



May 2008

# The Herald

Telling people of Jesus Christ

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## **Meeting Night**

Wed, May 21, 6 - 8p.m.

## **Summer Schedule**

begins June 1

## **Deadlines**

Herald—May 21

Council Reports— May 6

***“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” - 1 Corinthians 1:27***

Church “membership” is a bit misleading. Somewhere along the way we’ve gotten used to the idea that we are members of St. Luke’s, just like we are members of AAA or carry a membership at the local video store. There seems to be something not quite right about that.

The Bible does talk about being a member, however, but not in the sense that we pay dues and take ownership of “our” church. Instead, we are members of Christ’s body. First and foremost, each one of us is a piece and a part of Christ in the world and not a part owner of the franchise known as St. Luke’s Lutheran.

We are members of the body of Christ along with all other Christians who are marked with the cross in baptism and sealed with the Holy Spirit. God claims us as his own, grafts us into his church (Christ’s body), and gives us the gifts to do his will in the world and a place to carry out his ministry.

Now, this is a whole lot more difficult than just paying your dues, for it means that God is calling us to use our God given gifts to in serving our neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ. Membership in the Biblical sense means that we are the eyes, ears, elbows, hands, and toes of Jesus—doing as he as our head directs and commands.

Maybe that’s why we cling so tightly to the club membership mentality. It doesn’t require much, and we can quit when we like. But as members of Christ, we are not only obligated to service and good works, we also find the joy of our abundant life in Jesus, and he just won’t let us quit.

See you in church, Pastor Lars

What a blessing!

# Thank You!

You are a gift from God!

St. Luke's:

It is with deep humility and heartfelt gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for the outpouring of love and support that you showed our family after Dad's sudden death. The flowers, prayers, cards, calls and visits meant so much to me and the rest of the family. The memorials to Dad have been wonderful. Now I know why Dad and Mom chose St. Luke's when they came to Lima so many years ago.

*The Family of Wayne Rader*

Pastors and Members of St. Luke's,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards for my time of being shut-in and also for all the trips to St. Luke's and home. You are truly caring people.

*Norma Gossard*

Thank you to Paul Assenheimer, Keith Mulder, and Mila Schwabero for serving on Council. It is wonderful to have your faithful commitment to guide the ministry at St. Luke's for the next few years.

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Lima Rescue Home, Samaritan Counseling Center, the Children's Mission of the Rescue Home, The Samaritan House all send wonderful praises and thanks to the members of St. Luke's for their benevolence to them. Thank you for all your support in prayer, giving, and good will.

God's grace shows up. A few weeks ago in worship we had one of those days. The sanctuary was cold, I left my good shoes at home, the sound system wasn't right, the music was a bit off, and (to top it all off) I forgot to make sure there was water for the baptism that morning! Oops! It could have been a real mess of a day. But God's grace abounded in the midst of the quirks. Because after both services, people were just full of life. Laughter scaring away any temptation to dwell on mistakes, smiles at seeing God at work in such a strange morning. And so I thank you, all of you, for seeing God's grace and sharing in his forgiveness. I will never forget that comedy of errors, for in them I saw many of you living in God's grace. Thank you!

- Pastor Olson

**"Thanks You's"** for this page can be sent to Shanda over email, or handwritten and placed in her mailbox before the monthly Herald deadline. This is a great way to thank someone for ministry or to recognize one of God's special children.

# Youth News, Notes & Events

I am the vine, you are the branches—John 15

## SEEDS of FAITH—New!! Wednesday June 4, 6:30-8 p.m.

We're starting a monthly event for Elementary School youth. Starting in June, we'll meet in the NLC for fun, games, and a faith lesson. Come and see what God is doing!

*Questions? Talk with, call, or email Pastor Lars*

## Branches—Sr. High Ministry Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 - 9

So, Sunday afternoons have not worked well. Let's get meet on Wednesday June 11 to start off in another direction, and we'll make future plans from there.

