

# OPEN ARMS

September 2005

LIVING GOD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Volume XIV, Issue 9

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## Tidbits and Treasures Happening at Living God Lutheran Church

**O**ur average weekly attendance records show an increase. 2005's numbers are in bold print; 2004's numbers are in parentheses.

Jan. **145** (121)

Feb. **147** (107)

Mar. **198** (161)

Apr. **147** (183)

May **140** (155)

June **131** (111)

July **111** (96)

Aug. **118** (98)

### BRIDGE OF HOPE

Audrey Metzler is the program director for Bridge of Hope. We are not eligible to become mentors until a minimum of 8 people have been trained. The following have been through the 1st training class: Catherine Cattell—BOH Group Coordinator; Amy Gursky—Childcare Coordinator; Lin Williams—Furnishing Coordinator; Janet Krackov—Transportation Coor-

inator; Susan Fessenbecker—Housing Coordinator. Our main role is “to be a friend.” Bridge of Hope handles the financial and employment pieces. All candidates are screened by Bridge of Hope.

### STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Sue Fessenbecker met with Ivan and Anna Stoltzfus to find out how we can better support them and to (continued page 3)

### Steeple to People SUBMITTED BY CAROL SCHMIDT

**R**efuge: 1. Protection or shelter, as from danger or hardship. 2. A place providing sanctuary. (Lat. *Refugere*, flee).

This is just one more thing that Steeple to People provides. The

refuge House is located on Todd Lane, not far from Ivan Stoltzfus' home where the Food Cupboard is located. Miller's Trucking very kindly provides the house for \$150.00 a month. STP has

done improvements and pays the utilities. This five bedroom house can be shared by 2 to 3 families in time of need. It is a place of transition from homelessness to home. A place to (CONTINUED PAGE 2)

## Remembering September 11th

Dr. Jon Walton, Pastor of New York City's First Presbyterian Church, wrote a brief account about September 11, 2001, and the effect that day's event had on his church.

He recalled that the church had to be left open for the people who continually streamed in. Some came to escape the smoke that affected their lungs and their eyes. Some came hoping to find friends or relatives. Most came to pray, to seek solace and to try to sort out why the unspeakable death and destruction had happened.

Dr. Walton soon learned that the tragedy directly affected

several families related to the church. The husband of the church secretary, a nephew of the receptionist, a church-school teacher, the father of a child in the nursery, and a young mother of two children were all missing or known to be dead.

Dr. Walton said he now understands the opening words of the book of Lamentations, which refer to Jerusalem when the Babylonians invaded and destroyed the city: "How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow

she has become, she that was great among the nations!" (Lamentations 1:1, NRSV)

\*This article was adapted from Dr. Walton's brief statement titled "Lonely City."



## Steeple to People (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

take time to catch up, regroup, and get back into balance. The length of stay varies from months to a couple of years.

While STP does provide short term stays in a motel, this is the place for longer dura-

tions. Currently, a family who is living in a camper will be moving in before having to face the winter in a campground.

So, know that this is just one more way that your contributions to Steeple to People en-

able this organization to reach out.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

By the way, the change-over has been made—summer to winter clothing—at the thrift store. Stop in to check out the bargains.



**STEEPLE TO PEOPLE REACHES OUT TO THOSE IN NEED ON A DAILY BASIS. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS KEEP THAT A REALITY.**

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

He works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, He works on us through each other. [People] are mirrors or “carriers” of Christ to other [people]. Usually, it is those that know Him that bring Him to others. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so im-

portant. It is so easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects—education, building, missions, holding services . . . The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw [people] into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons,

even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other reason.

—C. S. Lewis

### Christian Education Corner CONTRIBUTED BY DEB KEY

#### Meet the Sunday School Teachers

September 11th  
9:30 – 10:15

Levels 1 and 2  
(Ages 3-9)

Parents, this will be a great opportunity for you to meet the Sunday School Teachers for 2005/06 school year. The teachers will introduce the curriculum that will be taught to your children. The youth group will be creating a craft with your children while you are in the classroom listening to the overview. Upon completion of the parent’s

introduction and children’s craft, refreshments will be provided by the Christian Education Team.

We are very excited about presenting this special day to the parents and young children in the congregation. Please RSVP by 9/56 to Debbie Key at 610-273-7509. If you cannot attend, please call Debbie to let her know if you have children who will be enrolled in Sunday School this year.



#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of teachers and assistants for Sunday School in order to make the program successful. If we had enough volunteers, it would not be a frequent effort. No teaching skills are required.

Please call Debbie Key at 610-273-7509 if you are interested in volunteering. There will also be sign-up sheets for all levels placed on the church’s bulletin board. Thank you in advance from the

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

#### TIDBITS . . . CONTINUED

Let them know that we will be promoting the food bank. The food basket will be made more visible using the table in the entrance way and possibly the bulletin board. Check the bulletin for a list of items and/or a short article in the newsletter.

#### HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, August 13th, at 8:30 AM, the second highway clean-up for the year was completed. 9 volunteers filled 16 bags of trash in 2 hours. New recruits came to the aid of highway clean-up since ALL regular volunteers were unavailable. New gloves were donated; old ones washed, and all are stored in the small shed.

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WILL FOLLOW AN  
EVERY SECOND

THURSDAY OF THE  
MONTH SCHEDULE

STARTING

SEPTEMBER 8TH.



# A CHURCH FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CHURCH

## Living God Lutheran Church

Primary Business Address  
3200 Horseshoe Pike  
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Pennsylvania 19344

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Email: living\_god@verizon.net



# Living God

# Extending Open Arms

**We're on the Web**

**[www.livinggodchurch.org](http://www.livinggodchurch.org)**



# September

September 7th @ 7:00 PM

Cub Scout Meeting

September 17th @ 4:00 PM

Curtier/Benner Wedding



*Make it a good year.*

*Stay safe.. Learn lots.*

*Be a Christian Student.*