

The Lutheran Light

"As the Body of Christ, St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church is called by the Father through the Holy Spirit to worship God and witness to others."

Vol. 34 No. 11, November 2012

The Pastor's Prism



Common Ground

Some of our 250th anniversary year celebrations will continue into next year. Pr. Dieter Kuchenbecker from St. Jürgen's Church of the Schlamersdorf Parish in northern Germany visited us on October 11-16, and is making plans for a youth exchange trip. Plans are for these German youth and chaperones to be with us from about July 1st through the 14th, 2013. During most of this time the 15-20 youth and adults expected will be hosted by us. We do need more hosts and already have received commitments from the Sparacinos, Wisners, Meadows, Hubers, and Fleischers.

Conversations with Pr. Richard Scott of St. Mary's UCC indicates their interest in being involved with hosting and the program as it is developed. Hosting involves providing bed and food for most nights during this period, and arranging for transportation to and from the church. By the way, the Germans know English and we're hoping to put youth together in two's or perhaps more in homes.

Jim Huber has agreed to serve as chairperson for the committee in planning and setting up this event. We've also asked that at least one member from each host family be involved. Jim Crist has also expressed an interest in being involved and we hope others will volunteer similarly. Please see Jim Huber or me if you're interested in serving.

Also, Pr. Kuchenbecker would like to entitle this event *Common Ground*. He hopes that this trip will lead us all to find other common ground we share as American and Germans. Understanding the similarities and differences of our cultures might help us learn and grow in greater appreciation for one another.

Already we recognize that we share a commonality in Christ as St. Paul writes to the Romans (12:5), **"We, who are many are one body in Christ, and**

individually we are members of one another." Christ transcends the differences between people because of culture, nationality, language, distance, or anything else.

The specific agenda for July is still very much a work in progress, but what is planned may include: Bible studies; perhaps a viewing of a Martin Luther film; trips to Washington, Baltimore, Hershey, Lancaster County, Mother Seton Shrine at Emmitsburg; etc. It has been suggested that the German group worship with St. Mary's UCC on their first Sunday here and then on the final Sunday share in worship with us. Details will subsequently be worked out through our committee in consultation with Pr. Kuchenbecker.

This is a bold and exciting opportunity for us to share and grow together with folks from another culture who represent the "old country" from which many of our ancestors came even as we share all things in Christ.

(See adjacent article for background information about Pr. Kuchenbecker and the people of St. Jürgen's Evangelical Lutheran Church.)

+” Pr. Lee”

Almighty God, we thank You for the opportunities to interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Germany. We pray that You would direct our planning and lead us to find the resources needed to make this a meaningful experience for all who are involved so that You may receive all the glory and that Your mission among us as followers of Your Son Jesus Christ may go forward through Him in Whose Name we pray. AMEN



An Interview with Pr. Kuchenbecker

(The interview was conducted from reconstructed conversations from Oct. 11-15, and I take full responsibility for any errors- + "Pr. Lee")

Tell us something about yourself, family and your ministry.

PK—I am married to Hannelore, who is an architect, and we have 16 year old daughter, Irene. We live in Nehms but I serve as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Jürgen's in Schlamersdorf located in the state of Schleswig-Holstein. I have served at St. Jürgen's for 11 ½ years where my focus has been primarily involved with youth ministry along with normal pastoral duties of Word and Sacrament ministry.

Tell us something about the congregation, church, and area you serve.

PK—We have around 1870 persons enrolled in our congregation and on most Sundays around 20-50 persons attend. When I first came there were only 3 Sunday worshipers! On festival occasions, like St. Hubertus (patron saint of hunters) we will have a 100 or more. St. Jürgen's origin goes back to the 1300 century. It burned down in 1870 and was rebuilt in its present form in 1873.

We have a contract with the governments of Seedorf and Nehms for holding a kindergarten at our church which includes 70 children and 10 teachers.

The people of our congregation include farmers, workers at a grain mill, government workers, insurance agents, nurses, and many other professions.

(Continued on page 2.)

Council Highlights

Council met on October 8, 2012.

1. The Christmas Program and Dinner is scheduled for December 9, 2012 beginning between 4:00-4:30pm with the meal being provided by Bentley's of Taneytown, MD.
2. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, November 11 immediately after the church service in the Parish House with a Brunch provided by the Sunday School with proceeds going to support Mahantesh Baburao.
3. On Sunday, November 4 after church members from our congregations will be traveling to New Oxford to the gravesite of the first pastor of our congregation, Pastor Bager. We will stop at a restaurant on the way up or back "Dutch Treat".

