

New Jersey Synod Assembly

May 7-8, 2010

-submitted by Faith Steinfort

Music, reports, celebrations, votes, presentations, discussions, hearings, and more votes presents a fairly accurate overview of what happened at the NJ Synod Assembly. What is not portrayed in these few words is the deep commitment to witness and outreach of our Synod.

“I am hard-pressed to think of a time when this Synod has been more deeply engaged in evangelical outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How can this bold witness in challenging times not inspire our thanksgiving and praise of God and our giving and sharing in support of God’s mission.”

The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Bishop – March 2010

This bold witness includes:

- Receiving a new congregation this year, Elect Saints, Hamilton, the third new congregation in as many years.
- Continued sustaining of mission initiatives and new starts: **Pilgrim Journey, Elizabeth-Portuguese/English speaking outreach to West African immigrants; Santa Isabel, Elizabeth** – Spanish speaking outreach to the Latino/a community; **Nava Jeevan, Kendall Park**, Tamil/English outreach to South Asian Immigrants; **Waterfront, Jersey City** – outreach to young adults in an emerging church form; **Differently-abled, Cranford based** - outreach to differently-abled persons and their families.
- Continued support and redevelopment of the strategic mission in Camden, in partnership with Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ and including, Grace, Christus, Bridge of Peace congregations and New Visions Community Services plus key Camden County and Burlington County congregations.
- Strengthened support for the mission initiative of **St. John, Passaic** in outreach to the Latino/a community
- Rejoiced with **Messiah, Dennis Township**, on its relocation from Sea Isle City to the mainland, including construction and dedication of a new building
- Launching two new initiatives in 2010: **outreach to Asian Indian people** in partnership with St. Paul, Jersey City; **God with Us, Jackson Twp.**, a new start being restarted, July 1, 2010, after a re-assessment in 2009.

“The largest investment of time and resources for this Synod is in support and development of congregations...In the years ahead, there will be radical changes in the shape, size and form of many of our congregations. We can approach this future with fear or with faithful imagination.”

E. Roy Riley, Bishop

In addition to these ventures, **we celebrated twenty years of companionship with Namibia** and were addressed by The Rev. Joannes J.C. Sindano, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Eastern District. Addressing us also were Vjecko Saje and his wife who are coordinators for the NJ Synod, ELCA – Bosnia International Servant Trips. He told of the hope, healing, and understanding that the children in this war-ravaged country are experiencing as a result of these trips and offered repeated thanks for our presence there and synodical financial support.

Poverty is another major concern of our church. Statistics bear out the need for such concern.

- 1/3 of the people in NJ do not have enough to live on.
- 1/5 live in true poverty
- 1/3 of those in true poverty are female heads of households
- 40% of the people in Camden live in poverty of which one-half are children

A resolution calling on federal legislators to re-authorize and expand Federal Childhood Nutrition programs and to call on state legislators to restore state funding for School breakfast and lunch programs was passed by the assembly. More on that to come.

The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock, the ELCA Churchwide Representative to the Assembly told us the ELCA Churchwide shares our commitment to outreach and witness. **Forty-one new ELCA congregations were started this year.** Two priorities over the next two years include: **1.) accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical ministry; 2.) building capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.** I was astounded to learn that **one out of fifty people worldwide are helped by the ELCA.** She also spoke of the **ELCA Task Force: Living Into the Future Together (LIFT).** Go to www.liftelca for more info on the task force or www.elca.org for more info on the ELCA Churchwide.

Much joy accompanied much business at the Assembly. It was thrilling to receive into our Synod **Elect Saints, Hamilton**, an African congregation with Pentecostal roots, which wanted to become Lutheran, and did so after much catechetical study. Joy abounded in singing the music led by Dakota Road, and joy and thanksgiving indeed were felt as over 500 Lutherans worshiped and communed together.

