



Seventy-five: the celebration has begun

As I write this we have just concluded our 75th Anniversary Kick-Off—what a wonderful celebration! At least 175 people attended the dinner and program on our actual birthday, January 14. What a grand and moving celebration. One could just feel the presence of the saints gone before us and at the same time give thanks for the present mission and ministry, rejoicing in the exciting future yet to come.

How, though did it all begin? A newspaper article from September 1939 reveals in the headlines: *Silver Spring Lutherans Plan First Church Service September 10*. Yes, mission developer Pastor Milton Bieber came on the scene in the spring of 1939, conducted a canvas of the area and discovered 100 Lutheran families and 65 families without

a church affiliation. Dr. Bieber stated in the article that “he was extremely pleased with the possibilities, in Silver Spring, which had 15,000 inhabitants but no Lutheran church.”

After several leaders formed an advisory committee with Pastor, an initial service was planned. On Sunday, September 10, 65 people attended, and the next Sunday Christian Education began with 31 in attendance, 16 being children—what a blessing! We used the name United Lutheran Church, then Silver Spring Lutheran Church. Well the Spirit stirred in glorious ways through these saints and by January 14 it was time to begin a congregation which would be called Saint Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church of Silver Spring, MD.

There is more to come as we celebrate this year but for now, we thank God for those who have gone before us, sacrificing for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus took a bit of bread and fed 5000, and through a few in 1939, began a community which would nurture thousands as well. Miracles happen through each of us thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you for being one of those special servants of the Lord.

On a personal note, I now depart for a sabbatical. Thank you again for the opportunity and God's peace be with you. And Happy Anniversary!

+ Pastor Miller



Photos from the 75th Anniversary Kick-Off



Sharing the story of Christmas

The Sunday School children (3 years old–5th grade) met in the Great Hall on December 21 for an Advent Gathering. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders presented the play “The Advent Tree” and the younger grades sang songs during the play. Thank you to Roney Shawe for costuming the children, to Rachel Cobbs for providing the refreshments, to Megan Garnett for videotaping the play, and to Carol Howell for playing the piano.

On Feb. 1, all Sunday School students gathered again to learn about hunger awareness. The children helped to stock Saint Luke's food pantry.



Schola Cantorum trip to New York

Members of our Schola Cantorum will travel to New York City the weekend of February 21-22. They will sing with the choir of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan for their 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, February 22. Members and friends of Saint Luke are welcome to join the choir on this trip. For more information, please contact Dr. Pannebaker at 301-588-4363, ext. 245, or e-mail jpannebaker@saintluke.us.

Congratulations to Becca Howell and Perry Beamer

Becca will be singing with the Maryland All-State High School Senior Women's Chorus, representing representing Blake High School. Their concert will be in Baltimore on Sunday, February 22. Perry has been selected as a member of the American Choral Directors Association National Conference Middle School Honors Choir, representing Saint Luke. The conference will be in Salt Lake City, February 25-28. In addition to singing individual concerts, the honor choirs will combine with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for a gala concert.

Becca and Perry both sing with the Martin Luther Choir and ring with the Augsburg Bell Choir. Congratulations!

The Martin Luther Choir and Augsburg Bell Choir traveled to New York City on January 16-17. They visited the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the 9/11 Memorial Museum.



The Confirmation and Genesis Bell Choirs traveled to Haddonfield, NJ, on January 24-25 and sang and rang with the Youth Choirs at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior. The following weekend, the choirs from Haddonfield returned the visit and sang with our choirs for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 1.



UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY EVENTS

Music in the Parish Workshop

Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
William Payn, clinician

Choristers Guild Youth Choir Festival Sunday, March 8

Concert at 7:00 p.m. at The Lutheran Church of Saint Andrew, Silver Spring
Our Confirmation and Martin Luther Choirs will participate

Adult Bell Festival

Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, in Ocean City
Our Reformation Bell Choir will participate

Organ Plus Concert

Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Chamber Music for Organ and Instruments

Lenten Concert – Sunday, March 29, at 5:00 p.m.

