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Lutheran Church of The Savior, Bedford, MA



CELEBRATING 54 YEARS OF WORSHIP

The Jesus Way

My eye caught only the first sentence of the paragraph. *"There was another attempt on my life today."* I thought to myself, 'Just another article about the problem of violence in our world.' But then I kept on reading.

There was another attempt on my life today. No, it wasn't one of those overt acts of violence that make the news. But it was just as serious. It was nothing new. Attempts on my life are getting to be a daily occurrence. Some days it happens a number of times.

Religions, work, society, commercials, and even friends attempt to lay claim to my life. These forces are forever attempting to capture my allegiance.

I'm happy to report that right now the One who makes His claim on my life is Jesus Christ. He's worked hard. He has won out and still is holding on to me. Jesus Christ is Lord! — and I like that.

Life challenges us, to be sure. Yes, the attempts on our lives continue to increase. Yet each day the words of Jesus make more and more sense. *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."* (John 14:6)

During the coming season of Lent, we will continue to learn what it means to live *the Jesus Way*. May our gracious and loving Lord be with each of you and with our congregation.

Pastor Teske

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Liturgical Worship at 8:30 and 11:15 AM / Contemporary Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 10:00 AM (for all ages — age 2 through adult)

Combined Adult & High School Bible Study at 11:15 AM



A Message
from Congregation
President, Paul Gierke



**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League**

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Tuesday, February 14 – 7:00 PM

Plan now to attend the February 14th Women's Guild meeting and learn the basics of fighting heart disease. Go Red For Women is celebrating the energy, passion and power women have in banding together to wipe out heart disease. At this meeting you'll have the opportunity to learn about a women's power over heart disease and work on mission projects that heal the spiritual heart. Just for fun you're invited to wear something red like a hat, a sweater, shoes, gloves or just a red ribbon. Child care available by calling Peggy Wang at 978 369-4660 in advance of the meeting.

Monthly Mission Donation — bath size bar of soap

Devotions — Martha Hill Sackett

Hostess(es) — Lori Miller and Beth Smith

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN FEB 22

The Women's Guild will host the first soup supper on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. Please sign up with Peggy Wang at the February meeting. This evening's sign up is NOT included on the bulletin board listing. You can volunteer to make a soup or dessert or assist with either set up or clean up. Remember many hands make light work!

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MITES AND
REMEMBER YOUR SECRET PRAYER PAL, TOO!**

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – SCRAPBOOKING
OR ANY OTHER HANDCRAFTING PROJECT!!**

Meet at 7:00 PM at the home of Jennifer Gierke in Billerica with your project. For more info or directions call Jennifer at 978-667-8717.

FELLOWSHIP AND A MOVIE, FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Y'all come on over for a night of Southern cuisine and a movie. Join us for a night of great southern food and a viewing of the movie "The Help". We'll provide the movie and beverages if y'all will bring your favorite southern appetizer or dessert! After we watch the movie we'll discuss our feelings about this deeply emotional movie. More details on the invitation in your mailbox. Please RSVP on the poster on the Women's Ministry bulletin board.

If you have an idea for an event and need help getting started, the leaders of the LCS Women's Ministry program are here for you — just ask!

MaryBeth Stevenson and Dianne Carey

Greetings in Christ. I pray that your walk with God has been blessed these past months in time spent with Him in prayer and praise, trusting the path He has placed before you, and working with all your heart to accomplish His plan.

We have been studying the book of Hebrews in Adult Sunday School over the past number of weeks now under a rotation of teachers and have walked down many learning and discussion paths. As usual, God's Word is as applicable today as it was to the Hebrews to which it was written. They, both the spiritually mature and the immature, lived and walked the Christian life with all of its ups and downs. Their world was in a time of unrest and transition, with at times some very public consequences. In truth, our world and culture is so very little different today – where Christians are beset by ridicule and social pressures to conform to an ungodly view of life, family, and societal norms. It seeps into the spiritual life and leaches away its foundations. And just as God had a plan for them then, wherever they were at or needed to be, He has a plan for us now. In this time of transition, as we seek to find our identity as a congregation, as we converse together, God reminds us again what He has done for us and how we are to live for Him.

