



# St. Luke Lutheran Church

20 Candlewood Path  
Dix Hills, NY 11746

## *Pastoral Ponderings*

By  
Reverend Charles W. Froehlich

May 10, 2007

Dear St. Luke Family and Friends,

I have finally caught my breath after a wonderful vacation with Kathy and getting through all the situations awaiting me upon my return. It was great to see another part of God's marvelous creation but it was also so good to be back with the St. Luke family on April 29<sup>th</sup> for worship. This is a very busy time of the year around the St. Luke campus as we prepare for the Rite of Confirmation on May 27<sup>th</sup> and then the end of the Sunday school and Preschool year the second week of June. We pray God's richest blessings upon the following 23 young people and their families as they reaffirm their Baptism.

Katie Bonelli, Alyssa Burns, James Eppig, Jessica Flareau, Kendall Geed, Erin Grosskurth, Matthew Kim, Diana Kontos, James Lastihenos, Frank Lentsch, Jessica LoBianco, Kevin Massa, Ian Mastrandrea, Dana Norman, Kevin O' Reilly, Ryan Powell, Kyle Sammis, Bryan Selig, Tyler Silber, Lance Van Arsdale, Aaron Vega, Christopher Wenz, Alexa Zbytniewski.

Please pray for these young people as they take this step in their faith life and as they begin a new chapter as they enter High School.

### Budget Preparation

The Board of Finance is busy preparing the budget for the next fiscal year that begins August 1. A great deal of time and effort goes into the preparation of our operating budget. With the expansion of our facility and the continued growth of many of our ministries the committee will be presenting a budget over 1.1 million dollars for the coming year. I am happy to report that this year has been a very good year up to this point but we are entering into the summer when offerings tend to go down along with the attendance. I ask that you please continue to support our ministry during the summer months and give prayerful consideration to how you will support the ministry in the coming year. If we all pull together and give proportionately from our

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abundance we will be able to meet all of our ministry goals. When the proposed budget has been approved by the Church Council it will be made available to the congregation in their family mail boxes for your review so that we can discuss and approve it at our next Voter' s Meeting in June. It is important that our members attend that meeting. Just one example of what goes in to the budget is the whole cost of operating the facility, including utilities custodial services and supplies, insurance, repairs and improvements and maintenance services. Annually this will be in the range of \$175,000. This year alone as far as support we have receive \$660.000 from our various programs of Preschool and Vacation Bible School, Mommy and Me and Enrichment.

#### Expansion Progress

As of May 9<sup>th</sup> the expansion is moving forward quite well. Many of the windows have been put in place and the roof on the new part of the building has been laid. Work continues on the interior of the building as well and the electrical service has been worked on too. We are still looking at an August completion date and an early fall dedication of the facility. As far as the Capital Campaign is concerned we have entered our second year of the three year campaign and we have received over \$830,000 toward the campaign goal of 1.7 million. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this important step of faith and I ask that you continue to support our ministry with your gifts as well as your regular offerings. Forty years ago the members of St. Luke had a vision and walked out in faith and build our existing facility and we have been blessed by their faithful commitment and now we can do the same for the future generations as well as our current church family. Please clearly mark your envelopes with your name and the amount that you are giving.

#### Special Notes

In the last couple of weeks our church family has been touched by the death of two of our members, Jean Gaccione and Roy Martinus. Funeral services were conducted from the church on May 7<sup>th</sup> for Roy. The Martinus family has been members of St. Luke for over thirty years and has played an important part in the growth of our church. We pray God' s blessings upon Carole and her sons Roy and Dean and their families. Funeral services for Jean will be on May 11 from the Funeral Home. The Gacciones have been at St. Luke for a number of years and we pray that our Lord will comfort her husband John and her sons Jason and Jesse in their time of loss.

"Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life"

Thursday evening worship at 7:30 begins May 24<sup>th</sup> and we switch to the 9am Sunday worship on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please continue to pray for our daily and weekly prayer families as the Lord asks us to care for one another.