



# The Messenger

JULY 2008

## Our Mission

### Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshipping, learning and sharing.

## Welcome Ontario!

Come and join the fun! Meet Canadians from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hanover and Zion Lutheran Church in Waterloo. They arrive at 4 p.m. on Friday, July 18th and will be here until Sunday, July 20.

Let's give them a great welcome from Christ Lutheran. All youth are encouraged to come for a bonfire, BBQ, volleyball, ping pong, movies and worship at our overnight on Friday. A pancake breakfast will be served Saturday morning and then everyone is off to Meadow Vista Rehabilitation Center in Avon Lake for some mission work and a cookout.

The Canadians will help with our Sunday service on July 20th before leaving for Cedar Point and then heading back home.

Sign up on the bulletin board today — make a commitment to spend some time with youth and adults from another Lutheran church... from Canada. You won't be disappointed that you did!



## Clothe-A-Child for School



Will you sponsor a child from Lorain County with new clothes for the new school year? LOVE INC needs 600 church families willing to provide new clothes for needy school children.

Interested? Sign below and place in offering plate. You will receive a specific order for a specific child in mid-July. Approximate value of the order is \$75. You may wish to co-share an order with another family to reduce the cost.

There are currently other areas of need at LOVE INC. Please consider sharing your time and talents and fill out the form below. Forms can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday. Please return them ASAP.

Thank you. - Blessings! Doreen Hammon

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping in the following ways:

\_\_\_ volunteering at the LOVE INC office.

\_\_\_ receive weekly prayer requests via e-mail.

\_\_\_ help assist clients in need.

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## Summary of Church Council Meeting June 5, 2008

### **Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindrich**

The Parking Lot Loan had been paid off as of May 2008. The Willing Hearts loan balance is \$202,440. The 2008 Budget shortfall is \$18,453. Our Benevolent commitment to NEO Synod would be met by the end of June. Approved to use proceeds from Building Fund Contributions for the current building payoff.

### **President's Report – Tom Reiner**

Pastor Schlessman and Roberta Ekleberry attended the Synod Assembly in May. There was very little change in the major issues discussed at previous assemblies.

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Schlessman**

Committee chairpersons were asked to complete meeting schedules so they could be published in the church calendar on a monthly basis. A Council Retreat is being planned at Camp Mowana as an overnight event on a Friday and Saturday. Preferably it will be done in July or August.

### **Old Business:**

The Christian Education position is still vacant.

### **Finance Committee –**

The Finance Committee met with the treasurer to review the current year budget and year to date actual results.

### **Property: - Tom Ballintine (absent)**

The replacement of some 80 ballasts for lighting fixtures by Sylvania at no cost, was completed in May.

Approved the carpeting selection by Jim Roden and the style is "1685 Marine".

### **Outreach Committee – Cathy Mohny**

We are working on further development of this committee.

### **Worship and Music – Ryan Smarsh**

A questionnaire is being prepared for July or August to solicit opinions of the members about the worship services.

### **Stewardship – Mike Muir**

We have begun to review materials for the Fall Campaign.

### **Evangelism – Roberta Ekleberry**

This committee is developing a questionnaire that would seek participation for very specific activities.

### **Fellowship – Bob Olds**

We are looking into the possibility of an August camping trip, a dinner and show event, the potential for Sunday dinners to compliment Sunday activities, and reviewing the "Dinners for Eight" program. Fellowship would coordinate with Evangelism on coffee after the service.

### **Youth Committee – Tom Reiner**

"Welcome Ontario", Pastor John's youth group mission trip from Canada will be at our church July 18-20.

### **New Business:**

The Special Congregational meeting on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> following the worship Sunday service will be a line item review of the current budget.

Approved CCRC use of the Social Hall 18 dates this summer for \$65 for each use and payment made to the church.

Approved the removal and disposal of the pews in the choir loft as the Property Committee had requested.

The church picnic is July 20<sup>th</sup> and the Fellowship Committee is in charge.



## Take Time This Summer to Read a Good Book!

Book Club will meet at Barbara Rehker-Lee's home, 562 Marbrook Lane, on Sunday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m. for a cookout in Barb's garden. We will select books for the coming year. Meetings are held monthly during the school year, on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If you enjoy reading and participating in an informal discussion about books, please consider joining. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Rehker-Lee at (440) 933-7107.