This barely touches all that happened. For more on the Synod Assembly and to learn more about our Synod go to www.njsynod.org

I apologize for the length of this article. I found it very hard to condense a day and a half of an inspiring, informative Assembly into a meaningful but brief? article. I feel privileged and blessed to have been able to attend, and I thank God for the ministry of the ELCA Churchwide, the NJ Synod, and Saint Matthew Church.

Faith Steinfort

Youth and Family Ministry

Sunday Church School News

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast: Many thanks to the parents who so willingly provided the makings for a fabulous breakfast that was indeed appreciated by teachers and children alike. In addition to breakfast, teachers were given pins indicating their years of service. We thank God for the dedication and witness of our teachers.

Registration: New SCS registration forms are being developed. It will only be necessary to register a child once, as opposed to every year. However, emergency information data will be updated yearly. We are also working on providing an online registration form for preregistration for SCS.

Opportunities to Serve: Do you love working with children? Would you like to play an important role in a child's faith development and have a unique chance to witness? Then perhaps you'll consider being part of our SCS staff as a teacher, assistant or substitute teacher. If you feel so called, please contact **Nina Thomas** for more information.

Rally Day: September 12, 2010. Mark your calendars! Exciting things are being planned for next year.

Welcome, Lorraine Horton: Lorraine will be the new Youth and Family Ministry Chair.

Youth Group

Welcome Brendan Kuehl, our new Youth Group assistant. Brendan, a new member, was active in youth work in his previous Lutheran congregations. Plans are being made to give parents and Brendan an opportunity to meet and greet each other, hopefully before the end of the school year. Sixth graders will be invited to that meeting as well so they have a chance to meet everyone because they will be eligible for Youth Group as seventh graders.

Best wishes to all for a relaxing and healthy summer.

Faith Steinfort

Mutual Ministry

Final revisions of the Saint Matthew Staff Handbook were discussed and approved by Mutual Ministry. The revised handbook was again given to the Congregation Council which approved it on Monday, May 17, with a slight revision. The handbook is the result of fifteen months effort on the part of Mutual Ministry. Our goal was to create an informative, easily accessible, and flexible document that would be beneficial to our staff and Saint Matthew Church in furthering our mission.

The document is the culmination of carefully examining past policies and, where necessary, revising and adding to them to meet the needs of the staff and the church. The handbook is designed to be flexible in that each policy has its own page(s) and may be easily revised as necessary. Consequently staff and mutual ministers should always have an updated version in their possession and know that as situations arise and revisions may be needed, they can be easily and effectively addressed.

Thanks be to God for our mutual ministers, **Charlie Lange, Dick Graybill** and **Karen Terpak**, whose commitment to this ministry and expertise have been invaluable; and for **Kris Burns**, the catalyst for this endeavor, whose term ended last June. Were it not for her knowledge and resources in this area we would not have been able to realize our goal.

In addition, we are truly blessed with our staff. Their witness is evident as they approach their daily responsibilities and challenges with wisdom, graciousness and skill. Their ministry is crucial to the ministry of Saint Matthew.

It has been a privilege and a blessing to be a part of this ministry.
Faith Steinfort

Parson To Person

Since I received much feedback from last month's top 10 list...

The top 10 new things at SMLC in the past year:

10. Logo – our 60th anniversary butterfly has been seen in and out of the building
9. More handicapped parking – there was a need for it, and thanks to your love and respect for Oliver Thomas, it was supplied
8. MMM... a new fellowship ministry about which I was skeptical, has taken off! Media, Movies, Munchies. Four words: Nancé, you were right!
7. Christmas paraments – thanks to your love and respect for Ruth Loftness, our Christmas celebration has been enhanced by beautiful artwork for the pulpit and altar
6. SNAK program – local youth are supplied with healthy snacks by five area congregations for an after-school recreation program and Saint Matthew is one of the five
5. Prie Dieu (French for “pray God”) thanks to the talent of Brian Sena, those who receive healing prayers may use a custom kneeler
4. Two Social Concerns Ministry giving projects:
 - (1) Easter giving tree – Brandi Bocelli's idea touched the heart of the Family Services coordinator who was overwhelmed with the congregation's response
 - (2) Refugee kits – the congregation responded with an abundance of health kits for refugees
3. Paschal candle – before you decide it's too tall, take a look at its delicate artwork close-up; it will last for a number of years, which is the tradition in many congregations
2. e-blasts – Thanks to Brandie Plasket, more people are receiving information in varied ways, and we'll never again have to call the church on a snowy morning to discover if church is canceled
1. New members – There's a waiting list to get into this congregation! Seriously, we've already had two new member groups received in 2010 with another one to be scheduled for early summer!

