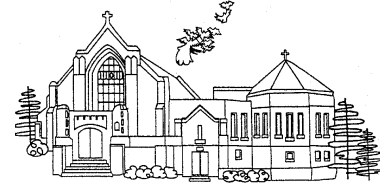


# The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware December 2008

## From the Pastor..

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*Maranatha! Our Lord, come!*

The ancient, Advent prayer of the Church. *Maranatha! Our Lord, come!* We are entering into Advent as God's people. It is the time of reflection and of hope. We are entering into Advent as God's people at a time of great uncertainty for the world, for our nation, for our community and for our congregation. What does the future hold? What certainties are there in a time of economic uncertainty? When we are wrestling with these issues all around us, that ancient prayer rises up unbidden with an exquisite plangency. *Maranatha! Our Lord, come!*

It was to a world filled with such uncertainties that our Lord did in fact come. To a couple who were in essence economic refugees, forced by the repressive tax policies of the government to travel. There, in the feed trough of the stable of the inn at which they stayed, they placed their hopes and dreams, not fully realizing that they did the same with ours as well. *Maranatha! Our Lord, come!* It was to a world filled with incurable disease and demonic power that Mary and Joseph's son went preaching, teaching and healing, so that even if they could or would not name him as such, the people cried out,

*Maranatha! Our Lord, come!* It was on a cross erected by the tacit agreement of the powers that be that this message that goes against the received wisdom of the Age had to be ruthlessly eliminated that Christ showed the fullness of God's love and his message that allows us all to call

from our individual Calvarys, *Maranatha! Our Lord, come!*

And so we, when wearied and worried, can call out this ancient prayer. It is a prayer of hope, as I said, and hope is the knowledge that there is a far side. Hope is the knowledge that no matter what trial, tribulation or travail we find ourselves in as individual disciples, or as the body of Christ which is the Church, that problem will not, indeed cannot, perdure forever. That forest may be dark and deep, but it has an ending. That mountain high and perilous, but on the far side there is a vale of respite. That sea may be

(Continued on page 2)



### Christmas Eve Services

7:00 PM — Family Service  
11:00 PM — Candlelight Service

### Council Corner

By  
Betty Sperati

As my year as St. Stephen's Council President comes to a close, I'd like to take time to reflect. I started the year with the death of my father in January and rapid decline of my mother's mental status. What better place could I have been than in the Nicholson's house to enjoy a meal

(Continued on page 2)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PECAN SALE.....	2
JOY TO THE WORLD!.....	3
LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	4
STEPHEN MINISTERS.....	4
FINANCIALS.....	5
WONDER OF THE WINDOWS.....	6-7
CALENDAR.....	8
LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY.....	9

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS.....	9
JOSH'S NEW ADDRESS.....	9
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES....	10
DECEMBER & JANUARY VOLUNTEERS.....	10-11
WINDOW DONATIONS NEARING HALFWAY MARK.....	11
HANDBELL SEMINAR.....	11
EPIPHANY VESPERS.....	11
2009 COURIER DEADLINES.....	11

## Pastor, cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

storm-tossed and cold, but on the farther shore lies safe harbor. For those of us traversing that forest or ascending that mountain or sailing that sea, there is no doubt the way is rough and we will know fear. But we know that we are not alone while we journey, and we know who it is who will greet us when we will arrive in safety. And so we can call out on our journey that prayer: **Maranatha! Our Lord, come!**

I want to share with you one measure of the hope I see here at Saint Stephen's. For the past several years, we have had a small but committed group meeting twice a month down town to study God's Word and to pray for one another. It has been my privilege as pastor to be part of that group and to know the power of prayer. Our Congregation Council has committed to a similar vocation. We will be spending the first portion of our time together studying the Book of Acts and praying, for one another and for our ministry and mission together. I am also pleased to announce that one of the goals of the Passionate Spirituality Team is about to come on line. We will have at least 3 different households around the Saint Stephen's parish who will be hosting similar Bible Study and prayer groups. You **will** be invited.

Is this the great panacea? As Saint Paul would say, "By no means!" But this is the start of our reclamation of who we are as God's people. We cry out in hope for the Lord to come. And where else do you think he will meet us than in his Word and in the prayers of His people?

