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Medical Help needed for an LCMS teacher with Parkinson’s disease along with his wife and family.

Request from Melanie Davenport and also Rev. John Lescow at Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church - West Allis, WI.

A LCMS teacher, Jerry Heimsoth, diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease 13 years ago, needs financial help along with his wife Barb (LCMS teacher) and their two children.

To donate, contact Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466 or email us at LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org

Lutheran Churches Sending Another Team of 50 Down to the Gulf States Next Friday 1/5/07

This past Saturday, December 30, 2006, St Matthew, Barrington in partnership with St. John, Algonquin, St. Matthew, Hawthorn Woods and Holy Cross, Cary, with the Support of Jewel-Osco of Barrington and the Barrington Fire Department, had a Food Drive to Fill the TWO donated Ambulances that are being donated to two different Fire Departments in the Gulf States. Special thanks to Fire Chief James Arie of the Barrington Fire Department, Gary Castle Store Manager of Jewel and Tom Walters manager of Osco for their generous support. Thank you also to all the fine folks from the four churches that made this food drive possible.
Follow their story in our weekly "Making A Difference" newsletter.

“No Fish needed, Teach Us TO FISH”

Report from Rev. Walt Otten on His Mission Trip to Ghana

Consider Helping with Immediate Need!

Pastor Walter and Ruth Otten have returned from their teaching trip to Ghana. While teaching the catechism to the students at Accra Seminary, Pastor Otten became aware of a pressing need. A seminary student, Matthew, painfully and regretfully revealed how much time had to be spent by pastors in Ghana to provide for the material needs of their own families. When they finish their training and begin their work they will not receive a salary as pastors. They have to provide for their families in the spirit of St. Paul, as “tent makers.” Little time is left for the work of the ministry. “We are here,” Matthew said, “to prepare to become pastors, to proclaim the Gospel to the lost.”

Could his “professor” help? The last words of Matthew in the dialog, as he spoke for the entire class, were, “We are not asking for a fish, just teach us to fish.” What Matthew was seeking was financial aid in securing something as simple as a mill, which he and others in his village could use to earn money to support their families. Then they could spend more time serving as pastors.

Pastor Otten promised to do what he could to support the pastors of Ghana in their “tent maker ministry.” Pastor Otten told the President of the Lutheran Church of Ghana, Dr. Paul Fynn, that he has set a goal to raise $25,000 for the “Tent Maker Ministry.” Through the office of the President of the Lutheran Church of Ghana gifts will be made available for the pastors of the church so that they can earn money through “tent making” enabling them to more efficiently provide for their families and thereby devote more time to their call to serve the Good Shepherd. $8000.00 has already been raised for this effort.

Those wishing to support this effort are invited to send their gifts to Lutheran Church Charities. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation will match all gifts and use the matching funds to publish a translation of the catechism into the major tribal language of Ghana. English is the official language of Ghana but few in the villages of Ghana, where most of our Lutheran churches are, speak English. Because of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation’s generous offer to match your contributions, your support will not only provide the pastors with a means to support their families but will also give them the important tool of catechisms as they minister in their villages.

Click here to contribute to the Tent Maker Ministry in Ghana

LCC filmed Rev. Otten about his Mission Trip to Ghana and their needs. DVD is available FREE to Congregations - 55 min. in length.
Reaching out to the deaf in Ghana

Rev. Paul Fynn, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, has requested that teams come to Ghana four times a year to do two week extensive training sessions.

In January five of our fellow Lutherans will join Rev. John Reinke, director of Concordia Seminary's Deaf Institute as he travels to Ghana. Rev. Reinke commented "We go to Ghana to "Reach the Deaf" and to teach God's word to the Deaf. They are "hungry" to know about God. We teach them so they, in turn, can be well-versed to go and teach the Gospel to other deaf Ghanaians."

The team will be leaving for Ghana on January 9th and returning January 31st.

Deaf volunteers: pictured left to right
Rev. John Rienke, Karen Hale, Betty Jo Lucero, Linda Zoiss

The goal is for each team member to raise at least $5000 for air fare, shots, visas, passports, and for Christian resource materials to leave with the Deaf Ghanaians.

Their first request is for prayer to continue to make these mission trips. Please pray for God to strengthen the Deaf leaders and give them his wisdom. Pray for the deaf in Ghana.

If you are able to help financially you can donate to the Ghana Deaf Leader Training fund.

