

LIGHT FROM THE HEIGHTS

Holy Week & Easter Services

April 21, 2011 - Maundy Thursday
Service of Holy Communion
“At the Lord’s Table”
6:00 p.m.

April 22, 2011 - Good Friday Services
6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 24, 2011 - Easter Morning
Services of Holy Communion
in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.
“Hallelujah Chorus”

“By Faith” Mid-week Services for Lent

Our Lenten mid-week services continue with the theme “By Faith”, God’s Spirit will lead us into Hebrews 11, especially the first verse: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

We will continue to follow this schedule of themes:

- 4/06 The Faith of the Israelites
- 4/13 Jesus, the Perfecter of Our Faith

These brief services will follow a soup supper prepared by the boards of the church. You may wish to bring a sandwich from home to supplement your evening meal.

The Lenten Soup Supper serving time will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m. with the worship service following at 6:00 p.m.

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LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 04/06/11 – OCM Board
Wednesday, 04/13/11 – PCD Board

Please **SIGN UP** on the sign-up sheet on the board across from the coatroom in the main gathering area to bring bars, cakes, and cookies for dessert.

SPRING INNER MISSION EVENT

Circle your calendar for the Spring Inner Mission Event to be held on Saturday, April 16 (day before Palm Sunday). We will begin with a service of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m., followed by a delicious lunch in our Fellowship Hall. Our program “The Diary of Adam and Eve,” will be provided by Professor Michael Rogness and his wife, Eva.

When you receive your letter of invitation, please return the reservation card or just call the church office to let us know you are coming. See you on April 16th!

From the Pastor

~~ Coffee-table Garden ~~



Diane and I did something new this year. I suppose we became so tired of the long siege of winter weather that we decided we needed to go to the nursery and purchase some live, flowering plants to put on our coffee table. Our coffee table normally has some sort of artificial, seasonal centerpiece that requires little attention. As this winter dragged on, however, we decided that we wanted to get our hands a bit dirty and to arrange some potted spring flowers into a little “garden” for the centerpiece. One advantage of having a small, compact house is that we can see this arrangement from just about anywhere on the main floor. It amazes me how much a bit of color and living presence brightens and cheers not only the entire house

but also the *attitudes* of us who live here. We find our spirits lifted by the vivid colors and the natural beauty of God’s creation.

I see Arlington Hills Lutheran Church as something like a “coffee-table garden” in the midst of our Eastside neighborhood. We are visible from nearly every direction in our community, and we are a sign that beauty and love have priority in this place. Sometimes I get a little “pouty” about the disrepair and litter I see as I make my way around the neighborhood. I wonder a bit judgmentally, “*Don’t these folks know that they don’t have to live in their own refuse?*” Then I have to consider the possibility that maybe they have been “beat up by the system” so much that they really don’t care.



Maybe part of our role as the Body of Christ in this community is to show that we care by being more intentional about our “gardening.” It is terrific that Jim Jaszczak cares enough to remove snow and to mow grass even beyond our property lines, and it is terrific that he helps the ESL teachers and students create real gardens on our property. These do much to brighten the neighborhood. Can we do more? What if some seniors teamed up with some of our youth to walk and pick up trash in the six-block area of the church building (Rose to Magnolia and Payne to Walsh?) What if we wore bright safety vests that read: “*A.H.L.C. LOVES THE EASTSIDE*”? Can we “adopt the neighborhood” as a sort of garden? What else might we do to tend to the rich soil of this neighborhood? How can we nurture the seeds that are already planted in this place? How can we scrape away the cold snow and ice of indifference and let in the warm Sunshine of God’s love? Let’s be thinking about these things together as the seasons change and the days grow longer. Let’s be thinking about how we might bring heaven a bit closer to our bit of garden.

I’ll be glad to let my “hands get dirty” with you,

Pr. Roger



ALLEY SHOPPE NEWS

Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile.
Pierre Coneille

I think as volunteers we get a great sense of the joy of doing something worthwhile. We get to see in tangible ways how something as simple as a vase of artificial flowers or a pair of socks brightens life for someone else.

This spring the Alley Shoppe is very fortunate to have several students from St. Catherine's University in St. Paul working with us in a service learning capacity. I am excited to have them volunteering with us. They have given us a little information so we can know them better, which I thought you might enjoy also.



