



The Messenger

December 2006

Pastor Gregory Pope

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Enjoy Your Christmas Gifts

Last week I opened up my mail to find an interesting package from Calvary Academy Ministries, a WELS ministry for troubled youths that operates a year-round school in Florida. Enclosed as a sort of Christmas present to donors was a set of Christmas cards, each of which had a colorful picture of St. Simeon holding the Christ Child on the front. I turned to the back of the card, and saw the words. *"This is the first in a Christmas series of original artwork by Melanie Schuette."* Melanie, I should have known it was you! I hadn't been aware that she was involved in such a project, but sure enough this was the handiwork of my sister Melanie.

The fun of Christmas is the gifts, the greatest of course being the one that Simeon held in his arms at the temple – the newborn baby Savior of the world! Now that our Jesus is all grown up, and he's sitting on his throne in heaven, he gives us even more gifts to enjoy. He showers gifts and talents down upon all of his redeemed children. We've all got 'em. Some just have more obvious gifts than others. My sister is one who is so noticeably blessed. On the bottom of the back of that Calvary Academy Christmas card it says, © *Melanie Pope Schuette*. My sister doesn't normally keep her maiden name with her married name. This is just a case of my sister keeping a promise she once made to Dad long ago.

Way back as a ten-year-old girl bringing home her school paintings, Melanie was already emerging as Daddy's little artist. (You see, my dad is well known for his artistic abilities. His paintings, etchings, and stained glass lamps adorn the family home in Racine.) And so my dad got Melanie to promise that when she grew up and really began to make waves with her talent, that she would keep the "Pope" name on her artwork, to honor that connection to her dad and mentor.

It makes sense now that my dad, the Rev. Nathan Pope, and my sister Melanie would make their association clear, because they continue to form a strong team. The picture of St. Simeon for the Calvary Academy Christmas card is actually a digital photograph of a painting she had done for the altar my dad built for a WELS church in Antioch, IL. [Long sentence. Get all that? 😊] One of my father's great passions is wood-working. As a service of love to his Savior he now builds altars, baptismal fonts, and other furnishings out of choice materials like blood-wood, for congregations that procure his services.

The altar for Antioch was a triptych. Triptychs are altars of ancient European origin. They have a large, center panel mural, and then smaller hinged panels on either side. Those side panels have slots where murals can be slided in and out to match the season of the church year. If so desired, the side panels can also be closed up over the center panel, to cover up the scenes and express the solemn, austere mood of Lent.

The Pope Father-Daughter artist team has really begun to take off. They have produced several altars for large, multi-million dollar synod churches already. This weekend my parents are traveling to Virginia for the dedication of their latest one. Our synod's "*Worship the Lord*" newsletter that goes out to all WELS pastors, recently ran a feature on the altar they built for Verona, WI. They have several projects lined up for other churches well into next year, so the Lord is certainly blessing their efforts. The neat thing my dad says about his work is that it is so enduring. Preaching the gospel in a sermon is very important, but the message can be forgotten. Preach the gospel on a painting, though, and that message remains on the wall for generations of believers to take comfort in.

I'm proud to say that – for the purpose of the murals – my cousins, siblings, and I *did* get to take part in the action. We became "models" for the various Scriptural scenes depicted in my sister's paintings. It's kind of bizarre to think that some people in a church somewhere are going to see my brother's face on an angel, and my face on an apostle. But it just goes to show, the Lord likes to work through sinners. He can even work good things out of our flaws, like that of my large, block-shaped head! Okay, enough self-depreciation. Allow me to get in one last plug for my sister. Can you tell I'm proud of her and my dad? Check out www.melanieschuette.com May this inspire you to explore and express *your own* God-given talents and gifts this Christmas. A very Merry One to you all!

Pastor Gregory Pope

Announcements

Repeat Performance Update

Here are the highlights from the Annual Meeting held Nov. 12, 2006 at MLHS.

Chairman's report: Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers who are putting in many hours of work. Comments from workers and shoppers continue to be very positive in regard to the merchandise for sale, the neatness of the store, and the pleasant experience shoppers can expect as they patronize our store.