So let us rejoice in Advent, let us celebrate the full meaning of Christmas and let us join one another in the New Year gathered and grounded in God's Word and holding each other in prayer. And let all of God's people say **Maranatha! Our Lord, come!**

**In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Matt+**

## Council, cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

before choir when I received the call. So many of the church rallied for me and my family.

St. Stephen's continues to turn the corner since we began Refocusing, mostly due to the dedication of many behind the scenes: members and Pastor Matt and Dan trying to make our spiritual life thrive. A few of the positives that I have witnessed are:

1. We have welcomed many new members into the congregation this year that are becoming active, and have several more that will be joining soon. Then there was the baptism of Evan. Truly an inspiration. And service attendance has increased during the fall season.

2. Bible study groups are starting to add to the Downtown Bible study group already in existence. Council will also be implementing their own short Bible study before meetings.

3. The men's and women's retreats were well received.

4. The Intercessory Prayer group meets regularly. Prayers always make a difference.

5. Many members of the council attended Opening Doors/Opening Windows sponsored by the Synod. Many good ideas came from that day.

6. The music program is doing extremely well and the addition of the vespers programs has been well attended so far this year.

7. The Wednesday evening worship setting has allowed members that can't attend on Sundays an outlet.

8. The great response to the Wonders of the Windows campaign, Hilltop school supplies, Hilltop Thanksgiving boxes, Habitat for Humanity, Emmanuel Dining Room, the Art Loop and our Food Pantry.

St. Stephen's also needs continued work and prayer. More recruiting of new members and giving of time and talents. More visitation to others in the congregation. We need to work on owning our projects as a congregation, not a project of a particular church member.

I am finding the times to be exciting for our St. Stephen's family. Let's not let the momentum stop, but thrust into high gear in the coming year. I especially wish to thank the other Council members (especially Lynn and Dave) for their tireless contributions, Pastor for listening, hearing and responding positively, Dan for his wonderful assistance and leadership and all the other members of the congregation that work tirelessly to improve this congregation and have offered assistance and prayers.

Hello friends,

The pecans are in — Plain-fresh, Chocolate or glazed — \$7.50 a pkg.

This is Luther Towers Aides' main fund raiser

and has been for many years.

Please call or E-mail me.

Thanks! Jane Baddorf, fellow member of St. Stephen's and LT Aide

## Joy to the World!

By Daniel Howe, Director of Music

Last December a friend from LA was visiting me right after Christmas and, as usual, we ventured downtown for post-holiday shopping and dinner. Of course, Christmas decorations were up and lighting our way down every street and alley. One prominent store's advertisement (Robinson's Luggage...very high end totes!) read: "Joy to the Worldly" and my friend was surprised that the people around seemed to take no notice of it. Perhaps many of us have become hardened by the commercial focus of the season and such signs are read with casual cynicism.

With the financial crisis looming, much of the joy of the "worldly" has been severely tarnished and those who continue to flaunt their staggering bonuses and salaries along with lavish company parties have become a focus of collective disgust by every-day people and governments alike. So much joy has been replaced by fear as millions of people have lost their jobs, have had foreclosures on houses and cars repossessed. Though Christmas décor has been set up in Home Depot since the beginning of October, people are holding back on a spending. The concept of "Merry Christmas" in our commercial world has plummeted in the same way the stock market has.

Getting back to the play on the hymn's words, "Joy to the Worldly" has fallen and I wonder if people are looking for deeper meaning aside from the things and symbols that have usually been associated with the season. Lutherans, of course, are provided with the wonderful season of Advent which prepares us for the festival of Christmas. The hymns of Advent all point to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, the Christ.

One of the most well known Christmas carols is Joy to the World. The text was written by a famous preacher from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Isaac Watts, a renowned scholar whose education was unusual. Instead of attending a large university where his education would have been paid for by a wealthy aristocrat, he opted, in 1690, for the Nonconformist academy at Stoke Newington. This academy and others like it were created as alternative universities for those who were dissenters from the Church of England. Dissenters were not allowed to attend the universities at that time and the ramifications in today's world say much for society of any time. After attending the academy, Watts started writing hymns and psalm settings, as he said the settings used at that time were uncouth. Eventually he became ordained but his heavy studies and work compromised his health. Subsequently he was invited to become a guest at Sir Thomas Abney's home, where he spent the rest of his life. As London's leading Dissenting minister, Watts was in close contact with other spiritual leaders of his day, including Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf. In 1728 the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh made him doctor of Divinity.

