



# The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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A  
BLESSED  
THANKSGIVING  
TO  
YOU  
ALL!

## Haven Harvests First Crop

by Donald Kovac, Executive Director

The crops may not produce enough to open a Farmers Market but they are enough to nurture the interests of Haven gardeners. There are 20 gardens four feet wide and eight feet long planted in the middle of the campus. And the first crop is coming to harvest: corn, beans, squash, eggplant, peppers, and more.

Florida climate can produce two crops of veggies a year.

Haven resident, Pastor Clarence Helmich, who has a passion for growing things, cultivated the campus' gardening interests and provided the leadership for establishing the 20 gardens. Helmich's own two backyard gardens served as a model for the rest of the campus. All 20 spaces are accounted for!

As Pastor Helmich sees it, "The gardens are an opportunity for people to work together and enjoy each other's company while producing something at the same time. And there are some who just enjoy watching."



Pastor Clarence Helmich, 3rd from right, organized Haven residents in establishing 20 garden plots in the center of the campus

Jesus instructs us to "share" in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink . . ." Please share with your local sharing center, food cupboard, food bank, etc.

# CITIZEN STEWARDSHIP

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

## PRO DEO ET PATRIA

The "Pro Deo et Patria" (For God and Country) Boy Scout award is one of the highest and most difficult to be achieved. Scouts have to perform a great amount of service projects in behalf of their church and community. The motto, "For God and Country" applies to all Christians. Christians are to be good caretakers of their Church and country.



## OBEDIENCE

Christian citizen stewardship requires obedience to law and government. Civil obedience is necessary for an orderly society. When laws are not obeyed, society falls into chaos. Actually, anarchists are rebelling against God.

St. Paul writes: "The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted." (Rom. 13:1-2)

Because people are sinful, they have a tendency not to get along with each other. A basic purpose of government is to punish those who do evil and reward those who do good. St. Peter writes: "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." (1 Peter 2: 13-14) Civil disobedience is allowed only when a government commands something contrary to the will of God. The apostles disobeyed civil authority stating: "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

## RESPECT

Government officials should be respected.

Regina Brett of the Cleveland Plain Dealer recently (10/2/09) wrote a commentary about how a "lack of civility" is increasing among Americans. Among

examples, she cited an insult publicly screamed at President Obama. In a democratic society, Christian citizens have the privilege to disagree, but never the right to insult the personhood of someone - be it a government official, neighbor, friend, family member, fellow worker - whoever. In Romans 13:6-7, St. Paul calls government officials "God's Servants" who are to be respected.

The emperor, Nero, an evil man, ruled at the time of Saints Peter and Paul. It was in the context of despotic, bad government that the apostles encouraged respect for rulers and government authority. St. Peter writes: "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King." (1 Peter 2:17)

## INVOLVEMENT

Some things you can do as a Christian citizen:

- \* Vote
- \* Obey the law
- \* Pay taxes honestly
- \* Campaign for a good candidate
- \* Run for a public office yourself
- \* Serve the community as a volunteer
- \* Effect change by supporting good laws and opposing bad ones (ie. abortion, same sex marriage, human cloning, stem cell research, gambling, etc.)
- \* Respectfully influence government leaders

## PRAYER

If you don't like a government official, the first thing to do is pray. St. Paul writes: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Tim. 2:1-2) Pray that those who govern may rule with moral integrity for the good of all according to God's will. Pray that the citizens of our nation would live righteously. Proverbs 14:34 reminds us: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

"Your Vote Counts!"

[www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org)

(Stewardship - Personal Stewardship)

# God Put Us Where He Needed Us

by Sandy Vollrath

Sandy Vollrath, of St. Stephen's, Dickson City PA, along with husband, Andre, and daughters, Angelica and Nicole traveled with 6 other people from Pennsylvania churches (Pittsburgh- Scranton-Tunkhannock-and Wilkes-Barre) on a mission trip to Alaska July 3-12, 2009.

As we set out to provide Vacation Bible School for the children in Funny River, AK, we thought we were ready. We had studied the curriculum, met with our fellow volunteers, made all arrangements for animal care, learned what we could about Alaska and its wildlife, and planned carefully what to pack. Well, my friends, words and even pictures cannot fairly portray the experience we had.

