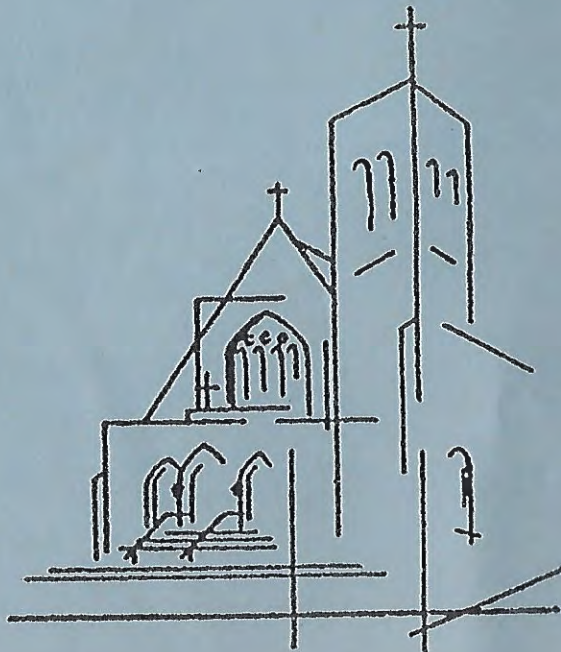


# SILOAH LUTHERAN

DECLARING THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL  
TO AN EVER CHANGING WORLD



MAY 2001

## SILOAH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2001

### THE TEACHER SHORTAGE HITS SILOAH

For a number of years Siloah has enjoyed relative stability of staff, which is a blessing for any school. Other congregations have not been so fortunate. Two teachers have resigned at Garden Homes. Beautiful Savior will need five new teachers next year. The one remaining staff member has only one year of experience. As of April 6th there were 144 teacher vacancies throughout the Synod. The graduating class of Martin Luther College will be able to fill 138 of these vacancies with eager young teachers who lack any real classroom experience.

Siloah will need to call several teachers before the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. Mrs. Nancy Wangerin has accepted her call to teach at Beautiful Savior. We will miss her, especially her dedication to duty, not only as a teacher but also as a member of the congregation. (Her husband Carl has a number of electrical jobs to take care of before they can leave, however.)

We have also called Mr. Travis Wendt from Bethlehem in Menomonee Falls to fill a newly created position that will give students more individual attention, especially in their computer skills. We are awaiting his decision on that call.

Mrs. Sharon Holter has made the difficult decision to resign her call to Siloah (see letter below). She will also need to be replaced.

Finally Mr. McNeill has been called as school planner and developer for the new Hope Lutheran School to be opened in the Metcalf Park area. Mr. McNeill has been involved in the early planning stages and is anxious for this new

school to succeed. He will have a difficult decision to make.

Thus Siloah is faced with the prospect of having three new teachers on the staff, possibly four, including our principal, and the "calling season" isn't over yet. With all the vacancies in the Synod, it is at least possible that Mr. Gerner, Mr. Zabel, Mrs. Zarling, and Miss Fluegge could also receive calls before the middle of summer.

However, the situation is not unusual. Our teachers are called by God to minister to his people, especially the lambs of his flock. They are not just hired to teach. They need specialized training to teach in our Lutheran schools. Most of our teachers receive that specialized training at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, so there is a limited pool from which to call our teachers. And each teacher has a mission from God to serve where the need for their talents is greatest. Thus it is normal for some two hundred WELS teacher to accept calls in the course of a school year.

Siloah has been blessed to keep the same teachers for so many years, but our teachers also need to move when the Holy Spirit leads them to do so. We do not like to lose our teachers. We know that our children have special needs that some teachers cannot meet. There is a reason to be concerned when new teachers join our faculty. But this is how the Lord supplies our needs. Mr. McNeill is a good example of this. He came to Siloah right out of college sixteen years ago and has developed into one of the finest teacher/principals in the city and Synod.

God has chosen other young men and women to serve in our school. We only need to ask for his blessing upon our school, that he may supply us with the teachers that our school needs, so that the work of leading souls to heaven may continue in the future as it has in the past.

