



The powerful gift of Easter

Easter gives us a family. With Christ's death and resurrection we are given brothers and sisters we have never known and many we will never meet, for in God's act of love a community is called into being. We are bound by Christ's action to a family that extends around the globe and of which Saint Luke is a small part. One of the wondrous things of Easter is the gift of seeing a larger world to which we are connected. It is so easy to live in tiny silos, the tiniest being self. But God calls us into a community that goes beyond our doors, beyond the doors of Saint Luke, even the boundaries of country, and indeed beyond the bounds of time. It is a family with a vision and purpose to love one another; to live in

ways that care for others, especially those easy to forget or those hard to love, and to tend with love the creation God has entrusted to our care.

Such a wide vista calls us into exciting adventures of learning, of openness to experience the marvelous tapestry of life and summons our creativity in seeing what is possible. It is not a Pollyana view but rather because of hope and trust in God's call. We are anchored in the Easter story proclaimed in scripture and expressed in the sacraments. We dare to care—for the hungry and homeless cast out by war, for those devastated by natural disasters, for the lonely living in poverty, for the children hopelessly caught in the brokenness of the world, for the sick neighbor, for the

job-seeking friend. We walk in company with the hurting for we have been loved beyond words. God beckons us into the future.

We will offer what we have, seeking the good of others for this is what God has done and does for us—listening to our joys, sorrows and complaints, seeking our good, and with his love offering nail-scarred hands to lift us up and to walk at our side.

The future beckons. God has opened the doors calling us to live freely that life may flourish beyond our door step. Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

+ Acting Senior Pastor, Elizabeth Platz



Congratulations to Bishop and Doris Schneider



Bishop and Doris Schneider receive the 2015 Roanoke College Medal from college president Michael Maxey.

Both are 1956 graduates of Roanoke College.

Pastor Schneider served as Saint Luke's Senior Pastor from 1986-1995, when he was elected Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod. He retired in 2007, after having served two terms. Both Bishop and Doris remain active in retirement, and we are blessed by their continued membership at Saint Luke. Congratulations!

Bishop and Doris Schneider were honored on April 10 at Roanoke College in Salem, VA, when they were named the recipients of the 2015 Roanoke College Medal. The medal recognizes Roanoke alumni who have demonstrated leadership,

God's Work, Our Hands

Nearly 25 people from Saint Luke and La Sagrada worked together as they volunteered their time at A Wider Circle (www.awidercircle.org) in March.

A Wider Circle is a local non-profit that provides basic needs to families transitioning out of shelters or simply living without life's necessities. Several of the children stocked and cleaned the toy areas while others organized the food and toiletries area. Many of the adults and teens sorted household goods or unloaded furniture and donated goods from trucks. God's Work, Our Hands!



MUSIC MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming Concert — Sunday, May 24

Our Augsburg Bell Choir and Martin Luther Choir will be traveling to Pennsylvania and New Jersey for their annual Spring Tour, May 22-24. The choirs will be singing and ringing in three churches and a senior care community. Their annual **Homecoming Concert** will be on Sunday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. This year's musical is Allen Pote's *A Reason to Rejoice*. We are grateful for this wonderful outreach opportunity, and hope to see you at the concert on May 24! Transportation funds for this year's tour are provided by Saint Luke's Mission Endowment Fund.

Cherub and Chorister Musicals — Friday, May 29

Our youngest choirs will present their end-of-year musicals on Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. The Cherubs will sing *Kid's Kreations*, biblical stories about following Jesus, witnessing, and the Beatitudes. The Choristers will present the Old Testament story, *Moses and the Freedom Fanatics*. We are grateful to all of the parents who support their child's participation in this ministry.

Why not plan to attend? Come and support our youngest singers—and bring a friend with you!

Handbell Dessert Concert — Sunday, May 31

Members of our Novice, Genesis, and Augsburg Bell Choirs (elementary school, middle school, and high school) will present their annual Handbell Dessert Concert on Sunday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Come and offer your support for our young ringers and enjoy a delicious dessert! A free-will offering will be received for our handbell fund.

