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# OUR CHURCH PAPER

July and August 2009

Vol. 18 No. 6

## *A Word from the Pastor During Pentecost*

It was Memorial Day weekend, and the 10:30 am worship service was near its conclusion. It was a busy weekend. Pastor Olsen, Pastor Kattermann and I were at Parkside Church early that Sunday because we received a class of 10 new members at their 9:00 am service. Pastor Buerk was at Holy Trinity that day celebrating the 50th anniversary of his Ordination into the Ministry and there was an after church celebration planned for that day.

Pastor Olsen and I joined the 10:30 service around its midpoint, just in time to catch the end of John's sermon. The Service continued with the sermon, hymn, prayers and communion.

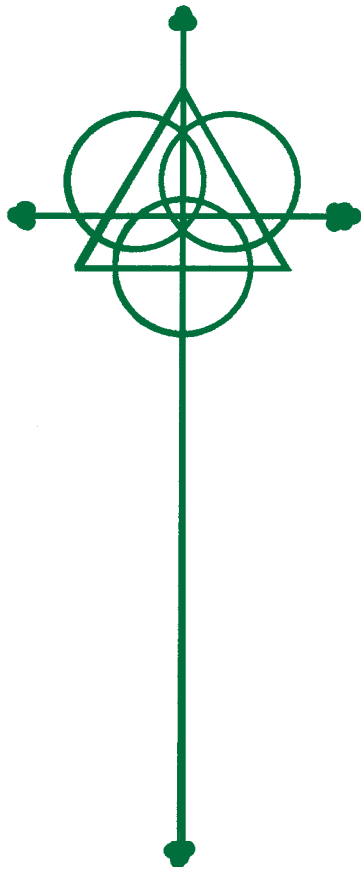
As a way of celebrating both John and Jill Buerk, Jill sang Copland's "Simple Gifts" as the post communion canticle. When she finished, Eric and I brought John out to stand by Jill's side and offer the benediction to the congregation. John blessed us (bene- good, dictio – words) and the congregation gave them a standing ovation. When the applause subsided, Jimmy Bigham began to play the introduction to the closing hymn. As it was Memorial Day, we chose "My Country 'Tis of Thee" for the recessional hymn, a great national hymn, played beautifully and with great emotion and pride by Jimmy.

That hymn (and the way Jimmy plays it) always gives me goose bumps anyway, but this day would be even more special. For as the hymn began, our crucifer and the accompanying torch bearers turned the corner by the altar to present the cross; it was carried by Jean Fidel Munezero and his brothers, Jean Yves and Aime Patrick, the three sons of Jean Baptiste Twagirayezu and Kezia Uwimana, the family Holy Trinity brought over from Rwanda just this past November. They were refugees from the deadly violence and genocide in that country and were "on the run" for over seven years, finally coming to the United States via Togo, because we were willing to sponsor them.

In the past, every time I sang that hymn, I gave thanks to God for the privilege of living in this country and I always thought specifically of my father, who was German born (as was my mother) but who came to this country as a young man, and joined the Army, fighting for the United States, in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a career soldier and after having retired from the Army, continued to serve our country in his capacity of Director of Logistics and Procurement for the U.S. Department of State, USAID. He served in Laos, Cambodia, Egypt and South America. So when the line in the hymn comes up, "Land where my fathers died," I always get choked up.

But this day, when these three young men came around the corner, I had a new

*continued on page two*



Holy  
Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church

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## *A Word from the Pastor*

from page one

reason for both pride and thanks. The fact that THEY were there, carrying the cross, leading the worshipping congregation, while that national hymn was being played, reminded me of what our country is all about, of what my father and so many other fathers and mothers and sons and daughters have fought for and defended and for which so many have died. It is the land of the free and the home of the brave and God has indeed blessed us. As we celebrate Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day in this summer season, not to mention all the benefits of this life and nation, remember these things and be thankful.

Sincerely yours,

*Pastor Charles D. Bang*

## *Traveling to New York City and Looking for a Place to Stay?*

The ELCA has an inexpensive place for those traveling to New York City. It is the Seafarers & International House located at 123 East 15th Street. They have reasonable rates and are conveniently located in Manhattan.

I have stayed at Seafarers many times and find it to be a great, safe stay. Sunday church is also available in the chapel.

If you are on a budget, this is the place to stay in New York. Your patronage supports the Lutheran Mission and its programs and services.

