

The Parish Newsletter
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
1601 Frederick Street
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How the Mighty
Have Fallen

It is the
glory of the
Book of
Revelation

that it reminds us in such a beautiful and awesome fashion that in the fight between good and evil, light and darkness, good and light will eventually prevail guided by God's sure hand. That is why we must not fear the worst. God will always be victorious in the end.

I am thinking about this today because about this time of the year I am always reminded of an event that took place regularly during the Cold War. I am referring to May 1st... May Day, this used to be the premier holiday of the worldwide Communist Party. May 1st was the day that communism celebrated itself. Communism was a cruel, anti-God, anti-humanity ideology. It was brutal in practice and, in Russia alone it was the overseer of the deaths of millions upon millions of its own people. Historians believe today that under Stalin alone 60 million people were killed, all in the name of this terrible creed. Unbelievable.

Communism was atheistic in its belief. For a long time those of us who lived through that period believed that communism

would never disappear except as a result of a massive third world war, probably nuclear in nature. And then, one day, it was gone. And it went out, in the words of T.S. Eliot, not with a bang, but with a whimper. To this day I am still amazed at its demise and the way it occurred.

Today, Russia is Christian once again. Its leader, Vladimir Putin, is a Christian and attends church regularly. One of the most bestial of acts the communists affected was the massacre of the Russian imperial family, children included, in a house in 1918. All lined up against a wall and shot. Today that house has been torn down, and in its place is a church. Whoever would have thought this possible? Stalin, Lenin, all the communist leaders shook their fists in defiance in the face of God... and they are gone. That terrible God-less faith has been consigned, in the words of President Reagan, to the ash heap of history.

My point is that during the Cold War when communism held sway over much of the world, none of us thought it would ever disappear without a world holocaust. It is gone. Why should we have been surprised? The Book of Revelation promised this. More than that, so did Easter Sunday. Yes, there are Good Fridays and Holy Saturdays,

days in the tomb, but they are always followed by Easter morning and new life comes to pass in the garden of Spring.

In ancient Rome the most brutal of games took place regularly in the coliseum. The movie, "Gladiator" gives us a brief taste of this disgusting spectacle. Many Christians were martyred in that arena. So much blood spilt to satisfy the lust of a decadent people. Today, if you visit the coliseum you can look up into the tiers of seats and see where the emperor used to sit. Today there is a cross in its place. There is a sign there in Latin: "Here where Caesar once ruled, Christ now reigns forever."

Remember, hope springs eternal. Christ has risen from the dead. God is in control. We are safe and secure.

Sincerely, *Pastor*

Yelovich



April
Congregational
Council
Highlights

Church Council

The regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, April 10th, 2006. Pastor Yelovich opened the meeting with prayer. The **Finance Committee** reported that church income was about \$700 lower than expenses in April and about \$5,000 lower than expenses for the year-to-date. Cemetery expenses in March were minimal with a positive balance of about \$2,000. The Learning Center had

a loss of about \$800 in March with a profit of about \$750 for the year-to-date. Budgeted payments to the church for utility usage were made each month.

Committee reports were as follows:

- The **Finance Committee** reported that offerings through March were about \$1,600 lower than at this point last year; however, Easter was in March last year. Total budgeted income through March was about the same as last year, but with non-budgeted sources, was about \$2,200 more than last year.

- Christian Ed/Youth Ministry** announced that the maximum age of children invited to participate in the Kids Klub discussion during Sunday morning services has been reduced from 13 to 10.

- The **Evangelism Committee** expressed satisfaction in the results of their efforts in obtaining new members. Follow up efforts are being made to keep in contact with persons signing the guest register. Mentors are being assigned to new members to help integrate them into the life of the congregation.

- Social Ministry** reported that their usual monthly activities were continuing.

- Stewardship** announced that a tentative date of Sunday, May 21st has been set for a performance by the Allegany High School Choir; a single service at 10:30 a.m. will be held that morning. Efforts are underway

to obtain other musical groups. Costs are being underwritten by the Men of St. Luke's.

•**Worship & Music** announced that an Eternal Flame sanctuary lamp had been purchased with the money given by the children of Jake and Eva Fradiska in honor of their parents. Anna Harris donated a year's supply of oil for the lamp in honor of her daughter, Sylvia Williams' birthday. The committee recommended that the Contemporary Service be discontinued, based on feedback from members. A concern was that the service was not uplifting enough. The council felt that, rather than discontinue the service, it should be revised to make it more meaningful to worshipers. A motion to this effect was approved.

Pastor Yelovich announced that we have received 15 new members within the past 8 months due to the efforts of the Evangelism Committee and others. Another family will be received on Easter Sunday. Gettysburg Seminary has assigned Bob McIntyre as our Intern for 2006 - 2007, beginning in August. Holy Week services were announced. He thanked the Men of St. Luke's for sponsoring the Easter Breakfast.