Register now for Choir Camp

This year's Choir Camp will be in session at Saint Luke during the week of July 27-31, when our theme will be *Hymns: The Faith We Sing*.

Choir Camp is a day-long program, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., for students having completed grades two through five. Visitors and friends are most welcome! Mornings will be spent in worship, singing, and learning two musicals based on famous hymns: *The Singing Bishop*, based on *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, and *Francis: Poor Little Man of God* which uses the hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* as its theme. Afternoon field trips will take students to various places in the metropolitan DC area related to our theme.

Interested? Call Music Ministry (301-588-4363, ext. 245) for a registration form. Forms are also available in the "Happenings" kiosk, and from Music Ministry. Adults, middle school, and high school students are needed to assist with this program. Please see Dr. Pannebaker to sign up!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Join Vacation Bible School

Registration for "Everest VBS" continues online at www.saintluke.us. VBS is June 22-26 from 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The children will learn how to conquer challenges with God's amazing power—power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive, and love us forever! Questions or concerns can be directed to Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us. Please keep the VBS ministry in your prayers as preparations swing into high gear.



Easter Egg Hunt

Many children, parents, and grandparents joined in the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4.

All who gathered sang songs, listened to an Easter story about Jesus and symbols of new life in Christ, and hunted for eggs on the parsonage lawns on a beautiful Saturday morning! After the hunt, the families made Easter crafts in the Great Hall while talking to others from Saint Luke, Christian Day School, and the community.



Sunday School Gathering

The focus of April's Sunday School Gathering was Holy Week. The children learned why we celebrate and the importance of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter through hearing the Bible stories read, playing a game, and making a craft project. The next gathering will be on June 7, the last Sunday School class of the year.



Mission Endowment Fund seeks to plant mustard seeds

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.” (Matthew 13:31–32)

Saint Luke’s Mission Endowment Fund is all about planting mustard seeds!

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) was established to accomplish two objectives: (1) to provide a permanent financial base for the future of the congregation; and (2) to enhance the congregation’s mission outreach with a base of funding strictly apart from the general operations and general budget of Saint Luke.

The MEF relies solely on contributions designated to the Fund by donors. Member gifts become those mustard seeds that will grow as a continuing blessing to Saint Luke and its outreach programs for many years to come. The funds are invested according to ELCA guidelines and Saint Luke bylaws. None of the principal of the Fund is spent—only a portion of the investment returns.

Each year, dependent on the performance of those investments, the MEF Board recommends to Council and the Saint Luke congregation gifts to ministries within the church, in our community and nation, and in the world, that we believe will be mustard seeds to help grow God’s love and providence.

The Saint Luke MEF is now taking requests for gifts from ministries for its 2015 funding year. Please visit Saint Luke’s website (www.saintluke.us) to download an application, or contact MEF Chairman Steve Drake at sdrake@verizon.net with questions. Deadline for receipt MEF gift forms is May 1.

Here’s to your health, Saint Luke!

The Women of the ELCA at Saint Luke (WELCA) are conducting a survey of members of Saint Luke and La Sagrada Familia to build a better understanding of how we care for ourselves. Results of the survey will be used to plan a series of wellness-related activities during the 2015-2016 church year.

All Saint Luke members are encouraged to participate in this survey, which is posted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OurBody>. For members who do not have computers, WELCA will have laptop computers and paper surveys available in the Fireside Room after each service on Sunday, May 17.

The survey is part of WELCA’s plans to sponsor a series of activities aimed at raising our awareness of our bodies as a gift from God—a gift that needs to be cared for. Results of the survey will be shared with the congregation and studied by participants in WELCA’s June workshop for Women and Girls, to be held at Hallwood (see related article in this issue).

PARISH NURSING NOTES

From April 9-13, I was privileged to attend the 39th annual Westberg Symposium in Memphis, TN. The



Rev. Granger Westberg had the vision of a nurse in every congregation promoting health and wellness and providing strategies that facilitate personal and spiritual growth. Today, we follow that vision although women and men caring for congregants goes back much further than 39 years!