Hebrews 10:19-25 "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." [NIV]

God's Word and promises are just as true today as they were then and always will be. So we in confidence move forward, trusting in His leadership. And how do we do that? We continue in His Word and in prayer. So I conclude with a reading challenge for February – to be in the Word, specifically in the Psalms. The Psalms are often arranged in five books: I: Ps 1-41, II: Ps 42-72, III: Ps 73-89, IV: Ps 90-106, and V: Ps 107-150. This amounts to just over five Psalms a day. Try to read a Psalm a day from each book filling the gaps of the smaller books with some of the larger ones. Write out the numbers 1 thru 150 and track your progress. For those days that you feel especially ready to tackle them, try Psalm 119 (only 176 verses). For those days of light reading, try Psalm 117 (only 2 verses). Let God speak to you about what you have read. Spend some time talking with Him. And share what you have learned with others.

May God richly bless you all this month as you grow closer to Him and to each other, your congregation.

A NOTE FROM OUR SEMINARY STUDENT

Dear Friends at LCS:

A Belated Happy New Year! I just wanted to give you a brief update. I am now nearly 6 months into my vicarage at Our Savior Lutheran in St. Charles, Mo. The congregation just installed its new head pastor on December 18th, and his first sermon was on Christmas Eve. I have gotten to know him well in the last month, and it's been a good learning experience to watch him take the helm and start implementing his vision for the future of this church. I hope to continue to learn a lot from him during the remainder of my vicarage experience.

The family is doing well. We celebrated Christmas this year in St. Charles with Angela's family nearby, and then took a short trip to Michigan between Christmas and New Year's to visit my family. We don't have any other travel planned for the rest of the winter or spring, but I do hope to see you all sometime this June, and perhaps August when I'm out accomplishing my Air Force Reserve Duty. Angela and I are enjoying watching our children grow and learn. Jacob continues to enjoy preschool, and surprises us some days with some new Spanish words he has learned at school. Kayla's vocabulary is getting pretty large for a two and a half year old, and she also surprises us with some of the things she comes up with to say!

We wish you many blessings in 2012 – may God continue to watch over you and keep you firm and steadfast through your faith in His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

— Mike, Angela, Jacob and Kayla Fieberkorn



MEET YOUR LCS CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

Paul Gierke, 978-667-8717

TREASURER

Kathy Schnitger, 781-275-8444

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Lois Scheyder, 978-692-3951

HEAD ELDER

Scott Cyphers, 781-275-5960

FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH CHAIRPERSON

Colleen Tank, 617-584-1242

WORSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Sunny Thompson, 978-663-9020

The current Church Council is also listed in the front of the LCS Worshipping Community List, although it is not always current due the timing of its printing. There will soon be a spot on our photo board in Luther Hall in the bottom right corner where we will put photos of our current Church Council as well as our current Board of Elders so that you can put faces with these names... *watch for it!*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Scott Cyphers, Mark DeLory and Bob Reid

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kathy Russes, 978-486-4594

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, FEBRUARY 22
followed by weekly services based on the theme...

“Return to me
with all
your heart.”
— Joel 2:12



Wednesday, Feb 29 — *A Change of Heart (Joel 2:12)*
Wednesday, Mar 7 — *A Calm Heart (Jeremiah 14:22)*
Wednesday, Mar 14 — *A Heart Restored (Romans 3:23-24)*
Wednesday, Mar 21 — *A True Heart (Ephesians 5:8)*
Wednesday, Mar 28 — *A Clean Heart (Psalm 51:10)*

*Weekly Lenten dramas based on the
“Keys to the Cross” written by Lynda Vernalia*

SOUP at 6:00 PM / SERVICE at 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