My name is Pa Dao Yang, but people sometimes prefer to call me Pa, I personally don't mind either. My hometown is Marshall, but most of my families live up here in the cities. I come from a big family of eleven, and is the second oldest. I'm a junior, currently attending at St. Catherine University, and double majoring in Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design. I love to do hang out with my friends, draw, and do paj ntaub in my free time. My long-term goal in life is to be successful, and hopefully open my own store one day.

Pa Dao has been a great asset in the Shoppe as a Hmong interpreter and helping families select items they need. She will also be making a brochure for us on how to dress for an interview.

Mary Ehlers is a Senior Apparel Design Major at Saint Catherine University. She has grown up in Saint Paul and works at Walgreens. She enjoys hiking, running and biking. She enjoys school including designing and sewing her creations.



Mary will be working with me and the ESL students on various sewing projects. It will be nice to have someone with a lot of sewing experience as an assistant. We will be working on tote bags, quilts and rag rugs. (Bio's provided by our learning service students.)

A few more notes about the April schedule and Alley Shoppe needs:

We will be closed April 18-April 24th for Holy Week and Easter.

Please continue to bring us your brown grocery bags we always need them!

Enjoy the spring,

Pam Wiehe, Director

FROM THE OCM BOARD...

By now you have noticed the large ELCA calendar for Support of Mission Outreach. It is currently located near the elevator. Please consider signing up on your birthday and donating to match your age. Or in appreciation

of a very nice day you might clean out your drawer and donate your loose change. The purpose is to keep world mission in mind with a contribution to Tanzania or Peru.

Thank you for giving this a try.

Dee Nelson, OCM Board

Book Nook News By Clair Haberman**Love, the Law of Life**

Please read Matthew 5: 38 - 48.

In "Be Perfect," his sermon on February 20, 2011, Pastor Allmendinger included several topics including the Ten Commandments, Luther's Catechism (beginning on page 1160 of the Hymnal), and loving both your neighbor and your enemy. Those topics, actually all of his sermon, apply to Toyohiko Kagawa (born, 1888 in Kobe, Japan; died, 1960 in Tokyo) who is recognized by the Lutheran Church on April 23rd. The book HEROES OF THE CHURCH contains a chapter (pages 125 through 133) about Toyohiko Kagawa entitled "Love, The Law of Life." Please prepare yourself for reading that chapter by considering these questions: Where would he live in order to most effectively minister to the poor people of the large city of Kobe? In addition to preaching on street corners how else could he serve those in need? What actions would you expect the Japanese government to take regarding his opposition to World War II? What would be his postwar activities? After reading that chapter please consider imitating his love for his neighbors by actions that could be taken in the area surrounding Arlington Hills Lutheran Church.

An audio tape of the February 20, 2011 service is available in the church office for your use in recalling the sermon or hearing the entire service in case you missed it because of the threatening weather on that day.

Probably the first response to a question about the United States and Japan would refer to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When did those events occur? Another event involving those countries were the visits of fleets of warships commanded by Commodore Matthew Perry. When did they occur? What was their purpose? Did they succeed? The book HISTORY'S TIMELINE describes these incidents. You'll also find a wealth of information about other topics in it.

The words "Speak softly, but carry a big stick," were spoken by Theodore Roosevelt. Did he speak softly or wield a big stick when he moderated negotiations between Russia and Japan in 1905? Why were negotiations needed? What was Theodore Roosevelt's reward for his success? A brief biography of Theodore Roosevelt, a source of answers to those questions, is available on the book cart. You can read it in a few minutes while seated in the gathering area. When you find information about where and when Mr. Roosevelt made that statement "Speak softly but carry a big stick," in BARTLETT'S QUOTATIONS you may be surprised and impressed. Does that information differ from the information on page 35 of a brief biography of Theodore Roosevelt?

In addition to chapters about well known persons such as Martin Luther and J. S. Bach, HEROES OF THE CHURCH contains chapters about Amalie Sieveking, Frank Laubach and others. Learning about them is interesting and inspirational. Most chapters are 8 pages in length. A 2011 ALMANAC provides more information about Theodore Roosevelt (page 112), Japan (pages 612 - 614) and many other topics.