## A quiz:

1. Who has been helping with the newsletter for more than twenty years?
2. Who schedules and coordinates lawn mowing?
3. Who folds and stuffs the bulletins each week?
4. Who locks the doors and turns out the lights most Sunday mornings?
5. Who lights the candles, readies the table for communion, and cleans up after the 5 p.m. service?
6. Who prepares the newsletter for mailing each month?
7. Who makes sure Clothe a Child and Love Loaf projects happen at Christ Lutheran (including counting all the coins that are put in the Love Loaves)?
8. Who plants and waters flowers in the planters and beds and pots around the church?
9. Who is heading up the Prayer Chain?



**For those of you who do not know the answers are:**

1. Marilyn Pressnell; 2. Chuck Heindrichs; 3. Don and Joyce Tremain; 4. Mostly Howard Pressnell and Ryan Smarsh; 5. Bill Higgins; 6. Naomi Circle and other volunteers including: Ruth Higgins, Ruth Kochenower, Esther Bolden, Phyllis Rehker, Shirley Blaser, Chris Toy, Tammy Johnson, and Shirley Mitchell; 7. Doreen Hammon; 8. Barb Rehker-Lee, Shirley Mitchell, Patty Knip and Jim Roden; 9. Ruth Higgins.

Take time to thank them. We are all blessed through their contributions!

Peace be with you.  
Pastor Schlessman

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING May, 18, 2008

### **Treasurer – Chuck Heindrichs**

Our budget for this year is \$253,000, but donations are down \$16,000. A letter to the members asked them to donate part of their Stimulus Payment to the church. Since we did not use the \$8,000 set aside for a youth director that will help toward the current deficit. The Willing Hearts Campaign has a current loan balance of \$292,000. We will get a line-by-line budget so that we would be aware of where all budget cuts would need to be made.

### **Election**

President, Tom Reiner (2 yr. term)  
Treasurer, Chuck Heindrichs (2 yr. term)  
Fellowship, Bob Olds (2 yr. term)  
Worship & Music, Ryan Smarsh (2 yr. term)  
Property, Tom Ballantine (1 yr. term)  
V. President, Russ Roth (1 yr. term)  
Secretary, Kris Simecek (1 yr. term)  
Outreach, Cathy Mohny (2 yr. term)  
Christian Ed., OPEN (2 yr. term)  
Evangelism, Roberta Ekleberry (2 yr. term)

The slate was approved.

Shirley Mitchell was elected as our Congregational Representative to the Nursery School Board

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Schlessman**

He presented a list of the goals discussed at the Home Meetings.

1. Strengthen our commitment to the junior and senior high youth.
2. Continue with contemporary music and offer it regularly.
3. To provide additional opportunities for service to people who are in need.

To attract, connect, and maintain relationships with small group ministries through scripture, fellowship, and service. To manage pastoral changes and responsibilities. He also mentioned that the addition of the 5 p.m. Saturday service has put added pressure on his schedule. The goals were approved by members.

### **New Business:**

Tom Reiner, a member of the Youth Committee reported that to hire a full time Youth Director the cost would be \$60,000 to \$80,000. The budget does not allow us to do this at this point. Parental support is needed, plus members of the congregation would also be very helpful, We will have a line-by-line itemization of the current year's budget ready for a special meeting.



## Shop 'til you drop for Family Promise

Are you asking yourself, "*What can I do during our hosting week with Family Promise?*" ????

In the gathering area, there will be a sign up for food items that you may donate. Look for further information coming in your bulletins. Thank you for caring.

- Shirley Mitchell and  
Carol Meiners

## Genesis House is proud to present *A Local Flavor*

The event boasts Lorain County's premier and select dining. Your ticket includes eats and drinks for the entire evening, a wine glass to take home, door prizes and opportunities to win exciting raffle items. The event will showcase a live auction of professionally framed art work created by the Children of Genesis House. The Wine Room in Avon will host a Wine Tasting.

***Don't delay---The event is limited to the first 200 people!!!***

**Date:** July 25, 2008

**Location:** Puskas Family Flowers – 2493 N. Ridge Rd. E Lorain

**Time:** 6:00-9:00 pm

**Cost:** Presale – \$35/person

Day of event – \$45/person

By attending A Local Flavor July 25<sup>th</sup> you will be supporting Genesis, Lorain County's only domestic violence Shelter, and we are helping to guarantee that a few more women and children are kept safe and able to move on to the next chapter in their life.