This is a good time to pray for our teachers who presently

serve, and for those whom the Lord will send to us. Then we will know whom to thank when the new school year begins in September.

#### A LETTER FROM MRS. HOLTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"We know not what the future holds, but we know who hold the future." That is one of my favorite quotes. When I accepted the call here to Siloah, I knew that it would not be easy and that it would require a tremendous amount of work. I feel I have done what God required of me and what you have expected. I have found it necessary, however, to resign my call. I will be resigning effective June 15th, 2001. I have given this matter much prayer and consideration. I will continue to keep Siloah in my prayers and I ask that you pray for me and my family as we look ahead to the future.

Your sister in Christ,  
Sharon Holter

#### BLESSED BY HOLY WEEK

The members of Siloah had a special opportunity to celebrate the facts of their faith during Holy Week, starting with confirmation on Palm Sunday, when eighth young people pledged their life-long faithfulness to God and reminded us all of the promises we have made. On Maundy Thursday we received Holy Communion as Jesus disciples did on the night before he died. The commemoration of Jesus' death was made special in the afternoon by the singing of the school children, and in the evening by the emotional tenebrae service which effectively allows us to relive the last moments before the death that paid for our sins.

We woke before sunrise like the women did on

*Easter morning.* But we did not get up to embalm *Jesus'* body. We went to church early to celebrate the fact of his resurrection, which means that we will also rise. We were greeted by the magnificent display of lilies and yellow mums tastefully arranged to reflect our Easter joy. In the festival services the congregation and choirs poured out their hearts in praise for the victory over sin and death that makes it safe for us to die. And we also enjoyed food and fellowship at the Easter breakfast where the Pilgrims served a record number of people.

It was a great morning to be in church, a total of seven hours for some people. But this was not a burden but a blessing. For the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best thing that has ever happened to us. We want to savor that sweetness as long as possible. We owe our thanks to the many people who worked cheerfully to prepare the flowers, the food, the music and the message on Easter Sunday, also to the parents of the CEA who worked hard to make the school look good for Easter. But it was a labor of love for those who were privileged to serve on that day. Our deepest gratitude is reserved for our Lord *Jesus Christ*, who earned for us an eternal future of joy, where our willing service will not be limited to a few hours of the week.

#### OFFERINGS AHEAD OF PROJECTIONS AGAIN

The offerings for March continue to be encouraging. We were \$500 ahead of the projection for March. So far offerings are \$5200 ahead of last year. That's partly due to the earlier date of Easter, but that doesn't explain all of the difference.

On the other hand, attendance continues to be a concern. Church attendance for March was down 26 per Sunday, a decline of nearly 10%. For the year the numbers are even

worse, down 37 per Sunday from last year. There is no obvious explanation for this change, except that Siloah's members are putting other things ahead of worship. We pray that we will see an improvement in the months ahead.

#### SCHOOL EXPANSION PROCEEDING - SLOWLY

The church council has seen some preliminary drawings on school expansion from an architect. They look good. We would be able to add two classrooms in the space between the school and the alley along with the necessary bathrooms and the mandatory elevator. We hope that school choice and foundation funds would cover the cost of the expansion. But we are still a long way from breaking ground, which may be even longer if the Lord leads Mr. McNeill to accept the call he is holding. There are no immediate plans for further action, but we want to be able to take advantage of every opportunity that the Lord gives us.

#### ASCENSION AT SILOAH THIS YEAR

For the first time since '92, we will have the privilege of hosting the joint Ascension Day service. For the twenty-fifth time the WELS churches of Milwaukee's inner-city will combine hearts and voices to celebrate our Lord's triumphant ascension into heaven.

Many years ago we realized that this important day was being neglected in most congregations, because so few people could attend services on Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter. So we decided to make a big deal of the day by combining our congregations and choirs, so that sometimes the church is filled to overflowing for the occasion, and we get a chance to celebrate this important event of our faith.