As always, listen to God's word and watch for God's action in your lives. Because when these are shared, our souls rejoice in faith. Let's find ways to live our faith together.

## Event Calendar

### **Cap & Gown Sunday**

June 1

### **Confirmation Camp**

June 23-27

### **Sr. High Servant Camp**

July 13-18

### **VBS**

July 21-25

## Friday Night Live

**May 23, 7-10 p.m.**

**Any youth in grades 5-12 are invited** for fun and games for the night. Bring friends (and enemies, according to Jesus) for video games on the big screen, basketball in the gym, snacks, ping-pong, and whatever else we can think up. We will be open 7-10 p.m. Parents are always welcome to join in as well.

*Next scheduled FNL, June 20, 7-10pm*

## Cap & Gown Sunday June 1, 2008

Graduation is an important point in life. It is a recognition of years of hard work and a testimony to the gifts God has entrusted to each person.

It is with this understanding that St. Luke's Lutheran will be recognizing graduates during worship on June 1, and giving thanks to God for each graduate, and asking God's blessing into the next stage of life.

## Fun & Faith Ideas:

- Find 5 things each day to say thank you for.
- Day trip to King's Island
- Indoor Soccer in the New Life Center
- Volunteering at VBS
- Singing & Dancing for special summer worship services
- With some extra time off this summer, do some volunteering!
- Tell your parents how much you appreciate all that they do for you.

# Worship

## The Worship & Music Committee

Beth Arbeit, Mary Stepleton, Kim Howard,  
Jon Carver, Sandy Miller

### **Worship Planning**

The Worship & Music committee takes great care in preparing for worship each Sunday. We listen to comments and suggestions, we use resources from many places, and we blend all this together to help us hear God's word of judgment and promise each and every week. It is quite a task!

Here are some guiding principles:

1. Worship is centered and focused on God's gracious action in Christ Jesus! Remember that we get nothing out of worship, except Christ.
2. Expect God to show up! He certainly does, so be watching, listening, and waiting for him. For it is only by faith that God's action can be known.
3. Changes and surprises give life! While too many are clearly disruptive, new words and hymns help us to hear the same gospel differently.

### **SUMMER WORSHIP SONGS**

Members of St. Luke's will be invited to choose songs for singing in our summer services. In the Sunday bulletins on May 4 and May 11, there will be a form asking for your suggestion of a song to be included in our summer services. Plan to submit your selection on May 4 or 11.

### **MONTHLY NOON COMMUNION SERVICE**

Starting on June 11, St. Luke's will offer a monthly communion service at noon on the second Wednesday of each month through the summer. This brief service will include prayers, Bible readings, and communion. Following the service a free light lunch will be offered.

While this opportunity is especially designed for those for whom participation in Sunday worship is very difficult or impossible, all are very welcome.

### **Worship & Music Committee**

Will meet on Meeting night, May 21, 7 p.m.

**Please contact Sandy Miller, 419-227-4580 or see her in church to schedule your special music for the summer. June 8 through September 14.**

**The Lord be with you**, "and also with you!" is the Lutherans most unique response to this phrase. It wasn't always just a way to start a prayer in a large group of people however. It is first and foremost a wonderful blessing. In the second chapter of Ruth, Boaz (the land owner) comes and gives this blessing to the poor who are gathering left over food in his field. "The Lord be with you" was a gift, and they respond in kind, "The Lord bless you." Here the rich and the poor bless one another with God's presence, and it is the same when we say it in worship.

# Christian Service

## The Christian Service Committee

Barb Fisher, Craig Kohli, Shirley Weinman,  
Betty Marshall, Mila Schwabero, Martha Sloan

The Care Ministry met on April 9 in the Gathering Place at 7:00. We used our time to pray and shared testimonies about the love of God in our lives and in the lives of others. We discussed the seminar conducted by Reggie McNeal and the ideas gleaned from the two days in Findlay. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 in the Gathering Place. All are welcome to attend.