Communion in Liturgical Worship —
1st and 3rd Sunday each month

Communion in Contemporary Worship —
2nd and 4th Sunday each month

MONTHLY PLANNER

*Lutheran Church
of the Savior*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 CFM SOUP AND CHILI BENEFIT Senior High Youth 4:30–6:00 PM	6 PASTOR AT A THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Church Council 7:00 PM	8 OACP Chapel 10:30 AM Couples Bible Study 7:00 PM (Billerica)	9 OACP Chapel 10:30 AM Sr Luncheon 12:00 PM Thursday Club 3:00 PM Savior Singers 4:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM	10 WOMEN'S MINISTRY Scrapbooking and other Creative Projects 7:00 PM (Billerica)	11 Easter Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Drama 10:00 AM
12 CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION following third service	13 Adult Information Class 7:00 PM	14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM NED Circuit Meeting Women's Guild 7:00 PM	15 Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Couples Bible Study 7:00 PM (Billerica)	16 Thursday Club 3:00 PM Savior Singers 4:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM	17 Adult Singles Bible Study 7:00 PM	18 Easter Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Drama 10:00 AM "HEARTS PARTY" 6:00 PM
19 Middle School Youth 12:15–4:30 PM Senior High Youth 4:30–7:30 PM	20 Adult Information Class 7:00 PM Corn Toss League 7:00 PM Bedford VA Hospital Visit 7:00 PM	21 NO Women's Bible Study School Vacation Fellowship/Outreach Meeting 7:00 PM Elders 7:00 PM	22 ASH WEDNESDAY SPECIAL SERVICE Soup at 6:00 PM Service at 7:00 PM	23 NO Thursday Club or Savior Singers Choir 7:30 PM	24 VIANNA OUT OF TOWN THU	25 No Choir or Drama Rehearsals
26 VIANNA OUT OF TOWN	27 Adult Information Class 7:00 PM	28 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	29 LENTEN WORSHIP Soup at 6:00 PM Service at 7:00 PM	1 Thursday Club 3:00 PM Savior Singers 4:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM	2 WOMEN'S MINISTRY Come watch the movie, "The Help" and enjoy some southern cuisine (details to come!!) SENIOR HIGH OVERNIGHT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE	3 MEN IN PRAYER 7:30 AM No Choir or Drama Rehearsals
4	5 Adult Information Class 7:00 PM Corn Toss League 7:00 PM	6 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Church Council 7:00 PM	7 OACP Chapel 10:30 AM LENTEN WORSHIP Soup at 6:00 PM Service at 7:00 PM	8 OACP Chapel 10:30 AM Sr Luncheon 12:00 PM Thursday Club 3:00 PM Savior Singers 4:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM	9	10 Easter Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Drama 10:00 AM TABLES OF FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Liturgical Worship — 8:30 and 11:15 AM

Contemporary Worship — 10:00 AM

Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Bible Study — 10:00 AM

High School and Adult Bible Study Combined — 11:15 AM

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays — 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM

Tuesdays, Women's Bible Study — 9:30 AM

Small Group In-Home Studies, *call church for details*

WORSHIP SERVANT SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2012
PLEASE CALL THE CHAIRPERSON IF YOU CANNOT SERVE AS SCHEDULED. THANKS!

Altar Flowers Linda Ballenthin 781/862-4179
Altar Guild Lisa Hurley 603/791-4656
Pianist/Organist Gina Persson 978/356-4249
Choir Director/
Christian Arts Vianna Pilkington 978/948-7935
Office Administrator/
Epistle Editor Patricia Connery 781/275-6013



**Lutheran Church of
 The Savior, Bedford MA**
Phone: 781/275-6013
Fax: 781/275-9308
www.lcsavior.org

Ushers 8:30 AM Bill McGrath 781/756-1414
 10:00 AM Sunny Thompson 978/663-9020
 11:15 AM Ken Scheyder 978/692-3951
Nursery Katharine Wellner 978/250-9561
Host & Visitation Patricia Connery 781/275-6013
Sunday School
Coordinator Nancy DeLory 850/517-6406

FEBRUARY 5TH

FLOWERS
 Kahre/Henze
NURSERY
 8:30 Erin Jordan
 10:00 Beth Parker
USHERS
 8:30 Dave Sanderson
 & Paul Strobel
 10:00 Bill MacLeod &
 Don Rodgers
 11:15 Ken Scheyder &
 Dave Hopkins
COMMUNION SERVANTS
 8:30 Patrick Gordon,
 Dick Sparks,
 Emily Nadler, *acolyte*
 11:15 Mike Cebry,
 David Draper,
 & Bob Lamprecht
HOSTS
 8:30 John DeBruzzi &
volunteer needed
 10:00 Carole Friedman
 & Roger Parker
 11:15 Rod & Gayle Sundet
VISITATION
COORDINATOR
 Tricia Connery