This year the participating congregations include Siloah, Zebaoth, Garden Homes, St. Philip, St. Marcus, East Side Salem and St. Peter's and Christ on the South Side. There will be a joint adult choir, a joint children's choir, the United Voices of Praise, plus Siloah's Youth Choir, Gospel Choir and Handbell Choir. Traditionally the worshipers are invited to the fellowship hall after the service for some light refreshments. You can start thinking now about what you want to bring for the fellowship hour.

How blessed we are to have this special service of celebration right here in our own church. How blessed we are that *Jesus* has given us so much to celebrate!

### THE BEST MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SO FAR

Rick Loewen did not disappoint us. This talented speaker used his life experiences to impress upon us the powerful force that men exert upon their children. As a father of three girls, he shared with us some of his triumphs and failures. As a former police officer, he told of the damage that negligent fathers can do to their children.

The publicity had the desired effect. There were over fifty men present, more than twice the usual number, and none went away disappointed, even those who had heard Mr. Loewen once or twice before. And the food was appropriate for the occasion. Ken McGhee did his usual excellent job on the fish with Theresa Wigley's help, and there were more than enough side dishes to round out the menu.

The next men's fellowship is scheduled for May 11th, at St. Marcus. It starts at 6 p.m. We regularly invite the men from St. Marcus to our events and they are now returning the favor. We should not disappoint them by failing to show up.

There has been some talk about a similar event for both men and women in the future. That idea needs to be discussed and your input is welcome.

### POTTY TEACHING IN ONE EASY LESSON

Potty teaching is easy. You just set your toddler on a chair. You tell him:

1. It's time for you to start using the toilet.
2. People don't like smelly diapers.
3. Mom doesn't like to change smelly diapers.
4. You can't wear diapers for the rest of your life.
5. The other kids will laugh at you.
6. So just tell me when you have to go, and you won't have to wear diapers any more.

Potty teaching is easy, --- but it doesn't work. The child may be old enough to understand everything you tell him. But when the urge comes, he's going to mess his pants like he's done all his life, not because he doesn't know better, but because he doesn't know how to process the information.

So no one even talks about potty teaching. Potty training is the word!

There is some teaching involved, of course. Kids need to be told how to use the toilet. But that's only a beginning. They need to be told over and over again. They need to be put into position at appropriate times and praised enthusiastically when they do the job right, along with some appropriate punishment when they do it wrong. They wear "training", not "teaching", pants when mistakes are still common. And the whole process is repeated over and over again, until the child is successfully potty trained.

Solomon also knew something about potty training.

He understood that children need more than teaching. They need training for all the important matters in their lives. Take going to church for instance. We teach all our school children to go to church and why they need to do that. Why then do so many stop going to church after they graduate from grade school? There are a number of reasons for this common failure, but lack of training is at the top of the list. Years of experience have demonstrated that the teens who come to church are usually the ones who have attended with their parents from little on. Those who come by themselves, usually without their parents, soon forget about church in their teen years, because they have not been trained to go to church.

That's only one example. Our children are being trained constantly throughout their formative years. They are trained to obey, to share, to respect, to be responsible, not with a ten-minute lecture, but with repeated instruction and correction that goes on by word and example hour after hour, day after day. Sometimes they are being trained in behaviors that lead to destruction later on.

A child who is trained mostly by physical discipline learns that violence is an acceptable and effective method of problem solving. A child who sees no love and affection between his parents is being trained to fail at marriage. A child who is able to lie successfully is being trained to lie, so successfully that he even fools himself.

Our children are being trained, whether we like it or not. And once they are trained, those instincts remain with them for life. With God's blessing negative instincts can be controlled, but only with intense and constant effort. How blessed are those children who have been trained in doing what is right so they don't have to learn all over later on, when the learning gets much harder.

As the children of God, we want to give our children a

good start in life. We send them to a Christian school, not only for the good things that are taught there, but also for the training that goes on under the supervision of Christian teachers all day long. We train our children at home by observing them every possible moment, so that we can praise their accomplishments, rebuke their selfishness, and catch them in their lies. We don't want them trained by the ungodly behaviors they see on TV, nor do we want them trained to indulge in passive entertainment, so we refuse to let TV be a baby sitter, unless we can watch what our children are watching.

