

# THE EVANGEL

NOVEMBER  
2011



*Accepting God's Grace  
Sharing God's Love*

*"They fell on  
their faces before  
the throne and  
worshiped God."  
Revelation 7:11*

## Pastoral Ponderings

A year ago I was driving east in my jam-packed Honda, hoping the mountain passes would be clear and dry. They were, and I arrived in Chicago, ready for a short vacation and equally ready to begin ministry at Lebanon on Thanksgiving eve. I am nearing the end of my first year of ministry among you, the good folks of Lebanon Lutheran. As I begin month 12, here is what I am thinking.

Lynn Ranos chooses interesting music for the choir and runs a great rehearsal. This week we were preparing several Advent anthems, but one keeps running through my head. The men open the song inquiring: "Are you ready, ready for the . . . ." I can't remember the exact next words, but that phrase ran in my head all last night.

I find myself asking that question. **Am I ready for the next thing that God is going to do in my life and ministry?** As I look back over the last 11 months there have been lots of little "getting readys" to attend to. I have learned many of the rhythms of "life together" at Lebanon. I have visited in many of the homes of the congregational members (and I am still making visits). I have learned some of our history, some of our secrets, and much of our pain. I have been amazed by your resil-

ience and passion to move forward into God's future in healthy ways. I've been thankful for your flexibility when I have invited stretching. I've been buoyed up by your interest in learning what I have to share in Bible studies and in committees and on the Council. I've been awed as you have opened yourselves to me and allowed me to be with you in prayer and presence in difficult times. Finally, I have appreciated your generosity as we have sought to not deplete our savings more than absolutely necessary. Perhaps most of all I have appreciated your honesty as you have named some of the challenges we face.

Being God's mission outpost in Hegewisch is so much more than simply having enough money to afford a pastor. That is why the Joshua Team and the Church Council are studying the important question: **What are the next steps for Lebanon?** as we seek to strengthen our sense of mission and get clear about what God wants us to be and do about as a congregation.

Many on the Joshua Team and the Church Council have either figured out or are wrestling with the meaning of our *Turn-*

*around* as a congregation. It is clear that doing the "same-old, same-old" will continue our decline and lead to eventual closure. We need to grow: in numbers, in relational vitality, in spiritual vitality, and in mission focus. But that growth will not happen by having the right pastor, a good choir, or even an upgraded building.

The key question in this renewal effort is: **What is the "new life" that God is offering to me?** (Not to someone else, but to *me*.) Other important questions like the first are:

**How is God's Spirit doing something new in me?**

**Where is God inviting me to look and notice an opportunity for giving myself away in love, even as Jesus gave himself away on the cross for me?**

**What new behavior am I being invited to try out?**

**What new insight about following Jesus am I missing?**

**What new prayer practice or Bible study opportunity am I getting ready for?**

**What old way of participating in Lebanon Lutheran should I**

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Pastoral Ponderings continued....

*actually stop doing so that I can make room for the new in-breaking of God's new life?*

These are the things I am pondering, but especially I hear that song in my head: "Are you ready...?"

Honored to be your pastor,  
**Pastor John**

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Council Minutes

**Minutes of Lebanon Lutheran Church  
October 6, 2011**

President Rick Ranos called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, Pastor John did the devotions.

Pastor John asked if we could wait until Lynn Ranos arrived before he would move to discussion about *A Door Set Open*, the book the Joshua Team and council were reading/discussing, and all agreed.

Bunny Korbelik made the motion we accept the agenda, with the following addition: New Business, (E) Christmas. Shirley Baysinger seconded.

Minutes from the last meeting were read, Bunny Korbelik made motion to accept the minutes, Shirley Baysinger seconded the motion.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Ed:**

Bunny Korbelik reported on the Sunday School. All is going well and the students are having fun.

**Fellowship:**

Discussion followed about replacing the Pig Roast with another event, nothing decided.

**Cedars:**

Alderman Pope will be having an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Cedars donated \$200.00 for the hurricane relief fund for the East Coast.

**Stewardship:**

No meeting, planning for Cottage Meetings to start soon.

**Joshua Team:**

They are taking responsibility for the "Building Bridges in Hegewisch" series of meetings with Eric Law in February.

