



The Good Word

November 2006

Here I Stand

Nan and I got acquainted with the owner of Old Lutheran while we were at Holden Village this past July. Old Lutheran is similar to stores we see around Madison that sell goods to Packer and Badger fans and fill the Lutheran niche by selling goods like bobble heads of Martin Luther. A few weeks ago I received an advertisement claiming that, "Old Lutheran is Your Reformation Day 2006 Superstore." I couldn't resist, went online and placed an order for Here I Stand socks complete with Luther's seal. The socks, which came in the mail last week, are presently on my desk and I can't wait to wear them on Reformation Sunday, October 29.

Luther's famous, "Here I Stand," declaration was his exclamation point in response to church authorities who demanded that he recant his writings and teachings that evolved through his study of Scripture, or be excommunicated by the pope. Luther desired to reform, not to divide the church. But when forced to choose between caving in to authoritarian demands or adhering to deeply held convictions he chose conscience over conformity.

November 7 is Election Day. In addition to electing candidates for public office, we, the citizens of Wisconsin will vote on an amendment to the constitution and a referendum on the death penalty. The ballot leaves no wiggle room: requiring either a yes or no response. Casting our vote will be a personal "here I stand" moment. When all the votes are tallied, the will of the majority will prevail and, as democracy has it, there will be winners

and losers. The proponents of the marriage amendment and death penalty stand to lose little more than a political fight if they are defeated. On the other hand, there are great implications for many people if these measures are passed.

I will stand with the conservatives and vote no on the marriage amendment and the death penalty referendum. This may surprise those who pigeon-hole me as a liberal, the faith community I serve as progressive, and living in the Madison area perceived as being "out there." The judgment may be accurate, but there are no liberal choices on this ballot. A liberal position advocates that the same benefits given to married couples be made available for couples in domestic partnerships. A liberal position supports treatment for criminals rather than merely locking them up and releasing them when their time is served. The choice allowed to the voters is between conservative and extreme.

What is more extreme than sentencing a person found guilty of a crime to death by lethal injection? What is more extreme than using the state constitution to discriminate against others under the pretense of protecting the institution of marriage? I will reject extremism and stand with conservative voters to maintain the status quo. My motto is, "Vote No, Keep the Status Quo!"

Even though casting a ballot on election day is a personal "here I stand" declaration as a matter of conscience, our vote is influenced by our association with other individuals and institutions. This is continued on the next page

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MCC News

why I consider it my responsibility as a pastor to underscore that both the ELCA and UCC are on record encouraging members of their congregations to vote no on the amendment and the death penalty referendum. The resolutions on the marriage amendment and the death penalty that were passed by the voting members at the 2005 and 2006 synod assembly will be available in the Blessing Room. I encourage you to read the document on the death penalty published by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the ELCA Social Statement on the Death Penalty. Both documents are available on their respective websites.

Those of us who stand with the conservatives and vote no will be either greatly relieved or deeply disappointed by the results of the vote. But we will not despair. We shall not despair because we are people whose faith is grounded in God, who is just, and confident that God's will be done in light of, or in spite of, how the majority votes. Personally, I am vitalized by Madison Christian Community's commitment as a member of Dane County United. Broad-based community organizing empowers groups of individuals to effect change in the public arena for the common good. May God bless you with guidance and courage in all the "here I stand" moments of your life. And if it helps, go to www.oldlutheran.com and order yourself a pair of new socks as a reminder that we never stand alone. Jeff

Looking for People to Sit on the Chair Task Force

The Madison Christian Community has received an anonymous memorial gift in the amount of \$1,000. The donor suggested we might use these funds to purchase more comfortable chairs for the Blessing, Covenant and Shalom Rooms and begin replacing the blue wooden chairs and our folding metal chairs.

If you have an interest in what kind of chairs we purchase and are willing to serve on the task force, which will make a recommendation to the Leadership Team, please contact Jeff Wild or Tisha Brown by Tuesday, November 14.

Food Drive for Wexford Ridge Food Pantry—Sunday, November 19

Again we are asking that members of Advent and Hope make a special effort to bring food for the pantry on the 3rd Sunday of November (the 19th). Suggested items include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew, fruit juice, etc.) peanut butter, jelly, cereal. We can especially use any large grocery bags.

We do not have facilities to handle fresh produce. For those who prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center and designated for the pantry.

Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

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The Good Word

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

The Theological Discussion Group Discussion of [The Spiral Staircase: My Climb out of Darkness](#) by Karen Armstrong begins Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 p., at MCC. Come and join this group of readers who share spiritual paths.

