



View from the Tower

Volume 7, Issue 1

A Newsletter of Saint Luke's Church
Looking out over Times Square

Spring /Summer
2007

Dear members and friends:

The Easter season comes to a close and I am reminded of the Easter hymn "Now the Green Blade Rises." The first verse goes like this:

*Now the green blade rises,
from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth
Many days has lain*

*Love lives again that with the dead has been
Love is come again, like wheat
arising green.*

The hymn reminds one of the connection between the growing earth with new life coming forth in the spring, and the new life of Christ coming out of the tomb. That new life is the life given to us, a life that is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Traditionally there have been two major festivals in the church year and, like an ellipse, our worship and prayer revolves around these dual centers. One of them is Christmas and the other is Easter. Each festival has a time for getting ready, a time of celebration, and a time of reflection. Easter is by far the older and more important of the festivals. The preparation time, the season of Lent, consists of its forty days; the celebration is so important that it involves 50 days (a week of weeks!); and the time of reflection continues through the whole summer and into the autumn of the year. That time of reflection is also a

time of growth in our own spiritual lives. It is a time during which we can reflect on how Christ's burial in the ground and his rising to new life can be a part of our own words and actions. How can we be "planted" like wheat, and grow and bear a fruitful harvest?

The waters of Baptism were the place of our burial and as we come out of that water we are filled with a new and powerful energy that can be lived out in our lives. The resurrection

of Christ changed the disciples from frightened followers of Jesus into bold proclaimers of Christ.

During the summer and fall we will have many opportunities to reflect on how we also can proclaim Christ. Did you know, for example, that less than 2% of church members ever invite someone else to church? Most people, when asked in surveys confessed that they had never in

their lives been invited to go to church with someone. When asked if they would consider going if invited over 60% responded positively.

How will you live out the meaning of the resurrection during the coming months? What words and actions will give evidence that new life is springing out of the soil of your faith? *Now the green blade rises.* It can be the green blade of Christ's life growing in you.

**Summer at
Saint Luke's
Every Sunday:
11:00 am Choral Eucharist**

**Every Wednesday:
12:10 & 7 pm
Holy Communion**

Pastor Schmiede

Koinonia News

Congregation Council joins in Winter Retreat

This year's Winter Retreat (Feb 9-11) at Koinonia became the opportunity for Council members and congregational participants to work together in the first stages of understanding and beginning to use the process of "Natural Church Development." Participants were excited to explore the possibilities of assessing their own and the congregation's understanding and practice of spirituality.

At first, members were worried that a new program would call for radical and difficult changes in lifestyle. Instead they explored their own personal practice of spiritual disciplines and discussed how to begin changing them and becoming more passionate about them. Then reflection turned to the same kind of analysis of congregational life and faith. All were encouraged to explore ways of making gradual but deliberate changes to their spiritual practices in their lives.

In addition, the 1200 acres of wilderness gave ample opportunity to get some exercise, including walking to the lake and then out across the ice. For many it was the first time actually to walk across a frozen lake!

Good food, great discussion, and a chance to relax together made the retreat memorable for everyone. Join in next year's Winter Retreat: Feb. 8-10, 2008.

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Special Offering to Support Koinonia

During the second quarter of the year the congregation has been raising funds to help support the ministry of Koinonia Community. Koinonia, a conference and Retreat Center, is

located in the Delaware River Valley near Pt. Jervis, NY. Several years ago the congregation officially became a member of the governing body of Koinonia. The camp has been a popular place for both Summer and Winter Retreats, and young people from the congregation have also attended youth weekends and Confirmation Camp there.

Koinonia is also the sponsor of Koinonia NYC, a program which has been supported by Lutheran Disaster Response of New York City since 9-11. That program is now looking for a potential Retreat Center in the City and we are discussing with them whether the former Men's Shelter might be such a possibility.

Your support of Koinonia is always welcome. You can send your gift to Saint Luke's and designate it for the work of Koinonia. It will be sent along with the gifts of other members so that this exciting community of work and prayer can continue its mission.

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Summer Rafting at Koinonia from August 17-19

This summer's Rafting Weekend will be a little more rustic than usual as we stay at the Lakeside Retreat Center at Koinonia. But, it will also be less expensive as a result. Plan now to attend as we travel to Koinonia by train or car on Friday, August 17, and raft on the Delaware River on Saturday, a lazy summer float trip down the river. Of course, if you prefer, you can simply explore the beauty of nature at the camp. Then on Sunday we worship with others at the camp in the Chapel of the Pines.

A registration form for the weekend is available in the narthex in the hopes that you will decide early to attend. Don't miss this wonderful relaxing weekend in the country!

Spring Congregational Meeting Hears Reports

The Spring congregational meeting was held on Sunday, April 29, following the morning Liturgy. Reports were presented from the Pastor, the Cantor, the former and present presidents of the congregation, and the various committees.