Solemn Mass (*Heiligmesse*) by Franz Joseph Haydn

Mark your
calendars now!

Choir
Camp
2015

July 27-31



Hymns: The
Faith We Sing

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School 2015. The theme is "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." VBS will be held June 22–26 from

9:00 am– 12:15 pm. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to shepherd the children between the different activity stations. If you are able to help with this great ministry, contact Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us. Please lift up the VBS ministry in your prayers. Prayers are most appreciated for the planning process and for leaders to come forward to give of their time so the young children at Saint Luke and in our community can learn more about God.

Has your child been asking about communion and want to participate in it? If so, they may attend the First Holy Communion Workshop on Sunday, March 1 with First Communion being celebrated Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. On March 1, the children and their families will attend the 9:00 a.m. worship service paying particular attention to Holy Communion. Following the service, they will attend a class in the Great Hall at 10:30 a.m., and then gather with their parents to meet with a pastor in the Nave. Pick up a brochure from the Sunday School bulletin board to register for the workshop. You can also contact Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us for more information.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS



Youth Gathering: Motoring to Detroit

Saint Luke high school youth have been working hard to get ready for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit this July. We have 15 youth and 5 adults signed up for this exciting trip. We are also looking to have some guests from La Sagrada as well. We have started fundraising, with a successful brunch and sale of Honey Baked Hams. We also hosted a holiday market in the Youth Lounge. Next we will host a Mardi Gras pancake dinner on Friday, Feb. 13. Check the *Messenger* for details.

The lessons provided by the ELCA to prepare for the trip have also been

released, so we will start working on those soon as well.

Many people have asked if we are going to have a yard sale, and we are, but we are going to try a different format. We will sell spaces for individuals to sell their own treasures or crafts, and have a few tables with treasures from Youth Gathering families. We are also hoping to have a collection of bicycles to sell. Watch for more details!

Saturday, February 28 will be a busy evening at Saint Luke as we host our **Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off** from 5:30-7:00 p.m. All are invited to bring their favorite chili in a crockpot. All attendees will then vote for their favorite, and the winner gets a Saint Luke Chili Champ apron. If you want to join in, but don't have a good recipe, just bring a side dish or dessert.



Make a New Year's Resolution

With the beginning of a new year, many of us have made resolutions to make some changes in our lives—to lose weight, stop smoking, start an exercise program, etc. How about resolving to increase your faith, through Bible Study and service?

WELCA Circles are a great way to pursue such a wonderful resolution! We currently have two circles. The Mary-Martha Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m., and the Sarah-Lydia Circle meets on the first and third Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Our WELCA Circles engage in study and discussion of Bible passages of particular interest to women. With our offerings and hands-on service, we also support a wide variety of service projects at Saint Luke and around the world. Participation in a WELCA Circle also provides opportunities for a closer relationship with other members of our Saint Luke Family.

If our current circles don't fit with your schedule, let us know what day and time would be good for you. WELCA has made a New Year's Resolution, too! We want to create some new WELCA Circles at Saint Luke, and we would love to start with you! For more information, contact WELCA President Marilyn Braatz, mgbraatz@gmail.com, or phone 614-579-5845.

We will clean up from the chili and set up the stage for the first (annual) **Saint Luke's Got Talent** starting at 7:30 p.m. We are looking for singers, musicians, comedians, jugglers, dancers, soloists or groups. We will be setting up a Sign Up genius for sign up shortly. Watch the *Messenger* for more details or contact lgarifo@saintluke.us with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us!