In addition to numerous volumes, including *The World to Come*, *Catechism*, *Scripture history*, *The Improvement of the Mind*, and a book on logic which became a standard textbook at Oxford, Watts wrote over six hundred hymns. The majority of these appeared in four publications: *Horae lyrica* (1706-1709), *Hymns and Spirituals Songs* (1707-1709), *Divine and Moral Songs* (1715) and *The Psalms of David* (1719). "Joy to the World" is from *The Psalms of David* and is based on Psalm 98.

The tune "Antioch" is said to be based upon two numbers from Part One of Handel's *Messiah*: "Glory to God" and "Comfort Ye My People." In Lowell Mason's works, the tune first appeared in his *Occasional Psalms* (1836) marked, Arr. from Handel. There it had a first and second ending and some variation in the second phrase. In *The National Psalmist* (1848), it was written in the present form used today.

The text of the carol is as true and needed in today's joyless and fearful world as it was needed in Watt's time. We've become so accustomed to comfort, wealth and things that we, instead of being poor in things, have too often become poor in spirit. I'll download the text of the hymn here so that you can easily meditate on these words of joy, comfort and spiritual focus so that this season becomes one of spiritual wealth and beauty.

### Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748



By Steve Tindall

### Food Drives Help Keep LIFE Pantries Open

In the past months, many LCS pantries (we have 11 food distribution sites) have had to cut down on their hours or the amount of food given out. Food drives by mission driven people have been an important piece of the strategy to keep the pantries stocked and open. One of the most exciting approaches was that employed by the folks at Good Shepherd. Instead of trying to get the congregation to bring in more food from their own cabinets, they suggested that members go out and start their own food drives. To make it easy, they supplied them with empty boxes – and asked them bring them back full! Inspired by this model, St. Mark's has done the same.

### Bags Available for Filling!

Two initiatives came together and created yet another solution. At around the same time LCS was hearing about these wonderful food drives, Samantha K., a girl scout who cleaned, repainted and even restocked St. Stephen's pantry, stepped up with 44 environmentally friendly reusable shopping bags (Thank you Sam!). Folks at LCS thought, *Why not use these bags for food drives?* We asked Sam, and she said OK. So, here's the plan. We are decorating these bags with our message: "FILL UP AND RETURN TO LCS." They are now available, first come, first served. **We suggest that you get them for your church and make them available for folks to go out and start their own food drives** – take them to your school, club, workplace or neighbors. When we empty them, we'll send them out again! Call **Dara Snyder – 654 8886, x 104.**

### Home Repair Specialist Goes to Work

Charlie Cozamanis has joined the LCS Home Repair Program as our newest home repair specialist. Charlie recently retired from his state job and came to us via RSVP. The LCS Home Repair program provides low cost (and sometimes no cost) repairs for senior and disabled homeowners. Charlie completed his first job Nov. 7, repairing an attic floor for an elderly widow who was full of gratitude when she told us, "He was a real gentleman and did fine work."

**Sue Culley needs cards — birthday cards, anniversary cards, get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards, and blank cards for writing special messages. Please drop your contributions off at the church office. Thank you!**

## Stephen Ministry

We Are Here for You

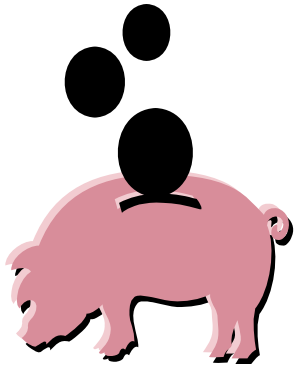
By Marvin Stouffer

Are you or someone you know facing a life crisis such as grief from the death of a loved one, illness, divorce, job loss, etc? Does it make this holiday season seem isolating rather than festive? Does it seem like there is no one you can confide in about how you are really feeling? A Stephen Minister may be right for you.