The board will begin to study the feasibility of purchasing the building that we are currently leasing. We are guaranteed occupancy of our current building through August 31 of 2008.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer reported that sales continue to grow. We experienced our first \$10,000 month in September of this year. October sales were over \$12,000. We are sending MLHS 50% of our profit every month. The check for October alone was over \$5,500.

Day manager's report: Volunteer hours continue to be in the area of 1,000 hours per month. This requires tremendous dedication from many people. We can use more volunteers. Please consider how you might help at Repeat Performance--we can use YOU.

Board of Directors elections. New board members elected: Bernette Seiler, Roger Hoida, and Evelyn Carstens. Jerry Haupt was re-elected for a second term. Thanks were expressed to Penny Kodel, Bev Falck, and Sara Schaller for their time and service on the board.

Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. Chili and chicken soup were served. A thank you to the MLHS development committee for providing dessert.

God has blessed us and we are truly thankful. Our Repeat Performance family wishes all of you a blessed Thanksgiving and joyous Christmas. Thanks again to all of you for your support and prayers.

Christmas Program Rehearsal/ Caroling

On Saturday December 9th at 9:30 a.m. will be the first Christmas Program Rehearsal for the children. Please make every effort to have your child at practice. Following rehearsal, everyone in the congregation is invited at approximately 11 a.m. for pizza in the church basement before going caroling to the shut-ins. Please sign up in the narthex if you and your family will be joining us so we can get an accurate count for pizza!

Christmas Dinner & Nativity Scene Displays

On Sunday December 10th there will be a Christmas Dinner/Pot luck after Worship. Meat will be provided by the Ladies Aid. There will be a presentation by Bruce Matthias about their trip to help the hurricane victims. Christmas Carols will be sung afterwards.

The Fellowship Committee would like to try something new this year. To add a little festivity to our Christmas dinner on December 10th, we would like to have you bring in your Nativity Scenes for display in the Family Center. You can reserve a whole table or half a table for your display. We will have set up on Saturday, December 9th during the day. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Tammy Glaeser @ 775-4213 to reserve your table.

MLHS Announcements

- Please note that the MLHS school office will be closed for Christmas Recess from 12/23 – 1/1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ➤ Greg Schmill, MLHS Assistant Principal – Guidance, has accepted his call to be parish assistance consultant with the synod. The Schmill family will continue to reside in Manitowoc, and we are excited that Mrs. Schmill will continue to run MLHS' grade school band program. Please extend your thanks and prayers to Mr. Schmill for his 14 years of service at MLHS!
- ➤ The MLHS Christmas Concert will once again be held at the Capitol Civic Centre in Manitowoc. The concert is free and open to the public, with service times of 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Come for one, stay for both as our students celebrate the birth of the Christ child!

UPCOMING EVENTS **PLEASE COME AND SEE THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM YOUR CONGREGATION USING THEIR TALENTS!**

Week of 11/27 – 12/3

- Tue 11/28 Boys' Basketball vs. Sheboygan Luth. (A)
Girls' Basketball vs. Valders (H)
- Thur 11/30 Wrestling vs. Hilbert (H)
- Fri & Sat 12/1-2 Boys & Girls Basketball @ Lutheran Invitational Tourney
- Sat 12/2 Wrestling @ Wisconsin Lutheran
- Sun 12/3 Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale Concert; 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Week of 12/4 – 10

- Tue 12/5 Boys' Basketball vs. Brillion (A)
Girls' Basketball vs. St. Mary Central (H); PARENTS' NIGHT
- Thur 12/7 Boys' Basketball vs. Hilbert (H); PARENTS' NIGHT
Wrestling vs. Brillion (A)
- Fri 12/8 Girls' Basketball vs. Hilbert (A)
- Sat 12/9 Boys' Basketball vs. Valders (A)
Wrestling vs. Oshkosh Lourdes (A)
- Sun 12/10 Grade School Band Christmas Concert @ MLHS; 3:00 p.m.

