

# The MetroLink

Newsletter of the E.L.C.A. in St. Louis - 6325 Clayton Road - St Louis, MO 63117-1808 - Phone: (314) 725-9710

January 9, 2002

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## Activities at Immanuel move to St. Phillip's

Things were busy at Immanuel during the fall and early part of December. We now have had a chance to catch our breath, and are starting to make plans for the months ahead. Once again, the giving hearts of folks across the St. Louis metro made Thanksgiving and Christmas wonderful for those people who are struggling.

Fifty families received the "fixings" for a complete Thanksgiving meal in November. These meals were a great reminder to people in need that other people still care and that

God is looking out for them. The neighbors in the community were very appreciative and wanted all the donors to know how thankful they truly are. There were a lot of families thanking God for all of you at the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day!

The holiday activities at Immanuel were equally exciting. There was a party with the theme, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." Forty-seven families attended - with over one hundred children present! eagerness and excitement in the

[...More on page 10](#)

## Annual Meeting Scheduled for February 26

Mark your calendar for the upcoming gathering of the Metro Coalition. We will meet at Bethel Lutheran Church 7001 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, MO; Phone (314) 863-3112 at 2:00pm. Items on the agenda include election of officers and approval of the budget for 2012.

## New Assistants to CSIS Bishop

On October 4, Bishop S. John Roth announced that Rev. Wayland Middendorf and Rev. Ron Moorman had joined the Central/Southern Illinois Synod staff as Assistants to the Bishop. At the current time, Pastor Middendorf's primary responsibilities will include

Global Ministry and Synodically Authorized Ministry; Pastor Moorman's primary responsibilities will include Call Process and Candidacy.

These appointments represent the first steps in a process that intends to provide the synod

with six part-time Assistants to the Bishop, living in various locations around the synod.

Congratulations to Pastors Middendorf and Moorman!

Blessings on your new ministries!



## Directory of Services for Metro St. Louis

Ever had someone show up at your church office and weren't sure where to refer them to? While I was cruising around on the Internet I found a very helpful resource. It has been made available by Inside Dharma.\* If you go to the following site, <http://startherestl.org/>, you will find their website which is designed to provide general information, street addresses, phone numbers and website addresses for dozens of agencies, shelters, employment resources, food pantries and other organizations throughout the St. Louis area. If you are

unable to print the 52 page booklet, you may obtain a print copy by calling 314/726-2092 or sending an email from the contact page on this website.

These are some important numbers from the listing:

- Church Food Pantries Referral Hotline: 314-531-7837 – Gives directions on how to get groceries. The person who answers may also direct callers to churches or groups that offer hot meals and sandwiches as well.
- Housing Resource Center – 314 -802-5440 – Call this number first before sending

someone to a shelter. In some cases, a person cannot get in without a referral from HRC. To get it you can call or go directly to the Housing Resource Center, located at 800 N. Tucker 63101.

- \*[Inside Dharma](#), is a Buddhist outreach program that works within several eastern Missouri correctional institutions



*"What is faith if it is not translated into action?" -- Mohandas Gandhi*

## Out of the Ashes: Rebuilt and Restored

On the night of January 26, 2011 a fire devastated one of our housing units in north city. Thanks to the quick actions of the tenant in the lower unit all of the family members were safely evacuated and experienced no injuries. However, the upper unit was completely destroyed and the lower unit received smoke and water damage. Both families had to be temporarily relocated. For most of us the thought of being homeless is foreign enough. Try to imagine being in a housing program assisting you to get back on your feet and into permanent housing, and then having your new home destroyed. That is what these two families faced.

With all adversity comes hope and new opportunities. The fire was contained within the plaster walls of the upper unit, however it still needed to be gutted. This gave us the opportunity to completely remodel the unit. We furnished it with all new appliances,

upgrades to the flooring and lighting, and new windows and doors. Reconstruction began in early spring and was completed at the end of July. A new family moved into the upper unit in early August and another family will soon be moving into the lower.

These are just two of our 55 transitional housing units that serve homeless families in Saint Louis City and County. Every year Humanitri helps over 300 families move out of emergency shelters and into transitional or permanent housing.

In addition to assisting homeless families, Humanitri provides clothing and support to young and teen parents and provides chaplain services to the incarcerated at the Saint Louis City and County jails. For more information about all of Humanitri's ministries and programs please go to [www.humanitri.org](http://www.humanitri.org)

This November marks Humanitri's fifth anni-

versary. We are inviting congregations to join us in observing this day and the kick off of National Homeless Awareness week by hosting a Humanitri Day event on November 13. We have prepared a short video about Humanitri and our ministry over the past five years. Humanitri's staff is available to speak and share about the exciting programs and ministries that we provide to over 1,000 Saint Louis individuals every year.