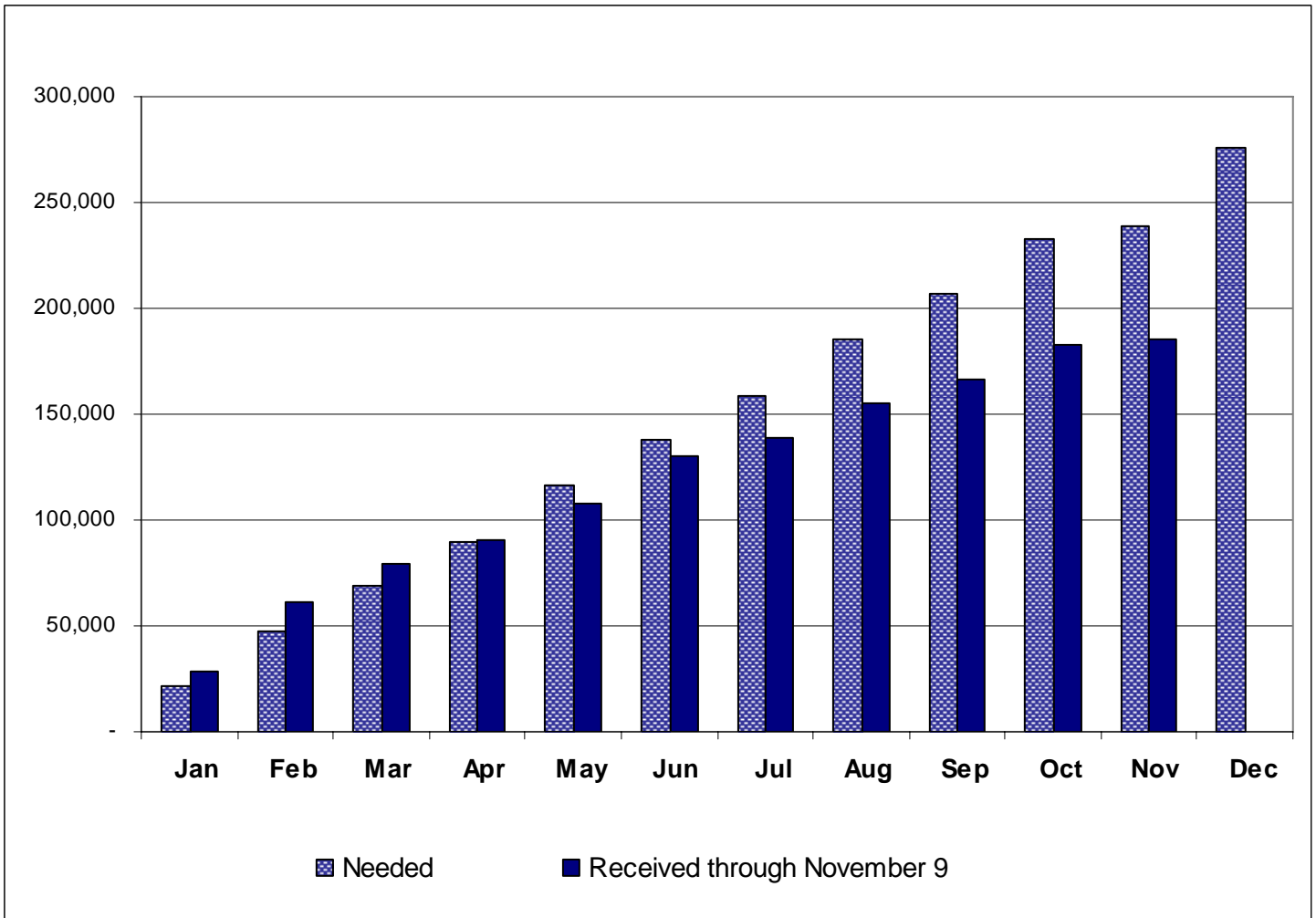
St. Stephen's has a group of eight trained Stephen Ministers. We are in active service as caregivers to people in our congregation who could benefit from one-on-one contact with a strictly confidential listening ear. In addition to 40-plus hours of initial training, we continue to develop and expand our skills through an ongoing program of continuing education, peer support and supervision. The Stephen Minister is the caregiver. God is the cure giver.

If you have any questions or if you or someone you know might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Bob Linderman (302-239-7650, [rclinder@umich.edu](mailto:rclinder@umich.edu)) or Pastor Matt by phone, 302-652-7623, or by email at [pastormatt@ststeph.org](mailto:pastormatt@ststeph.org).