GEMS (Grumpy Elderly Men)

GEMS meet on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a., lower level of MCC. The book is [Tomorrow's Faith: A New Framework for Christian Belief](#). Come for fellowship, learning and discussion plus a variety of books. Stan Klyve

MCC Film Group 2006-07 Schedule

Here is the new schedule of films for this fall and winter. As usual it contains a diverse mix of films -- old and new, foreign, drama, comedy, adventure, classic, etc.

Our next gathering will be at 7:00 p. on November 17, 2006, at Komai's to view *Etre et Avoir (to be & to have) OR Les Chartistes*.

Even if you have not attended film group, please join us to watch this classic film. Larry Eriksson

MCC Film Group 2006-7 Schedule
Dec. 15, 2006 *The Shipping News* at Eriksson's
January 26, 2007 *World's Fastest Indian*
Location: TBD
February 23, 2007 *Babe* Location: TBD
March 23, 2007 *Water* (from trilogy) TBD

Attention Young Singles, Couples and Families —

Saturday, November 11: potluck and contra dance at Folklore Village 6:30 p. --potluck (bring generous dish to pass). Table service and drinks provided. (\$6--adults, \$4--seniors/teens, \$2--children 5-12, free under 5)

Dance follows immediately after meal.

For directions check website at www.folklorevillage.org or call them at 924-4000. (It's about 30-40 minutes west of Madison just off 18/151 before getting to Dodgeville.)

Who: All (young and old, no dancing experience necessary)

Friday, January 19-Progressive Dinner

6:00-10:00 p. The location will be announced. If you are interested in hosting for appetizer, salad/entrée, or dessert. Three homes are needed. Who: Adults only (get your babysitters now, if needed.)

MCC Community Group Events

Trip to Milwaukee Art Museum
Friday, Nov. 3 - Carpool from the MCC lower parking lot at 8:30 a., have lunch together after visiting the museum. Open to all MCC members, sponsored by MCC Community Group.

Monday, Nov. 27 - Go to "Australia", the travel film at Memorial Union Theater, 7:30 p.

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Youth News & Activities

Middle High and Senior High

November 12 Coffee House at MCC,
6:00 p.

Senior High

November 4—CORN MAZE 7:00 p. at church. Bring \$10 and a flash light. In case of rain/too much snow: movie night and/or game night at church! Bring a snack and a movie!

November 25—Lock-In and long movie night at the MCC, 7:00 p.

November 29 at Hannah Gern's house at 8:15 p.

Middle High

November 5 —CORN MAZE after church, in case of rain/too much snow on October 29.

November 17-19, Knock, Knock Retreat at Pilgrim Center

For more information or questions call or email Katrin. I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Don't forget: your friends are always welcome to join us!

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Coming Events

- Nov 3 MCC Community Group visits Milwaukee Art Museum & lunch, 8:30 a.
- Nov 4 SH Corn Maze, meet at MCC at 7:00 p.
- Nov 5 Order Mt Meru Coffee – Pick up your coffee on Sunday, November 12
- Nov 5 Advent New Member Sunday
- Nov 5 Highlights of Back Bay Mission/Learning Trip, 11:45 a.
- Nov 5 MCC Environmental Task Force at Fred & Jean Loichinger's, 6:00 p.
- Nov 8 Indoor Labyrinth is open to the public from 9:00 a. – 6:00 p.
- Nov 11 MCC Family Fellowship potluck & contra dance at Folklore Village, 6:30 p.
- Nov 12 Indoor Labyrinth is open to the public from 1:00-3:00 p.
- Nov 12 Youth Coffee House Event at 6:00 p.
- Nov 16 OPALS Book Discussion Group at 7p. — *Complications* by Atul Gawande
- Nov 17 MCC Film Group view *Etre et Avoir* or *Les Choristes* at the Komai's
- Nov 17-19 MH *Knock, Knock* Retreat at Pilgrim Center
- Nov 19 Wexford Food Pantry Donation Sunday
- Nov 19 Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p. and Pie Fest
- Nov 25 SH Lock-in, Movie Marathon at MCC, 7:00 p.
- Nov 26 St Nicks Workshop at 11:30 a. No Sunday School for Youth
- Nov 26 First MCC Choir rehearsal for December 31 Music Service
- Nov 27 MCC Community Group "Australia" Travel Film at Union Theater, 7:30 p.
- Dec 3 IHN Week is Dec 3–10
- Dec 3 Parents Night Out, 5:00 p.
- Dec 10 Community of Hope New Member Sunday
- Dec 17 Christmas with our youth at 10:15 a. No Sunday School, Adult Class Only.
- Dec 17 "Blue Christmas" Longest Night Worship Service, 5:30 p.
- Dec 24 MCC Worship at 10:15 a.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion, 5:00 p.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion, 10:00 p.
- Dec 31 MCC Worship of music and carols, 10:15 a. No Education Hour.