The symposium attracts nurses from all faith traditions, and we are now generally referred to as “faith community nurses” to erase the connotation that goes along with “parish.” We do have Jewish and Muslim nurses on board, albeit very few. The Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association is a pan-Lutheran group of nurses (I am shown by our poster). As a member of ELCA’s Region 8, I am one of two nurses who meet by phone monthly to discuss our ministries and promote parish or faith community nursing in Lutheran congregations. Unfortunately, our numbers are small, but we will continue to spread the word. The other member from this region is Marilee Tollefson from the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew here in Silver Spring.

So what did we do at the symposium? Speakers informed us of our mission to care for others, including clergy. One eloquent nurse was hired by the Catholic archdiocese of Oklahoma City to care for priests—as they usually do not have a family network to rally around them when they become ill. They also consult her when there is a health-related situation with a parish member. Another session I attended focused on using retreats to nurture self-care. This information is useful as Saint Luke WELCA is planning a retreat June 12-14 emphasizing positive health practices for the parishioners at Saint Luke.

If anyone wants further information, please see me, Ruth Manchester, your “Parish Nurse.”

If anyone is in need of a **motorized scooter**, or knows of someone who could benefit from one, Saint Luke has acquired one. Please contact Ruth Manchester for more information.



**May 16 • 7:00 am
at Saint Luke**

**Benefits youth traveling
to the ELCA Youth Gathering
in Detroit**

Weekend workshop planned for women and girls

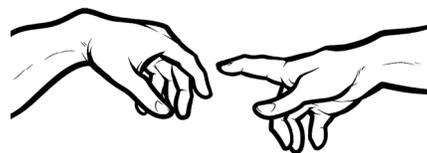
Reservations are now being accepted for a special weekend workshop at Hallowood on June 12-14. Entitled “Our Body: A Gift from God,” the workshop is open to all women and girls at Saint Luke and La Sagrada Familia who are interested in the Biblical aspects of developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The weekend will begin with Bible study to provide a foundation for understanding and caring for God’s gift of life. Through the waters of baptism, we are new creations, members of the body of Christ. We are called to be Christ’s light in the world, and when we care for our whole being—body, mind, and spirit—we are most able to do that. Living well is about a balanced life in Christ.

Workshop participants will learn about and discuss topics related to nutrition, physical activity, and body image, and work together to suggest programs and activities that can be held during the 2015-2016 church year to encourage members of Saint Luke, La Sagrada Familia, and the community toward a healthier lifestyle.

The workshop agenda also includes a variety of activities

such as yoga, games, outdoor worship experiences, and exploring the grounds of Hallowood.



The workshop and next year’s program of activities is a project of the Saint Luke unit of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Church of America) and is supported by a seed grant from the national WELCA organization and a grant from Saint Luke’s Caring Ministries program.

Thanks to the support of these grants, the cost of the workshop is just \$100 per person, and an additional \$40 for a second member of the same family, such as a mother and daughter. Early bird registration (before May 15) is offered at the reduced rate of \$75 per person and \$25 for the second family member. The cost includes two overnight stays at Hallowood, as well as six meals (beginning with dinner on Friday and concluding with lunch on Sunday.)

Flyers and registration forms are available in the “Happenings” kiosk and the Saint Luke bulletin board.

Collection of Baby Care items ends May 10

Mother’s Day, May 10, is the final day for donations for Baby Care Kits. The collection is a project of Saint Luke’s WELCA (Women of the ELCA) to support expectant mothers who do not have the resources to provide essentials for their infants.



Needed items include cotton t-shirts, gowns or sleepers (without feet), socks, and hooded jackets in sizes 6 to 24 months, as well as receiving blankets, soap, and hand towels. Please check the playpen in the Fireside Room. The paper rattles attached to the playpen indicate the items that are still needed.

Please mark your calendars to help assemble the kits after the worship services on Sunday, May 17. The completed Baby Care Kits will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief for distribution.

Organ project, phase II

We are about to begin phase II of the organ project, which involves revoicing all of the organ pipes in order to improve their speech. The Holtkamp Organ Company will be removing the pipes during the first week of May and taking them to their shop in Cleveland, Ohio. Our pipe organ will be out of service for a period of approximately two months. During that time, worship will be supported by our Chapel Organ. We are grateful for the ongoing gifts to the Organ Fund which have made this project possible.

