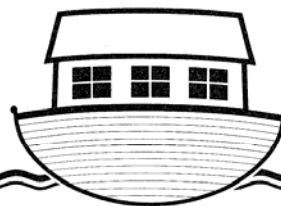


U.S.S. ARK

Easter 2009



God's Work, Our Hands in the Upper Susquehanna Synod + Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***God's Work, Our Hands in the USS
News of God's People in Action***



Pictured: Mike McCay and Pastor Jeffrey Bohan



*Front row: Jacob Wolfe, Joseph Iwanski, Liam McCay.
Back row: Jim Wolfe, Dan Lawton, Tom Markowski, Pastor
Jeffrey Bohan, Mike McCay.*

Kilted for Christ

The St. Luke Lutheran Church (Bloomsburg) community was issued a challenge during its Lenten collection for ELCA World Hunger Outreach. The Challenge: raise \$500 for ELCA World Hunger Outreach by March 15, and Tom Markowski, past Congregation Council President, would wear a kilt on Sunday, March 22; raise \$1,000 and Pastor Jeffrey Bohan would also wear a kilt that Sunday.

In faith and with thanksgiving to God, the St. Luke Community met the challenge and raised \$2,258.13! Additional gifts brought the total to \$2,329.24 by March 17! To commemorate the achievement of this goal, and in solidarity, several others joined those designated in Celtic costume. Donations to ELCA World Hunger were accepted for this challenge through Easter Sunday, April 12.

Area Food Bank Benefits from Hunger Program

The St. Paul's Lutheran Food Bank of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lamar recently received a Domestic Hunger Grant of \$3,000 from the ELCA World Hunger Program. In 2008, the ELCA World Hunger Program awarded 329 discretionary domestic grants, totaling \$787,600, in four areas: relief, development, organizing, and Churchwide grants. For more information on these programs, go to: <http://tiny.cc/hungergrant>.

Souper Bowl Count Grows

Contributions on Super Bowl Sunday for local food pantries and ELCA World Hunger were reported in an earlier issue. Add to the count another \$251.55 collected by St. Luke, Williamsport!

Tour de Revs Event to Arrive in Synod on Thursday, June 4th

The Tour de Revs will be riding through the Upper Susquehanna Synod on Thursday, June 4th for Stop 17 of their 13,000-mile journey to all 65 synods of the ELCA, raising money and awareness of World Hunger. The three Lutheran pastors from West Virginia will travel the last few miles into our area by bike--a one-of-a-kind bamboo bike built for three. You can join others from our synod in welcoming them on June 4th at 4:00 PM at the synod office (Rt. 192 and Reitz Blvd) in Lewisburg. Or join the cyclists and Bishop Robert Driesen on bikes for the 17.5 mile trip from Christ's United (Four Bells) in Millmont, departing at 3:00 PM.

The goal of Tour de Revs is to raise \$5 million for ELCA World Hunger. The ELCA hopes for \$25 million in donations each year, but usually falls short of this goal by five million. The Tour de Revs organizers hope to close that gap. Donations for ELCA World Hunger are accepted at any time. For your contribution to be counted in the "giant check" presentation to the TDR cyclists on June 4, please send yours to the synod office by June 1.



U.S.S. ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations in the Pennsylvania counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour, Lycoming, Clinton, & Tioga. Permission is granted to reproduce **U.S.S. Ark** for congregational communications. Send your mission stories and ministry ideas to Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org. Upper Susquehanna Synod, PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837, 570-524-9778, office@uss-elca.org. website: www.uss-elca.org

Tour de Revs Schedule of Events—June 4

- 3:00 PM -- 17.5 mile ride departs Christ's United (Four Bells) Lutheran Church, Millmont (cyclists, please wear red!)
- 4:00 PM (approx.) -- cyclists arrive at synod office, Lewisburg (Rt. 192 and Reitz Blvd)
- 6:00 PM -- Potluck dinner and TDR cyclist's presentation at Christ Lutheran Church, Milton (1125 Mahoning St.)
- 6:30 PM-- Potluck dinner and TDR cyclist's presentation at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Sunbury (501 Catawissa Ave.)
- 7:00 PM TDR cyclist's presentation at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport (1400 Market St.)

All events are open to the public! Canned goods donations encouraged at evening events in congregations. Go to www.tourderevs.com for more information.

Pastor Challenged to Bike Ride

The people at St. John's Lutheran Church, Leck Kill aim to raise \$1,000 for the Tour de Revs and ELCA World Hunger. If they meet the goal, their pastor, Rev. Sonja Ware, will represent them on June 4, traveling the 17.5 miles from Four Bells Church to the synod office by bike.

As most people will have to work that day, St. John's is planning to have their own little "Tour de St. John's Neighborhood" on Pentecost Sunday, including a special hay-ride for elderly members, with fellowship time at the church following the event. Then, everybody will have the opportunity to sign Pastor Sonja's red T-shirt, a symbolic way of St. John's to be "present" on June 4 anyway.

St. John's has invited the remaining three congregations of Christians United Cooperative to join them for this project and has challenged them to raise \$500 each.

Pastor Michael Ware chuckles about his wife's attempt: "She doesn't even have a bike yet."

DONATIONS for ELCA World Hunger may be sent to the synod office, or mailed directly to: ELCA World Hunger Appeal, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.