MCC News —

Dane County United Wins City Budget Victory.

Four representatives of the MCC attended a Dane County United (DCU) press conference on October 12 with Mayor Cieslewicz to announce the Mayor's decision to add \$225,000 to the City budget to expand quality child care assistance for the working poor. This is the first significant increase in City funding for the program in over 15 years, despite Madison's population growth, changing demographics and increased participation of women in the workforce. The additional funding will cut Madison's waiting list for low-income child care assistance by half.

DCU's Early Childhood Action Team fought for the increase as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the achievement gap between low-income and other children in Dane County. Research has shown that quality early childhood programs are among the most cost effective means of reducing future justice system and social program costs.

Kudos to DCU and to everyone from the MCC who participated in this effort! If you have questions or would like to join DCU's action teams on Early Childhood, Land Use or Low Wage Worker issues, please see Tisha Brown, Jeff Wild or Keith Johnson.

Pictorial Directory Update and Thank you to our Volunteers!

The pictorial directory is in the "proofing process" as this newsletter goes out.

Thanks go to Dolores Lillge, Gretchen Wahl, Jean Oliverson, Ann Bolger, Marj Nelson, Fran Grugel, Lois Komai, Roger Buffett, Kristi Holden, Hildy McGown and Margaret Smith for hosting the three days when pictures were taken.

Thanks to Jim Muehl and Brad Spencer for taking lots and lots of pictures of families and candid of MCC activities.

Thanks to Tom Matthews, Bonnie Spindler and Marily Crews-Nelson for the layout and design of our directory. This task turned into more hours than estimated but the end result is a very nice pictorial directory.

Report from Margaret Helming, an MCC Mentor to the Second Chance Family:

"I've seen our Mom twice in the last month or so. Things seem to be going quite well for her and the boys. Employment and child care are working out well, and she is making steady progress on other goals. She is very happy with her progress so far and determined to make more good things happen, with the Second Chance Program's help. I have come away both times thinking that this partnership is and will be a success for all concerned!"

Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

Read Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's Sunday sermons on the web! Sunday texts are on the monthly calendar.

On the Home Page find Weekly Announcements and the Newsletter. If you decide that you no longer need the newsletter delivered in the mail, please call the church office to let us know.

Please let the Website Committee know if you are not finding what you need or have other suggestions. The Website Committee: Tom Matthews, Edd Hellmer, John Brugge, Carrie McGinley, Jeff Greene and Sonja Keesey-Berg. Contact the Website Committee at office@madisonchristiancommunity.org.



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MCC News and Activities

JAVA FOR JUSTICE—

Place your coffee order by the first Sunday of each month (November 5). It will be ready for pick-up on the following Sunday (November 12). Remember to order your holiday coffee gifts as the December order will not be ready for pick-up until December 10th...just in case you want to mail some to family or friends.

FYI – A teacher told Jerry Schmidt, the coffee project coordinator in Milwaukee, when he was there last spring, “Thank you for helping us with the coffee project.” He asked if she grew coffee and her reply was “no”. He asked why the coffee project was important to her if she didn’t grow coffee. Her reply, “Because I am now getting paid.” The students can pay fees and the diocese is able to pay teachers. Your purchase of coffee helps many Tanzanians live a better life.

WHEN you place your order, make your check out to the Mt. Meru Coffee Project. You can purchase bags for \$8 regular and decaf. Or 4# bags for \$38. And you can order bean, drip or perk. Thanks again for your support of this project which provides the Tanzanian coffee farmers with more money than they would receive even IF their coffee were purchased by Fair Trade/Equal Exchange.

Highlights of Back Bay Mission/Learning Trip on November 5

Jeremy and Josh Ryan, Dave Manion and Roger Williams will provide highlights of their mission/learning trip to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS on Sunday, November 5. The session will begin around 11:45 a., after our church services and after a brief reception for new members of Advent Lutheran Church. All MCC members and youth are welcome to attend to hear about the work of the Back Bay Mission and our efforts to assist in rebuilding Biloxi following Hurricane Katrina.