Director of Programs, Charity Friend, reported on March and April activities and future plans. Activities included tubing at the Wisp, a St. Patrick's Day party, attendance at a movie, a Tupperware Bingo fundraiser, and a kite-flying event. Another fundraiser is

planned for April. Special May activities will include a Mother's Day luncheon, an International Dinner and Talent Show, and another fundraiser.

The minutes of the March **Learning Center** Board of Directors meeting were presented. Rose Greber reported that over \$150 had been received from the Martin's Awards Points Program. Rose is working with the church secretary to produce a flyer about our Center for distribution to local churches. Also, a letter will be sent to local hospitals informing them that our center is available to take care of emergency child care needs by their staffs and patients. In addition to the minutes, a written financial report from bookkeeper Eleanor Stotler for the first quarter of this year was presented for information. Discussion was deferred until the May meeting so that the Chairman of the Learning Center Board can be present to answer questions.

Under **New Business**, Pastor Yelovich announced that we need a male and a female delegate for the Synod Assembly in Gettysburg in June. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the Pastor or the church office. A request by the Potomac Concert Band to use our Fellowship Hall for a practice on May 24th was approved.

Under **Correspondence**, a letter from the DE-MD Synod Council, approving our updated Constitution and Bylaws was presented.

Ray Yount, Council
Secretary

**Volunteers Needed in Pastoral
Care "Prayer Partner" Program at
WMHS.**

The Pastoral Care Department is looking for several volunteers for our Prayer Partner Program on both hospital campuses. Caring persons are being sought to offer a prayer, a listening ear, and a compassionate presence to patients in our Same Day Surgery department and other out-patient areas. Prior experience is not required and training will be provided. This is not a counseling or chaplain position. The program is open to persons of all faith traditions and individuals will minister to persons of all faiths. The time commitment will be a few hours per week during daylight hours, Monday through Friday. If you feel a special call to this new and exciting ministry to the sick, please contact Tony Conrad at the Sacred Heart Pastoral Care Office (301-723-5567).



*Just as you did it
to one of the least of these.
Matthew 25:40*



Pastor's Quiz:
HYMNS

1. There are 6 hymns in our LBW written by John Newton.

Some of the titles of these hymns are: "Hear Us Now, Our God and Father", and "One There Is Above All

Others". But, what is the most famous hymn John Newton wrote, also in our LBW?

2. There are 17 hymns in our LBW written by the Wesley brothers. John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist Church. But, his two other brothers wrote the majority of these hymns. What are those two brother's first names?
3. Which hymn in the LBW is the only hymn we have which is a song of praise to the 9 orders of angels?
4. Which very popular hymn in the blue book, WOV, according to the composer, is based on the popular World War II song, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore"?
5. Which very popular hymn tune was originally used as a love song to a "Lady of the night"?
6. There is a wedding hymn in the LBW which used to be very popular, sung at most weddings decades ago, but now is used hardly at all at marriage services?
7. Which hymn was the rallying cry for the Union forces during the American Civil War?
8. This composer was very famous in the 19th Century England for his many popular operetta arias, e.g. "Little Butter-Cup", "I Am the Captain of the Pinafore", "I Am the Model of a Model Major General", etc., but was also a very famous hymn writer. Name this composer.
9. Name his most famous hymn, also in our LBW.

10. Which hymn, that we sing quite often, is based on a tune from the finale of Ludwig Van Beethoven's 9th Symphony?

Answers on page 8.



May Birthday's

May 1 st	Quentin Robosson
May 2 nd	Mrs. Karen Watkins Ashleigh Crabtree
May 3 rd	Ms. Bethany Sine
May 6 th	Mrs. Virginia Fairall Dr. Ray Yount
May 10 th	Mrs. Maxine Johnson Haley Geiger
May 11 th	Mrs. Carol Ketterman Mr. Bill Smith
May 12 th	Mr. Michael Bergstrom
May 13 th	Mr. Dan Meredith
May 16 th	Mrs. Betty O'Donnell
May 17 th	Mr. Gary Powell Ms. Renee Mason
May 19 th	Mr. Bob Keller Camryn Painter Jessica Tracy
May 21 st	Mrs. Nancy McCormick
May 22 nd	Mr. Paul Fradiska
May 24 th	Mrs. Alicia Alleman
May 26 th	Ms. Melissa Parker
May 27 th	Triston Eirich
May 29 th	Mrs. Mary Seiler
May 30 th	Mrs. Betty Smith Mr. Dick Graham

If you see someone's birthday is missing, please call or stop by the church office so it can be added for next year!