Reservations can be made by calling 212-677-4800 or by e-mail [res@sihnyc.org](mailto:res@sihnyc.org). Reservations may be secured with a major credit card. For more information on Seafarers, check out their website at [www.sihnyc.org](http://www.sihnyc.org).



### **Our Church Paper**

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Upstate New York Synod

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The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. John Buerk, Pastor  
The Rev. Eric O. Olsen, Pastor  
Charles Rojek, Pastoral Assistant  
James Biggam, Organist-Choirmaster  
Linda Lipczynski, Parish Secretary  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
Pat Mohr, Parish Nurse  
Roger Griffiths, Youth Ministry  
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Patrick Ryan, Steward of Buildings and Grounds  
Phillip Schlueter, Curator of the Organs  
Melissa Foster, Director of Children & Youth Music Ministry  
Justin Pomietlarz, Senior Youth Choir Director

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# *The 24th Annual Howard A. Kuhnle Memorial Road Rallye*

The 24th Annual Howard A. Kuhnle Memorial Road Rallye was held on Saturday evening, June 6th. Close to forty participants arrived at the church to test their resolve and their motion sickness medicine. Pastor Bang crafted a devious route for us with clues taken from Scripture. All participants arrived at the end destination in good form. After a delightful dinner, first place and booby prizes were awarded. One of the tasks that each car had to complete was to write a limerick to share with the entire group. Each limerick had to include certain key words. Here are some of the entries.

There once was a holy pastor named Bang,  
Whose bell he must have had rang.  
To come up with this plan,  
He's such a smart man,  
To get us to church in this way.

A chicken wing anchor on Main,  
Got too close to a men's cookout flame,  
Its mild flavor changed,  
To its suicide name,  
A hot Buffalo first, known for snow.

There once was a pastor named Bang,  
Who never ever used any slang.  
Most thought he was holy,  
A bit roly poly,  
turn left, no turn right, he sang!

There once was a church down on Main,  
With a history great to explain.  
And its Pastor named Bang,  
Seemed to quite get the hang,  
Of getting folks to the church down on Main

There once was an outlaw named Eric,  
Who escaped to a steeple in a derrick.  
He hit the bell with a bang,  
It gave a loud clang,  
And he was chased out of town by the cleric.

There once was a Pastor named Bang,  
Who preached much better than he sang,  
So once when in trouble,  
He called in his double  
And Eric the bell deftly rang.



## *Looking for Volunteers*

If you can plink or plunk, strum, hum or drum, we'd like you to come! Where, you ask? With fellow members of Holy Trinity who carry the Good News and Holy Communion to those in three area adult care facilities who otherwise would not receive it! We are especially in need of musicians for these services. ANY musical offerings will be considered and a long term commitment is not necessary.

We are also in need of lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters and ushers. Training will be provided for all interested individuals. Age is not a factor. Young and old are invited to spend about an hour to make a big difference in the lives of these kind-hearted and grateful seniors.

All are invited to participate in this joy-filled ministry. For more information, please feel free to call Sister Donna at 812-7363. Thank You!



Vacation Bible School 2009

**JULY  
6-10**



INFORMATION AND  
REGISTRATION  
CALL  
716-886-2400

*Adventures in the Kingdom of Time*

www.HOLYtrinityBUFFALO.org

**at**  
**PARKSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**9am - 12:30pm**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Last Grade Completed in School \_\_\_\_\_ Child's T-shirt Size: S M L XL

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*In Case of Emergency, please contact \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Emergency Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed forms to:  
**Roger w. Griffiths**  
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**1080 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14209-2389**

Questions? Please call the church office at 716.886.2400  
Or go to [www.holytrinitybuffalo.org](http://www.holytrinitybuffalo.org)

Vacation Bible School 2009

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*Adventures in the Kingdom of Time*

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**at**  
**PARKSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**9am - 12:30pm**

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Adult T-Shirt Size: S M L XL

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred age group or assistant for:

- |                                  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-k/k | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Adventure                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up/Decorating                | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up/Tear down               |   |

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# *Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors*

On Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7th, the congregation honored its graduating seniors. Pastor Bang spoke to the congregation about these three fine young men. These are his comments.