All of the books mentioned in this article, and an envelope containing additional information about Toyohiko Kagawa, are available on the book cart. Thanks for using those materials. If you take them from church please return them as soon as you have finished with them so that they are available for others.

Clair

We get mail...



Thank you to Pastor Allmendinger for visiting me in the hospital and at home and for reading the psalms and prayers.

Thanks also to all the members at Arlington Hills who signed the get well card on Sunday, March 6. 56 signatures!!

God bless you and I hope to see you all very soon.

Skaidrite Zarins

“AGAPE” TO PERFORM MAY 1st

Please invite your friends to join us at worship on Sunday, May 1st, at the 9:30 service as Chuck Linderkamp’s musical group, “AGAPE” performs.

The Agape Quintet is made up of 5 very unique and creative individuals coming together to express their faith through instrumental music. By using both written music and improvisation, they joyfully present some “old favorites” in a new light.

Members include Ben Anderson, percussion, John Egnell, trumpet and fugelhorn, Dave Miller, keyboards, Peter Karstad, bass, and Chuck Linderkamp, reeds, guitar and vocals.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST



The CYF youth will serve and clean up at our Palm Sunday Breakfast. The breakfast will be served after both services. Freewill donations accepted. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

We will not be serving at Dorothy Day in April. The Ushers will be serving on May 30th.



Volunteers should plan to be at Dorothy Day on the serving day from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer to cook or serve please contact the church office. Thank you!

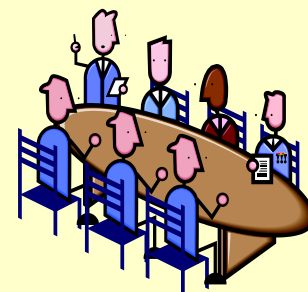
Thank you!

Thank you to Terrell Anderson for all the years of polishing the sanctuary organ. A job well done, faithful friend!

Ken Rossow has agreed to take over the polishing cloth and we thank him too for volunteering.

Church Council Meetings

Members of Arlington Hills are welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.



Copies of Council Meeting minutes are available in the church office.





Book Discussion Group

We enjoyed learning about the families, and especially the wives, of our early presidents in Cokie Roberts' book, LADIES OF LIBERTY. She included many influential people in the administrations of Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.

We have chosen a book she wrote previous of that one, FOUNDING MOTHERS, for our April selection. A paragraph on the book cover says, "Drawing

upon personal correspondence and private journals, FOUNDING MOTHERS brings to life the everyday trials, extraordinary triumphs, and often surprising stories of Abigail Adams, ... Deborah Reed Franklin, ... Martha Washington, and other patriotic and passionate women, each of whom played a role in raising our nation."

Join us Monday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m., in the Reception Room.

The book club meets at 10:30 a.m. on the third Monday of each month in the Reception Room.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2011 Monthly budget amount needed = \$38,333.33

<u>Month 2011</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Monthly Expenses</u>	<u>Monthly Net (Shortage)</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Net (Shortage)</u>
February	\$27,464.94	\$30,825.79	(\$3,360.85)	(\$10,540.28)
March	\$24,013.07	\$24,664.98	(\$651.91)	as of 3/23/2011



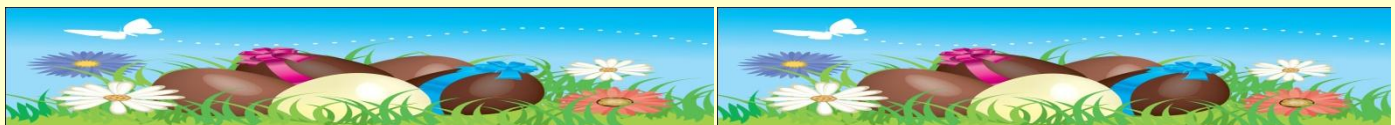
Thank you for your continued support to the ministry and mission of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church. If you are able to give a little extra, it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Church Council Members

- President Joy Tkachuck
- Vice-President Gordon Beneke
- Treasurer Jon Helgason
- Secretary Beverly Lamb
- Council Member Brenda Boogren
- Council Member Linda Frankenberg
- Council Member Russ Richards
- Council Member Steve Johnson
- Council Member David Lauver
- Council Member Julie Stevenson
- Council Member Linda Strohkirch
- Council Member Mary Ann Wistrom

Board Chairs

- CYF Chair Mary Cincotta
- FPA Chair Jim Persoon
- OCM Chair Mike Wiehe
- PCD Co-Chairs Ruth Balfanz
- Russ Richards
- Florence Rasmusson
- WMA Chair





CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

Confirmation/Kings Kids:

Palm Sunday 4/17/11 - youth to help serve breakfast.