Week of 12/11 – 17

- Tue 12/12 Boys' Basketball vs. St. Mary Central (A)
Girls' Basketball vs. St. Mary Central (H)
- Thur 12/14 Wrestling vs. Valders (A)
- Fri 12/15 Girls' Basketball vs. Reedsville (A)
- Sat 12/16 Boys' Basketball vs. Reedsville (H)
Wrestling (JV) @ Shawano

Week of 12/18-24

- Tue 12/19 Girls' Basketball vs. Wrightstown (H)
- Thur 12/21 Boys' Basketball vs. Wrightstown (H)
- Fri 12/22 MLHS Christmas Concert @ Capitol Civic Centre; 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Scott Reinhard, Development Director
Manitowoc Lutheran High School
4045 Lancer Cir.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 682-0215 x.103
sreinhard@mlhslancers.com

Visit our website at www.mlhslancers.com!



Trinity Teens

The Trinity Teens recently attended their annual Bucks game in Milwaukee on November 22nd. Pizza was brought in from Luigis prior to the game for to enjoy. There was a good turn out for the game and everyone was happy when the Bucks won! Just a reminder about Camp Sinawa this weekend, December 2nd and 3rd. The Youth spent this past Sunday decorating their cabin, which is #8. A big thank you to all members who brought in decorations to used in and out of the cabin. We had plenty to go around. We hope to see several members there. As a way of reaching out to the community, the youth will be passing out candy canes to the children. On each candy cane there is a book marker which tells how the candy cane got started and what it represents. The "J" represents Jesus, the red his blood, and the white for purity. The 2nd side has our church name and number and our worship times. Our next meeting will be scheduled for sometime after Christmas. On January 21st we are planning an ice skating party at the Manitowoc Ice Arena. Beginners to advanced are invited to attend. We are also planning to go bowling sometime in February.

Our Greeters For December



December 3rd	James & Grace Ott
December 10th	Harold & Ann Luebke
December 17th	Lori Schleis Family
December 24th	Gary & Lucille Vetter
December 25th	Ed & Myrt Vetter
December 31st	Michael & Louette Enders

WELS NEWS

DECEMBER 2006

Synodical Council Discusses Preliminary Plans and Budgets

At its November meeting, the Synodical Council reviewed plans and the resulting budgets for each area of ministry for the next biennium (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009).

To ensure a balanced budget, the council limited ministry plans to available funding. Plans for the operating budget show small increases in ministry support for each of the next four years. Seventy-five percent of the total operating budget will fund ministerial education and mission outreach. Other significant ministry needs are unfunded in these proposed budgets and funding is tight for all areas of ministry.

Most challenging is the projected deficits at the ministerial education schools. Primarily because of lower enrollments, the schools are facing shortfalls of \$2-\$4 million in each of the next four years. To minimize the impact these shortfalls will have, the Synodical Council approved a special, one-time grant to Ministerial Education of an additional \$2.6 million for the next biennium.

Ministerial Education is to return in February 2007 with a plan to manage the remainder of its budget shortfalls. That plan may include no longer funding Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., and only partially funding Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., after the 2007-08 school year.

In late February 2007, the council will give final approval of all ministry plans and budgets for the next biennium—including the ministerial education plan—and then submit the information for consideration at the 2007 synod convention. Synod convention delegates, who will meet July 30-August 3, will have the final say in whether these ministry plans and budgets are adopted for the next two years.

The Lord continues to provide great blessings to WELS, including:

- 150 Home Missions ministry opportunities in the next two years;
- a new World Missions professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.; and
- ministerial education school enrollments that will provide the workers WELS needs to accomplish God's work.

Mission Partners Adds Projects, Prepares Trip to Mexico

WELS Mission Partners program, which allows members to directly support a mission or ministry project and communicate with a contact person from that field, has added three new projects in 2006: Christ Lutheran Center in Denver, CO; Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Lucia; and the Mexican mission.

In 1999 lay members from various WELS churches in the metro-Denver area joined together to begin offering Vacation Bible School and expanded to renting a storefront to carry out Bible studies and English as a Second Language classes. God has blessed the ministry with much growth—people from a variety of races and cultures.

Trinity, St. Lucia is also on the cusp of great things. The country is poor both materially and spiritually, and fifty percent of the population is under the age of 21. Trinity plans to take advantage of the situation by purchasing a 7.5 acre piece of land on which to build a complex with a church, school, and sports facility. They pray these facilities will put them in contact with many people in need of the good news of the gospel.

WELS works with the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mexico. WELS missionaries and Mexican pastors lead six congregations and six preaching stations. Recently, in 2005, a seminary was built in Torreon, Mexico. The seminary is currently training four full time students from across the country.