### **Christian Service Committee Meeting**

May 7, 9:30am

CUP food Item for May:  
**Cereal**

### **Blood Pressure Checks**

occur the 2nd Sunday each month between services in the pastor's study

**Family Promise Update** - St. Luke's and Zion Lutheran Churches will be hosting a 14 guests the first week of May. After our dry run in February (when there were zero guests) we are well positioned this time. The program is now full, and the planning committees have recruited over 50 volunteers for the week.

**Over 50 volunteers! God bless you all.**

### **Are you in need of some encouragement in the gospel? Would you benefit from sharing life's problems with other Christians?**

A new 'support group' ministry is being formed to help struggling people find encouragement and forgiveness needed to live among the difficulties and hardships of life. This is not a place to come and dump your anger on others or to find advice, but a supportive place where you will find others who are willing to bear your burden with you while always pointing you to Christ who is even better able to bear your burden.

If you are at a low point, a zero point in life, and just don't know where to turn, this may just be what you need.

This is just the beginning stage of a new ministry, so everything is still a bit flexible. If you would like to be part of a group like this, talk to Pastor Lars or John Fisher. Those interested will be contacted about an appropriate meeting time.

# Education

The Education & Faithful Living Committee

Lisa Carver, Karen Ferguson, Connie Williams, Francis Stuber

**May 18 is the last Sunday for regular Sunday School.**

**Gospel of John Bible Study** continues this month. Join in when you can, no preparation required. Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. in the Pastor's Study.

**Christian Education is for Everyone!** We want everyone to be learning about God and God's word, and we work hard to meet your needs. Please let us know how we can help you learn God's word and live faithful lives.

VBS meeting for all help and staff on Sunday, May 18 for a "working lunch at 12:30 in the parlor.

## VBS



Vacation Bible School will be July 21 through 25, from 9:00 to 12:00 at St. Luke's.

The theme this year is Science with "Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power." **NEEDED:** Volunteers for the week as Leaders, crafts, Kitchen help, set-up and clean-up help and registration helpers.; donation of materials; plus registration for children will be forthcoming in the weekly bulletins.

**Nurturing Faith** is really the goal of Christian Education. Making Jesus Christ known and learning how to live in Christ through seeing God's presence builds up our faith.



Ella Kaylee Moritz was baptized into the life of Christ on March 31, 2008

### Baptism

God promises in baptism to join us to Christ, so that because he lives we also live. In the water, God washes away our sin, and brings us to new and everlasting life. This is God's promise.

We now get the joy of watching these children grow up knowing of God's love and grace, and teaching them to love God and rely on his word of promise.



Benjamin David Harris was baptized into the life of Christ on April 6, 2008

## Stewardship Corner

**The Potter's Wheel:** A Bible study on Jeremiah 18:1-6.

*The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.*

*Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.*

At the beginning of chapter 18, God sends Jeremiah down to the potter's house in order to hear the next message. The very next line – in verse 3 – shows where Jeremiah's heart is: "So I went ... " There's no bargaining with God – that comes later! – and no hesitation. God says "Go!" and Jeremiah responds by going. When he gets to the potter's house, the artisan is working on a new piece, but the crafting isn't going very well. The clay was "marred in his hands" so the potter re-formed the piece into something new and beautiful.

As God's people, we have an opportunity to see ourselves just like that piece of marred clay. We are marred, but we rest in the potter's – God our Creator's – hands. What happens to the clay can happen to us as well – the potter can re-form us into another pot. But here's the key: the potter shapes us as seems best to his eye! In other words, we don't transform ourselves. Rather, God re-shapes us into the beautiful vessel that only God can envision.