The scenery is absolutely breathtaking. Snow-capped mountains miles high in the sky, beautiful flowers and trees, huge rabbits and moose, and the sun that never sets are only some of the things we saw. After the long trip from JFK airport to the Anchorage airport, we spent the night at Beautiful Savior church. Though the only bedding we had was what we packed, our weary bodies quickly fell asleep on the floor, some of us in the classrooms, some of us in the hallways. This was the meeting point for all the mission trips from around the country so there were more volunteers arriving all through the night. In the morning we had a four-legged visitor at the front of the church, a moose!



After a quick breakfast, morning meeting and prayer, we set out for this place called Funny River. The drive was long but filled with the beautiful Alaska scenery. We arrived at Funny River Lutheran Church and set up camp. The next morning was Sunday church service at 11:00 and we were able to meet the families of Funny River. They were all very gracious and helpful. In the afternoon we decided to have a meeting to discuss the plans for VBS the next day. Suddenly we heard the sound of fire engines and they were getting closer. We went outside the front doors of the church and soon saw why they had come. There was a fire burning less than a mile away! We later learned it was accidentally set by someone setting off fireworks. We watched the planes drop water and the helicopters with their big water buckets hanging below them trying to put out the fire. Within a few minutes the parking lot began filling up with neighbors who had been displaced because of the fire. We offered refreshments and comfort. They even brought their dogs and their neighbors' dogs which made Nicole and Angelica very happy!



VBS was finally here! Within the first few minutes the children let us know that they had been waiting a long time for this! Most of the children there are home-schooled so this is one of the few opportunities they have to be all together. They were so grateful and happy. One little girl rode her bike with her mother everyday three miles each way. The children were soon singing about how "God's Always Doing Great Exciting Things" and how "We Are His Workmanship." Learning and laughing and loving it!

Tuesday a few of us decided to go to town to find a Laundromat and the rest went to help price items for the church rummage sale. On the way to Soldotna to do laundry, the pickup truck in front of us suddenly stopped. We saw a big cloud of dust and soon realized that the motorcycle in front of the truck had run off the road and hit a tree! The woman was hurt pretty badly. The driver of the pickup truck called 911 and one of our volunteers fortunately was a nurse! She rushed to aid the victim while the rest of us did traffic control. Pastor Brindle (of St. Paul 's, Tunkhannock) led us in prayer and soon the ambulance arrived.

[continued on page 4]

Wednesday we were invited to one of the family's home for a cook out. As we enjoyed the food and company, the sky began to turn dark. Since the sun does not set, this concerned us. As it turned out, the wind had shifted and the wildfire that had been burning for over a week was headed our way and along with it the smoke. Ash began falling from the sky and the sun disappeared. Back at the church the air quality was far worse. We kept the windows closed and hoped for the best and of course we prayed. I made sure Nicole took her inhalers regularly to fight off her asthma. She did ok overnight but by 11:00 the next morning her color was not good and she was having trouble breathing. It was decided that Jamie and I would take her to the hospital while everyone else finished up VBS for the day. Nicole got a breathing treatment and was doing much better but the doctor did not want her to go back to the church due to the smoke and the possibility that they would close the road. We booked the LAST available room in town! The U.S. Forestry team had come in to fight the fire and booked every room but one for the next two weeks!

Andre called as I was securing the room and told me that VBS went well but that they had just been visited by the fire fighters who told them we were officially EVACUATED and they were CLOSING THE ROAD! Again, by God's design and plan, Pastor George had a cabin on the other side of the Peninsula where the rest of the team could stay over night. Friday morning things were much better. The road was opened, the air was clearer, and the final day of VBS was upon us. We decided to give the children a party after VBS and invited the parents to join us. The most frequently asked question was, "Are you going to come back next year?" and the answer a resounding, "I hope so!"

## Celebration of Zion's Musical Heritage

by Rev. Luther Bajus

In celebrating her 100th year, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Norridge, IL, included a Celebration of Zion's Musical Heritage over the past 100 years.

Participating organists included Nona Schipull, the organist at Zion; Andrew Schaeffer, a student at St. Olaf University in Northfield, MN; Christopher Bohus, the organist at the Evang. Luth. Church of Dr. Martin Luther, Chicago; and Kitko Lenco, who has served as organist for a number of churches in the Chicago-land area.

Nona Schipull began the celebration with two selections and accompanied the gathering with various hymns, including the singing of the Rev. Dr. Jaroslav Vaida's hymn, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing."