~Submitted, Gail Wisner
Council Secretary

As Luther Says...*

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Psalm 5 (viii)

In this life, two attitudes can be adopted: fear and hope. These are two springs, one flowing from on high, the 'upper' spring as described in Judges 1 (xv). Fear stems from contemplating God's threats and His fearful judgement seat and in His sigh no-one is clean, no-one is free from sin and no-one is safe from damnation. Hope stems from contemplating God's promise and His infinitely benign mercy as described in Psalm 25 (vi).

Schriften, 6.Bd.5.253

*Luther's Breviary. A Meditation for Each Day of the Year, Wartburg Verlag GmbH, Weimar Und Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung, 2007, ISBN 978-3-86160-195-1

An Interview with Pr. Kuchenbecker (continued)

In our township of about 3000 people, 2000 of them are Lutherans.

What issues are facing the people of your congregation these days?

PK—The growing number of poor people in our area, some of who came out of eastern Germany and other countries following reunification cause social concerns. Thus, the difference between the rich and the poor has widened. Accustomed to socialistic governments they have made strong demands for the goods and services they need. It's a challenge for the church and the government to meet their needs.

How are Lutheran churches in your area governed?

PK—There is a common constitution for our churches which determines that the pastor will be the president or vice president of the church council. The church council makes decisions about the tax money which supports the church. A person pays 10 % of his taxes to the church. If he elects not to pay, then he will removed from the church rolls and not allowed to receive services of the church such baptism, confirmation or funeral. In our area 95% of the youth want to be confirmed and confirmation is a big, celebratory event in our church families.

What about Sunday school in your church?



L-R: Pastor Lee, Pastor Kuchenbecker, Craig Fleischer- Council Pres.

There is no tradition of Sunday schools in our church. That is associated more with the pietistic churches.

What sort of changes have you noticed since the time you first began your ministry?

PK—There are fewer rules today. Formerly people dressed more formally, and showed more respect for one another. People today seem inclined to do whatever they want, and that is accompanied by increasing individualism. People expect you to do more for them.

What dreams do you have for St. Jürgen's congregation?

PK—I hope that we will be able to have fellowship groups for every age grouping of our people.

News Around the Parish

THANKS FOR THE RETURN OF EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP BOOKS! We now are down only about 6 and would appreciate those being returned.

A NEW TIME CAPSULE will be placed back at the site from which the 1962 capsule was extracted. This will occur in late November. Among the items we will be placing in the capsule is our current 2012 pictorial directory. Share your prayers, thoughts, hopes, and greetings for those who may unearth the capsule in 2062 or later by making pencil entry in the directory found on the lectern in the overflow room.

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CREATIVE CRAFTERS are considering having a second craft session that would meet during the week. We are also asking for volunteers to help again during our Keebler baking days the week before the Christmas Bazaar. Please see Cindy Sparacino or Fran Crist if you would be interested in joining us and what day works best for you. We'd like to give a special thank you to all those who have been so generous in donating craft supplies. Many of our recent fall projects were made from your donations. Donations for upcoming projects would again be gratefully appreciated such as grape-vine and artificial evergreen wreaths,, ***Christmas-themed*** greens, floral supplies, picks, wide ribbon, fabric, decorations and notions, and wide-mouth mason jars .

A COPY OF THE CARROLL LUTHERAN ANNUAL REPORT is available for perusal on the register at the rear of the church. Also, you will find a copy of the new **ELCA Good Gifts Catalog**. The catalog provides an alternative way of gift giving to others.

FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE ANNUAL RAFFLE - Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 - chance to win three items with one ticket. Drawing during the Village Holiday, Dec. 1st. 1st - 86 x 93" Hand Quilted Scrappy Nine-patch Quilt (see bulletin board picture), 2nd - Handmade Afghan, 3rd - Framed Victorian Print "Bubbles". See Fran Crist for tickets.

OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IS FAST APPROACHING. Items are needed for the "Silent Auction". Single items that can be grouped with something else or a themed grouping (ie: dogs, cates, girls, boys, DVD's for movie nigh) or gift cards to restaurants, fast food, grocery stores, hair saloons, big box stores, etc. See Fran Crist if you can donate anything. Thank you.