Our children are sponges, soaking up all that goes on around them, unable to choose the good and avoid the bad. Once the sponge is saturated, good can be added only with great difficulty. "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree." Solomon put it this way: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when his is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) He will not likely depart from the wrong ways either.

Child teaching is easy. Child training is hard work, but blessed are those children whose have been trained in the way they should go.

## **PRINCIPALS ATTEND BOSTON CONVENTION**

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Rahn, our grade school coordinator, Mr. McNeill was one of six WELS principals who were privileged to attend a three-day convention of school administrators in Boston, Massachusetts. It was an edifying experience. Among other things, Mr. McNeill reports the following:

"We arrived a day early to attend a preconvention conference with Dr. Debra Pickering. She has mapped out how children learn. When teachers understand how learning takes place, they can create an environment within their classrooms

that fosters learning and nurtures the student. Throughout the conference we did small group activities. This interaction in addition to the new ideas that Dr. Pickering provided for us served to expand our boundaries and think outside the confines of our school building. It was a valuable experience.

"Around 4 p.m. each day we would head off into Boston to explore the city. The highlight of the trip for me was visiting the Boston Commons. There we came up behind a large monument that faced the street. It was the monument to the black regiment portrayed in the movie *Glory*, African American soldiers who refused pay for ten months because they were to be paid less than white soldiers. How many times had I taught these historic events? How many times had I seen this monument's picture in books used in my class? It had never registered with me that this was in Boston. As we left the monument no one spoke for quite some time, truly humbled by everything for which that monument stood.

"It was a great weekend. We had learned much and seen even more. We would go back to our schools energized by the camaraderie we had experienced, and enlightened by the information we had compiled. It was a trip none of us shall soon forget."

### REMEMBERED IN THEIR PRAYERS

The congregations of the Wisconsin Synod are regularly encouraged to pray for each other, especially for those congregations receiving assistance to do mission work in their neighborhoods. Siloah is one of those congregations. So we regularly receive letters of encouragement, with the assurance that these fellow believers are also praying for us. One of these letters reads as follows:

"Dear members of Siloah,

"I am writing to you from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. My name is Ariel Willeson, and I attend the school at Good Shepherd. I am twelve years old and in the 8th grade.

"I have written this letter to tell you that the WELS has been Forward in Christ for 150 years. Your congregation is always in our prayers. I would like to encourage all of you to stay in the faith. We would greatly appreciate it if you could send us something about your congregation.

Your friend in *Christ*,  
Ariel Willeson"

### SPECIAL EVENTS AT SILOAH

Sylvia Forbes, our parish nurse, organized a "Heart Healthy Breakfast" at Siloah on March 31st. She used the opportunity to explain what we can do to prevent heart attacks and prepare for them. About 30 people attended the event. We thank Sylvia for her efforts on our behalf.

As the parish paper goes to press, two more special events are about to take place. On Friday, April 20th, the Inner-City Mission Committee is sponsoring their annual fellowship dinner. A discussion of school choice is on the agenda.

The following morning Siloah's ladies will enjoy another praise breakfast, featuring testimonials from those who have received special blessings from the Lord. Theresa Wigley is cooking for both events.

Look for a report on these events next month.

Mother's Day this year will be especially important for a number of children who will be baptized on that day. If you would like your child to receive the blessing of baptism on that day, please speak to one of the pastors.

We are also looking forward to the traditional Kids' Praise program between services on that day. That is always an enjoyable event..

### **SOME HOSPITAL EVANGELISM**

On Black History Sunday our pastors learned of two family relatives who were critically ill in two different hospitals. Neither was expected to live very long. But both are now doing well and receiving gratefully the Word of *God* that they are hearing. One may leave the hospital and come to worship with us in a month or two. The other has little hope of going home again, but he has now the sure hope of an eternal home in heaven, thanks to the death and resurrection that paid for his sins. We may not see him in church, but we can expect to see him in heaven.