If you would like more information about Humanitri Day, please contact Matthew Cesare at 314-772-7720.

**“Every year Humanitri helps over 300 families move out of emergency shelters and into transitional or permanent housing.”**



## Collection Taken to Peace Lutheran in Joplin

*“I looked around at the destruction and emptiness that used to be a community and my heart just ached for them”*

*Peace Lutheran Church, Belleville, had an in-gathering of supplies for our sister church in Joplin, MO. Members contributed Tupperware and other food storage containers, as well as pictures, posters and wall-hangings. The following piece was shared with me by Sandy Butz, the Peace Lutheran member who drove to Joplin to drop off the collection of items.* My trip to Joplin was a mixed bag of emotions. First I would like to thank everyone who contributed wall décor and food storage containers; and especially Eunice Martin for arranging the mission. The members of our sister church, Peace Lutheran Church of Joplin, were happy to receive the gifts and

wanted me to pass on their ‘thank you’ to our members.

When I got to Joplin on Friday, I called and the answering machine said that they would meet at Bethel Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

I went on to Oklahoma and spent the weekend with my family and returned on Sunday morning for worship service. Their congregation is about the size of ours. When the tornado hit, Peace had an interim Pastor, so the Synod sent them a permanent Pastor to unify them. Peace met at 9:30 a.m. and the Presbyterians met at 11:00 a.m. The Presbyterian pastor said he had been

trying to get them to meet for one service but they couldn’t agree on the time. Yep, that’s our sister church all right. We met for coffee hour after service where the people went through our stuff. They really enjoyed going through our phone directory and seeing the different people. They thought our church was really nice. They also were glad to get the recipe books that Women of Peace donated. Later on, a lady rode with me in my car and took me to the site where their church used to be. There is nothing but a concrete slab left. I looked around at the destruction and emptiness that used to be a community and my heart just ached for them. But she told me of there plans to rebuild as soon as possible. The resilience of the American people always amazes me. Please remember them in your prayers.

--Sandy Butz, Peace Lutheran Church,



Tornado damage done to Peace Lutheran Church, Joplin, MO on May 22, 2011, destroyed the entire building.

## To Everything There is a Season (Ecclesiastes 3)

**“..we need to adapt to God’s present purpose in the world and bring to those who have ears the message of peace and salvation that is found in Christ.”**

Over the past few years I have had the pleasure of working with and getting to know a number of people in the area who have been a part of the Metro St. Louis Coalition - ELCA in one form or another. I could reminisce about all the things we’ve done but I don’t have the space here to do that.

This is likely the last article I will write for the newsletter so I also want to wish you all well. The board has been a great help and they deserve to be thanked. Additionally, I want to thank Flo Saeger who preceded me in this position and to whom I owe a great debt for having the Coalition in such a great shape. Also, Terry Moore needs a yeoman’s thanks for the efforts he made in working to get the Coalition into a position where it could offer help to congregations due to services which could be provided. Although he’s not been a part of the Coalition for some time now,

his mark is still felt and appreciated. Finally, I wish to thank Diane Runyan who has been a constant, yet positive “nag” to remind me of things that need to be done and who does a lot of things herself. Even if her title is only Communications Coordinator, that still doesn’t go far enough to express the amount of time and energy she expends in the efforts for the Coalition.



We are a different organization than we were seven years ago. It is undoubtedly certain that we will be different yet again in another seven years. It is not up to us to preserve

our institutions in the ways of the past. Nor are we to simply change things because we can. Rather, we need to adapt to God’s present purpose in the world and bring to those who have ears the message of peace and salvation that is found in Christ. How we do that will change over time, with each changing season. It is something that we must remember to do - in our congregations, in our homes and in the world around us.

And so, my parting wish to you and the Coalition is Peace; God’s Peace the passes all human understanding; the Peace by which we will be known as Jesus’ disciples. And this is something that does not change from season to season.

Peace!

*Gene*

**Gene Boecker, Lay President**

## Lutheran School of Theology

### *PD-87 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: Psalms, Discipleship and the American Dream*

This class studies the massive contrast between the faith of the psalmists and the values of most North Americans, specifically how we define and pursue happiness and what gives meaning to our daily lives.

Dr. Clint McCann will draw heavily from the work of therapist and author Mary Pipher, especially on her book "The Shelter of Each Other: Rebuilding Our Families" and occasionally using contemporary songs and videos.

Classes will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 9 South Bompert Avenue, (Bompert at Lockwood and Big Bend ), Webster Groves, Missouri 63119 for six Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:30pm. Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8 & 15 Tuition: \$81.00

Dr. McCann is the Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., and is the author of several books and numerous articles in commentaries and study Bibles.