## **Alexander Kaufmann**

When you think about Alexander Kaufmann, even though it may sound like a cliché, you can't help but come to the conclusion that AJ is a great kid. He is a great kid, and what, you ask, makes for a great kid? Well let me tell you what makes AJ such a great kid:

He is smart and knows what it takes to stay that way. He's kind and honest, he's reliable and dependable (an endangered trait these days and not just among young people), he's reverent and faithful, he possesses a great sense of self AND a great sense of humor, he comes from a great family, he's respectful and polite, and everything a parent and a pastor, sister, and friend could want or hope for. AJ, it has been a privilege and a joy to know you and watch you grow into a fine young man.

## **AJ Glieco**

Just when you think you know who AJ is, what AJ likes, what AJ is good at, he turns around and surprises you again and again. There was a time when I thought he was going to be a professional hockey player, I even remember buying him a Sabres jersey, (though I think it was because I lost a bet,) but anyway, I was certain he would be the next Rob Ray or Pat LaFontaine or Dominic Hasek. Just when you thought he would be a career athlete, he comes out and wins chef of the year. Just when I thought he would go to Cornell on a hockey scholarship, he gets a full scholarship to Johnson and Wales University in Providence. AJ, you continue to surprise me and astound me and impress me and I can't wait to see what you do and where you go next. Congratulations and may God continue to bless you and keep you.

## **Jean Fidel Munezero**

In a relatively short period of time you have endeared yourself to all of us and impressed us with your knowledge and your achievements. It was only in October that you and your family came to us from Rwanda via Togo. I remember your warm but tired smile at the Buffalo Airport that night you arrived. I greeted you with the only word I knew of your native language, "Jambo," and you respectfully replied, "Thank you." Much has happened since then:

- You have mastered the language
- You have finished high school
- You've been accepted at Canisius College
- and you have stolen our hearts

We are proud to know you and we know that only great things will come your way and that only great things will come about because of you.

May God bless you and your family, as you have been a blessing to us.



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# *Introduction To The Veterans Aid And Attendance Special Pension*

After much research, I came across this wonderful benefit for all veterans and their spouses which very few know about. It is estimated that 2 million surviving spouses qualify for this benefit and are not aware of this program. The veteran's administration offers this pension for veterans, surviving spouses and couples who qualify. This program is for those who require attendance of another person to assist in ADLs (activities of daily living) eating, bathing, dressing, or taking care of the needs of nature. It also includes individuals who are blind or a person who is in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisted living facility, nursing home, and in home care also qualifies. This is a pension benefit and is not dependent upon service related injuries for compensation. Most veterans and their spouses who are in need of assistance qualify for this pension. A veteran is eligible for up to \$1632 per month; surviving spouse up to \$1055 per month; and a couple \$1949 per month. The veteran must have served a minimum of 90 days in the military. At least one day beginning or ending during a period of war, not necessarily in combat.

Financially, assets should not exceed \$80,000. Do not count your residence, vehicle or life insurance policy as an asset. All other income needs to be counted. CD's, annuities, stocks, bonds, savings, checking, IRA's, Keogh, Social Security, pensions, etc. You then add up your out-of-pocket medical expenses, medications, assisted living costs, nursing home costs, home health care service, insurance premiums, Medicare premiums, etc. You then deduct this from income and get your countable income, which must not exceed \$80,000.

The application is quite involved and takes 8-9 months for processing, but don't give up. You have to be committed and hang in there. One veteran was told 17 times they don't qualify but her daughter was persistent and got her mom benefits. Even some VA offices have not heard of this benefit so be persistent. When you do apply, the money is retroactive from the day of application so the time you wait is not in vain.

The contact person in our area is TRACY KINN, Amherst Town Hall, 5583 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. 632-4190. Fax 630-1597. E mail: tkinn@veterans.state.ny.us or on the web, www.veterans.state.ny.us

If I can help in any way, please contact me. Pat Mohr 684-9165 or call the church and they will contact me.

*Pat Mohr*  
Your Parish Nurse

**WOMEN OF ELCA  
"Come to the Waters"  
Upstate NY Synodical Convention  
October 2-4, 2009  
Holiday Inn Grand Island, NY**

Come and be refreshed and renewed in community with your sisters in Christ. Check the bulletin boards for details and registration forms.  
*If you require more information, contact Debby Bang or Barb Wozniak.*



# Upstate New York Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

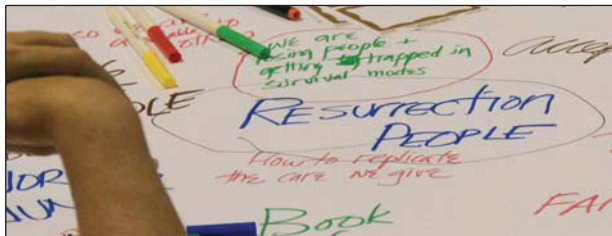
God's work. Our hands.