- February 7—Valentine's Day Card making
- February 13—Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
- February 20—Middle School Lock-In
- February 22—Middle School Sunday
- February 28—Chili Cook-Off
Saint Luke's Got Talent

News from our Seminarian "In the Light of God"

"Everyone knows this one!" I said into the bullhorn as we headed north on Woodlawn Avenue. Then I started singing, "We are marching in the light of God...we are marching in the light of God..." Behind me, I heard about 50 of my fellow Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and other Hyde Park seminarians, professors and local clergy join in. It was Monday, December 1, and we were out in LSTC's Hyde Park neighborhood, joining with other academic communities around the country to voice our concerns about the effects of racism in our criminal justice system, in response to some of the cases of police brutality that have recently garnered national attention. (You might have seen coverage in January's *Lutheran*, or check out the short article here: http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12368)

As I thought about writing this article, I kept thinking about this moment—not only because it was one of the most powerful experiences I have had while immersed in the LSTC community, or because it was my first time

leading a song through a bullhorn (and hopefully not the last!), but because "marching in the light of God" feels like a good way to describe how the last six months of my life have felt. From June through August, I was immersed in my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship with Sinai Health Systems, a hospital system on Chicago's West Side that serves those who are often at a socioeconomic disadvantage when it comes to access to quality healthcare, as well as those who are affected by shootings and other forms of violence in their neighborhoods. Then, from August to December, my first semester of the "middler" year of the M.Div program included Hebrew, World Religions and the first half of a year-long survey of systematic theology. I also got used to two new part-time positions; my field ed placement (seven hours a week) at Ashburn Lutheran Church on Chicago's southwest side, and my new part-time job as Program Assistant for the Pero Multicultural Center, a center on our campus that organizes regular gatherings and events related to the topic of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in the ELCA and the greater church and community.

It is a time in my life that feels full of new experiences and opportunities. I feel like I have to keep "marching" every day to keep up with homework deadlines and assuming more leadership responsibilities in Christian education and worship leadership at Ashburn as well as in the LSTC community. It can be challenging. But then I remember at all times that the light of God is with me; that I have been called to this vocation for a reason. And so, I march on!

One of the ways that I experience God's light is through the prayers and support that I feel from my home congregation! The scholarship support that I get from Saint Luke means that I can devote more time to studies and learning opportunities. It was also so wonderful to assist in worship on the first Sunday of Christmas, to see your smiling faces and hear your well-wishes! THANK YOU!

A blessed Epiphany to all. March on, remembering that we live in God's light!

I love getting postcards and letters.

If you write to me, I will write you back!

—Anna Ernst

1100 East 55th St. • Chicago, IL 60615

Youth & Family Ministry spreads joy this Christmas season

Youth and Family Ministry kept very busy this past Christmas season. Our elementary youth helped to organize food to be distributed for Thanksgiving food baskets, and joined the Advent Preparation Party to make Advent wreathes and Chrismons. The following week, youth also got together to make Christmas cards for the homebound of Saint Luke. While they were working, Pastor Platz told them the story of Saint Nicholas, who then slipped into Saint Luke and left each of the children a small bag of goodies. The high school youth also helped to make a few more Christmas cards the following day during Sunday School.

On December 13, several youth and adults met at The Village at Rockville where they spread some Christmas cheer with Christmas caroling. December 14 was the annual Santa Lucia gift service, with Luda Unkenholz serving as Santa Lucia accompanied by her court, Annaleigh Baremore and Dar-

ian Woehr. Zach Bridwell and Noah Rutan served as star boys. This year, in conjunction with our usual service, we learned about the tradition of Las Posadas, Martin Luther, and the lights on our Christmas trees. Many gifts were collected to be donated to The CARing Project as well as Lutheran Social Services. Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and gift cards.