Andrew Schaeffer is the great nephew of Pastor Luther Bajus and is becoming well known as an exceptional organist. Andrew did a number of improvisations including one on "Boze Velky, od Vecnosti." which was so creative in inspiring a joyous spirit of worship. Also, "Lo, Judah's Lion Wins the Strife" a hymn translated by Andrew's great grandfather, the Rev. John Bajus, was included as an improvisation in his opening selections.

Kitko Lenco, was the soloist singing a Slovak hymn, "Kto za pravdu hori v svatej obeti," asking God's blessing on the nation. He was accompanied on the organ by Christopher Bohus, Lenco also wrote a brief history of Slovak hymnody and accompanied Pastor Bajus in the chanting of the Lord's Prayer and Benediction in Slovak.

The first stanzas of two hymns were sung in Slovak. "Krasny Jezisi," was the theme hymn of Zion's choir over many years. The second was the Christmas carolers favorite "Cas Radosti," It is in TLH #82, "Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing." A more recent translation by Jaroslav Vajda is found in LSB #371, "Let our Gladness Banish Sadness. The celebration was very well attended as was the Fellowship Hour which followed.



L to R: Andrew Schaeffer, Christopher Bohus, Nona Schipull, Kitko Lenco

SOLI DEO GLORIA



# LWML Rally News



by Sharon Roegge

by Verna Jurkovich

**October is LWML month.** Many zones hold their rallies then and women's groups observe LWML Sunday, usually on the first Sunday. Central Zone held their rally on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Western Zone on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Eastern Zone on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>.



3 Newly Elected Officers  
Betty Cervantes, Treas; Sharron Schaderman, V.P.; Edith Constien, Sec.;  
Laura Bergmann continues as President

At the Western Zone Rally, I presented a DVD with Virginia VonSeggern and Katy Gifford telling about and encouraging LWMLers to be mentors. They described how Virginia had mentored Katy, how Katy responded to her help, and how others could do the same. I also gave a general talk on LWML.

At the Eastern Zone Rally, I offered everyone a LWML Quiz; those attending had from 3 to 17 out of 20 correct. These presentations were a result of the training that Leah Socrates and I received at the Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis.

Because SELC LWML is part of the Coalition for the 2013 Convention in Pittsburg, we are raising money for the planning meetings. Within 2 years, committee chairmen will have been selected and plans will begin. We are working with M.L.C. Enterprises to do a recycling fundraiser – Ready, Set, Recycle!

Those churches which have a LWML society will be receiving posters, bulletin inserts, articles and more to help make this a successful project. If other churches are interested in helping out, the following items will be collected: empty ink jet and laser printer cartridges; the following should also include cords and accessories: used cell phones, PDAs (Palm Pilots, Blackberrys), MP3 players/I-Pods, digital cameras, DVD video Games/Players, GPS systems and laptops. Original boxes are helpful, too. We will collect these at our rallies and at our District Convention. For more information, email me at [skroegge@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:skroegge@pa.metrocast.net).

In preparation for Pittsburgh, it will be helpful for as many of us as possible to attend the Peoria Convention June 23-26, 2011. We can better see what's expected of us and will be extending an invitation to those assembled in Peoria, IL to join us in Pittsburgh.

The Fall Rally of the Central Zone (CZ) was held at Sts. Peter & Paul LC, Lorain, OH on Sept. 26. "Angels Watching Over Me" was the theme of the rally. An enormous thank you to all at Sts. Peter & Paul. The LWML ladies did a superb job decorating the Fellowship Hall and other areas of the church with angels. The table centerpieces, angel favors and the "angelic" luncheon was sensational. What a memorable Fall Rally!

The communion service led by the Rev. Edgar Anthony, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul, and assisted by Rev. Jeffrey Harter, CZ Pastoral Counselor. The message from Pastor Anthony was "Worship like an Angel." Keeping with the theme of the rally, Pastor Harter led a Bible Study on Angels.

Dr. Jill Anthony, rally speaker, shared her storytelling. Dr. Anthony is the author of "Wives Lives: Tales from the Parsonage." Robin E. Paris, LCMS-SELC District and Lutheran Haven Foundation Gift planner consultant, presented information about Gift Planning.