Notice something that isn't in the reading: the potter doesn't add more clay! The potter has all the clay that's needed for the re-shaping. And doesn't that support the way God loves us? Every good thing we need to live the life of faith will be supplied for us. Scripture promises this in Exodus 16:18, where the children of Israel are gathering manna: "And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed." 2 Corinthians 9:8 underscores that promise from a New Testament perspective: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

As you think about this re-shaping, consider how our congregation is like the clay that the potter re-forms. Remind yourself that you have everything you need, just like God has promised.

How do you rest in the potter's hands?

- When do you see this resting in the life of your congregation?
- How is God re-forming us? Into what are we being re-formed? How do we know?
- What will the re-formed vessel be called to do?

# Outreach

## The Outreach & Evangelism Committee

Looking for faithful members who want to learn how to help St. Luke's grow through sharing Christ with new people.

### **Cross Training & Synod Assembly—**

The Synod is experimenting with this year's assembly. The business will be greatly shortened in order to train people what it means to live with the Cross of Christ. Well known teachers will be helping us understand what it means to live as though the cross makes a difference in our lives.

Come to Cross Training! You might just find that God has used the cross of Christ to call you to a new life—a life of meaning and purpose, a life of ministry and sacrifice, a life everlasting lived for others. It's not too late to get involved! Flyers are scattered around the church.

Talk to Pastor Lars if you have questions or need more details.

**Ministry to the Homebound—**If you are homebound, even temporarily, or are aware of a St. Luke's member who is, please call the church office with this information. The pastors and several of our members want to visit these people on a regular basis, but they can only do so if they are aware of the need.

### **Outreach Committee —**

An Outreach/Witness/Evangelism committee is forming. It is just the beginning stage, but we hope to be ready to collaborate at the upcoming Meeting Night on May 21.

Please pray that God's hand will guide this ministry according to his will.

The Global Mission Event (GME) will be held on July 17-20 at the University of Wisconsin in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Learn in depth about how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is working through out the world. If you are worried about accessibility to the rooms and the sessions, please do not worry. You will be treated with curtesy and respect. Please prayerfully consider attending a very worthwhile Lutheran related event. If interested and want more information, please contact Mila or Jim Schwabero, Miriam Downing, Sarah Oleson, or Sandy Miller. Brochures and registration forms are available in the Gathering Space.

## Connecting with our Missionaries



Rev. John & Barbara LeMond  
P.O. Box 7  
Shatin Central PO  
Shatin NT  
Hong Kong SAR People's Republic of  
China

E-mail: [johnlemond@gmail.com](mailto:johnlemond@gmail.com)

These are two ways you can communicate with  
our missionary, John and his wife, Barbara.  
Writing or E-mailing.

**CUP NEWS:** Churches United Panty opened their doors 7 years ago and have been helping to feed Lima's needy since then. We now have 10 committed member churches: Central Christian Church, First Baptist, Second Baptist, First Evangelical and Reformed, Family of Faith United Methodist, St. Luke's Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Forest Park United Methodist, Trinity United Methodist and West United Methodist.. Most of these churches include CUP in their budget and some also have fundraisers. Many individuals from member churches support us regularly and many businesses and organizations support us with food collections and/or money donation.

Each month the pantry is scheduled to be open 18 days. There is still opportunity for more volunteers to work. You would be scheduled to work for a 3 hour period (usually 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon or 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.) or whatever works with your own schedule. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know. Shirley Weinman, 419-228-7073 or Carolyn Wilde, 419-2224-9926.

### **Needs in the Congregation and Community**

1. Rides to church are needed by a variety of members who can no longer drive themselves. Call the church office if you can help.
2. Ushers for worship are needed. Training will be provided and new faces are desired.
3. Sound Techs for Sunday Mornings. If you aren't scared of the sound board, your help is needed.
4. The NLC mezzanine youth room is in need of a larger screen television, area rugs in decent condition, and some cabinets and bookshelves.