Hosting Our Seminarian

A part of our responsibility as a teaching parish (TP) site for the seminary is to provide a meal for our seminarian each Sunday that she is with us. This is a way that she gets to know us and we get to know her. Your time with her should be natural and not rushed; however, frequently she will be meeting with Pastor Lee following the meals to have mentor sessions based on the seminary's program. Below are the Sundays on which we expect Pam to be with us, and you are encouraged to please let Ann Brumback of the Sunday you would be willing to host her. Thanks in advance for your sharing!

- Nov. 4 (Trip to Pr. Bager's grave)
- Nov. 11 (Annual Meeting - Brumbacks)
- Nov. 18 Wisner Family
- Nov. 25 (No TP—Thanksgiving)

- Dec. 2
- Dec. 7 Brumback Family

Past Facts

Each month during our anniversary year Cindy Lawyer will be selecting items of interest from our congregational council minutes beginning in 1876, and perhaps other sources, from past history of St. Mary's.



Starting in Nov., 1908 there were many improvements needed at the church and parsonage. One item needing improvement was the outhouse at the church. Finally in May, 1909 it was decided to erect a new outhouse. In March, 1910 it was still not completed and was not completed until April, 1910.

Repairs had been made to the furnace and it still was not working properly.

In November, 1910 it was decided to order a new steam heating plant for church. The congregation was canvassed to get subscriptions to pay for the new heating plant.

There were many other improvements made to parsonage (painting, wallpaper, cement walk) At the church chimneys, roof and water plant were repaired, trees were trimmed, painting done and carpet repaired.

With all these expenses money was short and it was necessary to borrow money to pay the bills and Pastor's salary.

~ Cindy Lawyer

Prayer Ventures

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 All Saints Day - Pray for the ELCA Malaria Campaign that it may continue to reduce cases of the disease in Africa. In Zambia, the campaign's education and treatment has reportedly helped cut the incidence of malaria in half.

2 Pray for Marilyn Hansmann, an ELCA missionary who is using her accounting skills to serve in Cairo, Egypt.

3 Pray for the thousands of women and children who comprise the majority of the refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria.

4 All Saints Sunday - O God, we thank you for all of the saints who have gone before us. We especially lift up those who dedicated their lives to your service as international missionaries; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

5 Pray for Amanda Brateng, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer serving in the United Kingdom.

6 On this Election Day, pray for the nation's voters that they will cast thoughtful ballots, and give thanks for all the candidates, both local and national, who cared enough to become involved.

7 Pray for the Rev. May Wong-Tsui, an ELCA missionary in Hong Kong serving in parish ministry.

8 Give thanks for the over \$1 million dollars that ELCA members have donated in the last year to help those struggling to survive a drought in Africa.

9 Pray for the God's guidance for the members of the ELCA Church Council as they meet today through Monday in Chicago.

10 Pray for the many ELCA missionaries -- such as Susan Smith in the Central African Republic who is studying Sango -- who are learning a new language so

they can more effectively do God's work.

11 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Gracious God, Bless families everywhere and fill all homes with the joy of your presence. Strengthen the commitment of parents that they may mirror your unconditional love and be examples for their children; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

12 Pray for the continued fruitful and committed relationship between the ELCA and our fellow Christians in China.

13 Pray for Patrick Meers, an ELCA missionary in Tokyo who is teaching English as a second language.

14 Pray for Casey Sweeney, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer serving in Mexico.

15 Pray for The Lutheran World Federation, its 140 member churches in 79 countries and its relief and development projects that circle the globe.

16 Pray for the Rev. Austin and Tanya Propst, ELCA missionaries in Madagascar where they are Young Adults in Global Mission program coordinators.

17 Pray for Kristen Wall, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer serving in Hungary.

18 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Almighty God, comfort all who mourn the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods and Sean Smith who were killed in Libya. Lead us from death to life and from despair to hope. Let us find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

19 Pray for Mike Busbey, an ELCA missionary in Managua, Nicaragua, where he serves in youth ministry and is a companion synod liaison.

20 Pray for the Rev. Theodore and Jane Zimmerman, ELCA missionaries in

Hong Kong serving in theological education.

21 Pray for all Muslims and Christians and the leaders of both faiths that the violence and antagonism of today will be replaced with love and respect.