2009 Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod  
 "Celebrating Our Differences" (Rev. 7:9)

### *Resurrection People*

Over 500 resurrection people gathered around the theme of Celebrating Our Differences in Rochester for the 2009 Synod Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod.



The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, newly named Director for Evangelical Mission began the Assembly on Thursday evening by facilitating a "World Café" process which energized participants to tell stories, share thoughts, listen to others, brainstorm and imagine what it means to live our Synod mission together.

### *Who Pray First*

The Assembly was surrounded by prayer. Nate Preisinger led our devotions on Thursday evening. He described Organic Faith, a new mission start in our Synod, introduced us to GeneSynthesis – the sense of what it means to be at the beginning of a shared journey – and showed us how they are using music to begin conversations about faith.

Festive worship was at the center of our time together. Music from Nicaragua, Tanzania, South Africa, Jamaica, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil, as well as the United States and cultures within it floated through the Lilac Ballroom. Bishop Jerge shared signs of hope evident across the church and called worshippers to watch for and share signs of God's resurrection power at work in our world.

Along with the installation of Synod leaders two newly consolidated congregations were received:

- Crossroads Lutheran Church, Amherst
- Emanuel - St. John's Lutheran Church, Hudson.

Keeping with the multicultural theme of the Assembly, our two ethnic missions led devotions. Todos los Hijos de Dios is our Spanish-speaking mission in Amsterdam. Nile Lutheran Mission in Rochester is a ministry among refugees and others from various parts of Africa. Singing in various languages, we praised God and rejoicing in the changing face of the Synod.



Acknowledging our rootedness God's Word, the Assembly voted to become a "Book of Faith" Synod, committing ourselves to Bible study and becoming more fluent in the first language of faith.

### *Walk Together*



Senior Pastor Alfred Chana of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA) led us in a Bible study of Galatians 3 and taught us a new song that signals our unity in Christ.

*We are heirs of the Father.  
 We are joint heirs with the Son,  
 We are children of the Kingdom,  
 We are family, we are one!*

*Resurrection people who pray first, walk together and change lives*



We were charmed by the keynote speech of the Rev. Rani Abdulmasih, a Palestinian Christian who grew up in Jerusalem and now serves an Arab-American ELCA congregation in Dearborn, MI. With humor and a lively spirit he spoke honestly about the challenges of being a truly multicultural church. Yet he called us to hope grounded in the rhythm of worship: our confession and forgiveness. He suggested that if we confess our sins honestly and allow our hearts to be repeatedly immersed in God's grace, then we can recognize the deep unity in Christ that we all share. Abdulmasih attended St. Bonaventure in Olean. The synod was delighted to welcome him "home" to Upstate NY.

The Assembly took time to discuss the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies. Following a serious and respectful conversation the Assembly took several non-binding votes which indicated strong support for the proposals. The next day the Assembly adopted a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly encouraging adoption of both the Proposed Social Statement and the Recommendations on Ministry Policies. Desiring to honor the bound consciences of those who disagree, the Assembly voted to attach a resolution from St. James Lutheran Church, Bergholz as a dissenting opinion.

Seeking to live into the 2009 theme Celebrating Our Differences, the Assembly:

- Established two at-large Synod Council seats designated for persons of color and/or primary language is other than English.
- Asked the ELCA to make worship and other materials available in Braille, Large Print and audio format.
- Recommitted itself and called on the ELCA as a whole to confront racism in all its expressions.

The Rev. Walter May, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations, represented Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and the Churchwide Organization. He thanked the Synod for their mission support, commented on the number of young adults and youth involved in synodical work and led a workshop.

The Assembly honored Linda and Les Larson of St. Paul's, St. Johnsville as recipients of the Congregational Discipleship Award for 2009. We celebrated with the Rev. James Ziegenfus, Senior of Synod for his 65th anniversary of ordination. We recognized Pastors Peter Brown, John Buerk, Clarence Elliott, Stephen Hluchy, Paul Mertzlufft, Peter Suarez, Gustave Wedemeyer, and E. Werner Weinreich for their 50th anniversaries of ordination.