FEBRUARY 12TH

FLOWERS
 K. & T. Abbott
 H. & A. Hoyt
NURSERY
 8:30 Karen Clements
 10:00 Tara Veneracion
USHERS
 8:30 Alex Jordan &
 Patrick Gordon
 10:00 Sunny Thompson
 & Bill Hurley
 11:15 Sean Carpenter
 & Dale Hernquist
COMMUNION SERVANTS
 10:00 Roger Parker
 & Bill MacLeod
HOSTS
 8:30 Roger & Peggy Fix
 10:00 Sunny Thompson
 & Bette Hoyt
 11:15 Jim & Lori Eggert
VISITATION
COORDINATOR
 Tricia Connery

FEBRUARY 19TH

FLOWERS
 S. Thompson
 J. & L. Eggert
NURSERY
 8:30 Peggy Wang
 10:00 Bette Hoyt
USHERS
 8:30 Vinnie Cammarano
 & Doug Stevenson
 10:00 Zal & Monika Heusen
 11:15 David Draper &
Volunteer Needed
COMMUNION SERVANTS
 8:30 Dan Hagopian,
 Bill McGrath,
 Hailey Scannelli,
acolyte
 11:15 Frank Hills,
 Dave Hergert, &
 Doug Cook
HOSTS
 8:30 Hermayne Gordon
 & Gwen Paquette
 10:00 Janet Davis &
Volunteer Needed
 11:15 David & Karen Hergert
VISITATION
COORDINATOR
 Tricia Connery

FEBRUARY 26TH

FLOWERS
 LENT—NO FLOWERS
NURSERY
 8:30 Karen Prussing
 10:00 Cathie Petersen
USHERS
 8:30 Bill McGrath &
 Chip VanderBrug
 10:00 Betsy Sylvia &
 Thorsten Dieckow
 11:15 Dick Anderson
 & Stephen Scaer
COMMUNION SERVANTS
 10:00 Scott Cyphers
 & JJ Sakey
HOSTS
 8:30 Martha Hill Sackett
 & Janet Guenther
 10:00 Chris & Cathie Petersen
 11:15 Sunny Thompson
 & Colleen Tank
VISITATION
COORDINATOR
 Tricia Connery

**USHERS
 NEEDED FOR
 MIDWEEK
 LENTEN
 SERVICES**

Two volunteer ushers are
 needed for each Wednesday
 evening service...
 February 22, February 29,
 March 7, March 14,
 March 21, and March 28
*Services are at 7:00 PM
 and we ask you to
 be here for 6:45 PM*
 ... as well as for our
 Holy Week services
 Maundy Thursday, April 5
 Good Friday, April 6
*Services are at 7:30 PM
 and we ask you to
 be here for 7:15 PM*
 Please sign up on the
 bulletin board in narthex.



CHRISTIAN ARTS

Opportunities to Learn, Serve, and Proclaim!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5th

GraceBook, 4:30 to 6:00 PM (note time change)

Come join us for an afternoon of Bible Study and fellowship as we think about the world view by looking at movies, books, art, and music. Bible Study starts at 4:30 PM, pizza at 5:30 PM for those who wish to stay, wrapping up at 6:00 PM for parent pick up.

Sunday, February 19th

Make-Your-Own Pizza & Movie, 4:30 to 7:30 PM

Put your worldview skills to the test while enjoying some home-made pizza and a great movie! Bring a friend and a topping to share. Sign up on the youth bulletin board in Luther Hall or email Alex at abjordan@gmail.com so that we can plan accordingly.

MARCH

Friday-Saturday, March 2-3

Called To Be Holy Overnight Retreat

Join in an overnight of group activities, snow shoeing and tubing, Bible study, food and fellowship as Vianna leads the youth in "*Called to be Holy*". Forms and full details were mailed to your homes. Completed forms with check for \$40 payable to "LCS" with "SHYG retreat" in the memo line to the church office by Sunday, February 12. Depart 5:00 PM Friday night and pick up at church 10:30 PM Saturday night.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Join us on Sunday, February 19th for Sledding if weather cooperates. Meet at church downstairs in Fellowship Hall after third service with a bag lunch. Don't forget your saucer, sled, tube or toboggan!! After eating lunch the group will head out for some fun in the snow followed by hot cider, cocoa and s'mores with parent pick up at 4:30 PM. Siblings, friends and parents are all welcome. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board in Luther Hall so that we can plan for transportation. If weather does NOT cooperate, we'll simply stay at church for a fun afternoon of board games but still bring your lunch!!!