22 Day of Thanksgiving - On this Thanksgiving Day pray for those who are struggling -- sometimes silently -- to survive in our society and are seeking security amid a world that seems cruelly filled with bounty.

23 Pray for Jenna Homeyer, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer serving in Jerusalem/West Bank.

24 Pray for the staff of the ELCA's Multicultural Ministries as they work with Lutheran ethnic communities to make a better and more welcoming world for all through Christ.

25 Christ the King - O God, we thank you for giving us Jesus. You raised him from the dead and made him king of all creation. Hear our prayers today and help us to see your glory in the face of the poor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

26 Pray for ELCA missionary Dana Olson and her social-work ministry in London.

27 Pray for the Rev. Lancelot and Kwena Mkhabela, ELCA missionaries in Nigeria, and their work in theological education, evangelism and inter-faith dialogue.

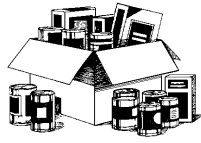
28 Pray for John Stribel and Melissa Theesen, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania working in the areas of administration and leadership development.

29 Pray for Jane Gingrich, an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer serving in Madagascar.

30 Pray for ELCA missionary Mary Borgman and her work in South Africa in HIV and AIDS ministry.

Non-Perishable Food Drive

Help us feed the needy in Carroll County during November. Non-perishable food items will be collected for Silver Run Community Food Pantry. Please place them in the designated box in the overflow room.



Annual Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held November 11th at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Parish House. Purpose of the meeting will be to review the highlights of church's mission over the last year, consider a proposed budget for calendar year 2013, elect church council members, hold discussion and share some hopes for 2013. Prior to the meeting at about 10:45 a.m. the Sunday School will provide a brunch with a free-will offering collected to support Mahantesh Babura, and Indian youth, through World Vision.

Office Closure

The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, November 22nd & Friday, November 23rd.

Please have information for the bulletin and December newsletter in to the church by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 21st.

Veteran's Day

In Honor of Veteran's Day (November 11th) we thank the members of St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church who have served our country. Their individual names will appear in the Sunday, November 11th bulletin.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

on
Wednesday, November 21st,
at 7:30 p.m.
Offerings collected will go to
Carroll County Food Sunday.



Poinsettia Orders

It is time to order flowers to be placed around the altar for our Christmas Eve service.

White or Red Poinsettias
6" pot with total of 3 to 5 blooms\$9.00 each
(Price guide: 1 - \$9.00, 2 - \$18.00, 3- \$27.00)

Fill in this form and mail along with your **check made out to St. Mary's Lutheran Church** to the church office.

Please Print Legibly
Deadline for ordering: Sunday, November 18th.

Ordered by _____

Phone # _____

(How many) # _____ **White** Poinsettias @ \$9.00 each

Total paid? _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

(How many)# _____ **Red** Poinsettias @ \$9.00 each

Total paid? _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

Should you have questions, call Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030.

Thrivent Financial Economic Outreach Bridge Grant Awarded! -

The Silver Run Community Food Pantry (through St. Mary's Lutheran Church) has been chosen to receive a \$5,000 Economic Outreach Bridge grant in recognition of the significant impact being made to strengthen its local community via its outreach service programs from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation! One reason the foundation provides grants such as this is that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' purpose as a faith-based membership organization is to strengthen Christian communities by helping members be wise with money and inspired to live generously. The Pantry is considered a fine example of its members being wise with money and being inspired to offer generosity to those in need. It is their hope that receipt of this grant will bring additional awareness to continue to inspire others to join in and extend its services beyond the bond of Lutheranism to help others. They have also offered the Silver Run Community Food Pantry the opportunity to earn an additional \$5,000 challenge grant. For every dollar donated toward the pantry's basic outreach service work between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, Thrivent will match at 50 cents up to a total grant of another \$5,000. If you would like to donate, please make your checks payable to St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church and designate "Food Pantry" in the "Memo" line and mail to St. Mary's ELC, 3978 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158 before December 31st.

Thanks for considering!

Brenda Meadows

Christmas Bazaar

The Bazaar will be here before we know it. Donations of the following are needed –

Baked Goods. We will need baked goods, such as pies, cakes, breads and cookies. Be aware that under the Health Dept. permit baked goods cannot contain cream, meringues, or custards. Also needed are homemade fudge, brittle, candies, etc.

Donations can be dropped off Friday the 7th or early Saturday morning of the 8th.