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Lock-In for all youth interested in attending (friends are welcome too!) from 7:00 p.m. on 4/21/11 to 5:00 p.m. on Good Friday 4/22/11. There will be games and food on Thursday night followed by breakfast on Friday morning and a trip to the Mall of America! Please sign up by Pastor Roger's office as we need an accurate count. Also, please bring a snack to share with everyone. We may need one additional chaperone depending on the number of youth planning on attending - please see Mary Cincotta if interested.

April 27, 2011 - Confirmation/Kings Kids resumes

May 11, 2011 - Confirmation/Kings Kids Party - last Wednesday night program before the summer.

August 7 - 12, 2011 - Confirmation Kids to attend Bible Camp at Luther Dell. Please see Diane Allmendinger if interested. We want anyone who is interested to be able to attend!

Sunday School:

Please see Mary Cincotta if interested in teaching - we will have a rotating schedule so that you would only need to teach one Sunday per month, but we need at least four teachers per month. No Sunday School after Mother's Day until the fall.

Nursery:

Please see Mary Cincotta if interested in helping out. If possible, we would like to have a parent with their youth to assist in the nursery one Sunday per month - the more we have, the better so that we can make a rotating schedule. Then if no young children/infants are in attendance, you could attend the church service that morning. We just want to have the nursery available for those who may need to use it.

Thank you,

Mary Cincotta, Chair of CYF



The Payne Maryland Corner

Much of what is currently happening with the Payne-Maryland Project has to do with the board of directors of the Payne-Maryland Partnership responding to Merrick's abrupt departure from the board, the loss of two directors, and the start up of our congregational portion of the capital campaign. You will read more about our capital campaign elsewhere in this newsletter.

In the absence of breaking news, let me tell you why I am passionate about the possibilities of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church being co-located at the corner of Payne & Maryland with other public and private partners.

We live in exciting and rapidly changing times. Everywhere I look I see and read that the church of Jesus Christ is also rapidly changing to remain relevant. I believe that AHLC has a powerful role to play in shaping the nature of the community and the environment in which we live. Our stated vision (printed on bulletins, newsletters, etc.) is "*Arlington Hills Lutheran Church Community: a Beacon for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.*" How shall we do that? Well we've also developed a two-fold Statement of Intent (January '07) indicating that we will:

- 1) "*Serve the members of Arlington Hills in a manner with which they are comfortable.*"
- 2) "*Serve the needs and wants of the community through innovative approaches to partnerships and sharing facilities, staff, programs, goals and mission. To meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and psychological needs and wants of members of our community.*"

Okay, so here is why I am passionate about a partnership that links us to the City of St. Paul and others. To be an effective beacon people need to see the light, right? As Jesus noted, a

light kept underneath a bushel is not very effective. We have the light! We have beautiful people filled with the light of Christ; we have "brilliant" worship music that can brighten the darkest of spirits; we have the ancient light that comes from centuries of sacred writings and traditions, and we have a bright vision for the future of this neighborhood.

We have the light, but our present facility is like a bushel keeping the light from the outside world. So much beautiful service takes place in this facility: English language and American culture taught to dozens of new immigrants each week, household items and clothing given to 50 to 80 families a week, dozens of neighbors receive free tax help, thousands of dollars go to world mission, and *much* more... but very few people get to see it! Why? Is it because we are an unfriendly congregation? No! Is it because we have a large and foreboding structure with locked doors? That may be part of it. Is it because those who walk by our building believe they have no interest in what goes on in here? That is the largest factor we have to overcome.

Imagine the possibilities for sharing the light of God's love from a community center where people are coming and going everyday and where they feel welcome and safe. Imagine what could happen as these many people begin to hear an organ rehearsal, see a poster for an adult forum, look through a classroom door and see immigrants learning about our Thanksgiving holiday, witness the generosity of Alley Shoppe, listen to the choir rehearse, or watch a congregation gather to worship. Imagine also the possibilities as we see the many gifts our neighbors possess and invite them to bring these gifts to the party!