Drama Team

The work on the Lenten dramas has begun. The first presentation will be on Wednesday, February 29. Vianna would like to meet with all five groups at least four times before their respective presentation nights. Most rehearsals are the four Saturdays before your group's Wednesday service. If you have forgotten when your night is, please speak or call Vianna. There is one exception and that is Saturday, February 25 as there will be no rehearsals that day. Word to the wise, memorize early and avoid the panic later. The 3 characters in "Seventy Times Seven" will be called in for rehearsals. "Shorts" rehearsals will start in March.

Thursday Club/Savior Singers

Savior Singers will be singing in the 1st and 3rd services on Sunday, February 12. Be in the library at 8:50 AM that morning for a quick warm-up and practice. Black pants or skirts with white shirt or blouse and your maroon sweater will be worn. If you do not have a sweater, please speak to Vianna. If you have out-grown your sweater, please turn it in for a bigger size. If you are no longer singing, please turn in your sweater so that someone new might be able to wear it. Thanks!

Thursday Club will meet every Thursday except during school vacation. Highlights this month include a paper airplane contest in the gym on February 9; sledding and tubing at the Gierke's on February 16 (weather permitting)... be sure to bring appropriate outdoor clothing and a sled or tube to share. Will leave church parking lot at 3:20 PM. Drivers always needed.

Banners

The Epiphany banners will be taken down after third service on Sunday, February 19 and the Lenten banners put up for Ash Wednesday, February 22 that week.

Easter Choir

This year's Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter are not until April 1 through 8 so you may think it's pre-mature to start rehearsals. However, because the choir will be singing four difficult choruses from the "Messiah" throughout the Easter season, rehearsals are starting early and are every Saturday morning at 9:00 AM with the exception of February 25. If you have your own copy of the "Messiah" please bring it. If not copies will be provided. Come out and help to proclaim our Savior this Easter season through this incredible work.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Begin Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

The Lenten Soup Suppers provide a time for fellowship prior to Lenten Worship Service and are also a convenience for those coming directly from work. These popular meals see from 80 up to 100 people any given week. We have reinstated having small groups to serve as the “set up and clean up crew”. These groups are currently being solicited by Peggy Wang, head of Women’s Guild. Several have already made commitments. If your small group has not yet been approached, please feel free to contact Peggy directly for more details.

In addition, volunteers from the congregation are needed to provide soups, and desserts on February 29, March 7, 14, 21, and 28. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex on the bulletin board soon. The LCS Women’s Guild will not only host the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 22 but will also provide the soups and desserts. A free-will offering will be taken at each soup supper.

Questions? Call Peggy Wang (Box #144) or the church office at 781-275-6013.

Average Attendance is 80-100 per supper
Dinner 6:00 PM / Worship 7:00 PM

Host(s)	Soups	Desserts
<p>A group of 6-8 is needed To set up and clean up</p> <p>4:45-6:00 PM — Set tables with place mats, bread baskets, butter plates, salt/pepper.</p> <p>Set out bowls, soup spoons, knives and napkins. Provide milk/cream and punch or some cold beverage; make coffee. Responsible for clean up.</p>	<p>Congregation participation needed!</p> <p>8 pots of soup (8+ quarts each) Soups should arrive HOT and ready to serve by 5:45 PM or arrange with host group to warm if brought earlier in the day.</p>	<p>Congregation participation needed!</p> <p>5-6 batches (3 dozen each) Suggestions: bars, cookies cupcakes, etc. Please, finger desserts only for ease of serving. Thanks!</p>



OPEN ARMS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The month of January was busy at OACP... three new children joined the Preschool 3s and two of them are siblings of current students. The month began with black and white days... children and staff dressed in those colors, had black and white snacks and made black and white crafts, too. There are LOTS of penguins decorating the walls!

The author of the month was A. A. Milne and the children enjoyed reading many of his Winnie-the-Pooh stories. A variety of crafts were made to go along with the theme as well.

It was also Chinese New Year in January and teacher, Miss Michelle, made a wonderful presentation to the children and staff about the Chinese culture and customs. She also made rice and steamed Chinese cake enjoyed by all.