Following the reports, the meeting watched a presentation of the Architects' report on the present physical condition of the church and parish house. The presentation included slides which showed the current condition of roofs, windows, and doors as well as an assessment of the mechanical and electrical systems of the church. Included with the report was a long range plan for dealing with these problems over the next ten years time, and a suggestion of what work should come first. It was a daunting presentation as members heard that the total cost of the work could approach three quarters of a million dollars.

Fortunately the meeting also heard the good news that Saint Luke's has been accepted onto the National Registry of Historic Buildings. This acceptance, which should be official this summer, will make it possible for the congregation to apply for additional funding through a matching grants process.

After the meeting everyone enjoyed a lovely Pot-luck meal together and the opportunity to visit and enjoy each other's company.

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Easter Day celebrates with Brass, Orchestra and the music of Handel

The Easter celebrations began on Saturday evening with the Easter Vigil starting at 8:30 p.m. on the church steps. Participants rejoiced in the Easter Proclamation; listened to the great stories of the Old Testament, including the singing a song of deliverance that focused on the Red Sea and Pharaoh's pursuit; renewed their Baptismal vows as they gathered around the Font; and celebrated the first Eucharist of

Easter. Following the Liturgy, everyone gathered upstairs for dessert and champagne.

The next morning orchestra and choir were at the church early to rehearse, and were soon joined by the Brass players under the guidance of Jonathan Greenberg. The Eucharist that followed was filled with favorite Easter hymns, and a glorious performance of Handel's Chandos Anthem # 4: *O Sing Unto the Lord*. It was a marvelous morning and a wonderful celebration of Easter. Special thanks are due to our Cantor, Pedro d'Aquino, to Jonathan Greenberg, to our choir for their many dedicated hours of rehearsal, and to all the instrumentalists who joined us for the day!



The Baptismal Font as it was decorated for Easter. Special thanks to Jean Ruhland, Jim Deliman, and Connie Duever for preparing the Easter flowers, and to Rich Nesbit for decorating the Parish Lounge.

The Lutheran Handbook II



The Lutheran Course 2 to appear in the Fall

Members of Saint Luke's were invited by Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House to play a role in the preparation of the new series of **The Lutheran Course**. They were interviewed in April for one of the DVD segments that will be a part of the new Lutheran Course, Part 2. They were asked particularly to respond to the question, "Should Christians be involved in the world?" The question will be part of a series in the course that discusses Luther's doctrine of the Two Kingdoms.

Last fall we had a remarkable level of interest and participation in The Lutheran Course Part 1, and people have already begun asking when Part 2 will appear. The last word from the publishers was that it is to be ready for September. Watch for further announcements and plan to participate.

VIEW FROM THE TOWER

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Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
308 West 46th St. New York, NY 10036

Telephone: 212-246-3540

Fax: 212-977-1838

E-mail: info@stlukesnyc.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 11 A.M.

Wednesdays: 12:10 & 7 P.M.

Pastor: **The Rev. Paul D. Schmiede**

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Dale D. Hansen

Cantor: Pedro d'Aquino

Parish Administrator: Nhorie V. Leonardo

Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to **Janis Auster (Holzapfel)** and husband, **David**, on the birth of their daughter, **Emelia Frances**. They are home again and plan for the Baptism to take place here at Saint Luke's on Pentecost Sunday.

Speaking of babies, we are looking forward to news in July from **Heather (Kray)** and **Joe Pontonio** as they await the birth of their first child. Heather was back for an Easter visit.

We bid farewell and Godspeed to **John Fritz** this spring as John moves to Zürich, Switzerland. He found an opening there with his company, Credit Suisse. John was our lead Bass for years in the choir and was currently serving as our Council secretary. He will be sorely missed.

Torrill Gresdal stopped in to announce that she will soon be moving to Norway, returning to her ancestral home to live. Her son, **Haakon**, attends Alfred University here in New York State.

We offer our prayers for **Gayle Kliever** and her father, **Ken**, at the death of Gayle's mother, **Claire**. Gayle flew home to be with her and will shortly be returning to Tanzania.

Our sympathy is also extended to **Pastor Ed May**, whose wife recently passed away. During his time here in New York with the United Nations, Pastor May and his wife were active here at Saint Luke's.

Kevin Johnson is away for six months in the state of Utah, where he is part of a performance troupe there. He plans to be back with us again by the end of November.

Lori Mahl and **Suzanne Dodd** traveled together for a holiday in Paris and have just returned home. It's great when friendships formed here at Saint Luke's continue even after leaving.

Glenn and Julliana von Bernewitz and baby, **Anouk**, are now residing in Burlington, Vermont, a location well-known to Glenn because of his undergraduate studies there.