**Pastor's Report:**

One baptism in October. We will be welcoming new members at the end of October. Pastor is now teaching the confirmation class.

June Farrell made the motion to accept the reports, Shirley Baysinger seconded.

Lynn Ranos arrived and Pastor led a discussion on the book *A Door Set Open*. It

was interesting as well as informative. Council members were encouraged to give feedback .

**Treasurer's Report:**

Becky Byrne gave her report and explained how we received \$200.00 from Sutka Post #5414. All was good in report.

Bunny Korbelik made the motion to accept the report, Shirley Baysinger seconded.

**Old Business:**

There were no volunteers at that time for the crop walk, Lou Malevitis asked if the money collected for the noisy collection at the end of the month could go to the Crop Walk, all agreed.

Ken Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bunny Korbelik seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Katschke

*"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."  
Matthew 5:12*

# Lebanon Welcomes New Members

Lebanon welcomed new members to our congregation in the October 23, 2011 worship service. Many Lebanon members already consider these folks “part of the family” and look forward to worshipping with them in the future.

Here the new members are pictured with their sponsors. Also pictured are David Buco, our MIC seminarian, and Pastor John.



# Upcoming Events

## Cottage Meetings In November



*“Wow, I can’t wait. Will there be food?”*

Join the fun as people from Lebanon Lutheran gather at church in small “Cottage Meetings” for conversation, fun, Bible study, and a look towards our future. Meetings will be held **between November 5 and 12.**

There will be multiple gatherings scheduled to accommodate everyone’s schedule: Morning, afternoon, evening and weekends. Come one, come all. Help us move into God’s future together!

More about our Cottage Meetings...

HOME MEETINGS ARE ABOUT OUR FUTURE

The "Cottage Meetings" begin this week and the leadership of Lebanon Lutheran hopes your know how important these simple gatherings are for our future.

When Pastor Joan invited those in worship on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> to get up and go sit with someone they didn't know well, she invited them to talk about three questions. During the announcements

Pastor John asked how many people had actually met someone they didn't know. Two-thirds of the hands in our sanctuary went up.

The "Cottage Meetings" which begin Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and go through Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> are opportunities to go even one step further in celebrating our Lebanon community. The meetings will include some fun games, a chance to focus on getting to know our church neighbors, and hear-

what has been important to us in our life at Lebanon. We will also learn more about the work of the Joshua Team, study scripture together and pray.

These gatherings are preparation for some special days coming in the spring when we will review our history together and begin to set our course forward.

"Therefore encourage one another with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Need someone to clean your home?

Jennifer Schichner is now offering this service. She asks that you call her for a price, and there is a senior discount available.



Jennifer's number: 773-403-8213 She will clean homes in Hegewisch, and will also travel to the East Side.

Prayer Requests

At Home: Tim Geissler, Lorraine Overend, Edna Graf, Caroline Mueller and Eloys Geissler

In Assisted Living Homes:

The Pointe at Kilpatrick: Betty Vee Johnson 14230 S. Kilpatrick Midlothian, IL 60445 Sunrise Senior Living: Kathryn Polzin 12828 S. LaGrange Rd. Palos Park, IL 60461 708-923-6532

In the Military:

Ryan Kozlowski, Andrew White, Ricki Pickett, Rob Ellman



## Getting Creative by Wendy Healy from *The Lutheran* magazine

### Tough times call for clever measures and ministry

Jennifer Dyer Boyd enthusiastically embraced her new call as pastor of [Trinity Lutheran](#) in Brewster, N.Y., with gratitude and delight, right down to the new deficit the church was facing.

She wasn't surprised to learn of the budget problems shortly after arriving. "I would've been more surprised if we weren't facing a deficit," she said. "That's the reality of the church right now."

Boyd is right — that is the reality for more than half of the [ELCA's](#) roughly 10,000 congregations. Many have 80 or fewer worshipers per week, budgets of less than \$100,000, or more imminent financial issues, said Ruben Duran, [ELCA](#) program director for new congregations. He describes these congregations as operating in "maintenance mode," either barely making it or facing an uncertain future. Other churches are in serious decline and may close in the next few years, he said. The increased expenses of maintaining and operating old buildings and paying a pastor's salary and benefits in the wake of dwindling stewardship are causing congregations to rethink how they

operate. Some are developing creative solutions, while others aren't sure what to do and pray for a miracle. Stories of budget deficits resonate with churches across the country, whether a congregation is large or small, has a novice pastor or a veteran, or is an urban or suburban ministry.