In other official action, the Assembly voted to invite all congregations to engage in disaster preparedness education and adopted several by-law changes. The texts of all resolutions and actions are available on the Synod website (go to <http://upstatensynod.org> and choose the Assembly link on the left of the page).

### *And Change Lives*

"We are each our own person, but we can unite as one and be together" says a first year Youth Convo participant who was part of the 35 member strong group that gathered as part of the Assembly.

The Synod Hunger Task Force challenged the Assembly to turn faces of hunger to faces of hope and raised over \$35,500 – including \$6000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Excited about the strides we have made in synodical mission, we acknowledged the difficulty of declining mission support. We adopted a 2010 Mission Proposal which continues cutbacks in synodical services and ministries. While restoring some support to the Philadelphia Seminary, we heard the challenge to reverse this trend and increase our giving.



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## *Council Farewell*

At the service of worship on Holy Trinity Sunday, the congregation recognized the following members of Church Council who have completed their terms. Pastor Bang gave these remarks at the Congregational Meeting.

### **Doug Lloyd**

Doug, we wanted to bring you forward to thank you for your service as a member of church council. Now, I could list when Doug was elected, how much we had to pay him to say “yes”, and then I could tell you all the committees that Doug served on, how he was the properties committee chair during the years when we sold the properties at Linwood Avenue and the wreck of a house on North Street, how we had to go through foreclosure to get it back. He was in charge when we put on a new roof, built the garage, rebuilt the bell tower, refinished the parish hall, the ladies bathroom, the kitchen, the heating system, refurbished the offices, paved the parking lots and so on and on. And that would most likely impress you. But perhaps even more than these, what most people don’t realize is, that during all this time, in order for Doug to be here, and come to meetings and go to council, he had to commute from work and home to do that. “Well, we all do that,” you say, yes you do, but he lives in Lockport and....and he works in Cleveland. Now, that’s what I call a commute and that’s what I call being committed and devoted to your church. Doug, for all that and so much more, on behalf of a grateful congregation, thank you for your service, and to Jane and Barrett, thanks to you for sharing him with us.

### **Jim Pellnat**

God gives us the right people at the right time for the right job. For all the time Jim was on church council, he was the Co-Chair, with Doug, on the properties committee. So his hand was evident in all the projects I just mentioned, with the added benefit to the church that Jim is also a real estate agent. And so when it came time to divest ourselves of the property on North Street, and the property at 49 Linwood, Jim was there on the front line with us, talking with our lawyers and the city and the water board and the tax people and the delinquent tenant as well as in the houses, making sure they were clean and presentable and that they would garner us top dollar. But wait, there’s more! Jim also took on the job, with Guy Huber, of working the fellowship committee, which is that committee of the church which oversees coffee hours, special functions, like confirmation, anniversaries, special guests, Road Rallies, attic crawls, and so on and on. We thank you Jim, for all you have done and to you Beth, and Sarah and Marissa and Madelyn, thanks for sharing your husband and Dad with us, it’s no wonder you love him so much.

### **Karen Saona**

The cliché is that good things come in small packages. Engagement rings, checks from your grandparents, a fine pen, tax refunds, anything in the turquoise Tiffany box and Karen Saona. Karen has been an incredible asset to our church council in so many ways. First and foremost, she has been faithful in her attendance. Now that might seem like a little thing to you, but if you don’t come, you can’t be much of an asset can you. But Karen, throughout her term, was there, and not only there, but fully present, tuned in to the matters at hand, she did her homework, read her minutes and when she was asked to do something, actually did it and did it without prompting, without reminders, oftentimes, without help and did all the work she did with grace and patience, competence and follow through, from the annual reports to the Lenten booklet, and the Newsletter and the concert committee and so much more. Karen, we will miss your faithfulness, your steadfastness, your calm and educated voice, your editorial prowess and your great manner in all things. Raul, thanks to you for sharing her with us.

