



Lutheran Campus Ministry alumni, students and friends at the FISH fundraising dinner (from left): Leah Colley, Kristina Belski, Marissa Glinsky, Liz Hoey, Hilary Kerchner, Sara Mann, Kristy Kassinger, Lauren Bond, Tyler Wiechman, Jacalyn DiOttavio, Erin Grace.

Lutheran Campus Ministry goes FISHING

By Ann Warner

The students of Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at the University of Delaware in Newark joined with almost 100 members of the community in the fall to celebrate LCM's FISH food distribution program.

FISH (Fellowship in Serving the Hungry) was started by LCM students in 2005 and operates as a program of Lutheran Community Services (LCS), a Wilmington, Del.-based social service agency.

Nonperishable food items come from the Food Bank of Delaware and donations collected at LCM's Tuesday evening worship. Each month at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Newark,

parishioners and LCM students distribute food boxes to 50 families in the Newark area. Since its inception, FISH has provided assistance to more than 250 families.

The fifth annual celebration was held at St. Paul. An open invitation was offered to area Lutheran congregations, student families, LCM supporters and local businesses. The event, which included a dinner and silent auction, was intended to recognize the accomplishments of the FISH program and heighten awareness of hunger in the community.

Funds for 2011 operations are also raised through freewill donations and

silent auction contributions.

The Rev. Michael Wilker, executive director of Lutheran Volunteer Corps, was the guest speaker. He talked about the power of helping one person, which was also the theme of remarks made by students Sara Mann, president of the ministry's student leadership board, and Jacalyn DiOttavio, peer minister in charge of service programs. Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane was also in attendance and encouraged attendees to give generously.

The silent auction featured more than 50 items, including tickets to local theater and symphony events, gift certificates for local restaurants and businesses, and homemade wreaths and table decorations. □

Warner is the administrative assistant for Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware, Newark.

Delaware-Maryland



Mark your calendars!

The Delaware-Maryland Synod will hold its 14th annual Celebration of Ministry on May 1 at Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster, Md.

The Celebration of Ministry honors laypeople in the synod who have made exceptional contributions to their congregations and communities. Members are nominated by rostered leaders throughout the synod, and one award is given in each conference.

Carroll Lutheran Village generously donates their space and provides a sit-down luncheon; Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries provides the awards; Augsburg Lutheran Home and Village handles the program printing; and the National Lutheran Home and Village at Rockville does the publicity. Thanks to all of the participants for their involvement.

Plan to come to the event to celebrate the wonderful lay ministry happening in our synod. To RSVP, contact Courtney R. Malengo at 301-354-8446 or CMalengo@nlhv.org. □

On the road again

Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane has begun the ambitious visitation program he promised to undertake at last summer's synod assembly. During the election, the bishop-to-be promised to visit each synod congregation in the first two years of his term. As of Feb. 29, he has been to 55 congregations. In this photo, Sunday school students at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cordova, Md., welcome the bishop on a day he preached and led an adult forum.

Happy birthday to all

St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkville, Md., celebrates their corporate birthdays on Birthday Sunday each January.

After worship, the congregation's members divide up by birth months. Each month's group then frosts its own cake. Several members even bring fancy decorations for their birthday cake. Members of all ages and abilities are grouped together as they work to frost their cakes.

After each cake is shown off and appreciated, the assembly sings "Happy Birthday" to everyone and the cakes are shared.

Starting the year working and celebrating together prepares everyone for ministry in the year ahead within the Parkville community. □

Members of St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Parkville, Md., enjoy their cakes on Birthday Sunday.





Disability task force members include (front row, left): Sandy Bishop, Casey VanVliet, Josef Herz-Lane, Judy Bowden and Theresa Rainey; (back row, left) the Rev. Bob Lehman, Beth Rodgers, Helen Koepper, Spencer Errikson, Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Melissa Helfer, the Rev. Stacy Marsh and George Bowden. Not pictured: Cindy VanVliet, Vicar Lisa Watson-Hill, Regina Schneider, Edie Sodowski and the Rev. Sandra Carlson Alexis.

Disability ministry task force formed

The Delaware-Maryland Synod has created its first ever disability ministry task force.

More than a dozen people from throughout the synod gathered for the inaugural meeting in October 2010 at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park, Md. The group met again in January at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Arbutus, Md.

While the task force is still working on defining its mission, some preliminary ideas include raising awareness; providing resources to assist congregations in being more intentional in including and supporting people with disabilities and their families; encouraging more participation in the life and leadership of congregations by people with disabilities; and affirming what congregations are already doing in the area

of disability ministry.

For more information, contact the task force chair, Sandy Bishop, at sandra.bishop@gmail.com. □



Spirit of Life celebrates anniversary

Spirit of Life Lutheran, Wilmington, the only African-American Lutheran congregation in the state of Delaware, celebrated its 15th anniversary with a festive banquet and awards ceremony.

The young congregation, which began its life as part of Hilltop Lutheran Community Services and now worships at the site of the former Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, honored its mission developer and founding pastor, the Rev. Clarence Pettit.

Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, who has been a member of Spirit of Life since 2006, brought greetings from the synod. □

Joining the celebration: the Rev. Greg Johnson (left), dean of the Delmarva Conference; the Rev. Clarence Pettit; Helen Pettit; Chris Henderson, congregational council president; and Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane.

Delaware-Maryland

Volunteers and "guests" at Peace Lutheran Church's monthly clothing giveaway in Glen Burnie, Md.



Shop in Peace

By the Rev. Elsa L. Clark

On the third Saturday of February, the doors opened as usual and shoppers descended on neatly stacked piles of clothing. They received friendly, knowledgeable guidance in their selection of clothes from those staffing the "shop."

There was a difference though. This wasn't a high end boutique or even the clothing department of a general merchandise store. And the shoppers left with bags of clothing for themselves, family members and others in need without having paid a cent for the items.

This wasn't even a store. It was the basement of Peace Lutheran Church in Glen Burnie, Md. There, on the third Saturday of each month since February 2010, volunteers have welcomed strangers and encouraged them to take whatever they need from the carefully sorted clothing that has been donated. Volunteers work throughout the month sorting clothing. One volunteer even finds pleasure in helping shoppers coordinate their outfits on giveaway days.

There is no means tests or other attempt to determine whether shoppers are truly in need. People are welcomed whether they just need to pinch pennies or don't have a penny to pinch or a home to take the clothing to. The church even provides

transportation to homeless people so they can shop.

The program has grown miraculously over the months. When it started, four "guests" (as the shop's "customers" are called) shopped for 25 people. In November 2010, 90 guests shopped for 300 people.

Peace is not a large congregation

and there have been times when the clothing on hand seemed to be running low. But each month more than enough clothing comes in. This has been helped by generous contributions from members of area churches and residents. Since the need continues to grow, more clothing is always welcome.

At the end of each worship service at Peace, the congregation is dismissed with: "Go in peace, and bring Christ's love to all people." The congregation responds: "And all people to Christ's love." This project is just one of many ways the people of Peace live out those words. □

Clark is a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, Md., and co-chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee.



Bishop visits Lutheran Community Consortium sites

Visiting with partner organizations that make up the Lutheran Community Consortium, Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane recently stopped and toured Carroll Lutheran School in Westminster, Md. Shown above are the Rev. David Schafer, dean of the Westminster Conference; David Whitenack, staff for the consortium and regional gift planner; the bishop; and school principal Bronson Jones. Whitenack and the bishop are planning to visit with all of the 15 social ministry agencies and schools over the next few months. Most recently they toured Augsburg Lutheran Home, Carroll Lutheran Village and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.