Planning for the Youth Raffle

Contact Marcus Murphy if you have items you would like to donate for the raffle, to take place later this year, to benefit MCC Youth Ministry. And, does anyone know a generous travel agent who Marcus might ask to donate two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the U.S. as the grand prize?

“O boy...!” BOYS/ MEN ONLY

WHO? First intergenerational event for middle high, senior high boys, young men and men of all ages

WHEN? SUNday, NOV 26, 5p.

WHERE? at the MCC

WHAT? * *Darren Fortney*, a member of Advent, will be here to share. He will show a premier DVD of his spectacular and breathtaking experience of competing in the 2006 Madison Ironman!

* Prepare and enjoy together a delicious supper!

* and more...

Call Katrin (just the coordinator!) for more information and to sign up by November 19!

There are still some tasks open you can help with making this event happen! Please call or email Katrin!

2006 Quilters Ornament Sale continues through Sunday, Nov. 12

The handmade ceramic stars can be personalized by request. Suggested donation is \$8. All proceeds benefit Lutheran World Relief Quilt Project.

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MCC News continued—

“Blue Christmas” Longest Night Worship Service

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 p. and plan to attend the Madison Christian Community’s second “Blue Christmas” Service. This worship service is designed to provide space during the Christmas season to acknowledge that not all holiday time is happy time and that for many of us there is a need for quiet reflection and support for painful experiences in our lives. We will share a series of readings, sing a number of hymns and enjoy periods of silence in a meditative environment. We hope to see you there.

Christmas Eve 2006

We have a wonderful problem to solve related to our Christmas Eve Worship services. For the last three years there have been so many of us in worship at the 5:00 p. service that the Blessing Room has been overly full. In response to this concern the MCC Worship Team has decided to hold two worship services on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p. This way we can accommodate a much larger group of people without concerns of fire safety or overcrowding. One of these 5:00 p. services will take place in the Blessing Room and the other will happen in the Covenant Room. They will be nearly identical services and will both end with our tradition of lighting candles and singing “Silent Night.” We will also have a combined worship service on Christmas Eve at 10:00 p. All Christmas Eve worship services will have Holy Communion.

List of Items you can donate for Iraq:

Hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, DVD movies, razors, toiletries, cup style ramen soups

How Can You Help Fair Wisconsin Get Out the Vote?

Jeff and Tisha met with Fair Wisconsin Staff on October 18 to find out how congregations can support the effort to get people to the polls on November 7. They gave us a number of options. What can you do to support this effort?

1. Vote on November 7 and encourage everyone you know to get to the polls.
2. Donate cookies, bars, fruit, carrots, etc. Food will be provided for volunteers who will be going door to door reminding people to vote. Sign-up in the Shalom room and bring your food donations to the MCC on Sunday, November 5.
3. Donate small plastic flashlights, sharpened pencils and clipboards. These are items the canvassers will need as they go door-to-door reminding people to vote. Bring these items on Sunday, Oct. 29 or Sunday, Nov. 5 and leave them in the box located in the Shalom Room.
4. Volunteer to go door-to-door to remind people to vote. Get out the vote shifts begin on Saturday, November 4 and run through Tuesday November 7. These are four hour shifts at various times throughout the day. Go to www.fairwisconsin.com for more information and to sign-up.
5. Volunteer to work the phones calling voters and reminding them to vote on Tuesday, November 7 at the Fair Wisconsin office. Go to www.fairwisconsin.com for more information and to sign-up.

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MCC News continued—

Memorial Gift

Thank you to the anonymous donors who gave the Madison Christian Community a generous memorial gift of \$1,000 in memory of Helen Jensen, a beloved aunt.

Thank You for the gift

Thank you to Rolf Killingstad and Donna Leet who gave the Madison Christian Community a gift of a candelabrum for use in worship.

Haiti Partners SPARE Student Graduates

Peterlee Pierre Louis, from the SPARE Program in our Haiti Partners scholarship group, graduated from high school in the class of 2006 and will be attending college studying Computer Science. Ann Bolger has brought his graduation photograph to church for you to see.

Hulsether- Brugge's looking to expand family.

We lost our 14-year-old Golden Retriever, Riley, last January, and are now looking for a new dog to join the family. Our hope is to find a 2 to 3 year-old golden retriever, who isn't TOO hyper. If you hear of anyone in your circles of association, who is needing to place a dog... please let us know!!! Call us at 204-0687.