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## Jennifer Yap

Before we get to Jennifer's council career, let's take a step back in time. Jennifer, when you came here you were not the person you are now. When you came, you were a single woman, now you're married to a wonderful man. When you came, you were single and the only mom you spoke of was your own. Now you're Timmy's mom. Since you came to Holy Trinity, you fell in love, got married, bought a house, had a baby, changed jobs and companies at least once, became church treasurer, and distinguished yourself here as one of the most knowledgeable and committed financial officers of the church. You've been on investment, finance, budget, renovation, anniversary and other committees and we thank you for all of that, but what many of you might not know, or at least might not remember, is that Jennifer gave of herself in a way that scarce few have and certainly, once done, rarely do again, and that is, went to the National Youth Gathering with our youth group and 50,000 other screaming hormone driven crazy kids to San Antonio, Texas. One of my enduring memories of Jen and one that is cemented in my permanent memory comes from that time in Texas. We were gathered in the Dome, that huge indoor stadium, air conditioning blowing on us like an arctic express, kids standing up dancing to very loud rock music and Jennifer, standing in the midst of them, tossing her hair around like she was in a mosh pit, I looked at all our kids and to each one, the expression was the same, she's cool. And she is. Jennifer thank you for all you have done and been and to Jeff and Timmy, thanks for sharing her with us.



## *News from the Men's Group*

The Third Annual "Beat the Pastors" Golf outing will take place on Monday, August 10. The event will be held at Tan Tara Golf Club in Wheatfield. The cost will be \$50 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and 9-holes of golf. If you would like to join us for lunch only, the cost will be \$12. We are looking for hole sponsors, prizes and golfers. Proceeds raised will go to the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center water treatment. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up, please see Chuck Rojek or call the church office.



## *Lutheran World Relief Gives Comfort*

Everyday quilts, kits and soap give countless families throughout the world a helping hand, a sign of comfort and hope for the future. On May 2 the following was delivered to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland: 1272 quilts, 71 kits and 200+lbs of soap. These were donated by 19 congregations in our area. A sincere THANK YOU to Kent Coble for providing the truck and delivering the goods to Maryland and to Dave Tober, Jim Kluss and Bob Shook for helping to load the truck.

We are very grateful to the Erie County and Niagara Falls chapters of Thrivent for paying the expenses involved in making the delivery to Maryland.

Also, a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who were involved in making the quilts, kits and collecting the soap. In the past 19 years, the Niagara Frontier area has given 24,674 quilts, many various kits, and much soap to LWR thanks to the generosity of all the congregations involved. The work of your hearts and hands is an immeasurable blessing to families in need throughout the world!

*Gladys Haseley*



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## *Pastor Buerk's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration*

At the party held for Pastor Buerk on May 27 at the Saturn Club to celebrate his 50th anniversary of Ordination, Pastor Bang gave these remarks:

In anticipation of this evening's festivities, I asked John if I could have a copy of his Vitae, so that I could gaze upon and admire all he has done over the 50 years he has served in the ordained ministry of the church, and thereby feel, at one and the same time, jealousy, envy and thereby entertain thoughts of my own inadequacy.

I thought I would then give a synopsis of his life, pointing out his academic credentials, his significant writings, making a point of telling you how many Boards of Directors he served on, how many synodical committees he not only attended but chaired, then moving on to parish accomplishments and how many children he baptized and how many couples he married and how many saints he commended to God's eternal care.

But in the final analysis of who John Buerk is, at his core; accomplishments, achievements, credentials and the like have very little to do with who he is. He rarely speaks of them, which is one reason why someone should, but not tonight. Tonight I wish only to speak of the man, and of what that man has meant to me and I suspect, to you.

I thought the only way to get to this would be to string together a whole host of adjectives, trying in 20 words or less to cover the gamut of what it means to be pastor, husband, father, lover, friend, scholar, teacher, gourmet, gourmand, bon vivant, art historian, musicologist, vinologist, comedian, critic, antique collector, dog walker, customer service specialist, and on big trash days in the city of buffalo, sidewalk shopper and antique collector – yes I know you found a Kittenger Chair on the curb once.

But...I won't do that. Instead, I went searching scripture, to find just the right passage that spoke to me about who John Buerk is and what makes him tick.

In my searching, I found lots of verses which, when taken out of context, would make for a good laugh, but John deserves more than that. And so, in the end I came up with these, they're from Matthew's gospel, and he has them coming from the mouth of Jesus. They speak to the character of a man who has learned from God what it means to be blessed and who has consequently adjusted his life and his living to be deserving of that blessing. These are his words, but I believe they paint the perfect picture of our friend and colleague.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

May God bless you and keep you John, and you Jill and your family and thanks for being our pastor and friend.