2008 Contribution Status: Year To Date Through November 9				
	Cash Received	Cash Needed: Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)	Cash Received as % of Cash Needed
Operating	\$185,096.47	\$238,447.21	(\$53,350.74)	77.6%
Debt Reduction	\$20.00			
Memorials	\$820.00			
	Cash Received	Cash Expected	Ahead/ (Behind)	
Operating	\$185,096.47	\$199,292.82	(\$14,196.35)	





### Sanctuary Stained Glass Window Stabilization

# WONDER of the WINDOWS

Latest Status-11/23/08

We have received nearly have of the \$45,000 needed for the Windows Capital Fund Project to restore the protective covers and exterior wood frames of the 16 stained glass windows in our Sanctuary, Sacristy, Narthex and coat closet.

Donations are tax-deductible, and will be recorded along with other giving to St. Stephen's. Four giving levels will be recognized on a plaque to be prominently mounted in the Sanctuary; these are listed in the Donation Form below. Additionally, donations to completely pay for the altar window or Ascension window (\$8,000 each), one of the 10 main Sanctuary windows (\$4,000 each) or the windows in the Sacristy, Narthex or coat closet (\$2,000 each) will be further recognized by a separate plaque by the respective window. The windows in the Sanctuary are shown on the back with their name and relative location.

### WONDER of the WINDOWS Donation Form

Yes, I want to help restore the beauty of the sanctuary's stained glass windows with a donation of:

- \$100 (paint level)       \$250 (wood level)       \$500 (lead level)       \$1,000 (glass level)
- \$8,000 (Altar or Ascension window)       \$4,000 (Other Sanctuary window)
- \$2,000 (Narthex/Sacristy/closet window)       Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donations for specific windows will be applied in the order received based on the date on this form. Please indicate your top three window preferences so Dave Warner can adjudicate "ties." We will contact you by phone if additional questions arise regarding window selections.

Windows shown on reverse

1)\_\_\_ 2)\_\_\_ 3)\_\_\_ 4)\_\_\_ 5)\_\_\_ 6)\_\_\_ 7)\_\_\_ 8)\_\_\_ 9)\_\_\_ 10)\_\_\_ Altar\_\_\_ Ascension\_\_\_

The windows below are not shown on the reverse:

Sacristy\_\_\_ Coat Closet\_\_\_ Narthex North\_\_\_ Narthex South\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check to the "St. Stephen's Wonder of the Windows" Project.

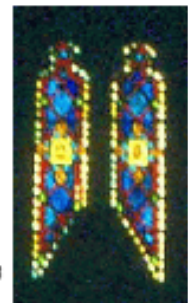
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Nov 23, 2008

Chancel/  
Altar  
Window



Ascension  
Window  
(rear of  
sanctuary)



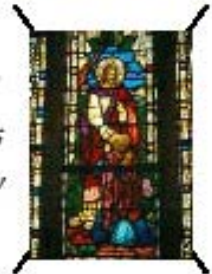
5. Jesus Blessing  
the Children

6. Samaritan Woman at  
the Well



4. Calling of Matthew

7. Healing the Blind Man  
*FUNDS ALREADY  
DONATED for this  
Window*



3. Baptism of Jesus  
*FUNDS ALREADY  
DONATED for this  
Window*

photos courtesy of Val Lundeke

8. Garden of Gethsemene



2. Jesus in the Temple  
*FUNDS ALREADY  
DONATED for this  
Window*

9. Jesus facing Pontius  
Pilate



1. Birth of Jesus

10. He is Risen



Oct. 19, 2008

# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		2 7:30 PM Mission Team Meetings	3 7:15 PM Evening Prayer Service	4 12:00 PM Leisure Lunch 7:30 Choir Practice	5	6
7 LIFE Sunday 8:15 AM Early Service 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Traditional Service 12:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study 7:00 PM Congregation Council	10 7:15 PM Evening Prayer Service	11 7:30 Choir Practice	12	13
14 8:15 AM Early Service 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Traditional Service 2:00 PM Sunrise Service	15	16	17 7:15 PM Evening Prayer Service	18 4:30 PM Stephen Ministers 7:30 Choir Practice	19 11:59 PM Courier Deadline	20
21 8:15 AM Early Service 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Traditional Service	22	23 9:30 AM Courier folding 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols	29	30 11:45 AM Emmanuel Dining Room	31 7:15 PM Evening Prayer Service 7:30 PM Intercessory Prayer Team			

## Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware

*Our mission is to show our Faith in God  
through fellowship, outreach and service.*

Lutheran Campus Ministry directing committee and students wish all of you a blessed Advent and Christmas. We give thanks for the support many of the New Castle County Lutheran Congregations give to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware. We hope you will consider our group for a 2009 service project or make us a fund-raiser recipient.