## Other Items

### **Activities for the Ladies of St. Luke's and their friends!**

In an attempt to provide additional fellowship for the women of our church, several ventures have been discussed with great consideration to those in our congregation who work during the day. Please review the following list and register your interest on the bulletin board outside the choir room. Since these ideas are new and "untested" their success will depend on the interest and participation of our members and the friends of our members. Hopefully, you will feel comfortable inviting others to these events.

**April/May**—Perennial Flower Exchange



**September**—Taste-testing Dinner & Recipe Exchange.



Put your name on the bulletin board. For more information contact Becky Komminsk, 419-991-7446

### **Jews for Jesus**

The Lima First Missionary Church, 1105 W. Robb Ave, Lima, 419-222-3024 hosted a presentation on March 14, 2008 by Shawn Buchhalter, a missionary with Jews for Jesus in Chicago. If you have a Jewish friend who might be interested in discovering Jesus for themselves, they can either go to the First Missionary Church and speak with the Pastor or come here and be introduced to Pastor Lars. When Shawn is back in the area again, we might invite him to speak here and relate his experiences convincing Jews to recognize and accept Jesus as Lord.

Any more information—see Bob Bennett.

### **Men of St. Luke's!**

Do you realize that the women of our congregation are putting us to shame? They have circle meetings, organize fellowship events, provide funeral dinners, and on and on. We need some better outlets for our faithful men to exercise faith. Be prayerful and watchful for God's calling.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**—The Spring Assembly for WELCA was held on April 12 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hopewell County with The Treasurer Seekers. We divided into groups and brainstormed ways to tell our story of faith to others as Children of God. Much was gained with the interaction of others and everyone's story of faith. The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 4 or 11 here at St. Luke's. Ladies of the church, please note these dates and plan to attend.

## Book Discussion

The second book club meeting will be discussing the book “The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls. The next book will be selected and announced in the bulletin at a future date.



## Ministry Funds:

A few things to remember about how we use money as one of God’s gifts to tell people of Jesus Christ—

- There are a few designated funds:
  - Building Fund—for the building
  - Rustler Fund—for special music
  - Leist Fund—for educational purposes
  - Wauben Fund—for outreach development
- The Leist and Wauben Funds were given last year and the Council decided to designate 5% of the funds to be used each year. This will keep the funds growing and yet still be used for ministry now. There is \$1250 in each fund waiting for to fund a new ministry this year.
- Remember that Debt Reduction giving should be marked as such, not as Building Fund or it will go into the designated Building savings.
- God has given us the gifts we need to do his work!

## Meeting Night for Committees—May 21, 6:00

It is a go! Though there were a couple of objections to having a shared committee meeting time, the positives are so great that we must go forward. We will have a few months trial period through the summer and try to work out some of the inevitable kinks. We’re still working out the finer details, but the format should look something like this:

<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Gather for prayer</b>
<b>6:15</b>	<b>Bible study</b>
<b>6:40</b>	<b>Sharing good news with our neighbor</b>
<b>6:50</b>	<b>Committee meetings</b>
<b>7:50</b>	<b>Dessert &amp; committee Sharing</b>
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Further fellowship as desired.</b>

Again, feedback, both positive and negative, is welcome and requested. Please talk to Pastor Lars or a council member with any suggestions or concerns.

## May Birthdays

5/1 Dorothy Bean  
Gust Wuorinen  
Deborah Lorge  
Julie Clink  
5/2 Maggie Roelfsema  
5/3 Tammy Jay  
5/4 Robert Komminsk  
Drew Lauer  
Claire Armentrout  
5/5 Mary Weber  
5/7 Camden Pauff  
5/8 Susan Bumbaugh  
Martha Cover  
Douglas Weber  
Jennifer Hughes  
5/9 Shane Critelli  
5/10 Jacob Hutchins  
5/11 Paige Harris  
5/12 Shirley Weinman  
Sandi Imbrock  
5/13 Robert Williams  
Tyler Adams  
5/15 Jordan Garrett  
5/16 Ronald McCoy  
Jed Metzger  
5/17 Bradley Mosgrove  
5/18 Thomas Arheit  
Williams Hughes  
5/19 Deborah Miller  
Keagan Pauff  
5/21 Bettie Marshall  
Marley Runk