2006 CROP Walk Results

Approximately 20 MCC folks rode their bikes in the Annual Crop Walk. Many more of you participated by contributing to this worthy effort to feed the hungry of our community and world. \$1,065 was collected. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event.
Sara Hulsether

Alternatives to the Mall

Again we will provide an alternative to shopping at the mall for the holidays. Two options will be available. First, information about the Heifer Project, where you donate an animal to someone instead of giving them something else to dust! We will provide a toll free number, and you can use a credit card to select your animal. Prices range from \$10-10,000 and everything in between, so there is a price for everyone.

Second, we will once again offer items from A Greater Gift, especially food items. Since opening stores in Madison, you are able to shop for most hand-crafted goods locally, so we usually only stock consumable items for sale at church. However, if you wish to order from the catalog or buy from us directly there is an added benefit, since we receive 20% of sales which we then give to Harvest of Hope, benefiting local farmers in need. Sales will start toward the end of November and last into December. See Kathy Johnson of Advent for further details.

Tudor Dinner Tickets

Once again you can get discounted Tudor Dinner Tickets and have a wonderful meal and enjoy a great concert, this year on Sunday, December 3rd, starting at 6 pm, in the UW Memorial Union, Great Hall. This is a wonderful way to start your Advent and Christmas celebration. Prices this year are \$40 per ticket, which is less than last year. We have 8 tickets still available, and it is first come, first going to a great evening together. See Kathy or Doug Johnson to secure your place at the table.

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MCC News continued—

Sunday Morning Adult Education

November 5: Walter Brueggemann, one of the most well-known Old Testament scholars, recently spoke in our community. On Nov. 5, members of MCC who attended the presentation will discuss what they heard and how Brueggeman's perspective on Biblical Authority can help us gain perspective.

November 12: Former Senator John Danforth (R. Missouri) also serves as an ordained Episcopal priest. During his years in the U.S. Senate, he was a problem solver and moderating voice. He recently published *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*. On the first Sunday after the 2006 Election, we will discuss Danforth's observations and advice.

November 19 and 26: [Hunger on Our Doorstep](#) will discuss the problem of hunger in Wisconsin. Amidst all of the other important matters covered in national and local media, hunger tends to be easy to overlook for many of us who have not recently been chronically hungry. Peter Bakken has recently written about this important topic and will be leading us to learn and do more about this immediate need.

"Which ART in Heaven..."

By Heather Putnam

Last Easter, Lakeview Moravian Church on Madison's east side faced a dilemma. They wanted to create a festive atmosphere for Easter, but their sanctuary has blank, white concrete block walls and ordinary double hung windows – not an inspiring space filled with unique architecture or stained glass windows. To John McCarthy, the church's pastor, there was an obvious solution: add color! The paintings hanging in MCC's Shalom Room through the end of the year are the unquestionably colorful and festive manifestation of this solution.

About the artists

McCarthy, who made his living as an artist before becoming a pastor, could have easily created a series of paintings by himself to add the splash of color that he envisioned. But McCarthy's vision included another vital component. "I didn't just want color. I wanted my congregation to have ownership in the project," he says.

And thus, one afternoon last spring, Lakeview Moravian Church's fellowship hall was transformed into an art/community-building studio. The crowd that showed up spanned four generations, ranging in age from four to 92. None of them described themselves as artists and many of the adults hadn't held a paint brush since they were kids.

About the Materials and the Subject

Upon arrival, the participants were greeted by tables covered with pieces of brown craft paper, lots of tiny cups filled with brightly colored tempera paints, and an array of paint brushes – the same materials that adorn elementary school art rooms.

Each piece of craft paper was sized to fill the blank space between the sanctuary's windows. They were created in pairs of

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MCC News continued

small and larger rectangles to mimic the design of the windows. The hope was to cover up the concrete blocks and to emulate stained glass windows, points out McCarthy.

When the participants arrived, the craft paper was almost, but not quite, blank. McCarthy and his wife, Kathy Sherwood, had painted the words for the first verse of the Moravian hymn, "Sing Halleluiah, Praise the Lord," on the papers using only black paint. In the Moravian church, this hymn is traditionally sung on Easter, as well as sporadically throughout the year.

About the Creation Process

There was only one instruction for creating the paintings: fill in all the negative spaces (every place there was no black paint) with color so that no craft paper remains visible.

Painters were free to use straight colors or mix them; use just one color or experiment with them all; focus on one of the paintings or add some paint to all of them; paint facing the words upside down or right side up; create dots, swirls, zig-sags, or straight lines.