The possibilities are endless for what God's spirit could do in such a place.

How could we not be excited?

Pr. Roger
(for the church council)



**SERVANTS
IN MINISTRY**

Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m. Chapel Worship

- Apr. 3 Dorothy Peterson
- Apr. 10 Joy Tkachuck
- Apr. 17 Dorothy Peterson
- Apr. 24 Joy Tkachuck, TBA

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

- Apr. 3 Carol Hansen, Joy Tkachuck, Diane Allmendinger
- Apr. 17 Joy Tkachuck, Elaine & Chuck Rohrbach
- Apr. 24 Joy Tkachuck, Stephanie Tkachuck & Justin Tkachuck

Office Workers

- Apr. 3 Muriel Arend
- Apr. 10 Jo Ann Metling
- Apr. 17 Priscilla Reeve
- Apr. 24 Linda Frankenberg

Transportation Team

- Apr. 3 Chuck Larsen
- Apr. 10 Frank Van Horn
- Apr. 17 Ben Meents
- Apr. 24 Larry Reeve

Tape Ministry

- Apr. 3 Marcella Langton
- Apr. 10 Gordie Beneke
- Apr. 17 Clair Haberman
- Apr. 24 Ed Lee

Sound Booth

- Apr. 3 Myrl Vietor
- Apr. 10 Mike Brown
- Apr. 17 David Lauver
- Apr. 24 Richard LeClaire

Usher Staff

**Head Usher
Clair Haberman
Asst. Head Usher:
Virginia Iverson**

Apr. 3 Lead Usher: Frank Van Horn

Clarence Law, Tom Brackey, David Lauver

Apr. 10 Lead Usher: Fred Bramscher

Charles Larsen, Dennis Rasmusson, Florence Rasmusson

Apr. 17 Lead Usher: Clair Haberman

Gordon Beneke, Gerald Busse, Wayne Blossley

Apr. 24 Lead Usher: Chuck Rohrbach

Elaine Rohrbach

Greeters

- Apr. 3 Marion & Sven Anderson
North Door: Jo Anne Policone
- Apr. 10 Gladys Robertson & Marcella Langton
North Door: Bev Stickler
- Apr. 17 Steve & Sally Keller
North Door: JoAnn Metling
- Apr. 24 TBA
North Door: TBA

Lectors

- Apr. 3 Christine Anderson
- Apr. 10 Shirley Decker
- Apr. 17 Anita Rylander
- Apr. 24 Mary Kowitz

Acolytes

- Apr. 3 Oprah & Effe Woode
- Apr. 10 Colton & Chloe Sherrill
- Apr. 17 Gabe Vandenberg & Ruth McInerney
- Apr. 24 **8:00 a.m.** Sammi & Selena Cincotta
9:30 a.m. Gaby Reeve & Amanda Grace



**PASTORAL
ACTS FOR
FEB. 2011
BAPTISMS**

Caleb Gary Neuenfeld

FUNERALS

Cortland Bloomstrand



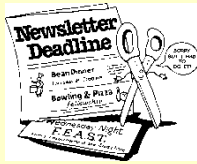
*Volunteers:
you are
"eggstra"
special and
we love you!*

DEADLINES!!

Please abide by the posted deadline for the Light from the Heights. The time is set so that there is enough time to complete the make-up and to proof read before printing. Items cannot be accepted after these deadlines: The 10th of the month at 4:00 p.m. Thank you!

Lay Servant Coordinators

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Director, Alley Shoppe | Pam Wiehe |
| Communion Assistants: | Joy Tkachuck |
| Greeters: | Muriel Arend |
| Lectors: | Priscilla Reeve |
| Sound Booth: | Dan Reed |
| Transportation Team: | Chuck Larsen |
| Web Master | Dave Balfanz |



Arlington Hills Lutheran Church Staff

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 651–771–5501

Fax: 651–771–2898

Pastoral Care after hours

612–408–4946

Diane's Cell Phone 612–499–0707

(Emergency Use Only Please)