Needed- Three Beds for Katrina Survivors studying in Chicago

Three boys from New Orleans who were attending college at Loyola – New Orleans have been allowed to attend Loyola – Chicago for the semester. However, there was no dorm space available so they have rented an apartment. They are in need of beds, twin mattresses with bed frames.

If you have a complete bed set (frame and mattress necessary, but headboard is optional) that you would like to donate, please contact: Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466

Prayers and Donations needed for Evacuated Soldiers
We received [the following] from LTC Eric Erkkinen a LCMS chaplain who recently returned from a one year tour of duty in Bagdad. ... Certainly some of these GIs could be Lutheran. But above all they are God’s children and their sacrifice is great as is their need. Thank you. And please include them in your prayers.

**Personal products needed for injured troops at Walter Reed**

Excerpt from “Stars and Stripes”

Officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center are seeking donations for wounded troops who are forced to leave behind personal belongings when medically evacuated from war zones.

May of the troops “arrive with nothings”, said officials from the hospital’s Family Assistance Center. Because of the speed with which the most serious wounded are evacuated from Iraq or Afghanistan, belongings are often left behind and don’t catch up.

So the center is looking for everything from shoes, gloves, and winter jackets to postage stamps, prepaid phone cards and razors.

The Family Assistance Center requests that no cash or used items be donated. Among some of the more specialized needs are weightlifting gloves (for use by wheelchair patients); trousers with snaps or zips along the legs; umbrellas; and prepaid gas or grocery cards.

The center also helps patients file claims for personal belongings that were left behind during a medical evacuation. Loss or damage to items can be reimbursed through the system.

**Donations can be sent to:**

Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Medical Family Assistance Center
Bldg. 2, 3rd Floor, Room 3E01
6900 Georgia Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 02001

More information on the donation programs and the medical center can be found at:
http://wramc.army.mil/Soldiers/MedFac1/index2.htm

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**Daily Herald Newsmakers 2006 Honors Tim Hetzner**

*Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, was honored by the Daily Herald (of Suburban Chicago) as one of the newsmakers of 2006 in DuPage County.*

Along with other newsmakers such as Rudy Giuliani (who spoke at Benedictine University), Tiger Woods (who won at Medinah), and the new Open Road Tolling lanes on Interstate 355, the paper had this to say:

Tim Hetzner
As president of Lutheran Church Charities in Addison, Tim Hetzner oversees an agency dedicated to assisting those in need. He is the videotaped presenter of Cover to Cover Bible Study, available across the U.S. at churches and via
Need Met - Request for Bibles
Because of Generous donations from a variety of sources, this need is being met. Thank You for your contributions.

Request from Rev. John Hassey for 200 Bibles to be used in a new program for substance abuse clients and their families called “Family Reconciliation”.

Below is from Rev. John Hassey, serving Haymarket Center, located on the west side of Chicago. Haymarket is a non-profit substance abuse rehabilitation center that provides multiple services for substance abusers.

For four years I served as pastor of Jehovah El Buen Pastor, a Spanish/English LCMS congregation on the northwest side of Chicago. During my time there I saw an overwhelming challenge that the community faced: drug and alcohol abuse. All around us, drug and alcohol abuse was destroying families and ruining lives; and I felt ill-equipped to do anything about it. Since then, I have left the pastoral ministry and decided to pursue a different kind of ministry. I am now working as a counselor at the Haymarket Center, located on the west side of Chicago.

To donate Bible contact Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466 or email us at LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org

To financially donate for the Bibles click here.

Need Met - Furniture Received for Hurricane Katrina Survivors
Because of your generous donations, the deVeer and Schroeder families will have furnishings for their homes.

In September 2005 Philip and Rebecca deVeer and their four children (pictured here outside their FEMA trailer in Arabi) along with Rebecca’s parents, Charles and Juanita Schroeder, moved in with Dori Chianakas in Cary, Illinois after both families lost their home to Hurricane Katrina. Dori’s mother grew up in New Orleans and met her father
(Rev. Robert M. Hess, Cary, IL) when he was a vicar at Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Orleans.

The families are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans. Rebecca and Philip had 12 feet of water damage to their home, flooding the first and second floor. Charles and Juanita of New Orleans had 5 feet of water, destroying the first floor.

Charles and Juanita are restoring their house and hope to be in within the next few months. They depend on Lutheran volunteers who come in on the weekends to help them. Philip is rebuilding their home. So far the second floor is done but the first floor is still just the outside walls and studs.

Both families are in need of tables and end tables, kitchen tables and chairs, couches and chairs, and the deVeer family could use bedroom furniture for parents and four children.