### One pastor, two churches

Andy Wendle, pastor of [Our Redeemer Lutheran](#), Hood River, Ore., knew sustaining a congregation with fewer than 100 worshipers wasn't going to be possible without creative solutions. So [Our Redeemer](#) partnered with [Asbury United Methodist Church](#) several miles away, which had a temporary pastor and little funding for a full-time position.

Wendle serves both churches in a joint ministry covenant. Paid by both congregations, he leads a Sunday Lutheran service at 9 a.m. and Methodist worship at 11 a.m. Having one pastor serve two congregations is a popular solution to budget woes, Duran said. Also popular are having a part-time pastor, merging with another parish or asking members to give more. While well meaning, such responses

won't give a church new life. "All those aspects, if they're not accompanied by a vision and mission — and aren't reconnecting to the community — aren't going to solve it," he said. "It's like moving the chairs on the Titanic."

To help with its mounting financial circumstances, [Trinity Lutheran Church](#), White Plains, N.Y., recently cut its pastor's salary by one-third. Paying a roof loan, repairing water damage and the recent loss of a revenue-producing building-use program created a \$40,000 budget shortfall, said Norman D. White, pastor. The congregation decided it had to cut White's time.

"The first thing a church does is cut the pastor's salary or hours in some way, or slashes mission support," Duran said. "We tend to think that if we can just get some money in, then everything will be all right."

But money won't make things right for the long term, Duran said. Reconnecting to the community will. It all boils down to mission and vision, he said. It's easy to be the church when times are good, but bad times test a church's mission.

Boyd and [Trinity's](#) church council came up with a

solution to cut minor expenses. The church discontinued its weekly lawn service, stopped purchasing worship bulletin covers, and cut both the number of hours and hourly wage for an office assistant. They also refinanced the mortgage, reduced synod mission support and asked members to increase giving.

"Stop-gap solutions like these — and there are many — aren't long-term answers," Duran said. "They only buy time."

Boyd readily admits that [Trinity](#) may face more cuts early next year if finances don't improve.

In a poor economy, the church's mission becomes more imperative. "What's happening is a compounding of things," Duran said. "The issue is not the result of tough economic times alone. It's an issue of the church as a whole. The Lutheran church is growing disconnected from its community and society, and tough times only

## Getting Creative continued.....

compound problems.”

### 'For rent'

The ministry at [Our Saviour Lutheran Church](#) in Mason City, Iowa, continues to be strong, even though finances are not. With factories closing and members losing jobs, the congregation is always looking for creative ways to go forward.

One of the ways the church is making do is by renting space to [Lutheran Services in Iowa](#). [LSI](#) rents an office to run its parenting program and a conference room to meet with families. [LSI](#) has a rich history of service to the community that Our Saviour wants to

support, so it makes the rent affordable at only \$100 a month. "But every bit counts," Horrell said. "It's a great deal for [LSI](#), but we are a gracious congregation.”

[LSI](#) is grateful. "There is no other place where we could get space to operate at this rent base," said Crystal True, program supervisor for the [LSI Family Safety Risk and Permanency](#) program.

Horell said the parents and children who come to the [LSI](#) program see [Our Saviour](#) as a warm and welcoming place. "There are a lot of people in and out of the building," she said. "We want it to be a safe, secure,

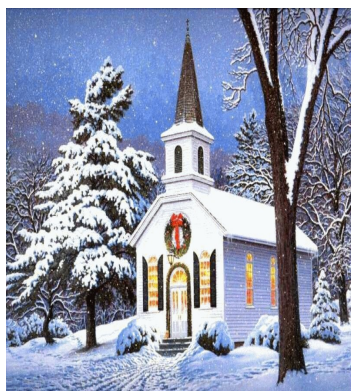
loving place to be."

Partnering with Lutheran agencies is nothing new to [Our Saviour](#). The church provided space to Lutheran Disaster Response in 2008 when it needed a local office for its work in the Iowa floods. Responding to community needs is what Horrell said the church is called to do.