The cookies served between services on Christmas Eve were baked by the high school students during the annual cookie bake lock-in on December 20-21. With help from Jan Eisenbarth, Carol Bennett, and Rich Garifo, our youth made over 17 trays of cookies, plus more which were served during Homeless Hospitality. They baked chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, orange oatmeal craisin, snickerdoodles, chocolate peanut butter chip, 7 layer bars, German chocolate bars, rice krispie treats, and cut out sugar cookies! They were a very busy group. After a movie,



they got so me sleep, were fed breakfast, and sent home



so that the middle school youth could come in and decorate the sugar cookies baked the night before. If you came to the Fireside Room between services Christmas Eve, you saw that they took their decorating job very seriously! Thank you to all families who came and helped with serving cookies and punch between services Christmas Eve.

Abundance of thanks from La Sagrada Familia

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

—Matthew 25:40

How can I, and members of La Sagrada Familia, express our appreciation to Saint Luke Lutheran Church? Let me tell you that all of your support is working for the well-being of the Congregation of La Sagrada and the community in Langley Park, MD. Following are some of our programs and pictures and some stories about the participants:

English Class

A young man works eight or more hours painting houses. Sometimes I see him coming from the bus stop looking tired, with his uniform still on, speckled with spots of paint. His first language is Mam, which derives from the Mayan language. He had to learn Spanish in his country. Now he is learning English, taking a two hour class twice a week at La Sagrada. He

was one of the students who graduated last December.

Another of our members, contracted by a cleaning company, cleans houses from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a salary of \$8.00 per hour. She is expected to clean four houses per day. She has two kids, and after she picks them up from the baby sitter, she also comes to take the English class.

Saint Luke members Don and Aggie Steinbach help the students learn English, and the students love them.

After School Program

Aggie also works in our After School Program. The children enjoy her cupcakes, cookies, and homemade pizzas. We also provide fresh fruit, juice, water, sandwiches, and granola bars as healthy snacks. According to the seventy kids in our program, the snack is the best part of the day. They are tutored by 25 students from the University of Maryland.

Art Class for Teenagers

Thanks to another member of Saint Luke, Nancy Gurganus, a group of middle school teenagers have discovered their creativity. She has taught the kids how to transform a piece of wood or some shells or a milk bottle or some colored papers into something beautiful—a piece of art. We are very confident that with art, children can be saved from drugs, gangs, or early pregnancy.

The 75th Anniversary offering that Saint Luke donated to La Sagrada Familia is a great blessing. On behalf of the members of La Sagrada Familia, many thanks for this outpouring of generosity.

—*Rev. Rosario Hernandez*
Pastor of La Sagrada Familia
Lutheran Ministry



English class graduation with Don and Aggie Steinbach



After-school program



Pastor Miller visits La Sagrada



Art program for teenagers with Nancy Gurganus

Sharing

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910-1694



The Word

Sunday, February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 22

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



Congratulations to Betty Fredericks for her 30 years of service to Meals on Wheels. At the November 19, 2014 annual meeting of the organization, Saint Luke honored Betty with a bouquet of flowers for her untiring service. Of course, Betty deserves more than flowers for her dedication to this ministry. We honor and thank Betty at Saint Luke, also, for her dedicated service on the Social Ministry Committee. When she and her husband LeRoy joined Saint Luke in 1984, she immediately signed up for this group, and has been a dedicated committee member ever since, advocating for Meals on Wheels and participating in other programs. One that she looks back on fondly was refugee resettlement.

We always need volunteers to drive for Meals on Wheels. Clients are also needed, so if you know someone who could benefit from a warm meal or who would like to deliver meals, please contact Betty through Ruth Manchester at rmanchester@saintluke.us.

The food is prepared and delivered from Zion Lutheran Church in Takoma Park.

Also at the annual meeting, Don Steinbach was recognized for 25 years of service to Meals on Wheels. As you may know, Aggie Steinbach prepares the meals for the clients. Saint Luke thanks them both for their years of dedication to this organization.



Parish Milestones

ANNIVERSARY

30 years

David and Edie Venit—Feb. 9

DEATH

Ann Brower—Jan. 26

NEW MEMBERS

Received Jan. 11

Brent Kendall and

Siah Annand

John Tracey

Robert and Eleanor Abarno