The families will be returning to Cary on December 28 to visit the friends they made during their stay after the Hurricane. They will return to New Orleans in January.

Update - Lopez Family Receives New Home
Family with five girls (pictured here: Lopez Children)... one with cystic fibrosis, one with a malignant brain tumor, and one with autism.

Happy New Year from Karen and Daisha!
A great big thanks to all of you who donated their time, money, auction donations, leg work, letters, mailings, prayers, and support for the Lopez auction and for the past three years!!! The grand total raised at the auction was $7,550!!! The time finally arrived that we could order the new 4 bedroom, 2 bath double wide for the family! Also, American Mattress donated all new box springs and mattresses for the whole family, and a new couch and oak kitchen table with 8 chairs was also donated! The Lopez's are now in a safe, mold free home thanks to each and every one of you! Thank you again. Happy New Year and thank you soooooo much!

- Karen and Daisha

VoC Volunteers 3/5-9
Volunteers to Serve Developmentally
Disabled Needed - March 5-9, 2007

Come join Voice of Care and Lutheran Church Charities in sharing Christ's Word to people who have developmental disabilities. We will also be sharing the Gospel and our working skills by assisting people whose homes are still damaged from Hurricane Katrina.

[Click here for the flyer in PDF]

[Volunteer for LCC’s TRAVELING Teams]

Car Needed for Refugee Family in need
Request from Pastor Stan Harding, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elmhurst Illinois

A young family in our congregation at Immanuel are refugees from Africa and are in desperate need of a reliable car. ... [Click Here for more...]

[If you have a vehicle to donate please contact LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org or call 866-455-6466]

Car Needed for Refugee Family in need of car
Request from Pastor Stephen Biegel, Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle

We have been working with this refugee family for the past three years. Yassah is a single mother who lives in Wheaton.... [Click Here for more...]

[If you have a vehicle to donate please contact LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org or call 866-455-6466]

Car needed for Single Mom
Request from Pastor Hector Canjura, Trinity Lutheran Church (Iglesia Luterana Santa Trinidad) Chicago, Illinois

Linda has been working hard for many years and she supports her daughter, Rose (names changed to protect identity), who is a student at Walther Lutheran High School. ...[Click Here for more...]
If you have a vehicle to donate please contact LCC@LutheranChurchCharities.org

Please consider making a vehicle donation to LCC. The vehicles are NOT resold - they are passed on directly to those in need. If you have a vehicle to donate please contact LCC at 866-455-6466.

Click Here for more info on Vehicle Donations

Christmas Twins - One Year Later

Update on the "Christmas Miracles" from Last Year

Last December 21st employees at North Austin Lutheran Church found a baby carrier containing twin newborns inside the church's vestibule. The healthy babies - a 6 pound 6 ounce boy and 5 pound girl who doctors said were no more than two days old - were still attached to their umbilical cords. The babies were placed with Christian foster parents and throughout the year your generous donations of money, furniture, supplies, meals, and prayers have helped and encouraged this family. Below is an update from the foster mother:

Christmas Blessings to you in the name of Jesus.

Mary Grace and Michael Joseph will be one year old this Thursday, Dec. 21. I can't believe how fast the year has gone. I can still remember having a mere hour and a half to prepare for their arrival, with nothing in the house for one baby, let alone two. I frantically ran to the store for diapers, at least, but did have an old basinet which we laid both of them in with room to spare; that's how small they were. Well, today, one year later, it's hard to believe we were up every hour and a half for almost 4 months putting bottles into wiggling, wailing little mouths...

Click Here for the Rest of the Story

Current Needs include the following:

- diapers (Pampers "Cruisers" preferred) size 4, wipes
- room size air cleaner/purifier
- clothes: boys/girls 18 mos. or larger
- "Aquaphor" skin ointment
- 2 real wood (allergies to pressed wood) tall/narrow dressers for clothes
- looking for newer mini van to purchase (double sliding rear doors)

All donations can be dropped off at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on the corner of Cunningham and Hicks in Palatine.

Thank you in advance for all your help and your loving and giving hearts.

LCC has set up a fund to help them with other expenses. As always, Dollar Per Dollar your gift will go to help pay expenses that they will incur.

To donate, click here for the Twin Babies Fund
Repair Costs
Bayou Grace: Donated Pickup, need Repair Costs offset

...for the story, click here

If you would like to assist Bayou Grace in their ministry and help keep the pickup truck on the road click here.