Come, celebrate!

Come, **celebrate Pastor Elizabeth Platz’s 50 years** of working with the University of Maryland’s Lutheran Campus Ministry! The event will be at Saint Luke this **Saturday, May 2 at 2:30 p.m.** We will begin with a worship service with Pastor Platz presiding and Pastor Stephen Zeller preaching. Music will be by the Campus Ministry praise band, Joyful Noise. Then we’ll adjourn to the Great Hall for refreshments and displays. Don’t miss this joyful celebration and the opportunity to say “thank you” to Pastor Platz for her ministry among us.

Special service of Holy Communion

Our Special Service of Holy Communion and Luncheon, held on March 25, was a success. The Christian Day School children sang as a prelude to worship and there was no standing necessary in the service with anointing and communion. A delicious luncheon followed and all attending expressed gratitude for the event. Thanks to the Village at Rockville for the use of their bus to transport residents to the service. Ruth Manchester drives to the home and rides on the bus with the residents to make sure that they travel safely. If this transportation were not available, many Village residents would not be able to come to Saint Luke. Mark your calendars for our next service, set for Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Bring your loved one.



Diane Van Lonkhuyzen serves Pastor and Donna Anderson at the luncheon while Carl Stewart looks on.



Marge Bruffy and Phyllis Reuschlein assisted by Robert, the bus driver.



Walt Belter and Helen Midboe sit in front of Lil Rasmussen and Ivar Holmquist



Marge and Phyllis are on the bus, seated in front of Dick Ahlberg. Barbara Mizell was there too but isn't pictured.

Prayer Partners gathered and commissioned

As the Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 1:2, writes to the church in Thessalonica: *"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering...your work of faith and labor of love..."*

To remember each other as we walk together in faith and love during our busy schedules and daily activities is a great challenge. The discipline of prayer is a learned one. A good way to teach yourself this habit is to become a Prayer Partner. Each day, Prayer Partners remember a few Saint Luke members or families in prayer.

Prayer Partners has been a thriving ministry at Saint Luke for over 42 years. Everyone at Saint Luke is prayed for every day, including our Christian Day School staff, bishops, and missionaries.

We give thanks to our 100+ Prayer Partners who were commissioned on Sunday, April 26 and celebrated at a luncheon together. If you are interested in becoming a partner, we always need more to make sure that all are prayed for! To join us, please contact Ruth Manchester at 301-588-4363 or e-mail rmanchester@saintluke.us.



Prayer Partners enjoy a meal and fellowship.



Sharing

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



The Word

Sunday, May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 17

Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23
Psalm 47
Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 31

The Holy Trinity
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Parish Milestones

Anniversary

45th Anniversary
Gary and Ann Nuss—April 9

New Members

Received April 4
Matthew and Valerie Grussing
John Staub and Erin Kelley
Stewart and Jill McCarver
Elizabeth McCarver

Affirmation of Baptism

April 4
Anthony Larson
Elizabeth Hussein

Baptisms

April 4
Anderson Paul Grussing
Parents: Matthew and Valerie Grussing
Eli Porter Sorrell
Parents: Steve and Linda Sorrell
Liam Houde Staub
Finn Jensen Staub
Parents: John Staub and Erin Kelley
Erin Kelley (adult baptism)

Welcome Back

Sunday, May 3, 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

- ▶ Welcome back to Pastor Miller returning from her sabbatical
- ▶ Welcome back Pastor Stephen Zeller, former Saint Luke Youth staff

Enjoy special refreshments and a chance to offer words of welcome.

What's the buzz?

Are you interested in helping save planet Earth? One way is to help Saint Luke become Bee Keepers. There was recently an article in *The Lutheran* about a local church, First Trinity, who has bee hives on their roof. Bees are integral in the pollination process of many fruits, vegetable, trees, and flowers. Interested in helping? Contact Dan Thomas at dthomas@saintluke.us.