What I hope will be on this “new things” list this time next year:

- an elevator
- more Sunday school teachers
- and a few new ministries nobody has even imagined as of now

Pastor Wengert

From the Parish Coordinator

An Aging Society and Ministry Among Older Persons

by W. A. Lawrence, AiM

This article will conclude the series on ministry among older persons which I've been writing this entire program year. I've had fun with it and I hope you've found it informative. And – just maybe – I was able to cause a smile to grace your face once in a while - grin.

You'll recall last time we discussed how the use of games might keep our brain cells active. This segment will focus on aging and spirituality. Last November, after completing that aging quiz (in October), we learned that the correct answer to question # 23 - "*Old people tend to become more religious as they age*" – was **false**. I was always troubled by that response and wondered if maybe our experience hasn't been different from that of Dr. Palmore. I have another resource at my disposal, a text entitled *Aging and Spirituality* by David O. Moberg, PhD, in which I found some interesting information. In this text Moberg discusses several gerontological theories. Among them there is one which caught my eye called Continuity Theory.

Briefly, Continuity Theory (*Atchley, 1977*) assumes that habits, preferences and commitments previously formed by people continue as they grow older - that "they are predisposed toward maintaining continuity in habits, associations, preferences, and so on... which individuals will maintain if at all possible."ⁱ He goes on to cite examples of both internal and external continuity, of self, personality, relationships, religion ... and many others. He also states that "the best predictor of the religious life of elderly people indeed is their earlier religious orientations. Most retain the same denominational membership or nonmembership as in their middle years."ⁱⁱ All of which reinforces the 'false' answer from Dr. Palmore's quiz. But... here's where it gets interesting – Moberg lists some responses from a survey conducted in the 80's by Brennen and Missinne, where the answers to those questions fly opposite to the quiz. It was noted that "many who retain the same memberships and external religious activities profess to have intensified their faith or deepened their spirituality during later maturity."ⁱⁱⁱ "The following three questions indicate changes in the direction of greater spirituality and more feelings of acceptance in their church, despite diminished belongings to its sub-organizations:

	Now	Always
Do you consider yourself a religious person?	91 %	72 %
Do you pray or meditate regularly?	83 %	68 %
Do you feel accepted by members of your church?	93 %	83 %" ^{iv}

This is exactly what I've noticed in my tenure here at Saint Matthew Church and with life experience in general. I must say...it hasn't been by scientific methodology that I've come to this conclusion; but, to put it in layman's vernacular - it's just a "gut reaction." I can only speak for myself in saying that, as I age, my journey with Christ is ever evolving and deepening in relationship; which is why I was initially troubled with the now famous #23. Hopefully I'm not the only one. God's peace.

Bill

Congratulations Graduates!

We offer congratulations to those students in our congregation who graduated from colleges this spring. We also wish them well in their post graduate studies or job search and employment. May God go with you.