### **SILOAH SERMON PREVIEW**

*The sermons after Easter will follow the theme; "The Resurrection Makes It Real". The words of a dead prophet are doubtful at best. But Jesus is alive to make his words come true. Because of his resurrection our faith has a sure foundation.*

April 22 - Matthew 12:38-42 - His Word Is Truth

April 29 - John 11:27-28 - He Feeds His Flock

May 6 - John 14:13-14 - He Answers Prayer

May 13 - MOTHER'S DAY (Kids' Praise at 9:15)

May 20 - John 21:15-17 - He Sends His Messengers

May 24 - *ASCENSION DAY*

May 27 - John 14:1-6 - He Prepares Our Place

### **THIS MONTH'S RADIO SERMONS**

April 29 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

What Kind of Body Will Be Raised? - Prof.  
Mark Braun

May 6 - 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

When Will Our Bodies Be Raised? - Pastor  
Westendorf

May 13 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-57-How Does  
the Victory of the Resurrection Become Mine?  
Pastor Mueller

May 20 - Romans 8:1-4 - Come Holy Spirit,  
Remind Me of What Jesus Did for Me - Prof.  
Bivens

May 27 - Romans 8:5-14 - Come Holy Spirit,  
Take Control of My Mind and Direct My Life-  
Pastor Kelm

**Tune in Sundays 7:15 to 8:00 a.m. at 103.7 FM**

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

*We do not see them in church. the pastors visit them with Word and Sacrament. We may remember them with a card, phone call, visit and prayer. Please call the church office at 873-5770 for addresses.*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Mattie Gisle-21st  
Flora Johnson-6th  
Lawrence Peterson-17th*

## FAITHFUL TO THEIR VOWS

*Fredrick & Erica Johnson-2nd  
Dexter & Sonya Williams- 9th  
Allen & Katie Turner-27th  
Richard & Melissa Hale-28th*

## MINISTERIAL ACTS

### BAPTISMS

*Khristopher Cameran Williams*

### CONFIRMATIONS

*Phillip Michael Donovan Holter-Ps 50:15  
Andre Justin Bowers-1 tim 6:6-8  
LaToya Paulette Taylor-Mt 7:7  
Crystal Amanda Slayden-Josh 1:9  
Alexander Jordan Richardson-Eph 2:8-9  
Mary Norma Dittmar-2 tim 3:15  
Rosalyne Elizabeth Roby-Rev 1:8  
Sa'vazis Noelle Sarsour-Ps 22:10-11*

**SILOAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3721 NORTH 21ST STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53206  
School: **873 - 8240** Church: **873 - 5770**  
Fax: **873 - 8250**

**Pastor Westendorf.....(414) 871-4188**  
**Pastor Tullberg.....(414) 873-3508**

### Parish Nurse Information

Sylvia Forbes - American Heart Association  
795 N. Van Buren Street (53202) Business #271-9999 ext. 1455  
Business phone direct 227 - 1455 — home # 578 - 3666

### SILOAH LUTHERAN ADVERTISERS:

**Lutheran Brotherhood**-Charlotte Ghazarian.....545 - 7858  
900 W. Lincoln Avenue # 13, Milwaukee, WI 53227

**Quality Catering** - Teresa Wigley.....536 - 6771 or 873 - 8240

**Aid Association for Lutherans** - Dan Vogel.....545 - 5905  
10201 W. Lincoln Avenue, Suite 108

**Bloedel's Heating and Air Conditioning**  
6967 N. Rockledge - Glendale, WI .....352 - 9990

**Franzen, Jung, Kaufmann and Weiland Funeral Home**  
7625 W. Appleton Avenue .....464 - 2700

**Harder Funeral Home**  
4211 W. Fond du Lac Avenue .....442 - 6912  
18700 W. Capitol Drive .....(282) 781 - 8350

**M&I Northern Bank**  
3536 W. Fond du Lac Avenue.....445 - 8200  
20725 W. Capitol Drive .....781 - 0100  
3155 N. 124th Street .....781 - 9800

**Reupert Plumbing and Appliance Company**  
3406 W. Villard Avenue .....462 - 4610