As they painted, participants delighted in discovering unexpected jewels about themselves, about their neighbors, and about the joy of something as simple as covering craft paper with tempera paint. They reveled in stumbling onto fleeting glimpses of the mystery of God where their paint touched that of another painter. They were amazed that such a diverse, random bunch of 'non-artists' could create something so undeniably moving and beautiful – and they themselves had contributed.

When all the blank spaces were finally filled and they sat down to a potluck ,

there was no doubt in anyone's heart, that Easter 2006 at Lakeview Moravian Church would be more festive and more meaningful than any of them had ever imagined. The original intention had been to have the paintings hanging just for Easter, but they were so popular and brought so much joy to so many people's hearts that it was four months later before anybody was willing to contemplate the possibility of taking them down. They agreed only on the condition that they could create a new series of paintings to go up in their place. They are also comforted and honored knowing that MCC members are now being given the chance to share in their joy.

Possible MCC Opportunity

If there is interest, MCC members could be provided an opportunity to create one or more paintings, as a group or individually, similar to the ones that the Lakeview Moravian Church congregation has created. Contact Heather Putnam, 233-8569, heather.putnam@sbcglobal.net.

2006 Scrapbook Pictures Needed

Anyone who has taken pictures of church activities in 2006, Mary Maxwell needs pictures for the MCC scrapbook.. So far there are few pictures for 2006. Mary would like to bring our scrap book up to date. Put your photos in Sonja's basket on the library counter in the Shalom Room.

Thanks to Our MCC Friends

Thanks for your sympathy and support on our father's death.

Phill Bloedow and
Lucetta Kanetzke

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Advent News



Advent Will Welcome New Members on Sunday November 5

We look forward to welcoming new members into our community of faith on All Saints Sunday, November 5. A Sunday morning orientation session, evening dinner gathering with host-members, and a reception following worship are being planned. The orientation session will be held in the Shalom Room (outside the kitchen area) from 9:05-10:00 a. on Sunday, October 22. The dinner gathering will be determined by the best possible time for most people. If anyone has an interest in becoming a member and has not indicated this to Jeff Wild please give him a call at 824-1761.

Upcoming Event in the South Central Synod ELCA

I hope some of our members will consider attending this event because I hate going to these things alone!

Saturday, November 11, 2006
8:00 a.- 3:00 p.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
There Must Be A Better Way.... Reaching Out To A New World

The schedule for the day includes worship, keynote address by Rev. Dave Daubert, the ELCA Director of Renewal of Congregations, and a menu of interesting workshops.

Prairie Mural in Blessing Room

From Sunday, September 10, until Advent the fabric prairie panels hang in the Blessing Room. The fall colors of the prairies remind us of the beauties of creation and the glories of our Creator. The fall liturgical setting says it is time to gather again for a new season of worship. The hills and the valleys of the mural invite us into the Word. We come together after summer to congregate and welcome this beautiful, colorful season of God.

Oakwood Service League

The Oakwood Service League is conducting its 2007 membership drive at this time. Membership categories are: *Supporting—\$10; Booster—\$25; Patron—\$50; Life—\$200; Friend—any amount.* Even if you can't be an active volunteer, your membership support helps fund the many projects of the OSL. Some of these proposed projects for next year are buying a bus to transport residents, the prayer shawl ministry; safety mirrors for elevators and hallways, and the purchase of two lift recliners. Please contact Margaret Smith, Advent OSL Coordinator, 231-1496, if you have questions.

As one of OSL's fundraisers each year, the *Love Lights* project helps the League serve the residents of Oakwood. These *Love Lights* are Christmas ornaments inscribed with the name of a loved one and hung on beautifully decorated trees in the Oakwood complexes. A gold ornament is hung *In Honor* of a loved one; a white ornament is hung *In Memory* of your loved one. Each ornament is \$10. I will be happy to give you the ornament after the holiday season, so you may hang it on your Christmas tree next Christmas season. Contact Margaret Smith 231-1496. I must have your request by November 15.

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Advent News Continued

Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will meet on November 14 at 9:00 a. at the home of Hildy McGown. We will have a social hour followed by a Bible study. You are welcome to join us.

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Would you like to mingle with a great church circle without having to house clean? Elizabeth Circle meets every second Thursday of the month at Tabor Oaks at Oakwood Village West at 7:00 p. We share our prayer needs, discuss a Bible lesson from the now very well-written *Lutheran Woman*, and truly enjoy each other's company. We'd be happy to welcome you, too. Call Margaret Smith if you want more information.