The afternoon business meeting included the distribution of the revised copies of the Central Zone bylaws, the election of officers and presentation of reports. The newly officers elected are Milly Kwiatkowski, President; Claudia Slyder, Vice-president; Rosalie Benchot and Eileen Benchot co-secretaries. The Rev. Harter installed the officers. He continues to serve as CZ Pastoral Counselor. Dorien Mattle remains as the CZ Treasurer. The "Gifts from the Heart (Ingathering)" at the rally were non-perishable items for the Lorain community food bank.

The 2013 Coalition team consists of six districts, which includes the SELC District. All are responsible for hosting the 2013 LWML National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. The societies were presented envelopes containing information about fundraising for this convention. The national convention involves thousands of people. Help is needed from everyone.

Please mark your calendar for the Central Zone Fall Rally 2010 to be held at Calvary LC, Parma, OH on Saturday, September, 27, 2010.

**Plan on attending the SELC LWML District Convention on May 14-16, 2010 at Concordia, River Forest, IL. More information to follow in January**

## Considerations in Confessing the Nicene Creed

by Rev. Kenneth Ballas STM EM

A word may be in order regarding the dual sense regarding use of the word "confessing." As Christians we not only confess our sins against God and one another but we are also to acknowledge or confess our God-given faith in our God especially as the world's only Savior from sin and eternal death.

The earliest Christian creed was likely only one sentence long: "I believe that Jesus Christ is LORD!" meaning our once crucified but now ever-living Savior (note, for example, the confession of Thomas in John 20:28; Acts 2:36; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Philipians 2:11).

Although we speak of the three traditional creeds of Christendom as "Trinitarian" referencing each of the three distinct persons of the Godhead in separate paragraphs, the opening sentence of this creedal statement could conceivably gain the good will of a Jewish or even Mohammedan neighbor as in keeping with the "Shema" in Deuteronomy 6:4 we confess, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible" (including angels). Note how quickly we continue:

"And in one LORD Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds" (see Ephesians 1:4 as well as 1 Peter 1:20). "God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made -- still talking about our Lord Jesus Christ -- by whom all things were made." It is a gross oversimplification to regard creation as only being the work of God the Father as the preincarnate Son of God also participated in the creation of the world (note John 1:1; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:2 as well as role of the Creator-Spirit in Genesis 1:2 and Psalm 104:30).

That "He," our Brother-Savior Jesus Christ, also innocently suffered and died for us in human history when Pontius Pilate was procurator of the Roman province of Palestine is highly significant. And although this creed does not mention our Lord's victorious descent into hell, reference to Jesus' burial remains the "hinge" between the earth-shattering events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. God's incarnate Son, the God-Man Jesus Christ, really died and came alive again as the "first-fruits" of them that are asleep by rising not from a chair or from a bed but from the deads (Greek plural as in 1 Cor.15:20ff).

"And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose Kingdom shall have no end." How positively comforting it is to be able to be reminded and remind one another of the promised eternal Kingdom of the changeless Christ which will have no end!

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets" (reference to worship is also key in the Athanasian Creed). Historically, misunderstanding regarding the single Latin word "filioque" translated "and the Son" remains a principal reason for the "Great Schism" or unfortunate split between the Western Church and Eastern Orthodox Church since A.D. 1054.

"And I believe [in] one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins." It is not inappropriate that the preposition "in" be inserted at the beginning of the third article. Affirming that we believe in the Church means more than merely saying that Christ's Church exists but rather that we "do our best believing" in the company of like-minded forgiven Christians rather than as a bunch of disconnected individuals (reminiscent of why our Lord taught His student-disciples to pray in His Prayer in the plural with pronouns like "our," "we" and "us" instead of "I," "me" or "my").

And even though the Apostle's Creed is traditionally used at baptisms, it is the Nicene Creed that mentions the one baptism (una baptisma) regarding which Lutheran Christians, too, firmly believe that the Spirit of God also uses this sadly misunderstood sacrament in making people born-again Christians.

"And I look for the resurrection [not reincarnation!] of the dead and the life of the world to come." To this we append a loud "Amen!" or confident "YES, I BELIEVE!" in faith-filled affirmation that all that we confidently continue to confess together is most certainly true as it remains a faithful and accurate summary of the major teachings of the inspired Scriptures: "I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD etc...."

## HAVE YOU EATEN YOUR FROG TODAY?

Many of us tend to avoid tasks that are confusing or seem complex, especially where money, family, or death are involved. Mark Twain likened the challenging tasks in his life to eating a frog— disgusting! But, he said, if the first thing you do every morning is to “eat a frog”, nothing else you face the rest of the day will be as bad!