## Christmas may have two services

One of our richest traditions are the traditions surrounding Christmas and Easter worship. This year there may be a new "extra" offering at Christmas. Some families with small children and others who don't like to be out late, may be glad to hear that an earlier service is being considered. Our 10 p.m. candle service will be our main Christmas Eve worship. But for those who can't make that time we are considering also having an earlier



option. It could be as early as 5 p.m. or as late as 7 p.m. If this is of interest to you and your family, please indicate your preferences to Pastor John or Bunny Korbelik, Lynn Ranos and Pastor Joan of the Worship committee.

*“For the day of  
the Lord is at  
hand.”  
Zephaniah 1:7*

### Office News

\*If you need **Pastoral care**, remember there are times when the office will be unattended. Please leave a message. Messages and emails will be checked daily.

\*Our **Food Pantry Box** is always in need of non-perishable food items, especially in this holiday season. The St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is always grateful.

\*The Lutheran Church Women are collecting items to send to **our soldiers** overseas. There is a table in the narthex with information.

Don't forget to commemorate your special occasion with **Altar flowers** or **Eternal Light** contributions. If you are interested in providing Altar Flowers, please sign up for a date on the board in the hallway, then purchase your flowers at your chosen florist and bring them to church. Your commemoration will be printed in the bulletin. Eternal Light commemorations can also be printed in the bulletin, with your contribution helping defray the cost of the Eternal Light

supplies. Sign up is also located in the hallway.

\*If you want me to remember any details, dates, etc., please write down these details **on paper, or in an email**. I have a hard time remembering all the details (especially on Sunday mornings!) Thanks, Pastor John

\*Please save your **printer ink cartridges**. We can redeem them for CASH at Office Depot. They will accept 20/month.

### Birthdays

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| November 1  | Betty Vee Johnson  |
| November 7  | Stephanie Harnisch |
| November 8  | Elyse Madigan      |
| November 13 | Shirley Baysinger  |
| November 14 | Jean Madigan       |



### Lutheran Men in Mission

Hey you guys! Yea you! Have you ever been interested in men's mission in the Lutheran Church, or in your own congregation?? Here are some great resources to get connected and involved in men's mission.

**Lutheran Men's Mission** is everywhere!  
[www.lutheranmeninmission.org](http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org)  
[www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm)

Follow and join the conversations on these Lutheran Men in Mission channels:

Facebook  
Twitter @LutheranMen  
YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/user/LutheranMenInMission](http://www.youtube.com/user/LutheranMenInMission)

Get informed. Get involved. Go for it men!

Thanksgiving Service (please hand this flyer to a friend!)

# Hegewisch Community

## *Thanksgiving Worship*



**Nov. 23**  
**7:30 p.m.**

***This***

***Year's***

***Lebanon Lutheran***

***Host***

**Address: 13100 S. Manistee**

- All Hegewisch churches invited to participate
- Bring non-perishable food for offering to support local hunger needs
- Several local clergy participating. Lebanon's pastor, John Beck, preaching
- Fellowship time with dessert follows the worship
- Adult and bell choirs give praise



**Hear Lincoln's original  
Thanksgiving Proclamation**

## THE EVANGEL

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### Readings for the Month of November

#### All Saints Sunday

November 6, 2011

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Psalm 34:1-10,22

Matthew 5:1-12

#### Prayer of the Day

*Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

#### Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2011

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalm 90:1-8,12

Matthew 25:14-30

#### Prayer of the Day

*Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

#### Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2011

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Psalm 95:1-7a

Matthew 25:31-46

#### Prayer of the Day

*O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

#### Thanksgiving Day

November 24, 2011

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Psalm 65

Luke 17:11-19

#### Prayer of the Day

*Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

#### First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2011

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Mark 13:24-37

#### Prayer of the Day

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..*

## Monthly Financial Stewardship

Thank you for your financial offerings to your ministries these past months.

|                      | September 2011 | Year to Date |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>  | \$7,349.34     | \$67,638.34  |
| <b>Building Fund</b> | \$1,925.00     | \$13,644.50  |
| <b>Turnaround</b>    | \$410.00       | \$3,716.50   |