Youth to Gulf Coast?
Youth Servant Opportunities in the Gulf States
Is your Youth Group looking for an opportunity to do hurricane clean-up on the Gulf Coast?
LCC has had numerous requests in the past from Youth Groups wanting to serve on hurricane clean up crews. Because of the high toxicity of the initial clean up efforts the camps were not allowed to house or use Youth Groups on clean-up crews. With the creation of the Southern District’s new Disaster Relief Department, the camps are now able to accommodate Youth Groups.

If your Youth Group is interested in putting together a team contact LCC Volunteer Coordinator Dianna Bonfield at 866-455-6466

Online Ordering
Resource Cart now offering Online Ordering
Aaron Blessing Pendant - Gold or Silver
Dimensions: (clasp is 5 mm, scroll is 20 mm) 25 mm x 10 mm
Engraved on this lovely pendant are the Hebrew Script from Numbers 6:24-26:

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Support for Palestinian Bible Society

Click here for OnLine Ordering from LCC's "Resource Cart"

Gifts Available Online
Connie Friedman's "Hidden Image"

Series of Watercolors.
5 Different Prints to choose from:
"Eastern Gate"; "Garden Tomb"; Jesus' Miracles"; "Moses' Life"; Life of David"

After traveling to Israel with her family, Connie was inspired to paint the people and landscapes of that Biblical Land. Her prints are now sold in Jerusalem.

Hidden with each watercolor are sketches (some have 8, others as many as 17) of Biblical stories that one would associate with the landscape.

These prints are of constant interest and a wonderful way of opening a discussion of your Faith.

The Life of David

1. Shepherds Staff: Psalm 23:4
2. Sling Shot & Five Stones: 1 Sam 17:39-50
3. Goliath: 1 Sam 17:4
4. Psalm 23: Psalm 23
5. David's Harp with Star of David: 1 Sam 16:23
6. Lion: 1 Sam 17:34
7. Bear: 1 Sam 17:34
8. David Anointed King: 1 Sam 16:13
9. The Temple: 1 King 5:3-5
10. David Dancing with Ark: 2 Sam 6:16-17

Frame NOT included with Print

➤ Click here for Online Ordering from LCC’s "Resource Cart"

Items-Needed/Available

NEEDED

Needed- Three beds for Katrina Survivors studying in Chicago

Three boys from New Orleans who were attending college at Loyola – New Orleans have been allowed to attend Loyola – Chicago for the semester. However, there was no dorm space available so they have rented an apartment. They are in need of beds, twin mattresses with bed frames.

If you have a complete bed set (frame and mattress necessary, but headboard is optional) that you would like to donate, please contact: Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466

AVAILABLE TO A MINISTRY

Contact Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466 (Toll Free)

Electric Wheelchairs Available to be LOANED OUT from LCC
Living Christ Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL has 2 complete sets of red altar paraments and some other pieces.

Conn Organ w/Min-O-Matic- excellent condition- perfect for small
ITEMS FREE FOR THE ASKING - Contact LCC

One 12' Artificial Christmas Tree - used - from a church, Box of Garland and Lights, as well.
Dacor Stainless Steel Wall Oven
Queen mattress and (2) queen box springs (one is new).
36 computers- Mac Power PC 750, CPU speed 350mhz, 320mb RAM, 6.3 GB Hard Drive. Please plan to pickup before Christmas.
Sears Kenmore Electric Dryer

Our Savior Joliet has a roof-mounted air make-up unit in working order and was in top shape when removed a few years ago. It served 4 offices with heat and A/C. It has since been kept in a garage.
Color Thermal Laser Printer- Tektonix Phaser 220i. Comes with Thermal Paper, Transparencies, and one additional Transfer Roller. Print speed is slow: 1 PPM. Graphics Resolution is low: 600x300 dpi. Works OK

Microwave Oven - around 1.5 Cu Ft,

Hammond R300 Series Organ - Excellent condition, Walnut cabinet w/ bench. "Partial" foot pedal

Computer Monitors - 14", 15", and 17" CRT displays - at the LCC Office.

Organ - Thomas-Jester 132, Medium brown. Excellent condition.

Given Out - One 12' Artificial Christmas Tree (one still available)

Contact Lutheran Church Charities at 866-455-6466 for more information.
To Donate
To donate to these or any other need that is posted, please visit our Donations Page.
To see our Donations Policy Statement, please click here.