Tom Cassel	University of Pennsylvania
Gwen Gibson	Rowan University
Aaron Graybill	Rutgers University
Chad Lange	St. Mary's College (MD)
Brian Sena	Stockton State College
Adrielle Slauch	Pratt Institute
Andrew Steele	Wittenberg University
Victoria Steele	McDaniel College
Emily Terpak	Drexel University
Rebecca Zellner	Cornell University

These students received MD degrees:

Cassie Armstead-Williams	Washington University School of Medicine
Virginia Jackson	Thomas Jefferson University Jefferson Medical College

Other graduate degrees:

Leslie Meany - MBA	Northeastern University (Concentration in Health Care)
---------------------------	---

The following students will be graduating from high schools in June:

Bishop Eustace	Gianna Rosati
Collier High School	Jennifer Magauran
Delran High School	Matt Grieco Rachel Jacoby
Lenape High School	Sean Moran
Moorestown High School	Taylor Beckett Tyler Ems Max Jones Jenna Morante Kara Schroeder Robert Swanson Elizabeth Waxman

Saint Matthew Sponsors Boy Scout Troop

The Congregation Council has approved the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 42. The troop formerly met in Mt. Laurel in a church which is now closing and the group has been officially transferred to Saint Matthew Church where they will be meeting each Tuesday evening in the Teen Den. One of our members, **Shirley Schmidt**, is on the Troop Committee. **Brian Sena** will be the liaison between the troop and the church. He was previously Scoutmaster for Troop 4, which was part of this church for many years.

The troop has ten members and would like to include more boys in the group. Boy Scouts is for grades 5 through 11. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, contact Barbara Henderson, Troop Membership Chair, at 856-778-6086 or bjhender@comcast.net.

Students Receive First Communion

Sunday school students in fifth grade received their first Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday service April 1, following a series of classes taught by **Mary Beckett** (see her thank-you note below). The students included:

Anna Buss, Julie Every-Clayton, Brian Forrest, Allen Hall, Holly Keifer, Kylee Miller, Matthew Miller, Kaiden Potere, Hannah Steiner, Victoria Thomas, and Michael Trimble.

*Thank you to all the families for their participation and enthusiastic support of their children's journey in the sacrament of first communion. I wanted to especially thank **Jennifer Reppert** for her help with our "meal shared by many" before the Maundy Thursday dinner. I am not sure what I would have done without her clean-up help! Thanks also to the **Buss Family** for their dinner set-up help and Kahra's assistance during our bread making class.*

*To all have a blessed and safe summer. **Mary Beckett***

Social Concerns Ministry Nancy Nugent

S.N.A.K.: The Social Concerns Team welcomes your continuing participation in this program of providing snacks for the youth of Moorestown in an after school recreation program. Donations are welcome (mark your envelope "SNAK Fund") or purchase food for one week (sign up sheet on the church foyer bulletin board). The program runs through June and our turn in the program is **June 7-11**.

Bob Ganskopp is responsible for this program and will be unavailable that week. If you can help, contact Bob.

IHN: It will be our turn to host the homeless guests of Interfaith Hospitality Network **Sunday, June 20 - Sunday, June 27**. We need your help to purchase food, provide dinners, entertain the children, drive to and/or from the center, etc. Watch for the sign-up poster in the church foyer. We are continually blessed by so many who give their time, care and good cooking to help out.

June Day at Lutheran Care: This highly anticipated event will be June 12 on the grounds of Lutheran Care from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The people of Saint Matthew will be making our famous funnel cakes and have a table or two selling knick-knacks, jewelry, books, plants and other surprises. Contact **Dr. Elise Korman** if you can donate items or help out. (see "ad" elsewhere in this *Messenger*).

CROP Walk: Hot and humid were the words. The walkers stepped off on time, as planned. From Saint Matthew we had **Ray & Sue Kuhn, Laurie & Bill Grosspeter, Andrew Cross, Gary Duda** and the **Feliciano Family**. Together they raised over \$1000. **JoAnn Lawrence** turned in pledges but was unable to walk. I thank all who walked and all who pledged. Together our neighbors are served.

Mae K. Trebing, CROP Walk Coordinator

**Lunch Bunch
June 10, 7:00 pm
Teen Den**

**Bring baked goods,
fold-over sandwich baggies,
peanut butter and jam any time
and leave in the office**

Thanks a bunch!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed new members and others restored to membership in our congregation on Sunday, May 9. We look forward to seeing them involved in the various activities this church has to offer and hope they will continue to feel welcomed.