“We Are Called” was the theme of the third annual fundraising dinner to benefit LCM at the University of Delaware. We thank everyone who made a pledge or gave a donation to our Mission Development project. We will share 10% of the proceeds of \$14,000.00 with the Sowing for the Harvest mission.

Although our fall clean-up event was cut short by rain, we managed to get some raking and weeding completed before we got too wet! The Bonhoeffer House (our rental property on campus) and Paul’s Chapel are warm, welcoming places for Lutheran students at the University of Delaware. Every Tuesday evening the students worship at the Chapel and share a meal. We are in need of meals for Tuesdays. Are you involved with a Church group looking for a service project? The U of D students are thankful to have home cooked meals or donations for pizza nights. For details call Pastor Bruce at 368-3078.

Lutheran Student Association members along with Lutheran Community Services provide a food distribution to families in need. Distribution is made monthly from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church to families registered in the program. The group purchases food from the food Bank of Delaware and asks for donations.

There are many ways to donate to LCM! Use [iGive.com/LCM-DE](http://iGive.com/LCM-DE) and sign-up where you enter your e-mail address. Every time you want to buy something online, go back to the iGive website and find the one merchant you are purchasing from off its long list of companies. Every time you make a purchase, iGive will give money to LCM at the University of Delaware. This will not require you to pay any more money for your purchases; in fact, sometimes you can even save money through iGive coupons and special offers.

You can check out our LCM website at [www.lutheransatud.org](http://www.lutheransatud.org). The Board will hold a retreat on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to look at the future of LCM at U of D.

*Shirley Glines LCM Secretary*

*Praying+Caring+Thinking+Daring+in the Name of Jesus*



## Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Working for Social Justice  
Living in Intentional Community  
Exploring Simplified Sustainable Living

*By Judy Zahnow*

Meet Alyse Sutton from Ogallala, NE:

“My parents names are Allyn and Michele. My dad is a chiropractor and my mom is his assistant. I have three sisters named Tara, Quinn, and Teeyl. I also have two dogs, Ozzie and Phoebe. I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearny in May of 2007. I majored in Sociology and minored in History. I enjoy swimming (or pretty much anything else having to do with water), skiing, bike riding, taking walks, photography, reading, or anything else that sounds like fun. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I chose LVC because I wanted to be part of an organization that works to empower people who are often ignored, and the fact that LVC values community and simplicity/sustainability is icing on the cake! LVC allows me to learn and grow at the same time I am helping students to succeed academically and socially. My placement is with Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center where I am the Assistant Education Coordinator. I tutor students in Kindergarten through seventh grade.”

**Save the Date** – LVC Bowlathon — Sunday, April 26, 2009 – 1:30pm-4:00

**Needed:** Adult bicycles for LVC transportation to work and for recreation. Please call Bill at 571-9333.

### **New Address:**

**PV2 Sperati, Joshua E  
D-BTRY 1-78th FA  
6304 NE Rothwell St  
Fort Sill OK 73503**

## People With Important Dates in December & January

### December Birthdays

- 2 Patricia Hubik
- 4 Michael Mutschler
- 6 Vera Rathfon
- 7 Jennifer Nelson
- 8 Gary Gooden, Frederick Henry
- 12 Lila Hall, Shawn Heiss, Howard Viden
- 13 Ellen Viden
- 19 Meagan Helman
- 20 Dianna Detwiler
- 21 Anne Hummel
- 27 Deidre Fillingame
- 28 Daniel Johnson, Reid Johnson

### December Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Henry & Carole Munson
- 26 Marion & Conrad Rechsteiner III
- 31 David & Sharon Potter  
Dale & Clarice Wolf

### December Volunteers

### December Greeters

- 7 Fred Altergott
- 14 James & Gailmarie Cook
- 21 Potter Family
- 24 7:00 PM — Sue & Emma Culley  
11:00 PM — Chick & Jane Baddorf
- 28 Joyce Bukovsky