## *Council Corner*

At the May 20th Council meeting, the Confirmands and their families joined us for dinner. After covering the first part of our agenda, we convened in the chapel to listen to the Confirmands discuss their connection with God. We do this each and every year and it's one of the most rewarding evenings of our Council year! There is a common thread between each of them – all are highly involved in their respective schools, are close with their parents/families and have a strong belief in God.

After we re-convened to complete our agenda, we held the election of officers. They are:

President: ..... Paul Bauchle

Vice President: ..... Barb Wozniak

Secretary: ..... Shirley Lawrence

Treasurer: ..... Gretchen Hansen

The "Final" 2009 budget vote took place, as well. It was unanimously approved. We also passed a motion to empower the Executive Committee to act on normal business that comes up over the summer.

On Sunday, June 7th, a second congregational meeting was held and the 2009 Budget was approved with a vote of 99 "yes," to 9 "no." Thank you!

Out-going council members Doug Lloyd, Jim Pellnat, Karen Saona and Jen Yap were recognized for their service to council during the services on Sunday, June 7th.

Again, we welcomed our new, incoming members. They are Gary Thomas, Gretchen Hansen, Danny Culross and Susan Bundt.

Our next Council meeting will be held Wednesday, September 23, 2009.


Enjoy the summer!!!!!!!!!!

Yours in Christ,


*Paul Bauchle*  
Congregation President



# JULY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i> 10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside 12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside			1 6:00 BNYC rehearsal	2 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 Independence Day
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i> 10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside 12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside		7 VACATION BIBLE 9:00 a.m. -	8 12:00 Trinity Lunch BBQ SCHOOL AT 12:30 p.m.	9 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Christian Action 7:00 AA/AL-ANON PARKSIDE -----	10 6:00 Wedding rehearsal -----	11 Day of Sharing 11:00 Wedding – Cynthia Lange and Jack Sullivan
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i> 10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside 12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside		14 ----- LYO TRIP	15 TO NYC-----	16 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 AA/AL-ANON -----	17 -----	18 -----
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i> 10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside 12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside	Pastor Olsen's <i>Birthday</i>	21	22 10:45 Trinity Tower Boat Trip	23 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Christian Action 7:00 AA/AL-ANON	24 -----	25 -----
		28	29	30 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA/AL-NON	31 -----	

# AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u>            8:00 Service of Holy Communion            9:15 Service of Holy Communion and Roger Griffiths Recognition  <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i>            10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside            12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside</p>	3	4	5	6 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA-AL-ANON	7	8 <i>John Busch's Birthday</i>
<p><u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>            8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion  <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i>            10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside            12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside</p>	10 Beat the Pastors Golf Tournament at Tan Tara Golf Club	11	12	13 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Christian Action 7:00 AA-AL-ANON	14 Wedding rehearsals	15 2:00 Wedding – Roger and Trish Anderson Wedding
<p><u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u>            8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion  <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i>            10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside            12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside</p>	17	18 ----- Pastor Bang	19 is Chaplain at the	20 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA-AL-ANON Chautauqua Institution --	21	22
<p><u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u>            8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion  <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i>            10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside            12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside</p>	24	25	26	27 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Christian Action 7:00 AA-AL-ANON	28	29
<p><u>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>            8:00 and 9:15 Service of Holy Communion  <i>Continuous Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room</i>            10:45 Service of Holy Communion at Parkside            12:00 Coffee Hour at Parkside</p>	31	1	2	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA-AL-ANON	4 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	5 3:30 Leiser-Sellers Wedding

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**Women of the ELCA  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
ONE-DAY RETREAT • AUGUST 8, 2009**

**“Mary: A Woman for All Seasons.”**

*This study considers Mary at different ages and examines how her example sheds light on our own spiritual lives in the company of women of different ages.*

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|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Meet in parking lot of Holy Trinity                    |
| 10:15 a.m. | Arrive at Bang’s “Cayuga Lake Estate” (Tour and snack) |
| 11:00 a.m. | Session #1: The Annunciation                           |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch  |
| 1:30 p.m.  | Session #2: Kinships, Friendships and Holy Encounters  |
| 2:30 p.m.  | Break/Reflection Time                                  |
| 3:30 p.m.  | Session #3: Mary Among the Disciples                   |
| 5:00 p.m.  | Dinner   |

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY AUGUST 1ST TO:  
**Debby Bang, Barb Wozniak or the church office.**



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