

# The Light



## • Mark Your Calendars •

**December 4–5 PM** Free Concert with Michael Allen Harrison. Free will offering will be taken to support the Franciscan Spiritual Center

**December 9–7 PM** Clackamas Community College Choir Concert

**December 11–7 PM** North Clackamas High Schools Choir Concert

**December 7 and 14:** Mid-week Advent Worship 7 PM preceded by Soup Supper at 6 PM

**December 18—between services.** Annual Bake sale and Craft sale

**December 20–7 PM** Women’s Candlelight Communion-Pastor Mary Peterson presiding

**December 23—OFFICE CLOSED**

**December 24–7 and 11 PM** Christmas Eve Worship

**December 25–10 AM** Christmas Day Worship

**December 26-29—OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON**

**December 30—OFFICE CLOSED**

**Happy  
New Year!**



## Milwaukie Lutheran

## December 2011

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## • Did You Know? •

MLC is joining with Lutheran Community Services for their 2011 Holiday Season Adopt-a-Family Program. Our adopted family is from Burma and they are young couple with a baby on the way. Their most pressing need is winter clothing, warm socks, sweaters, but especially jackets. They are also in need of items for the baby to be. All items need to be new, unwrapped and brought to the church before December 11. For more details and information, check with Dolores Vilstrup or Marilyn Lease.



## • ELCA Hunger •

We are coming down to the end of 2011...and we can say..."are we there yet?" Our minimum goal for giving to the ELCA Hunger Appeal for 2011 is \$7500...have you had the opportunity to give a gift? Envelopes are in the bi-monthly packets we receive in the mail as well as in the pews at church. Ask God what God would like you to give to help alleviate hunger around the world. Help us reach our goal and BEYOND!

## • From Our Pastor •



Two weeks ago the Spiritual Life and Growth group here at Milwaukie Lutheran had their annual retreat. I was fortunate to be able to attend until Saturday evening worship was over. It was a delightful experience. The retreat leader was Jim Galluzzo, who is described on the back of one of his books as an artist, theologian, Diversity Trainer, Teacher, Priest and Spiritual Director. He also teaches people to be Spiritual Directors. Many of you here at MLC know Jim, but I have only just met him – and I hope to be able to get to know him better.

The theme of the retreat was Abundance and Jim talked a lot about how people can learn to value being fully human – both for themselves and for others. One of the hand-outs that we received was a little piece that is printed below. There is no author listed so regrettably I don't know who to attribute it to. But it tickled me when I first read it and I thought its sentiment appropriate as we approach the busy holiday season. Enjoy!

### “Scare City”

When you buy into the “scarcity” principle, you live in “Scare City”: a place where you're always afraid of coming up short.

In Scare City, you can't enjoy what you have – you're too busy worrying about what you *\*don't\** have.

All the cups in Scare City are half empty.

Somehow, young children are largely immune to the distressing effects of living in Scare City. . .

- \* They enjoy the abundant *\*now\** while their parents worry about the lack of time.
- \* They transform their homes into magical worlds while their parents worry about the lack of order.
- \* They give and receive love endlessly while their parents carefully ration their limited supply.

To live the Good Life, you have to leave Scare City and go to a *\*dance\** – a joyful, magical, healing dance where you release your fears and *\*shake your booty\** like nobody's watching: a-BUN-dance!

Are you willing to do A BUN DANCE with your child?



We are about to enter a very busy time of the year – a time that, while filled with great joy and expectation, can also carry a heavy burden of guilt and worry for many people. Especially this year when the economy is still depressed and unemployment is still high – I hope that we can take some time to do A BUN DANCE with our children, those who are young at heart, and with ourselves. It will do our hearts good!

Blessed Holidays,  
Pastor Janelle

## • Missionary Support •



Brian and Kristen Konkol

### Our Story:

Kristen and I first started dating in August of 1999, while we were both in our home towns (...which are about 20 miles apart). Kristen, who had just graduated from the University of Toledo, was about to enter a Masters Degree program at the University of Minnesota and I was going into my third year of study at Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Following two years of dating, a few months after I graduated from Viterbo and enrolled at Lutheran Seminary (St. Paul, MN), we went our separate ways, but remained friends. Kristen and I stayed in contact and, amazingly, only a few months after I was assigned to serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana in August of 2003 as a seminary intern, Kristen was assigned by the United States Peace Corps to also serve in Guyana. She arrived in February of

2004.

Kristen and I had known each other since we were children and we were absolutely amazed to think that we could both end up in Guyana at the same time (...neither of us "requested" to be there, we just ended up there!) And so, while together in Guyana, we visited each other on various occasions, spoke on the phone often, and remained in contact through email when I left Guyana in order to finish my final year of seminary from 2004-2005. Following seminary graduation, when I was re-assigned to Guyana as a full-time Global Mission personnel in August of 2005 (where Kristen was still serving in the Peace Corps), Kristen and I realized that our multiple reunions in Guyana were no coincidence! We were engaged in January of 2006, and married at Trinity Lutheran Church (Waupaca, WI) on September 23, 2006. Considering all that had to take place for us both to end up together, we consider it an "arranged marriage:!"