There are lots of things we'd rather do than think about what will happen to our estate after we die. Unfortunately, we will all die! There are often triggering events that occur that remind us of our mortality, and push us to “eat that frog”:

- ◆ Marriage (your own or another family member)
- ◆ Retirement (expected or not!)
- ◆ Loss of employment
- ◆ Divorce
- ◆ Moving to another state
- ◆ Birth of a child or grandchild, or adoption
- ◆ Disability or a prolonged illness
- ◆ Empty nest
- ◆ Purchasing life insurance
- ◆ Receiving an inheritance, expected or not.

Knowing where important documents are is a key part of this planning process. Set aside a place to keep such things as deeds, wills, insurance policies, account statements, information on IRAs and annuities, etc. Make sure key family members know where to find them; having to play Scavenger Hunt is unnecessarily adding stress to already grieving family members!

Aside from, and more important than, the technical aspects of this process is the spiritual and emotional aspect. We are stewards of God's blessings during life and after death. It is a process that should be covered with prayer and handled with care. As a Gift Planning Counselor with the LCMS Foundation, **my service to you addresses both process and stewardship** – the earthly and the spiritual. You see, the Foundation is the only LCMS organization that offers comprehensive charitable expertise and services to help you plan and direct your passion for giving to family and all ministries of the church today, tomorrow and forever.

Let me help you “eat that frog”. Don't put it off another day. And remember -- you don't need to be a millionaire for this to be important! If it's not down on paper, there's a good chance that what's in your heart will never take place after you die. I'm available to assist you with this important task. The peace of mind you will have when your plan is completed is one of the greatest benefits. It will be my pleasure to counsel you as you establish your legacy of love.

Robin E. Paris, Gift Planning Counselor  
407-365-5676; [rparis@lutheranhaven.org](mailto:rparis@lutheranhaven.org)

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### ***This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome! Send submissions to:***

The Lutheran Beacon  
c/o Gail Peterson:  
1210 Ambra Dr. – Viera, FL 32940-6755  
email: [gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com)  
Questions? 321-752-5519 or 954-401-8452

**Deadline is the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month**

Please submit articles as separate attachments in whatever program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc. - **NOT as emails**]

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [preferably .jpeg format and NOT as part of your article].

When sent by snail mail, photos must be received by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you want them returned, attach a note and send a self-addressed stamped envelope.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cropping for Christ

*Friday, November 6, 2009  
7pm – Midnight*

*Saturday, November 7, 2009  
Crop till you Drop  
12:00pm – ???*

*Hours of Scrapbooking, Prizes,  
Food, Fun, and Fellowship*

*\$15/person for Friday Night*

*\$20/person for Saturday Night*

*\$30/person for Friday AND Saturday Night*

*Please make checks payable to Zion Luther League*

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

*Date Scrapbooking::*

*Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_ Both: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_*

"Fight the Good Fight of Faith" 1 Timothy 6:12

The SELC District Luther League seeks to encourage and enable teenagers and young adults to grow in Christ and bring others to Him.

# ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES 2009-10 *Presents*



November 14th ~ 7pm

## *Beethoven Forever*

Laszlo Marosi, Conductor  
Ayako Yonetani, Violin

*Namensfeier Overture*

*Violin Concerto, op.61*

*Symphony no. 6 'The Pastorale'*

The UCF Symphony Orchestra

*Plus* Triple Performances  
of our annual  
*Holiday  
Concert*



Friday evening:  
**December 4th - 7pm**

Saturday Matinee:  
**December 5th - 2pm**

Frasier fir Christmas Trees can be purchased from 7am-9pm and held for pick-up after either of the Saturday performances.

PLUS (Saturday only):

- Holiday Gift Fair: open 8am-2pm
- 'Family-friendly lunches' available 11am-2pm (all items \$3 or under)

Saturday Evening:  
**December 5th - 7pm**

*St. Luke's Concert Series is a gift to the community from*  
**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**  
2021 W. SR 426 (Aloma Ave.) - Oviedo, FL 32765  
INFO: (407)365-3408



*For complete season schedule and more information about the remaining FREE performances in the Concert Series, visit: [www.stlukes-oviedo.org](http://www.stlukes-oviedo.org) (click on Concert Series logo)*

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