen Gier, Raymond Ranker, and Michael Spiedel, and their willingness to serve the people of Argentina. They are all in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

28 Pray that the Holy Spirit guides and inspires Pastor Kristine Fahey and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, a transformational ministry in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

29 Pray for Judy Perry as she assists in medical work among mothers and infants in the People’s Republic of China and engages in health worker training with Evergreen Foundation. Pray for all medical workers and those who care for the ill and suffering throughout Asia.

30 **Epiphany 4**
Gracious God, we remember the Christian communities in China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan, and give you thanks for the vitality and growth of the churches. We lift up to you ELCA synods who work and pray with their companion churches: Sierra Pacific Synod and the Taiwan Lutheran Church, and Southwest California and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong.

31 Pray for Pastor Phil and Patty Stringer in Taipei, Taiwan, where he serves as pastor at the Church of the Good Shepherd Anglican-Episcopal Church. Through Phil’s leadership, the ELCA and the Episcopal Church USA share a common mission. Remember also the vital ministry of international congregations around the world.

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.

***Prayer Ventures* is available electronically. Visit us at www.elca.org**



Remember our friends and family members in the Military

SSgt. Kevin William Sellon (*Mike & Carol Sellon's son*)
United States Army—Stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Sgt. Kenneth W. Hawkins (*Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew*)
United States Army—Iraq

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—Basic Training, Fort Leonardwood, Missouri

If you'd like to add a name to this list, please contact Cindy Borreson.

Prayer for those in Military Service

God our Stronghold and Shield:
Watch over those dear to us
serving in this time of war. Go
before them to make their path
safe, shelter them by night and by
day. Lift them up when they grow
weary. Fortify their hearts when
they are afraid. Defend them
through the storm in the
assurance of your presence and
mercy, and keep them in the com-
panionship of Jesus, through
whom we pray. **Amen.**

Looking Ahead

Friendship Dinner

*Sponsored by
Dorcas Circle*

*Sunday,
February 13, 2004*

*Immediately Following
Worship*

More details to follow



Luther Film Festival & Chili Cook-off

Please join us on Saturday,
January 15 at 1:00 pm for:

Men's Club Chili Cook-off
and

Luther Film Festival
Old & New

Plan to spend an afternoon with
friends enjoying different ver-
sions of chili and different ver-
sions of Luther.

Please contact Pastor Dennis or
Russ Tilden with any questions.

January 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 THE NAME OF JESUS
2 1st Sunday after Christmas NO Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club <i>Johan Konrad Wilhelm Loehe,</i>	3 10 am Dorcas Circle	4 7 pm Finance Committee	5 7 pm Property Committee <i>Kaj Munk, martyr,</i>	6 2 pm & 10 pm Bible Study THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	7	8 9 am Men's Club Breakfast @ Nino's
9 Baptism of Our Lord NO Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	10 6:30 pm Congregation Council	11 6 pm Parish Education Committee 6:30 Eve Circle	12	13 2 pm & 10 pm Bible Study <i>George Fox, renewer of society, 1691</i>	14 <i>Elvind Josef Berggrav, Bishop of Oslo, 1959</i>	15 1 pm Men's Club Chili Cook-off & Film Festival <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of</i>
16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club Annual Congregational Meeting (following worship)	17 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday observed</i>	18 THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins</i>	19 <i>Henry, bishop, missionary martyr, 1156</i>	20 2 pm & 10 pm Bible Study	21	22 10 am Worship & Music Committee
23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	24 6:30 pm Evangelism Committee	25 THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends</i>	26 <i>Timothy, Titus, and Silas</i>	27 2 pm & 10 pm Bible Study <i>Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe</i>	28	29 9 pm Mutual Ministry Committee @ Nino's
30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	31					

**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

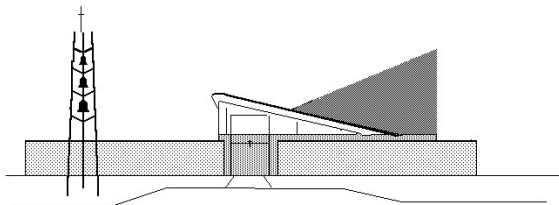
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2005

THE SEASONS OF
CHRISTMAS and
EPIPHANY



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THE CHURCH DOOR
January 2005
The Seasons of Christmas & Epiphany