Scott & Lori Cornish, *Ashley (12, 6th grade), *Emily (9, 3rd)

Brian & Lori Forrest, *Amanda (8, 2nd); Brian (11, 5th)

Corey & Katie Johnson

Lynn Krudewig

Brendan Kuehl

Richard & Shirley Schmidt, Richard III (Richie), Susan

Matt & Kadi Schwinghammer; *Ava (2), Lucy (4 mos.)

Showing at
m m m & m
Theater

Media, Movies, Munchies and More

Friday, June 4: *The Bucket List*

Friday, July 2: (no movie)

Friday, August 3: *Wall-E*

Movies shown in the Shockey Lounge at 7:00 pm

We guarantee you will be able to meet
your favorite M & M there!

Attention Youth Group!

**The Youth Group will not meet weekly
during June, July and August.
Check your e-mail for special events.**

**Have a wonderful summer! See you in the
fall!**

OWLS NEWS

***Saint Matthew Senior Citizens
are invited to
An Indoor Picnic
Thursday, June 3, 12:00 Noon
in the church library.***

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided.
Bring along a salad, meatless casserole or dessert.
Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.
Call **Mary Cross** if there are questions.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual congregation meeting of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, May 23, at 9:45 am between the two worship services. The primary business was the election of three new Congregation Council members to fill positions being vacated due to term expirations, as stipulated in our By-Laws. All three of our nominees were unanimously elected - **Cindy Arruda**, **Pat Brodie** and **Duane Gustad**. Also elected were **David Naylor** as Youth Representative and **Veronica Barger** as Alternate Youth Representative. (See biographies elsewhere in this *Messenger*.) We thank them (and God) for their willingness to serve the church as Council members. At the same time we extend our heartfelt thanks to our “retiring” Council members - **Max Frable** (former President and currently responsible for strategic planning), **Faith Steinfort** (Vice President with responsibility for Mutual Ministry; acting chair of Youth and Family Ministry), and **John Terpak** (Property).

Additionally, the Church Staff and the various Ministries provided their annual reports. The common theme throughout was the positive momentum at Saint Matthew in our numerous programs and activities - as well as with our outreach to serve others.

Some highlights included **Brian Schultz's** announcement that Council has authorized a special task force to consider ways and means of replacing our outdated (and problematic) elevator. **Tom Cassel's** financial report indicated that we are financially in reasonably good shape for this time of year - but will need to remain focused in achieving our goal of a sustainable C & B budget. **Pastor Wengert** and others spoke about our wonderful 60th Anniversary Celebration - and several people mentioned our learning and growth as Christians this year via our focus on God's Grace.

Bill Acheson, President

Saint Matthew Readers

The group will meet Monday, June 28, at 7:30 pm for a discussion of the fantasy adventure novel *Life of Pi* written by Yann Martel. This novel has received numerous awards since it was published in 2001. **Pastor Wengert** will be the leader

This is the last of the series chosen in celebration of our 60th anniversary. Selections starting with September will be chosen at the June meeting. What are your suggestions?

Summer Worship Schedule

One Sunday Service at 9:30 am

May 30 ~ September 5, 2010

Midweek Worship

Thursday evenings at 7:00

July 1 - August 26

Summer Office Hours:

9:00 ~ 2:00, Monday ~ Friday

June 1 ~ September 3

Bosnia Servant Trip

Rene Cherson and the Bosnia Servant Team of the NJ Synod will depart on June 19 and return on July 1. We thank God for all who helped to paint tote bags, supported the trip financially and sewed pillows! There's one more way you can support this peace-building ministry for children who are Serbian Orthodox, Catholic Croatian and Bosnian Muslim - pray for them. Each day at 12:00 pm our time (6:00 pm their time), the team will pause to pray. They invite all who have a heart for this ministry to join them in prayer. Based on experience, they will need much strength, patience, courage, energy, and more strength. It is an exhausting and profound ministry in which to participate.