Joshua Moritz  
Brock Diehl  
5/22 Russell Pisle  
Beth Arheit  
Perry Luhn  
5/23 Donald Williams  
Phil Trueblood  
5/26 Adrienne Fifer  
5/27 Elizabeth Rudolph  
5/29 David Catlett  
Stacey Klingler  
5/30 Dara Moritz  
5/31 Mildred Meffley

### **Staff & Office Hours**

*Office Closed Memorial Day, May 26*

#### **Regular Office Hours**

8:30am to 4:30pm

#### **Pastor Olson Office Hours**

Tuesday – Friday  
(Thurs. & Sat. by appointment)

#### **Pastor Arheit Office Hours**

Monday afternoon  
Tuesday & Thursday

Keys are available for loan if you need to be in the building outside of regular office hours.

We make every effort to keep the office open during the lunch hour, but it is not always possible due to pastoral meetings and visits. Thank you for your understanding.

## *Memorials*

In memory of Wayne Rader, **Debt Reduction**, by Bill & Sarah Oleson, Bud & Sheila Miller, Gust Wuorinen; **Hymnals**, by Care Ministry.

In memory of Ila Wuorinen, **Debt Reduction** (with a portion to Rescue Mission), by Jim & Dorothy Bean, James & Shirley Weinman, William & Gail, Corey, Kallie Ebert, Doris Ebert, Tim, Angie, Liza & Bennett Ebert, Bill & Sarah Oleson, Pastor Tom & Beth Arbeit, Les & Jean Kaskinen, Arvid & Elaine Harklau, Lois Staber & family, Phil & Nancy Rudolph, John Bos, JoAnn Bos & Linda Miller, Bob & Carol Gibson, Norman & Nancy Vondran, Richard & Sally Geyer, Howard & Florence Maki, Leslie Wuorinen, Jean Wuorinen, Lisa Gaylor, Mary & Wayne Kuusisto, Lynn Koenig, Yvonne Koenig, Phil & Roberta Myers, LaVallee & Company, Lilja Kangas, John & Connie Dummen, Kenneth & Beverly Wuorinen, Bruce & Marcie Arnold, Meryn Luoma, Bert F. Luoma, Alice & Dennis Schimke, Shirley O'Berry, Maxine Koski, JoAnn M. Shea & Doreen Auvinen, Gerald & Mary Maki, Rita Hjerpe, Lloyd Wertanen, Robert & Eleonore Peura, Mrs. Sonja Corlew, Elsie & Richard Jones, the Rudolph & Darley Kemppainen Trust, Paulette Ozzello, Ronald & Evelyn Lahnala, Molly Nikkila, Minnie Wertanen, Bud & Sheila Miller, Arlene Roeder, Anne Wells, Paul & Charlotte Hagelberg, Linda Roeder, Ken & Sandra Gorby, Gust Wuornien, Frances Stuber, Ruth Smith, Karen & Thomas Cardina, Anthony & Viki Juzwiak, Mila & Barbara Johnson, Karen & Timothy O'Brien; **Hymnal**, by Russ & Margaret Pisle.; **Building Fund**, by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crane & family, Betty Roeder, Richard & Salome Miller.

In memory of Philip Hall, **Building Fund**, by Betty Payson, Marjorie Thomas; **Debt Reduction**, by Gust Wuorinen.

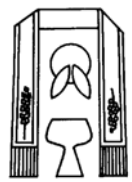
In memory of Robert Hoover, **Debt Reduction**, by Jim & Dorothy Bean.

In memory of Richard Vitalis, **Building Fund**, by Ora & Kaye Seese.

In honor of Lucille Crawford, **Hymnal**, by Fred & Carole Crawford.