At present, prospective supporters of the Mexican mission have the opportunity to register for a trip there in March, 2007 to see in person the work being carried out. The trip includes worship with three different churches in three different cities, a tour of the seminary, and sightseeing led by WELS workers.

If you or your congregation is interested in sponsoring the work of these or other WELS ministries, you may visit our web site at www.wels.net/jump/mission-partners for an agreement form or to learn more. Or call the Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482 (local: 414-256-3209).

Popular Online Q&A

The WELS Web site, www.wels.net, has more than 75,000 pages of information, including belief statements, informational articles, news stories, and more.

Perhaps the most popular section of the site is the Topical Q&A, a service that provides biblical answers to questions of faith and practice or general information about WELS. Started about 10 years ago, the Topical Q&A now contains almost 9,500 questions and answers and continues to grow.

“Our ability to provide solid biblical responses to very specific and sometimes tough questions is a resource not found elsewhere on the Web,” says Martin Spriggs, WELS’ chief technology officer. “No book or Web FAQ provides that flexibility.”

The format is simple. WELS members as well as nonmembers submit issues ranging from general questions about WELS beliefs to personal questions about Christian living. Professors at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary then answer the majority of the questions that come in—an average of 130 questions a month. The questions and answers are then either posted online or sent back privately to the questioner.

“We aren’t a substitute for the parish pastor,” says Professor John Brenner, who assigns the questions to the appropriate person for answering. “But I think we help people outside and inside our circles learn a little more about the Bible, our synod, and what we believe and confess.”

The Topical Q&A:

- can be accessed at www.wels.net/jump/qa,
- is completely searchable,
- displays the most recent 50 questions answered as well as links to the almost 9,500 questions and answers, and
- includes questions from places such as China, Germany, and India.

Family & Friends in the Military 2006 - 2007



Aaron Wallander (Son of Leon & Linda Wallander)

Pfc Aaron Wallander
Alpha Troop 189 CAV
10th Mountain Division
APO AE 09322

(Stationed in Iraq)

Heidi Hochkammer (Cousin of Larry Hochkammer & Carol Glaeser)

SGT Heidi Hochkammer
1157th Trans Co
APO AE 09378

(Stationed in Iraq)

Levi Bushman (Son of Damian & Jane Bushman)

Levi & Shannon Bushman
11262 Creek Drive
Gulfport, MS 39503

(Stateside)

Paul & Erika Fisher Chute & 2 Children (Granddaughter of Orabelle Fisher)

Paul & Erika Fisher Chute
722 A. Broodway
Eielson AFB, AK 99702

(Both are members in the Air Force. Their military base is located near Fairbanks, Alaska. Paul was stationed in Kuwait last year, but is now **stateside** with his family.)

Nicole Schultz (Granddaughter of Ed Vetter)

Nicole Schultz
PFC9 Box 5659
APO AE 09123

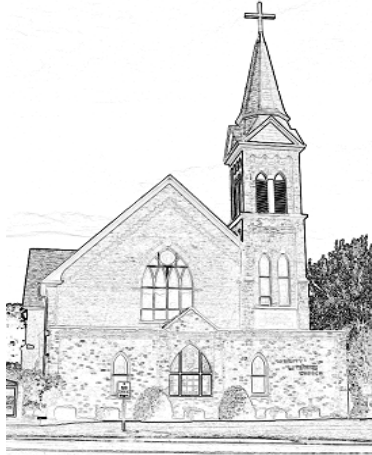
(Stationed with the 52nd Fighter Group in **Spangdahlem Germany**)

Troy Weidling (Nephew of Connie Mangin)

SGT Troy Weidling
P.O. 4023
Jacksonville, NC 28540

(Has now returned home and is **stateside**)

Church Attendance for November



Saturday/Sunday = Total

Month/Year	November 2003	November 2004	November 2005	November 2006
Week 1:	32/97=129	37/117=154	34/116=150	27/180=200
Week 2:	39/103=142	35/116=151	39/129=168	29/121=150
Week 3:	17/116=133	43/94=137	61/77=138	38/89=127
Week 4:	33/78=111	42/82=124	49/87=136	34/89=123
Thanksgiving	109	155	131	123
Week 5:	28/84=112	-	-	-
Monthly Average:	125	144	148	150
Monthly Total:	736	721	723	730

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

***Monthly operating expenses needed \$15,402.33. Our October offerings total for these items were \$13,643.78; a \$1,758.55 shortfall.



A Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to...

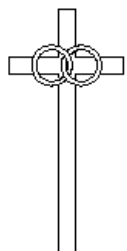
12/1 Lisa Kiesow	12/12 Benjamin Kiesow
12/2 Allyson Jungbluth	12/12 Joshua Kiesow
12/3 Carol Kasten	12/13 Lawrence Teesch
12/4 Kim Fischer	12/14 Brittany Kenneke
12/5 Sherri Kasten	12/15 Alex Free
12/6 Benjamin Lovell	12/17 Kevin Isaacson
*12/6 Bernice Pleuss	12/17 Denise Preston
12/7 Chad Knutson	12/19 Ruth Knutson
12/8 Mark Kiesow	12/23 Alexander Kenneke
12/9 Justin Mancheski	12/23 Harold Jaeger
12/10 Dean Bratz	*12/24 Lorena Nagel
12/10 Kaitlin Bushman	12/26 Janet Matthias
12/11 Todd Glaeser	12/27 James W. Ott
12/11 Shelby Johnson	12/29 Charlotte Luebke
12/11 Jodi Lovell	12/31 Eunice Barnes
12/11 Caroline Schwalbe	

80 Years & more of God's Glory!

12/6 Bernice Pleuss – 85 Years Young!
12/11 Caroline Schwalbe – 83 Years Young!
12/19 Ruth Knutson – 91 Years Young!
12/23 Harold Jaeger – 84 Years Young!
12/24 Lorena Nagel – 93 Years Young!

Happy Anniversary To...

12/6 David & Jessica Jungbluth – 9 Years!
12/10 Bob & Gail Lietzau – 23 Years!
12/17 Steve & Bonnie Wagner – 14 Years!
12/18 Mark & Stacy Sornson – 2 years!



***If you have a December birthday or anniversary and it is not listed or is listed incorrectly please let us know so we can update your information. Thanks!**

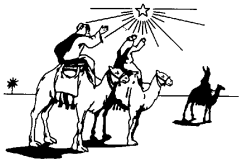
Kids Corner



Bible Quiz – “Animals of the Bible”

1. What animal was the first to be let out of Noah's ark?
 - a. A Dove
 - b. A Raven
 - c. An Alligator
 - d. A Sparrow
2. It is easier for this animal to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God:
 - a. A Camel
 - b. A Gnat
 - c. A Shrew
 - d. A Dog
3. In the book of Revelation, Death rides this animal:
 - a. A Dark Horse
 - b. A Silent Mule
 - c. A Pale Horse
 - d. A White Horse
4. These animals fed Elijah during the famine:
 - a. Dogs
 - b. Doves
 - c. Ravens
 - d. Goats
5. This judge lit 300 foxes' tails on fire:
 - a. Gideon
 - b. Jephthah
 - c. Ehud
 - d. Samson

Answers: 1.) b [Gen 8:6,7] 2.) a [Math 19:24] 3.) c [Rev 6:8] 4.) c [1 Kings 17:6] 5.) d [Judges 15:3,4]



Word Search



Our Savior's Birth!

G	E	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B
E	R	E	T	S	I	G	E	R	E	M
J	O	S	E	P	H	M	O	E	J	C
S	U	M	P	I	B	D	L	M	E	H
U	Y	D	H	T	R	I	B	A	S	T
T	R	E	E	B	L	V	L	N	U	E
S	A	C	O	A	N	A	R	G	S	R
U	M	R	G	B	W	D	S	E	V	A
G	C	E	M	Y	O	L	C	R	I	Z
U	M	E	N	E	T	J	E	S	M	A
A	R	A	S	E	A	C	L	V	O	N

(UP / DOWN/ DIAGONAL / BACKWARDS)

1. Mary
2. Joseph
3. Caesar
4. Augustus
5. Decree
6. Nazareth
7. Galilee
8. Judea
9. Bethlehem
10. Town
11. David
12. Register
13. Baby
14. Birth
15. Manger
16. Jesus