## • Back Pack Buddies News •

Backpack Buddies is going strong...food is flying off the shelves and tummies are being filled because of your generosity...A list of needed items is available by the red tub. Monetary donations are also welcome! You can make your checks payable to Milwaukie Lutheran Church and note "backpack buddies" in the memo line.

## • House of Zion •

House of Zion Ministries in Woodburn distributes food twice a week to members of their church and community. Your donations of nonperishable items, such as canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, pork and beans, bags of beans, bags of rice are greatly needed. Items may be dropped off in the "House of Zion" closet near the fellowship hall. Watch the sales and donate generously.

It is also time for collecting toys, books, and small gifts, as well as new clothing for all ages of children and youth, for the Christmas season party. Donations may be placed in the House of Zion closet across from the library no later than December 9.

## • Book Club News •

The MLC Book Club will not be meeting in December. Next meeting will be January 17th@ 7pm in church library, book selection is *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova.

## • Confirmation 2011 •

**Congratulations Confirmands:** Nicole Berg, Bailey Funston, Stephanie Fleming, Holly Ragnone-Richardson, Caroline Combs, Erik Korsness, Thomas Korsness, Jeffrey Johnson, Jamie Woods, Sophia Kawata.



## • Hats, Hats and More Hats! •

Well...we all probably remember the Dr. Seuss story of Bartholomew Cubbins and his 500 hats...but when have you seen that many in person? These wonderful women helped to create the "pile of hats" you see here. One of them...and you'll have to guess who.... made 350 of them in her "spare" time.

Many people will have the gift of warmth this winter season...Thank you, ladies!

## • Thank You •



To Milwaukie Lutheran Young at Heart,

Thank you for your pull tab donation and for helping support families staying at Portland's two Ronald McDonald Houses.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington

**Pull Tab Program Facts:** The pull tab program at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington (RMHC) raises nearly \$3,000 each year, which helps defer the cost of families staying at both houses. Donated tabs are picked up by a local recycling center and weighted to determine their value (varies from .30-.50 cents/lb). The center then sends RMHC a check-converting your donation of pop tabs into cash.

**Portland's Two Ronald McDonald Houses:** The houses provide a "home away from home" for approximately 1,500 families each year. RMHC requests \$20 per night from families who stay, and relies on general fund-raising to cover the remaining operating costs (nearly \$80 per night). No family is ever turned away for an inability to pay.

We also want to thank all of you who donate your pull tabs to support this much needed program.

Young at Heart Co-chairpersons, Paula Krewson and Deanne Vegge

Dear Pastor Janelle and Milwaukie Lutheran,

Thank you so much for baptizing our twins, Katelyn and Connor. It was a special day that we will cherish. And thank you for the quilts. That was very thoughtful of you. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and learn—and taking them to Sunday School.

Sincerely,

Brent and Kristen Benkstein

## • Prayers •

Marta G, Grace A, April R, Earl J, Barbara C, Marilyn D, Myra C, Dick P, Vi H, Palmer L, children in crisis, Marilyn K, Audrey M, David S, Todd K, Ernie R, Faith C, Doris B, Bethany H, Bob S, Wally R., Doug F., Leona M., Carl and Jean A., Joanne P., Helen Y., Charity C., Nathan W., Maureen S., Ann McE., Dorothy C., Jeanette N., Michelle F., Doug L., Barbara F., Heather H.

The Call Committee and the pastor whose heart is being prepared to accept the call to MLC.

**General Prayers:** The President of the United States and our elected officials, the people of Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Somalia, the Horn of Africa. All people around the world in military service for their country.

**For those serving Christ around the world:** Marian Hungerford-Cameroon; Pastor Steven Ray-China; Our new missionary couple: Pastor Brian and Kristen Konkol-Republic of South Africa

## • Women's and Men's Dinner Out •

Monday, December 19—5:30 PM. Be watching your weekly bulletins for details about where the groups will meet.

## • Light News Deadline •

Submissions due by **December 15 at noon**. Please submit news items to [editor@milwaukielutheran.org](mailto:editor@milwaukielutheran.org) or place in the "mailbox" on Sheryl Ann's office door.

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**Leadership Council**

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**Dennis McDermott.....Vice President**  
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**Tom Giese.....Treasurer**  
**Cindy Dunn.....Advocate**  
**Connie Jackle.....Advocate**  
**Shirley Meyer.....Advocate**  
**Lisaana Otter.....Advocate**  
**Andy Quale.....Advocate**

**Church Staff**

**Janelle Aldrich-Dale ..... Interim Pastor**  
**Brian Brown .....Director of Youth & Family Ministry**  
**Sheryl Ann Waage.....Administrative Assistant**  
**Maya Story.....Pianist/Organist**  
**Owen James.....Choir Director/Contemporary**  
**Music Director**  
**Kari Liebert.....Volunteer Bell Choir Director**  
**Carolyn Schoenemann ..... Bookkeeper**  
**Patty Shilling.....Volunteer Parish Nurse**

**Milwaukie Lutheran Pre-School**

**Phone: 503.659.9881**  
**Barbara Johnson ..... Preschool Administrator**

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**We're part of the ELCA**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.