Introducing Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Introducing a new worship resource is an exciting and important event in the life of the church. Teams of pastors, musicians, and lay people from each synod are offering one-day events to explore the riches contained in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The workshop is designed for all worshipers, lay leaders, musicians, pastors and anyone concerned about the future of renewal in the ELCA. Members of the Advent worship committee are planning to attend the event, musicians, council members, and any other interested people are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be offered in the area at three different times; Sunday, November 5 at St. Luke's in Middleton, Saturday, November 11 at St. Stephen's in Monona, and Saturday, January 13, 2007 at Our Savior Lutheran in Sun Prairie. Please contact Jeff Wild or a member of the Advent worship committee if you have an interest in attending.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meets the third Thursdays of the month all year. We meet at 7:00 p. on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome. Please join us at our meeting on November 16 in the youth room-lower level of the church. The book for November is *Complications* by Atul Gawande. You are invited to join us.

Treasury of Love Oct. 23, 2006

Love Offerings	8,530.90
Rent & Eviction Prevention	3,034.00
Security Deposit	850.00
Utility Assistance	1,587.00
Iraq Postage	1,068.10
Car payment	358.00
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Wexford Women's Program	45.00
Haiti Partners	569.00
Advent Member's Rent	350.00
Storage Rent	89.00
UW Freshman Student's Books	265.00
Mental Health Appt.	100.00
IHN	50.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	8,530.10
Balance as of 10/23/2006	\$0.80

Advent Women: NEW LOCATION! Come for Thursday Coffee!

A lively group of "church ladies" meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Victor Allen's, 2623 Monroe St.

The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by!



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Worship Regularly

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Beyond

Cultivate Spiritual

Friendship

Community of Hope News

Praying for our Community

Please pray for the people and situations listed below as well as our entire community in the coming month. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in next month's newsletter please contact Tisha at the church office.

- Those who are unable, for health reasons, to join us in worship on a regular basis but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari, Kathy Alexander and Wilma Sanks
- All military personnel and their families. Especially those involved in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Lebanon
- Lucetta and Howard Kanetzke and Phill and Candi Bloedow as they celebrate the life of their father and grieve his passing.
- Joyce Matthews and Nancy Greenwald and their family as they provide care and support for Joyce's dad, Chet who is in the end stages of cancer.

These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

- Sept Oct. 31-Nov. 7 Wilma Sanks; the Schuettpelz family
- Nov. 7-14 Beth Simmons and family; Bonnie and Gene Spindler
- Nov. 14-21 Jan Summers; Petra Streiff and Larry Stuessy
- Nov. 21-28 Bonnie Trudell and family; Mary Beth and Steve Udvari
- Nov. 28-Dec. 5 the van der Weide family; Julia Weaver and family

Hope Men's Breakfast

The men of Hope have breakfast together every first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:30am at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Ave. Good food. Warm fellowship. Sparkling conversation. On the 18th we were joined by Katrin, who presented ideas about possible activities with our youth. Our next breakfasts will be on November 1st and 15th.

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Alison Jarvis	11/01
Julia Weaver	11/09
Quinn Clark	11/10
Mark Geistlinger	11/11
Anthony Powell	11/17
Laren Stuessy	11/17
Steve Udvari	11/18
Mary Nack	11/20
Margie Zamora	11/20
Mary Beth Udvari	11/25

Anniversaries

Kevin Clark & Joanne Kirkland	11/15
Joan & Tom Matthews	11/19

Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

Fall Open House at Tisha and Cindy's on Saturday, November 18

Members and friends of Community of Hope are invited to Tisha and Cindy's for their third annual open house. Join us for delicious home-baked cookies and cider on Saturday, November 18 between 2 and 4 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

All Saint's Day—Sunday, November 5

Community of Hope will celebrate All Saint's Day on Sunday, November 5 during worship. During the service, we will be lighting candles in memory of those whom we love who have died. If you will not be able to be in worship on that Sunday and would like a candle to be lit for your loved one(s), please get names to Tisha by Friday, November 3.

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Community of Hope News



General Synod, June 22-26, 2007

The United Church of Christ is turning 50 in 2007 and to celebrate they are encouraging every congregation to send people to the General Synod meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. Tisha will be going as a delegate from the Southwest Wisconsin Association and would love to see some members of Community of Hope attend as well. There are funds set aside to assist with housing and transportation costs associated with attending Synod.

The first three days of General Synod will focus on celebrating the UCC's first 50 years as well as generating conversation about the next 50 years of the church. An opening worship service on Friday evening will set a joyous tone for the entire Synod.