E-Mail:

www.info@ahlc-stp.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at

www.ahlc-stp.org

		<u>Ext. #</u>
Senior Pastor:	Pastor Roger Allmendinger	17
Administrative Assistants:	Diane Allmendinger*	11
	Kathy Nicolas*	16
Chief Custodian:	Jim Jaszczak	23
Asst. Custodians:	Dorothy Peterson*	
	Jerry Busse*	
Organist/Director of Special Music:	Sharon Vicic*	
Chapel Organist, & Sanctuary Choir Director:	Barbara Rossow*	
Handbell Director:	Chuck Linderkamp*	
Wedding Coordinator:	Sharon Hanson*	
	(*Part-time)	

Alley Shoppe — (651) 776-8708

Companion Congregation — Ilegenda, Tanzania, Africa

OUR VISION: “Arlington Hills Lutheran Church Community, A Beacon for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.”

OUR MISSION: “To Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all in word and deed.”

March, 2011

Lights from the Heights

Endowment Notes: Letter from Peter Kowitz

One of the original purposes of the Endowment Fund at Arlington Hills was to provide financial assistance and support to those members of our church family pursuing education in preparation for careers in the ministry or other church-related disciplines. This has been a worthwhile effort that has been an active demonstration of our faith and a vote of confidence in those sons and daughters of our congregation who have committed themselves to a lifetime of active ministry to others.

Peter Kowitz is a son of Arlington Hills whose family has been active at Arlington Hills for many years. He has been involved in many of our programs as a student, participant and volunteer. Recently he made the decision to pursue a career in ministry and, in the fall of 2010, began his studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. As a husband and father, Peter will be leaving a career in education to become a full time student in pursuit of his calling. This is a true leap of faith. In consideration of this

and in recognition of Peter's life-long commitment to his faith and to Arlington Hills, the Endowment Committee recently approved a scholarship on behalf of the congregation to Peter. Thank you to the many members of Arlington Hills who have contributed to the Endowment Fund and, in so doing, made this scholarship possible.

Recently, the Endowment Committee received the following letter from Peter, telling us about his seminary experiences and challenges. We thought you might enjoy reading this and seeing firsthand how your support of the endowment fund builds a lasting legacy.

The Endowment Committee

(Letter from Peter Kowitz)

Hello from South Carolina!

I am grateful for the support Arlington Hills has given me as I follow God's call to ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church. My family and I have been able to settle in at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and transition into life with me back in school as a student. That transition and the expense of a seminary education have been greatly eased with your generous endowment grant. Let me share a bit of what I've been doing since I started last summer. In July I joined with many of the other incoming students for a seven-week course in Biblical Greek. Three hours each day were dedicated to lessons on grammar and usage. Another two hours were spent in small groups addressing specific texts and questions. Each day had a vocabulary quiz. Each week ended with a test of the material covered in the past week. I spent nearly four hours each day outside of class working on homework, memorizing vocabulary, and working with a study group. I met some of my closest friends here at Southern during those long hours of class and study groups. I found a new love of passages in the New Testament. And I learned Greek!

The fall semester concentrated on laying a solid foundation for the rest of my time at Southern. I had classes on the content of the Bible, Pastoral Care, Worship Practicum, and church history. I began the study of Hebrew and continued to use Greek to translate the Gospel for each coming week. All of us have been assigned a local congregation for field experience. Each Sunday I assist in some part of the service. Everything from reading lessons to assisting with communion, leading the liturgy to giving children's sermons is included in my field experience. I passed all my classes, got an excellent evaluation from my field pastor, and was asked to sit on the Chapel committee and the planning committee for next year's new student orientation. The Greek professor has also asked me to be one of the two Teaching Assistants for next summer's Greek class.

During the first two weeks of January I volunteered at the Lutheran Family Services Refugee Relocation Office for a "cross-cultural" experience. Two of my classmates and I spent time with refugees from Burma, Eritrea, and Iraq. We

had the honor of being at the airport one day to welcome a refugee family from Iraq to the United States. That experience gave me a new appreciation of what is written in the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." It has also given me greater understanding of the passage in Matthew 25, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Second semester is off to a great start. The class load has shifted now to learning how to share the Lutheran faith and Christian story. I have classes on Preaching, the Gospels, and Lutheran Confessional Writings. Church history continues, along with Hebrew. We are now using Greek in the Preaching class and the Gospels class. And I continue to work with my field church every Sunday.