## Worship Participants

| Date:       | Assisting Minister: | Lector:           | Acolytes: | Communion Assistant |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| November 6  | Lou Malevitis       | David Buco        |           | Tammy Harnisch      |
| November 13 | Lisa Ubik           | Shirley Baysinger |           | "                   |
| November 20 | Joanie David        | Esther Kristoff   |           | "                   |
| November 27 | Ben David           | Lisa Ubik         |           | "                   |

## Altar Guild

For the month of November: June Farrell and Veronica Katschke

## Counters

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 6  | Phyllis Harnisch and Connie Rappaport |
| November 13 | Phyllis Harnisch and Connie Rappaport |
| November 20 | Veronica Katschke                     |
| November 27 | Shirley Baysinger                     |



## Coffee Hour

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 6  | Tammy Harnisch |
| November 13 | Rick Ranos     |
| November 20 | Lisa Ubik      |
| November 27 | Lynn Ranos     |

# November 2011

| SUN  | MON  | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI   | SAT   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | <b>1</b><br>9:30am Crafts<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>7:15pm Adult Chr.<br>8:00pm Bell Choir   | <b>2</b><br>6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous<br>7:00pm Executive Comm.                            | <b>3</b><br>7:00pm Church Council                 | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>2:00-9:00pm Hall Rental<br>Cottage Meetings                 |
| <b>6</b><br>8:30am Sunday School/Adult Cl.<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:00am Christian Ed. Meeting<br>2:00-7:00pm Hall Rental<br>Cottage Meeting | <b>7</b><br>4:00pm Girl Scouts<br>Cottage Meetings | <b>8</b><br>9:30am Crafts<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>7:15pm Adult Choir<br>Cottage Meetings   | <b>9</b><br>6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous<br>Cottage Meetings                                  | <b>10</b><br>1:00pm Lutheran Church Women         | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>8:00-3:30pm Blood Drive<br>3:30-9:00pm Hall Rental         |
| <b>13</b><br>8:30am Sunday School/Adult Cl.<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:00am Worship Comm.<br>1:30-9:00pm Hall Rental                           | <b>14</b><br>4:00pm Girl Scouts                    | <b>15</b><br>9:30am Crafts<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>7:15pm Adult Choir<br>8:00pm Bell Choir | <b>16</b><br>12:00pm Cedars Group<br>6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous                             | <b>17</b><br>7:00pm Finance/Stewardship Committee | <b>18</b><br>All Day Set up for Craft and Bake sale | <b>19</b><br>8:00-3:00pm LCW Craft & Bake Sale<br>3:30-9:00pm Hall Rnt. |
| <b>20</b><br>8:30am Sunday School/Adult Cl.<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:00am Fellowship Committee<br>12:00pm Girl Scout Cookie Day              | <b>21</b><br>4:00pm Girl Scouts                    | <b>22</b><br>9:30am Crafts<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>7:15pm Adult Choir<br>8:00pm Bell Choir | <b>23</b><br>6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous<br>7:30pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Lebanon | <b>24</b><br>Thanksgiving Day                     | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br>1:00-9:00pm Hall Rental                                    |
| <b>27</b><br>8:30am Sunday School/Adult Cl.<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:00am Property Committee   | <b>28</b><br>4:00pm Girl Scouts                    | <b>29</b><br>9:30am Crafts<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>7:15pm Adult Choir                      | <b>30</b><br>6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous   |   |   |   |

**LEBANON  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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**ACCEPTING GOD'S GRACE,  
SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**Lebanon Staff:**

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Lynn Ranos  
Bunny Korbelik  
Al Korbelik

**Evangel Staff:**

Joan Pearson  
Phyllis Harnisch

**Lebanon Council:**

Rick Ranos  
Lou Malevitis  
June Farrell  
Veronica Katschke  
Ken Nelson  
Shirley Baysinger  
Bunny Korbelik  
Joan Pearson  
Ben David  
Becky Byrne  
Lisa Ubik

Pastor  
Office Administrator  
Adult & Bell Choir Director  
Organist & Jr. Choir Director  
Custodian

President  
Vice President

Secretary  
Youth Member  
Treasurer  
Bookkeeper

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**Lebanon Lutheran Church**

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