### December Gathering Time Hosts

- 7 Gary & Sue Gooden
- 14 Lila Hall
- 21 Anne Hummel
- 28 Carol Lay

### December Ushers

- 7 Team 3. Dave Culley, Capt.
- 14 Team 5. Fred Altergott, Capt.
- 21 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt
- 28 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt

### December Sound System Operators

TBA

### December Flower Delivery

- 7 Lou Jackson
- 14 Carol Lay
- 21 Susan Mack
- 28 Carol Lay

### December Altar Guild

- 7 Lydia Turner & Jane Baddorf
- 14 Lydia Turner & Sue Culley
- 21 Lydia Turner & Jane Baddorf
- 28 Lydia Turner & Sue Culley

### December Food Pantry Packers

- 7 Sue Gooden
- 14 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 21 Dick Parker
- 28 r

### December Lectors

- 7 James Cook
- 14 John Gordon
- 21 Helen Cripe
- 28 Lessons & Carols

### December Cantors

- 7 Psalm — Bill Sperati  
Verse — Choir
- 14 Psalm — TJ Potter  
Verse — Choir
- 21 Psalm — Debbie Nicholson  
Verse — Choir
- 24 7:00 PM. Verse — Congregation  
11:00 PM Kyrie & Psalm TBA  
Verse — Congregation
- 28 Lessons & Carols, no Cantor needed

### December Acolytes

- 7 Sarah Mack
- 14 Abby Jones
- 21
- 28

### December Chalice Bearers

- 7 Ann Wagner & Bob Linderman
- 14 Sue & Ralph Heiss
- 21 Lynn & Dave Splittorff
- 28

### December 8:15 Assistants

- 7 John Rodammer
- 14 Dick Parker
- 21 Ann Warner
- 28

### January 2009 Volunteers

#### January Greeters

TBA

#### January Gathering Time Hosts

- 4 Sharon Mutschler
- 11 Sharon Potter
- 18 Bill Sperati
- 25 Lynn Splittorf

#### January Ushers

- 4 Team 5. Fred Altergott, Capt.
- 11 Team 3. Dave Culley, Capt
- 18 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt
- 25 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt

#### January Sound System Operators

TBA

#### January Flower Delivery

- 4 Potter Family
- 11 Lydia Turner
- 18 Ann Wagner
- 25 Dale & Clarice Wolf

#### January Altar Guild

TBA

#### January Food Pantry Packers

- 4 Sue Heiss
- 11 Susan Mack
- 18 Sue Gooden
- 25 Clarice & Dale Wolf

#### January Lectors

- 4 Dave Culley
- 11 Ralph Heiss
- 18 Ann Warner
- 25 James Cook

#### January Cantors

TBA

#### January Acolytes

- 4 Ryan Heiss
- 11 Tyler Heiss
- 18
- 25 Charles Hummel

#### January Chalice Bearers

- 4 James Cook & Dave Culley
- 11 Marvin Stouffer & Dave Warner

- 18 Lydia Turner & Sue Culley
- 25 Jane & Chick Baddorf

**January 8:15 Assistants**

- 4 Gary Gooden
- 11 John Rodammer
- 18 Dick Parker
- 25 Ann Warner

**Important Notice: Courier Deadline for February 2009(Jan 16, 2009)**

The editor will be traveling in January, and doing this issue by remote computer access. It is important that **all material meet this deadline.** Please do not leave copy in the *Courier* mailbox in the office. Please submit it by email, or have someone email it for you. You may also call information to the editor at 302-652-1895.

**Courier Deadlines for 2009**  
 (Subject to change, depending on what's happening — please note that the deadline is not always the 3rd Friday)

- January 2009 issue — due date is December 19
- February 2009 issue — due date is January 16
- March 2009 issue — due date is February 13
- April 2009 issue — due date is March 20
- May 2009 issue — due date is April 17
- June 2009 issue — due date is May 22
- July/August 2009 issue — due date is June 19
- September 2009 issue — due date is August 21
- October 2009 issue — due date is September 18
- November 2009 issue — due date is October 16
- December 2009 issue — due date is November 20
- January 2010 issue — due date is December 18

# Window Donations Nearing Halfway Mark

*By Dave Warner*

Donations for the restoration of the exterior frames and protective coverings on our sanctuary windows are close to the halfway mark. Just under \$20,000 of the \$45,000 goal has been received.