Saturday will be filled with events and activities for people of all ages and interests: keynote speakers, experiential gatherings, artistic performances, musical presentations, workshops, children's activities, and much more. The day will culminate with a big UCC Birthday bash.

On Sunday afternoon, our 50th Anniversary festivities will climax in a gala worship gathering reflecting the unity and diversity of our global ministry.

The final two days will focus on doing the "work" of General Synod.

Community of Hope is 5 for 5!

In October we received a letter from the Office of the General Minister and President congratulating us on becoming a 5 for 5 congregation. What this means is that we have generously and faithfully supported all 5 of the ways our denomination receives funding for the ministry we do locally, nationally and around the world. We fulfilled our pledge to Our Churches Wider Mission, which funds our Association, Conference and Denominational ministries and we gave to the four special offerings: Neighbors in Need (U.S. Justice and Witness Ministries), One Great Hour of Sharing (funding for Church World Service and their global ministries), Strengthen the Church (funding for starting and revitalizing congregations) and the Christmas Fund (funding to support retired clergy).

Thank you for your generosity!

Neighbors in Need Thank You

Thank You for your generous and faithful contributions for the United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need offering. As of this writing we've collected \$501.00. Our gifts will remain within the United States and be distributed to churches and other faith-based organizations working on issues of justice.

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Our Larger Community

Community Events at Oakwood

The Stoughton Norwegian Dancers will perform at Oakwood Village West Auditorium on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2:00 p.m. This program is free and open to the public.

Oakwood will also host the Chamber Players Concert "Christmas Lights" on Friday, Nov. 24, at 2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (There is an admission charge for this concert).

Alzheimer's Association Events in honor of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

Sixth Annual Dementia Videoconference: "Alzheimer's Update: What to Expect at the Doctor's Office with Dr. Diana Kerwin. This event is Friday, November 3, 9:30–11:30 a. at the Pyle Center at UW Madison, 702 Langdon St, Room 335.

Sixth Annual Candlelight Vigil to be lead by Pastor Bruce Burnside. The event is Wednesday, November 8, 5:30-6:30 p. inside the State Capitol Rotunda. Music will be provided by harpist Kathy Julseth of Stoughton.

Flyers are on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room at MCC.

Upcoming Fair Trade Christmas Sale at Orchard Ridge UCC, 1501 Gilbert Rd, from 9:00 a. – 3:00 p.

On Sunday, November 19 all participating organizations at this event offer fair trade merchandise or raise money to fight poverty and support social and economic progress. More details are on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room at MCC.

Events open to the public at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church.

Monday, Nov 6 at 7:00 p. a prayer/worship service the night before the election (death penalty related)

Tuesday, Nov 7 from 8:00 a. to 7:00 p., while the polls are open, we'll be having a prayer vigil (death penalty related), come as you are and be present

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
6205 University Ave (corner of University and Allen Blvd) Madison, WI 53705
238-2781 www.stdunstans.com

Blessed Sacrament Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair

The dates are November 10, November 11 and November 12. More details can be found in their flyer which is posted on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room.

Interested in how Journaling can help guide your life choices?

Register for the Progoff Intensive Journal Workshop, Friday-Saturday, January 26-27, 2007. Held at The Crossing Campus Christian Center, 1127 University Ave., Madison.

The/Intensive Journal/method can help you answer the question: What is life trying to become? You can use the method over time as your life evolves to deepen your awareness about your life. Work in total privacy—you don't share your life with other participants. No one comments on your life.

Tom D'Alessio is a certified teacher. For additional information and fees, please see www.intensivejournal.org. Space is limited so register early.

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A Word About Our Partnership— *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the *Madison Christian Community* (MCC). We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land. We worship together about 8–12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation. We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, gender and sexual orientation. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

The Good Word

Monthly Newsletter of the
Madison Christian Community
*An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA
and Community of Hope – UCC*

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Petra Streiff
Ann Bolger
Barbara Dueholm,
Moderator
Marcus Murphy
Corkey Custer
Bruce Jarvis

Advent Council
Doug Johnson
Jack Benjamin
David Canon, President
Sarah Zutz
Jim Muehl
Joanna McDonald
JoAnne Streit

MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you call our office and there is no answer, please leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter?

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office and let us know.

MCC Executive Committee:

Petra Streiff, Chair
Doug Johnson
Barbara Dueholm
David Canon
Tisha Brown
Jeff Wild

MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

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