

Shepherd of Peace

The Monthly Pastoral Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church and Academy
March 2006 Volume 2 Number 1

Our Deliverance Is in the Cross

“Nevertheless I am continually with thee.” Psalm 73:23

“If we fall, Christ, the Almighty King of this world, must suffer with us, and even if His cause should fall, we should wish rather to fall with Christ than to stand with the highest power on earth.”
Martin Luther

When we think of the unique challenges we face in our lives as Christians (being faithful to our Lord, teaching our children the Word of God, bearing witness to our faith with family members, co-workers, and friends) it is easy to become discouraged. When we think of the challenges we face as a congregation in a world that is increasingly hostile to Christianity, it is also easy to become discouraged. The following words of Martin Luther offer us real comfort and strength:

“If for the sake of God’s Word hardship, sorrow, and persecution come to us, all of which follow in the train of the holy cross, the following thoughts should, with God’s help, comfort and console us, and should make us determine to be of good cheer, full of courage and confidence, and lead us to surrender the cause trustfully into God’s gracious and fatherly will.

“First, that our cause is in the hands of Him who says so clearly, ‘No man shall pluck them from My hand’. It

would not be wise to take our cause into our own hands, for we could and should lose it by our loose ways. Likewise all the comfortable words are true and do not lie, which say, ‘God is our refuge and strength’. Has any man who puts his trust in God ever been put to shame? All who trust in God will be saved, and again: ‘Thou Lord hast not forsaken them that seek Thee’. Thus it is really true that God gave His only-begotten Son for our salvation. If God gave His own Son for us, how could He ever bring Himself to desert us in small things?

“God is much stronger, mightier, and more powerful than the devil. Thus says St. John: ‘Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world’. If we fall, Christ, the Almighty King of this world, must suffer with us, and even if His cause should fall, we should wish rather to fall with Christ than to stand with the highest power on earth.” – Martin Luther, from *Day by Day We Magnify Thee*, p. 117.

News and Notes

Academy Open House Luncheon

After service on Sunday, March 19, the Academy students and teachers invite the congregation to a special luncheon open house in which you will experience a sample day at the Academy. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Academy for all our members and for those who are considering sending their children. Members are encouraged to invite prospective students and their families. Lunch will be provided, please sign up in the narthex so that we know how many to expect. The open house will end at 2:30.

Congregational Budget Forum

A Budget Forum will be held on Sunday, March 26, at 9:15 a.m. The Parish Council is requesting that all members of the congregation plan to attend the Forum.

During the forum, the proposed 2006-2007 Congregation, Academy, and CCA budgets will be presented. Also, the congregation will be updated on the “Reducing the Debt” campaign, given statistical information, and information on the Funding the Academy. The Forum is in preparation for voting on the budgets at the May Congregational Meeting. If you are not able to attend on March 26, you will be contacted by an Elder about attending on one of the alternate meeting dates. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Gatchell.

Reducing the Debt Update

March 1, 2006

Every month the bulletin or newsletter reports progress on reducing our debt for "past due bills and member loans."

Running Total of Outstanding Debt:

October 14, 2005	\$80,500
November 10, 2005	\$81,400
December 23, 2005	\$79,750
January 8, 2006	\$55,425
February 12, 2006	\$55,425
March 1, 2006	\$58,225

As the chart notes, giving in February fell behind slightly thus elevating our debt level to \$58,225.

So that we do not fall behind again but continue to make progress, we need our members to continue their strong giving to the General Fund and the Building Fund of the congregation. As God enables you throughout 2006, we hope that additional contributions can also be made to the "Reducing the Debt Campaign."

Outstanding Debt:

- \$30,725 Past Due Bills (IRS Payroll Taxes, Health Insurance, Retirement Plans, Feb Utilities)
- \$27,500 Member Loans
- \$58,225 As of 3/1/06

Current March Bills:

- \$35,000 Mortgage, Utilities, Current State & Fed Payroll Taxes, Health Ins, Retirement Plans, 3/15 & 3/31 Payroll, and Other Bills (for both church and academy)

Preschool Registration for 2006-2007 Begins

Registration is now open for member preschool students and all returning preschool families. Any of these students who do not register before the March 15 general public open registration date cannot be guaranteed a spot for next year. All registration forms must be accompanied by a \$100 registration fee that is applied toward tuition.

The 2006 Flower Chart and Candle Chart

Observe an anniversary, birthday, "in memory," or other special occasion by signing up for altar flowers or the sanctuary candle on the charts by the kitchen. There are many open dates that you can choose from. Flowers of

your choosing may be brought in Friday or Saturday, and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$3.50.

2006 Goods and Services Auction

A HUGE Success! The auction was held on February 26, at the Silver Spring Country Club and was attended by 141 people. Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, either by buying all of the great baked goods, purchasing raffle tickets, or bidding on the silent and live auction items, we raised **\$13,306** for the Academy! A special thank you to Jeannine Gabel and all of the volunteers who assisted her for their work in putting together the auction. Thank you to all of the members and businesses that donated items for the auction, to our auctioneer, Mike Gerlach, and to Silver Springs Country Club. The 5th Annual Goods and Services Auction will be on February 25, 2007 at Silver Springs Country Club. Please mark your calendars and begin inviting your friends and family members to attend.

4th Annual Academy Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, May 13, at the Songbird Hills Golf Club. Start getting your foursomes together. We encourage you to invite friends and family members to this fun day of golf. There will be various hole prizes, chances to win prizes for making a hole-in-one, a putting competition and various raffle prizes. In addition, after golfing, there will be a dinner, with a raffle and silent auction. You do not need to golf to attend the dinner and silent auction! Informational fliers and forms will be available starting Sunday, Mar. 13.

March is SCRIP Awareness Month!

As part of the Year of the Academy Events, the Parish Council has established the month of March as "Scrip Awareness Month." See the bulletin board in the narthex for SCRIP program details.

What is Scrip? Don't you know?????

Scrip is a "gift certificate/gift card" program that enables you to buy groceries, gas, and many other goods at retail stores and restaurants in the same manner you would purchase these things with cash. Why do it? The Academy receives a percentage of every Scrip purchase made (2%, 3%, 5%, 10%) depending on the retail outlet. When you buy with Scrip you pay exactly the same amount for goods as you would with cash, but the Academy receives a percentage of the purchase price from the vendor. So jump on the Scrip "bandwagon"! There's always someone at the Scrip counter in the narthex on Sunday mornings if you have questions. It's easy, it's convenient, and it helps our Academy!