God has blessed the Kowitz family in ways that are hard to believe. We are so happy to be at Southern, following God's call to ordained ministry. Thank you to all of you at Arlington Hills who have supported us in this journey and continue to pray for us. You are in our thoughts and prayers here. We look forward to August when we will be back in Minnesota for my sister's wedding. I hope to be able to preach at Arlington Hills that weekend. I will make contact with Pastor Allmendinger to arrange the details.

Peace+ Peter and Sarah, Carter and Ansel Kowitz

JEWES FOR JESUS TO SPEAK

Amer Olson of Jews for Jesus will speak at our Lenten mid-week service at 6:00 p.m. on April 6th. Jews for Jesus uses creative methods and contemporary issues to present the message that Jesus is the Messiah to Jewish people around the world.

Olson is the director of the Chicago branch of Jews for Jesus. He grew up in Minneapolis in a family that celebrated Hanukkah and Passover as well as Christmas and Easter - his mother is Jewish and his father is Gentile. Later, while studying at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Olson began to explore his Jewish heritage. In addition to visiting synagogues and learning Hebrew, he also - unexpectedly - discovered the Jewishness of Jesus and the New Covenant. From the moment he gave his life to Jesus, Olson felt the burden to share the Messiah with his Jewish people.

Olson has a passion for using his artistic talents in evangelism, visually and musically. His ministry with Jews for Jesus began as leader of the evangelistic music team, The Liberated Wailing Wall. Since then, Amer and his wife, Paige, also an artist, have served in branches of Jews for Jesus in New York City and London. They currently reside in Chicago.

Amer will help us discover the meaning of Yom Kippur for ourselves. To Amer Olson and other Jews for Jesus staff, the objective evidence of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and the transformation in their own

lives provide ample evidence that Jesus was who he claimed to be - the Jewish Messiah. Olson will be happy to answer questions after the presentation. Call the Church office at 651-771-5501 for more information. There will be a free-will offering to help pay expenses.

WHEN I SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN

“When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not shouting, ‘I’ve been saved!’ I’m whispering, ‘I get lost!’ That’s why I chose this way.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I don’t speak with human pride. I’m confessing that I stumble – needing God to be my guide.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not trying to be strong. I’m professing that I’m weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not bragging of success. I’m admitting that I’ve failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I don’t think I know it all. I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I’m worth it.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I do not wish to judge. I have no authority – I only know I’m loved.” --- Carol Wimmer

--- Submitted by Bob Johnson and comes from Joy Christian Community Church in Fountain Hills, AZ.

Imagine the Possibilities -- **The Campaign for Payne Maryland**

The Arlington Hills portion of the campaign for Payne Maryland is officially underway! A Campaign Cabinet has been formed, and we have had several meetings. The members of the Cabinet are Jon Helgason (co-chair), Anita Rylander (co-chair), Jim Persoon, Gordie Beneke, Bernie Lamb, Mike Wiehe and Dave O’Connor.

The first step is for all of us to understand what it is we are trying to do. To accomplish that, we are planning to have at least three events we are calling, "Closer Look Breakfasts." A continental breakfast will be provided in the Fellowship Hall, and we will explain what we want this project to accomplish. We will have drawings from the architect, experts familiar with the details of the design, and members of the Payne Maryland Partnership (PMP) Board of Directors present to explain the current status of the project, when we plan to put the first shovel into the ground and when we expect the project to be completed. John Martin, the person hired by the PMP Board of Directors to help with fund raising will also be present to explain the current status of the campaign fund raising and how our AHLC campaign fits into the larger campaign.

A significant part of the agenda will be reserved to answer your questions about the project and the plans to complete it. The goal of these breakfasts is to have every member of our church thoroughly familiar with the plans for completion, the current status of the project and the plans for securing the funds needed to open it.

Many people in our church, and others, have already devoted many hours to this project over several years. It is because of that tenacity, courage and visionary thinking that we have now reached this stage. I am honored to finally announce that these first three Closer Look Breakfasts will be held from **7:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 31st, Wednesday, April 27th, and Tuesday, May 31st. Members are invited to any or all of these breakfasts.** Anita and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Jon Helgason,
for the Cabinet