The month ended with Pajama Days... children wore pajamas to school, brought blankets and stuffed animals and enjoyed a pajama party together! Snack consisted of orange juice and yummy blueberry, chocolate chip and plain pancakes. This is always a favorite day for children and staff as well... Miss Michelle, nice fuzzy pink slippers!!!

Registrations for 2012/2013 are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. There are also a few spaces open for Preschool 3s for the remainder of this school year. Please call Nancy Naughton, Director, at 781-271-1148 if you or someone you know has a child ready to enter preschool either now or in the new school year.

LCS WORLD MISSIONS

Lutheran Church of The Savior is a Church for Others... Here, There, and Everywhere!

LCS SENIOR LUNCHEON —

February's Senior Luncheon will be on Thursday, February 9th. Join us at noon for a short devotion, a delicious meal (*Cranberry-glazed Salmon with Wild Rice, Herbs, and Pecans!!*) and fellowship. No RSVP required, just an appetite for good Christian fellowship and fine food. Questions? Call Linda Ballenthin at 781-862-4179.

BEDFORD VA HOSPITAL VISITS —

Normally this group meets at the Bedford VA at 7:00 PM on the third Monday of the month. However, due to holiday this month, we will be doing our visit on Monday, February 13th. All are welcome to join us. For more information, if you have questions, or if you wish to meet up with the group on your first visit, please call Margaret Letourneau at 978-256-2167.

CFM SOUP AND CHILI BENEFIT ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEB 5TH —

A variety of delicious soups and chili are available for take-out after each service or enjoy a sit down luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after third service. All proceeds to benefit the Central Food Ministry, Lowell.

CENTRAL FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE —

December proved to be a productive and busy month at CFM. Thank you to all the gift shoppers from our congregation as well as the Goodrich company who purchased toys and family gifts for 250 children! This year's party was a success with over 235 of those children in attendance on Saturday, December 10 for food, fun and Christian fellowship. CFM was also blessed with an abundance of donated food from this year's "Harvest Food Drive" at church, the Sunday school mission collection at LCS, the annual Open Arms Preschool collection, and Our Savior Lutheran Church in Topsfield. Over 1,000 lbs of canned goods, pasta, pie fillings, bread mixes and more were received in Lowell. All of that plus much more went out the door with the holiday rush.

The demand at the Lowell mission continues as joblessness, reduced government benefits and high costs of fuel tax our struggling clients. Food insecurity continues to hit the most vulnerable citizens including too many children. The LCS Open Van Sunday program will be continuing which helps stock a variety of needed items at the mission. Sometimes they will be food items, but often it will be paper goods, diapers and personal care products which are also in great demand. Please be sure to read the letter you will be receiving in your church mailbox from the CFM Board Chairman, Dan Carey, about Central Food Ministry. You will also find a convenient magnet to place on your refrigerator as a handy reminder at to what items are needed each month. The mission van is always parked in the church lot on Sundays so that you may place your donations directly into the van for transportation to Lowell.

As always, it takes about 50 or more volunteers a week to run the mission. Your help is needed to sort and bag donated food from Hannaford's; restock the shelves; fill the orders; or even put donated clothing and other items out in the lobby! Please prayerfully consider giving a couple of hours of your time a week (or even just once a month) at CFM. Please call Jude DeHart, Director, in Lowell at 978-453-4920 (Tues-Thur) or at home at 781-271-1184.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a committed congregation to keep our mission alive in Lowell. Thank you!

JOIN US FOR LCS' FIRST ANNUAL HEARTS PARTY

Sign up in the narthex and join in some fellowship at the LCS' First Annual Hearts Party on Saturday, February 18th at 6:00 PM. At this Valentine's Day themed event we will be playing the ever popular card game "Hearts". Please bring red/white/pink or heart-shaped snacks and desserts to share. Drinks provided. There will be other board games available for younger children not quite ready to play Hearts (appropriate for ages 8 and up).

Hearts is an easy-to-learn card game... easy enough that we can teach you that evening if you have never played before or need a refresher course. The idea is to get rid of your heart cards as well as the dreaded Queen of Spades! At the end of the evening, the top male and female players will receive the King and Queen of Hearts traveling awards which you hold until next year's Hearts Party, where you must defend your championship!