Disaster Relief

Hurricane Relief Updates

Jesus Christ has MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. Through Him, You too can Make a Difference in HIS NAME

- Testimonials/UPDATES from Crews
- Photo Galleries 2006
- Volunteer for LCC's TRAVELING Teams
- Volunteer for LCC's LOCAL Illinois Projects
- Non-monetary Donation Receipt
- Donate to Hurricane Katrina Fund

News and Needs of Camp Biloxi

Camp Biloxi has been moving right along in providing services for
people. They are now almost totally involved in the rebuilding phase. Currently they are helping people whose homes are still standing but badly damaged. Most of the work is interior work, rebuilding the inside of peoples homes so that they can move back in: dry walling, painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, tiling, etc.

CAMP BILOXI IS LOOKING TO HIRE EXPERIENCED CONTRACTORS, CARPENTERS, PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION TRADESMEN. Applicants need to have minimum of four years experience in residential construction. Salary is $18.00 an hour, plus room and board.

If you are interested contact Dianna Bonfield at 866-455-6466

Deploying Volunteers

LCC Deploys volunteers from the NID and beyond on a Weekly Basis. Next groups scheduled to leave:

- 12/27/06 Central Michigan Univ. Campus Min. to Camp Restore
- 01/05/07 St. Matthews, Barrington Team to Camp Restore LA:
  - This team of 53 is made up of team members from Holy Cross Cary, St Matthews, Hoffman Estates, Holy Cross Collinsville IL; St John's Schaumburg; St John's Algonquin; Willow Creek Community Church; Shepherd of the Hills, Mc Henry, First Baptist, Geneva IL
- 01/07/07 Zion Lutheran Church in Lincoln, IL to Houma LA Team of 6 to 8.
- 01/29/07 Trinity Lisle to Camp Victor MS
- 02/11/07 Immanuel Des Plaines to Houma LA
- 02/15/07 Long Term Volunteer Jan Gerzevske will be deployed to Bayou Grace near Houma for 3 months.

To Volunteer, Click Here...

Volunteer/Bayou Grace

Volunteers Needed for Bayou Grace Camp

Bayou Grace is making a plea for volunteers during the months of December, January and February. While most camps are closing over the Christmas holiday Bayou Grace is intentionally staying open hoping to attract volunteers who are available during the Christmas break. They are working on repairing the homes of five families who they are hoping to get back into their homes for Christmas. They are especially looking for volunteers who are skilled or experienced in roofing, carpentry, electricity or plumbing.

In January and February they have several more families who have requested help. If you can become part of a team that is willing to go to the Bayou to assist Bayou Grace as they help these families please go to our website www.LutheranChurchCharities.org and fill out the Volunteer to Travel application.

Volunteer for LCC's TRAVELING Teams

Long Term Volunteers
Long Term Volunteer Opportunities for Katrina Relief

We have had a number of requests for long term volunteers who would be willing to serve a month (or longer) at the camps

Click here to for more information & to meet some of those who have already Volunteered.

Welcome Home Packs

Help "Welcome Home" our Neighbors in the Gulf States this Christmas

LCC is asking you, your family, church, or organization to put together Welcome Home Packs that you will send to our churches in our Southern District to be given to returning families.

What is a Welcome Home Pack?

It is a box filled with new kitchen items such as: a set of pots and pans, a set of dishes for a family of 4 or 6, glassware, and flatware. The pack would also include a set of kitchen towels, washcloth, potholders & oven mitts or other utensils and kitchen items that a family would need when they move into a FEMA trailer or back into their home. These starter kits will give them something to help them feed their families. Each box should also contain a personal note or letter from the donor welcoming them home and a Christian message, devotional book etc. Lutheran Church Charities will also supply you with a letter to include in the box for the family, as well as an address label.

Click here for a complete list of suggested items to be assembled into the packs

Click here to Sign Up for this project with LCC

Upcoming Events

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Voice of Care - Handy Camp Epiphany Retreat</td>
<td>01/05/07-01/07/07</td>
<td>Walcamp Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men of Peace - Stones Still Shout!!!</td>
<td>01/13/07 - 7:00 am</td>
<td>Peace Lutheran - Lombard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confessional Lutheranism in the Ecumenical World - Symposia Series</td>
<td>01/16/07-01/19/07</td>
<td>Click Here for more...</td>
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How to Support Lutheran Church Charities

All contributions go dollar per dollar to the causes listed in this newsletter.

If you would like more information on how to help or if you have items to share please contact TimHetzner@LutheranChurchCharities.org or send contributions to LCC, 333 West Lake Street, Addison, IL 60101 or contribute at our web site at http://LCC.LutheranChurchCharities.org or call us for credit card donations at LCC's office at (866) 455-6466
Interest Categories, and Stay on Other Lists from LCC