Three of the main sanctuary windows have restoration sponsors. This leaves several more that you can ensure will last for decades with a donation of \$4,000.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Courier* you can find a donation form. While we would prefer to have the donation submitted along with the form, we realize money is tight, and you may not have the entire amount presently on hand. Pledges are accepted; the pledged amount should be submitted by mid-2009.

Please consider making this a Merry Christmas season for our windows by donating to this worthy cause.

**Join us for Two Important Events  
on Saturday, January 17, 2009**

Handbell Ringing  
9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Cost \$30, lunch included


This basic bell-ringing seminar will focus on fundamental ringing techniques, with an introduction to some advanced techniques. The seminar is appropriate for anyone interested in handbell ringing, particularly those involved in a school, church, community or other group.

The seminar will be led by Kathy Ebling-Thorne, a director of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir at Westminster Choir College in Princeton NJ.

**Join us at 6:00 PM on Saturday, January 17, 2009 for a  
Concert Vesper Service**

Celebrating the season of Epiphany  
Featuring our St. Stephen's Choir,  
our St. Stephen's Handbell Choir, and guest soloists  
Watch this space for more information!

Due date for copy for the **January 2009 Courier** will be **December 19 at midnight.** Please email your *Courier* items to the editor at [helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com](mailto:helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com), [helen.cripe@hlcripe.com](mailto:helen.cripe@hlcripe.com), fax to 302-425-4646, or leave them in the newsletter's box in the church office. **Please note the change in email addresses.** Thank you!



*Neroon*

# The Courier

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Office  
1304 North Rodney Street  
Wilmington, DE 19806

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Wilmington, DE  
Permit No. 244

Address Correction Requested

## Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 8:15 AM Early Service
- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:30 AM Primary Worship

## Who Does What at St. Stephen's

### Staff

Matthew M. Hummel, Senior Pastor ..... 683-0776  
..... e-mail pastormatt@ststeph.org  
David L. Blackwelder, Pastor Emeritus.....  
Daniel Howe, Director of Music ..... e-mail dirmusic@ststeph.org  
Jo-Ann Eatmon, Office Coordinator ..... (302) 652-7623  
Ann Warner, Communications Coordinator .....  
..... Office 652-7623, communications@ststeph.org  
Kevin L. Krick, Sexton  
St. Stephen's Phone ..... (302) 652-7623  
St. Stephen's FAX ..... (302) 652-7646  
St. Stephen's e-mail ..... office@ststeph.org  
St. Stephen's Web Site ..... www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

### Officers

Betty Sperati ..... Council President..... 994-6049  
Lynn Splittorff..... Council Vice-President..... 239-7457  
Debbie Nicholson ..... Treasurer..... 652-8758  
Woody Mutschler ..... Financial Secretary ..... 410-398-0446  
Dave Warner..... Secretary ..... 762-2389

### Council Liaisons

Christian Education ..... Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446  
Evangelism ..... Ann Wagner ..... 494-8406  
Finance and Audit..... Dave Warner..... 762-2389  
Nominating ..... John Rodammer ..... 454-5858  
Nurture ..... Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446

Personnel..... Betty Sperati.....994-6049  
Property..... Lydia Turner .....655-5493  
Social Ministry..... John Rodammer .....454-5858  
Staff Support ..... Lynn Splittorff .....239-7457  
Stewardship..... Ralph Heiss .....798-5355  
Worship and Music ..... Lynn Splittorff .....239-7457

### Mission Teams

Sunday School ..... Jane Conlon.....764-2910  
..... Sally Dudderar .....234-1676  
..... Sue Heiss.....798-5355  
*Courier* Editor ..... Helen Cripe .....652-1895  
Fellowship..... Sharon Potter.....239-3896  
Outreach—Evangelism ..... John Gordon.....8327054  
Finance..... Dave Potter.....239-3896  
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff .....239-7457  
Property..... Errol Hartmann .....762-9648  
..... Lou Jackson .....479-0226  
..... Forrest Boettcher.....378-3553  
Social Ministry.....  
Staff Support ..... Marvin Stouffer.....239-7457  
Stewardship.....  
Worship and Music ..... Julie Hazuda.....239-5221  
Altar Guild .....  
..... Sonia Brode.....836-4907  
Ushers .....