### **Synod Appeal—\$14 for Christ**

The Northwestern Ohio Synod is asking each family in our synod to contribute \$14. Last year this successful appeal made possible increased support for Trinity Seminary, Ohio Lutheran camps, and Lutheran Social Services. Please prayerfully consider this important contribution. Envelopes are available in the Gathering Place.



## *Pastor Tom's Page*

The Lord is with you!

### *TINEW*

On the first day of a seminary class on methods of Christian education, the professor wrote on the board these five letters: TINEW. This five-letter “word” is built from the first letters of the words in the phrase: There Is No Easy Way.

His theme was that there is no easy way to effective Christian education. Leaders and congregations often yearn for an easy way to do this task, but there is no easy way to do this or any other important task.

Human nature covets the Easy Way. Diet pills with fantasies of svelte figures, lotteries with dreams of quick wealth, and politicians with platforms promising more for less -- all these target their appeals to illusions of an Easy Way. When so tempted, remember TINEW.

The yearning for an Easy Way is no less common in churches. The reason? Human nature wants the Easy Way and the Easy Way in churches is that

- † others fill the pews
- † others sing in the choirs
- † others be part of Sunday school

- † others make this a welcome place
- † others give generously
- † others repent
- † others forgive.

However, just as in our wiser moments we know that politicians, lotteries, and diet pills with their impossible promises are only pandering to the weaker part of human nature, so in our honest and wiser moments we know that to be a vigorous, faithful church “There Is No Easy Way.”

The only way to be the congregation all yearn for is for pastors and people to work together

- † to forgive gladly
- † to give generously
- † to work diligently
- † to worship fervently.

Because of human nature, none of these is easy. Because of God’s grace and abundant gifts, all of these are possible. An old prayer by Sir Thomas More is worth memorizing:

The things, good Lord, that I pray for,  
give me thy grace to labor for.

And always,

Worship God.  
Be kind.

Do what is right.

*Pastor Tom Arheit*

## Council Notes

### **Church Council Highlights** April 8, 2008

#### **Property Report**

The church's boiler continues to deteriorate. We met with Mike Lawrence from Lippincott Plumbing and Heating to discuss our options, both repair and replacement. Quotes on the various options will be submitted within two weeks.

#### **Stewardship**

A committee chairperson is needed still. A stewardship program has been purchased for our 2008 drive.

#### **ELCA Social Statement**

A draft of the Social Statement on Sexuality was released on March 13, 2008, with a hearing on April 5, 2008. Elizabeth Eley attended the hearing. A statement on the released draft will be needed from our congregation.

#### **Family Promise**

Two families are currently being served by this program. The week of May 4th will be when St. Luke/Zion will participate. Volunteers are still needed. Talk with Pastor Lars or David Adams.

### **Spring Congregation Meeting** April 13, 2008

#### **Election of Council**

Paul Assenheimer, Keith Mulder, and Mila Schwabero were elected as new members to council. Perry Luhn was elected for a second term.

#### **Financial Report**

Our financial situation has been improving. Some debts have been paid off, giving has increased, and our money is being better handled. We are getting nearer to achieving a balanced budget.

#### **New Life Center Floor**

The new flooring has been installed in the New Life Center. Our gratitude is expressed to two anonymous donors as well as to the family of Marjorie Roush. It was agreed that some of the money from Marjorie's estate would help with the flooring project and the rest of the estate gift would go toward a future project in the New Life Center.

***St. Luke's Lutheran Church***

***Worship Schedule***

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP, Sanctuary

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday, 11:15 a.m. WORSHIP, New Life Center

Phone: 419-227-1961

Rev. Lars Olson, Pastor  
*Staff*

Pastor Lars Olson

Pastor Tom Arheit

Organist Sandy Miller

Secretary Shanda Schroeder

Custodian Bob Bennett

Choir Director Dale Laukhuf

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