### *PD-88 THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE!? How We Got the Creeds and Are They Still Necessary?*

This course will explore what creeds are, what they do, and what intellectual challenges they present. The class will study the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Reformation's influence on them and contemporary credal restatements. Finally, the class will consider if creeds remain necessary and useful for worship and Christian formation.

Classes will be held at St. George's Episcopal/St. Mark Lutheran Churches, 105 East "D" Street Belleville, Illinois 62220 for six Tuesdays: 7:00 – 9:30pm. Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, & 28 (no class Feb. 21) Tuition: \$81.00 Rev. Dr. Warren Crews serves as Adjunct faculty for Eden Theological Seminary. He is the retired associate rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and holds a

doctorate in American Church History.

### *PD-89 BEING THE CHURCH IN POLARIZED TIMES: Lessons From History, Part II*

By popular demand, Dr. Mark Ruff presents part two of his study of the Christian church in Nazi Germany. The class will consider the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches' responses to National Socialism and why some churchmen offered resistance while others complied with Nazi ideology. This course will navigate this highly charged terrain to glean what lessons can be learned for the Church today in facing challenging conditions.

Classes will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth Blvd. (Forsyth at Big Bend), St. Louis, Missouri, 63105 for six Tuesdays: 7:00 - 9:30pm Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, & 21 Tuition: \$81.00

To register on -line go to <http://www.lststl.org/> or call (314)725-9710.

## Joni and Friends

We just celebrated Christmas – that wonderful season when we celebrated the Savior’s birth. Lights were twinkling and the melodies of carols were in the air. But did you ever stopped to think... what’s it like for families that live with the challenges of disability day after day? How do they find hope and joy at Christmas, or at any time throughout the year?

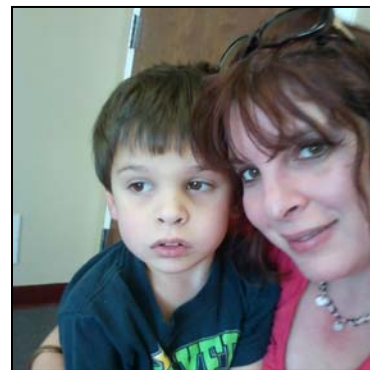
It’s knowing the love of Jesus that brings lasting joy and true freedom. So many families and individuals right here in Missouri and Southern Illinois are caught in the trap of disability-related despair. But through the ministry programs of Joni and Friends Gateway they are receiving the understanding, support, and acceptance they desperately need. They are finding the true and lasting freedom that only Jesus

Christ can give! Here’s a story that took place at a local church in the St. Louis area.

*As a volunteer made phone calls for her church’s first respite outreach event for special needs “Super Kids,” Dianna from the church was thrilled about the opportunity and said it was getting close to her son Alex’s birthday. Dianna is a single mom recently divorced and struggling to make ends meet. “I don’t even know if I can buy him presents,” she confided. “Why don’t we have a party?” the volunteer suggested, with the church taking care of all the details. Dianna was thrilled with the idea.*

*When Dianna, saw the gift of a toothbrush, she began to cry and said, “Only God would know that.” Alex loved to chew on toothbrushes, often for 20-30 minutes after he brushed his teeth. His mom had to watch him like a hawk so he wouldn’t scrub the floor with them when she wasn’t looking. They went through LOTS of toothbrushes! Alex’s*

*brother and sister also came for the party and they were blessed by all the love, yummy cupcakes, treat bags and gifts the guests showered on Alex. This family is finding greater freedom through Christ’s acceptance and provision.*



*Dianna and Alex*

Alex and his family are being included and renewed. But there are thousands more living in our community that have not yet been reached. Families that live with disability need freedom in Christ! With your help, we’ll move forward together, sharing Christ’s love and bringing hope to more people affected by disability.

Thank you for your prayers, which sent and will continue to send the message of Christmas to thousands of families: “A savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!”

If Joni and Friends has been a blessing to you, please consider making a tax deductible

## Immanuel, continued from page 1

There was such a sense of excitement in the air – particularly when Santa made an appearance. A voucher was given to each family for another day. The voucher requested that each specific family come at a stated time. The voucher was redeemed for the gifts specific to that family and a basket of fruit, nuts, and candy. Some families also received food baskets. Christmas gifts were given to 86 families and over 235 children! You can see that many people were involved in making Christmas happen for the neighborhood families – THANK YOU! to each of these people and groups: Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Unity Lutheran, and Lutheran Church of the Living Christ adopted several families and provided gifts for them. Living Lord Lutheran Church

provided items for 53 of the families. We received 30 turkeys from Aldi. Atonement Men's Club donated the fruit and nut baskets. Your donations and gifts were deeply appreciated.