Silent Auction. Put together several items to make a theme. Ex – toys and/or games for boys or girls or both. Bird feed along with a bird feeder, etc. Larger items can stand on their own. Also gifts certificates from various restaurants, grocery stores, department stores, hair salons are needed to add to some items. Several members have already begun putting together themes and/or soliciting donations from area businesses.

Donations for the silent auction should be in by December 1st to give us time to get paperwork ready.

Quilt Raffle. Please help sell these tickets, pictures are available.

Bazaar Help. We need help with the welcome table, craft table, bake table, help in the kitchen, as well as floaters who will help where needed. See Jim Crist.

Monetary donations also appreciated to help with purchase of supplies.

Contact Information

Council President: Craig Fleischer 410-346-6065, **Council Vice-President:** Dwyn Fleischer 410-346-6065, **Council Secretary:** Gail Wisner 443-824-2455, **Treasurer:** Art Wisner 443-824-3914, **Funeral Reception Committee:** Viola Haines 717-633-7648, Marion Matthias 410-346-7380, **Outreach/Welcome Chairperson:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391, **Christian Education Chairperson:** Laura Bennett 410-346-6729, **Property Committee Chairperson:** Gary Meadows cell 410-236-9161, **Staff Support:** Rick Sparacino 717-637-0067, **Stewardship Chairperson:** (), **Worship & Music Committee Chairperson:** Don Kaufman 717-637-9795, **Flower Committee:** Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030 & Ann Pearre 410-346-6686, **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Fran Crist 410-848-4391, **Lector Coordinator:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391, **Acolyte Coordinator:** Zachary Scott, **Front Sign Preparer:** Crystal Ruby, **Bell Ringer:** Junior Miller, **Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf, **Carroll Lutheran School Delegate:** Jim Huber, **Thrivent Liaison:** Donna Myers, **Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates:** Jim & Fran Crist, **Silver Run Food Pantry Program Director:** Brenda Meadows 443-244-0453

Silver Run Community Food Pantry

located at

St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church


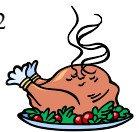

(Distributed from Parish House located directly behind Church, Mayberry Road Entrance)



1st & 3rd Wednesday
of the Month
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Non-Perishable Food Items Distributed.
All Are Welcome! Donations Accepted!

Email: foodpantry@stmaryselc.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Anniversaries: Robert & Kelli Scott - November 4, 1995 John & Brenda Middleton - November 5, 1988 James & Ann Pearre - November 8, 1975 Jim & Fran Crist - November 24, 1963</p>	<p>Worship Helpers Acolyte: Katie Fairbank, Suzy Spriggs Usher: Helen Wolfe and Mark Ruby Communion Asst.: Fran Crist Altar Guild: Ruth Warfield</p>			1	2	3
<p>4 All Saints Sunday - White Isaiah 25: 6 - 9 Psalm: 24 Revelation 21: 1 - 6a John 11: 32 - 44 Basket Offering - St. Dysmas Prison Ministry Visit to Pastor Bager's grave following worship. Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> 	5	6 Kaitlyn Powell	7 Arthur Wisner Roxanne Wood Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	8 Helen Wolf	9	10 <i>Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483</i>
<p>11 Fran Crist 11 a.m. Brunch, support Mahantesh Baburao 24th Sunday after Pentecost - Green 1 Kings 17: 8 - 16 Psalm: 146 Hebrews 9: 24 - 28 Mark 12: 38 - 44 Annual Congregational Meeting Following Worship Veteran's Day</p>	12 Jordan Blizzard Church Council Meeting - 7 p.m.	13 250th Anniversary Committee - 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Richard Carpenter Craig Fleischer
<p>18 25st Sunday after Pentecost - Green Daniel 12: 1 - 3 Psalm: 16 Hebrews 10: 11 - 25 Mark 13: 1 - 8 Poinsettia Order Deadline Noon - Time Capsule placement in the grove</p>	19	20	21 Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Sunday Bulletin Deadline - 10 am Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7:30 pm	22  Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	23 Church Office Closed	24 
<p>25 Christ the King - White Daniel 7: 9 - 10, 13 - 14 Psalm: 93 Revelation 1: 4b -8 John John 18: 33 - 37 Social Hour - Council Members</p>	26	27	28	29 Donald Phillips	30 Doris Blickenstaff Carrie Eyler <i>Andrew, Apostle</i>	