**Baccalaureate Service
for High School Graduates
Wednesday, June 16, 6:30 ~7:30 pm
Hope Community Church
235 W. Main Street, Moorestown**

Doug Pederson, Guest Speaker
(fomer NFL quarterback & currently on
Eagles coaching staff)

Sponsored by Moorestown Ministerium

WELCA News

Final Meeting

The year end gathering of WELCA will be June 8 at 6:30 pm for the annual salad and dessert meeting. Please sign up in the narthex. Our speaker will be Lynne Rogers, Principal of Christus Academy, located on North 25th Street in Camden - a new venture in Camden.. Lynne lives in Collingswood and has been an AiM since 2001.

Road Trip to New Windsor, MD

On June 21-23 a group from Saint Matthew Church will drive to New Windsor, MD to experience two days at SERRV where incoming handcrafts are received from overseas. These items are sold at prices which help people in Third World Countries make a living wage. This is where items such as health kits, school kits, etc. are received and dispersed. Lodging and meals are provided at very reasonable rates. **This opportunity is open to all (men, women and older teens)**. If interested, contact **Mae Trebing**, 609-239-4942 or **Virginia Sheppard**, 856-235-6255, or **Elise Korman**, 856-786-2022.

June Staff Anniversary

Kim Bohley ~ 5 years

Notes About Folks

Pastor Wengert Leads Ministerium

Pastor Wengert has been asked to be the chair of the Moorestown Ministerium. The Ministerium is an association of clergy and lay people from churches, religious organizations and schools in Moorestown that meets monthly at different congregations. It exists for at least three reasons:

- for the sake of the pastors and lay leaders, that they be encouraged in their work
- for the sake of ecumenism, that relationships between the churches be enhanced
- for the sake of Moorestown and so it sponsors communal events at Thanksgiving, Dr. King's day, high school graduation and for the sake of the the world's hungry (Crop Walk)

Graduate News

Graduation at the University of Pennsylvania was extra special for **Tommy Cassel** on Monday, May 17. He received his diploma from his father, **Dr. Tom Cassel**, who teaches there.

Matt Grieco who will be graduating from Delran High School next month has received several honors: First Team All Conference and 2nd Team All County in football; named a Scholar Athlete; and named Most Courageous Athlete by the Burlington County Athletic Trainers.

Honor and Project Chair for Dr. Tim Wengert

On Sunday, May 23, **Tim Wengert**, professor at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at Cathage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin where he also preached at the Baccalaureate Service. Carthage College is an ELCA-related four-year college. The graduation ceremonies were the concluding celebration of the establishment of a chair in honor of the late bishop of New York, William Lazareth, who ended his career teaching at Cathage. Lazareth was trained at LTSP and taught there during the 1970s. This was Tim's first honorary degree and was given in recognition of his contributions to the church.

LTSP is in partnership with Muhlenberg College to recognize the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (2010). A patriarch and pillar of Lutheranism in North America, he is widely considered the most influential German-American cultural figure in eighteenth-century America. The fourth volume of the translation of Muhlenberg's correspondence will be published this year, thanks to a grant to LTSP by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The letters were painstakingly translated and edited by Dr. Wolfgang Splitter, associated with the Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany and coedited by the **Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Wengert**, Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor of the History of Christianity at LTSP, who also directed the project.

Former Member Cited in New Hampshire Newspaper

Bea Thomas, a long time member of Saint Matthew Church and former coach at Moorestown High School, was recently recognized in the local New Hampshire newspaper where she now lives. In the article she was described as a woman with a dynamite case of "sisu," which is Finnish for single-mindedness, perseverance and obstinance, which she inherited from her Finnish mother who emigrated alone to America at age 19. Those of us who remember her know these traits of her personality but also know of her outstanding feats in sports, playing field hockey into her sixties and coaching into her eighties. Five years ago she moved to New Hampshire to be closer to her son Peter who has been practicing dentistry there since the 1970s.