You may have heard that Immanuel's church building is being sold. This is true. Our big old building has been very hard to maintain and heat. It has been complicated to maintain the cemetery as well. We have a buyer for the property who is willing to maintain and mow the cemetery. Although we are glad that all of these things will be taken care of, we are filled with sadness. We have some really good memories of things happening here, and know that important

ministry has been done here. We know that ministry will continue here, and even though it won't be done by Lutherans, it will still be good!

There are still many things to be done, papers to be signed, and items to be put in order. Immanuel's ministry will move to St. Philip Lutheran Church at 2424 Annie Malone. Plans are being made for Easter activities, clothing give-aways, VBS, and Juneteenth. If you would like to be part of the planning team, or are willing to volunteer, please call me so you can be part of this ministry.

Janis Hutchinson  
636-328-5840

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## Habitat for Humanity

It is time now to schedule the visit to your church by one of the local Habitat for Humanity representatives.

This ministry, started in the 1980's, was initiated by Melba Bangert, and LeRoy Zimmerman, Vice President of Lutheran Family and Children's Services, who saw the need for low-income transitional housing and organized the first Lutheran-sponsored Habitat House in North St. Louis on Maffit Avenue.

Many churches in the Metro St. Louis Coalition supported the project, including Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, where Bishop Jerry Mansholt was the pastor at that time.

In 1996, LeRoy asked Ron Harper, to apply to Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) for a habitat house in Walnut Park. Nine were approved!! Seventy ELCA and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches in Missouri and Illinois became involved. The churches had a

goal: \$20,000. It was met and nearly doubled: \$39,000. For the first time, the churches received approval to install air conditioning in habitat houses.

Other interesting facts about the ministry:

In 1999, Calvary Lutheran closed and donated \$20,000 to be used for habitat homes

In 2000, AAL approved two houses to be built – at the ELCA na-

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## Habitat

## Humanitri

tional youth gathering – and funders provided \$50,000 in support. Leftover funds were used in 2002, 2004, 2006 in East St. Louis and on one home in St. Charles County.

In 2010, Thrivent approved the building of two houses; Thrivent also approved \$10,000 as a mission to build three houses in Uganda, Africa.

Thrivent has approved the building of one new house and work to be done on rehabilitating one house in 2012.

How can your congregation get involved? Members can provide food for volunteers. They can support the project financially or they can work on the house. Lastly, members can pray for the success of the projects.

Schedule your visit today, by calling Ron Harper (636-300-1633/home or 314-420-5162/cell) or Tom Wylie (636-727-0282/cell)

## February 2012

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

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**February 7—Ministerium for Area 10 Rostered Leaders, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Clayton**

**February 9** - Lutheran Leaders in Mission

**February 8-12** Youth Leaders Extravaganza 1 (Contact Person: Kimberly Wolfe)

**February 9** – Be Like Jesus Registration Deadline

**February 17-18-19** – Rend Lake Youth Gathering (IL Youth)

**February 21**—Coalition Board Meeting—7 pm

**February 23** (9:30-11:30 a.m) - Youth Leader meeting, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Creve Coeur

**February 23** – Confircamp Planning Meeting at Holy Cross at 12:15 (Becky Howard - Director)

**February 23** –Be Like Jesus Payment and Art Contest Deadline.

**February 24-26** YRU 18 (Melanie Robison, contact person)

**February 26**— Annual Meeting: St. Louis Metro Coalition

**March 4**—Rural Ministry Conference, Dubuque, Iowa

**March 8**—Lutheran Leaders in Mission

**March 20**—Coalition Board Meeting—7 pm

**March 22 (7-9 p.m.)** - Youth Leader meeting, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Creve Coeur

**March 23-24** BE LIKE JESUS 2012 - East Side @ Faith O'Fallon

**March 30-31** Be Like Jesus 2012 - West Side @ Trinity Chesterfield

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## March 2012

Su	Mo	Tu	W	T	Fri	Sa
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*April*

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Long –Term Notes

**April 22-** Pre-gathering Event (for those going to National Youth Gathering) @ Atone-ment , Florissant - 6-8pm, \$5/youth-\*\*\*\*\*

**June 7-8-9, 2012**—CSIS Assembly

**June 18-22** – Confircamp (Becky Howard and Deb Grupe, co-directors)

**July 18-22, 2012** National Youth Gathering: New Orleans

**July 29-Aug 4, 2012** - Leadership Lab

**October 5-7** - Fall Jr. High Event (Becky Howard – Contact Person)

**October 16-17-18** - Carlinville Youth Event (IL Youth)

Reminder: the Youth Pre-Gathering Activities are \$5/ youth