**All proceeds benefit Genesis House.**

**Call (866) 213-1188 for more information.**

## Lutheran Metro Ministry (LMM)

### Volunteer Opportunity:

Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP) Leap is seeking volunteers in the western suburbs who are willing to provide non-medical, in home visits to people with disabilities who wish to remain in the community. Examples include: visiting someone on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as a companion, taking someone on an outing, helping with shopping, or helping with yard work. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Foley at 216-431-8312 or [KFoley@leapinfo.org](mailto:KFoley@leapinfo.org)

### Wish List: Youth Re-Entry Program

Support To At-Risk Teen's Youth Re-entry Program, a semi-independent living for youth ages 16-21, is in need of the following items: household furniture, cleaning supplies, dishes, electronics, personal hygiene items and baby items. Many of the youth participants have been in numerous foster homes and residential institutions and this is their last opportunity to learn essential life skills before they on their own. This program has a reputation for believing in, working and succeed, with youth who have been unsuccessful in other programs. If you have items you wish to donate, please call Michelle Latham-Morris at 216221-8920.

## Aha!

Our many thanks to all the "**Power Lab**" VBS volunteers. We had a wonderful time discovering Jesus' miraculous power!

Thank you for sharing your time spreading God's word! We learned that Jesus gives us the power: *to be thankful, to help others, to be brave, to live forever, and to tell others about God!* We had 126 children in attendance, and 60 terrific volunteers helping to teach kids the power of Jesus! We also collected \$875 in offering which will go directly to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. Jesus is so powerful that we also raised approx. \$500 in donations to help with the cost of our Vacation Bible School here at Christ Lutheran!

We are truly thankful to have a wonderful place to have our Bible School and for everyone who made the endeavor possible! All your hard work and dedication helped bring about the most miraculous discovery of all—that Jesus gives us the power!

Have a 'Powerful' summer, and give Glory to God!

Tammy Johnson & Chris Toy  
VBS Directors

***Please pray for:***

Barney Klement  
 Milan Kral  
 Stella Reschke  
 Nita Reiber -- now at home  
 Ethel Tomlin -- back at  
 Independent Village

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**Baptism:**

Sophia Jocelyn, daughter of Damion  
 and Dawn Crannis.

*WELCOME CHILD OF GOD!*

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Today is the day that our family has been waiting a long time for. **Ned is coming home today!** He has been out of Iraq and in Indiana for the past 3 days, but he will now fly home this evening. We just want to thank everyone for all of your support and prayers over this part year. Without you and God it would have been impossible to get through this part of our lives. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you and God Bless you,  
 Ned, Lorrie, Alli, and Jessi Long

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***Sympathy to...***

We extend our sympathy to Arline Walters and her family on the death of her husband, Dale.

**CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE**

Now that the school year has come to a close I hope you will have more time to use the church library. It is located next to the Sanctuary. (former office location prior to the new addition)

Book selections include: children's, youth, teen, young adult, adult, adult family helps, devotional, inspirational, Bible helps and resources, videos, CD's, tapes and even our church history books.

We have a self-help, user friendly system, so stop by anytime to have a look around. Sign out a book or three to take home and enjoy. Return within three weeks so that others can enjoy them also.

We are open to suggestions for the library. We are also looking for new members for Martha Circle and are also accepting donations of Christian-based literature for the library. Please keep in mind that we are not a secular library.

Here's to good reading,

Anita Hlava  
 Martha Circle

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**Habitat for Humanity****SEVENTH ANNUAL HABITAT WALK REPORT**

The April 19<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity Walk netted \$14,342!!! Prior giving in anticipation of the Walk from individuals and churches was \$22,000 making the gross amount raised, \$36,850!!! The goal of \$19,780 has been met! The additional funds go toward the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanities affiliate's goal, \$49,450.

One Hundred four people participated (28 churches represented) in the Walk on a beautiful Spring day!

THANK YOU!

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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***Worship Opportunities:  
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.  
Sundays at 9 a.m. The Nursery  
is available during the 9 a.m.  
worship service.***

*We're on the web!  
[www.celcal.org](http://www.celcal.org)*

NO. 4766



Place  
first class  
stamp  
here.

## Annual Church Picnic



Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 20th. You are invited to the annual church picnic at The Lake House, across the street from the church on Lake Road, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. Burgers, hot dogs and water will be provided. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway for you to sign up for a food dish to bring and share. There will be games to play and all kinds of socializing going on. Don't miss out on the summertime fun—mark your calendars today! See Bob Olds or Carol Meiners if you have any questions.

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**5th Annual Women's Picnic:** All women of Christ Lutheran Church are cordially invited to the annual picnic hosted by Martha Circle. It will be held in the Bleser Field Pavilion on Tuesday, August 5, from 6-9 p.m. Beverages, rolls, and all table service will be provided. Please bring a casserole, salad, appetizer or dessert to share. Bring card games or board games to share. We hope to see you there!



Anita Hlava, Martha Circle