She is 98 years old now and uses a four-wheeled walker which she calls her “Cadillac” to get around where she currently lives. She still does her daily work-outs, goes visiting and participates in a woodworking class as well as other activities. She was a faithful member of this congregation for more than fifty years.

Pastor Wood’s Son Returns from Iraq

The Rev. Linda Wood, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Riverside who was an interim pastor here after Pastor Huff’s retirement, recently celebrated the safe return of her son Chaplain Tyson Wood from a tour of duty in Iraq. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Ed Hammond’s Retirement

Congratulations to **Ed Hammond** who recently retired from Computer Sciences Corporation after 39 years of working with the company.

Thank You

Mike Beckett wishes to thank all members of the Saint Matthew community who reached out with well wishes, cards and prayers for his swift recover (from a bike accident). He has been overwhelmed and very grateful for everyone’s support.

Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia Attains Goal

The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia extends its deepest gratitude to all who responded so generously to the capital campaign for The Brossman Learning Center, the largest campaign in the 146 years of the seminary’s existence. Saint Matthew Church pledged \$18,000 to the \$20 million goal, which we are paying in six-year installments of \$3,000 each, and is included in a list of supporters in a recent seminary publication. The Brossman Center, dedicated in 2005, has become a center of student life and learning, a place for special lectures and events, and a gathering site for community groups and organizations from the Northwest Philadelphia neighborhoods. It also houses the rich historical collection of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia. (Following the 60th anniversary celebration our congregation sent copies of the DVD made for the Luncheon Gala and the history brochure produced for the anniversary to the Archives Center, along with other memorabilia from the celebration.)

Study of Draft Social Statement on Genetics

Members of the congregation are invited to join the members of Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken for a discussion on the draft Social Statement on Genetics on Wednesday, June 23, at 7:00 pm. The dialogue/discussion will be led by The Rev. Dr. Robin D. Mattison, Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and a member of the ELCA Studies on Genetics Task Force. The document will be revised following discussion throughout the ELCA. The deadline for submitting comments is October 15, 2010 and it will be considered at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Copies of the statement are available for download from www.elca.org/geneticsdraft. Printed copies may be ordered from Augsburg Fortress. The church is located at 5600 N. Route 130, Pennsauken, on the corner of Route 130 and Merchantville Avenue. RSVP to templelutheran@comcast.net or by calling 663-7783. **Note:** Saint Matthew Church will study and discuss this statement in October during Adult Forum.

Bridge of Peace Church Celebrated 3 Years

Bridge of Peace Community Church celebrated three years as an organized congregation of the NJ Synod on Sunday, May 16. During the three years they have grown and changed, added 20 new members last year, continue to find new ways of doing evangelism. Thus far this year they have welcomed six new members. They are recognized as a teaching congregation by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The seminarian who has been with them in the past months will be leaving and they will welcome a new seminarian in the fall. The Rev. Giselle Coutinho is the pastor and Saint Matthew Church partners with the congregation.

Hopeworks 'n Camden Continues Amazing Work

Almost three years ago, this congregation pledged support to Hopeworks 'n Camden to honor Pastor Herluf Jensen on the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Since that time exciting things have continued to happen in that education program for the youth of Camden, begun by two Camden Lutheran churches and a Catholic church and directed by Father Jeff Putthoff. The latest endeavor is the building of the C.R.I.B. (Community Responding in Belief) - a house of hope and dreams located at 517 State Street in north Camden where eight youth will live, study, work, grow and practice the life skills needed in order to embark on a hope-filled future of success. It has been completely renovated and should be ready for occupancy in June. Hopeworks is seeking volunteers who can coach C.R.I.B. youth on money management, nutrition, meal preparation and academic preparation. They are also seeking items to complete the furnishing of the C.R.I.B. and financial contributions. Contact Hopeworks at 543 State Street, Camden 08102; 856-365-4673; or contact@hopeworks.org.

- i Aging and Spirituality, Moberg, Haworth Pastoral Press, p37
- ii Ibid, pg38
- iii Ibid
- iv Ibid, pg 38 & 39