



# St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**Come Worship With Us ...**

**9 am Contemporary Service of Joy**

**10 am Fellowship & Education Hour**

**11 am Traditional Worship Celebration**

**See you on Sunday!**



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# Keynotes

## News for the spiritual family and friends of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

40 N. Adams Dr. • Sarasota, FL 34236 • p: 941-388-1234 • f: 941-388-1360

[www.starmandschurch.com](http://www.starmandschurch.com)

Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday thru Friday

Parish Nurse office hours: 9:00 – 5:00 Monday thru Thursday

### From Reverend Mark A. Bernthal....

*“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save people from their sins.” Luke 1:21*

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*

Advent is upon us . . . Christmas is just around the corner. As we wait, anticipate and worship, the reminder is both “Christ has come” and “Christ will come again.” But just who is this Christ? And how is it that we should watch for and welcome him?

Who is the Christ? It is the promised child born to the Virgin Mary. It is the child Joseph was told by the angel to name Jesus, for in him rests the salvation of the world.

And this Advent and Christmas, how should we once again watch for and welcome him? Here the prophet Isaiah can help because the one named Jesus has other names ascribed for him far before his birth even occurred. Think and reflect on these names. Pray in these names knowing you are praying in Jesus’ name. Celebrate and worship the one we call:

Wonderful Counselor (Do you turn to Him for guidance?)

Mighty God (Do you pray like nothing is impossible for Him?)

Everlasting Father (Do you realize that He knows the beginning and the end of your days?)

Prince of Peace (Do you trade your anxiety for His promised peace?)

Christ has come! And Christ will come again!

My prayer is that each one will make every effort in this season to structure their time, prayers, and their worship to savor the name of Jesus . . . the one who comes to save . . . the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

## December 2011

### St. Armands Key Lutheran Church Staff

**Rev. Mark A. Bernthal**  
Senior Pastor

**Pamela Becker**  
Administrative Assistant

**Tracey Rzepka**  
Parish Nurse

**Jane Lautner**  
Choir Director

**Lois Mellor**  
Church Organist

**Lou Rippo**  
Church Custodian



**Join St. Armands Key Lutheran Church  
on Sundays!**

9 a.m. – Contemporary Service of Joy  
10 a.m. – Fellowship & Education Hour  
11 a.m. – Traditional Worship Celebration

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

5 p.m. – Traditional Worship  
7 p.m. – Contemporary Worship  
10 p.m. – Service of Holy Communion

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 25  
One Service at 10 am

Forms for Poinsettia Orders will be included in the Sunday bulletins on December 4 & 11.

Cost is \$7

The poinsettia plants will adorn the altar on Sunday, December 18 and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You are welcome to take your plants home with you after the 10 pm Worship Service on the 24<sup>th</sup> or after the 10 am Worship Service on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**



**book of faith** **Adult Opportunities for the Study of Scripture:**

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** All are welcome to join in the conversation each Thursday from 10:30am – 11:45am in Ogram Hall. Pastor Herb Mohlenhoff and Pastor Mark Bernthal will team in leading an exciting year centered in our book of faith. **Please Note: The class will not meet on December 22 & December 29 in observance of the holidays.**

Our current study focuses on The **Gospel of Mark**, “**Jesus: Powerful, Courageous, and Trusting.**” The portrait of Jesus we find in Mark is one of a powerful man, confident of his choices, but thoroughly trusting in God even as he faces persecution and ultimately death. Those who struggle in their discipleship are comforted to read in Mark’s gospel how even Jesus’ followers so often fail to understand the depth and breadth of Jesus’ power and authority. Mark’s words are an encouragement to uncertain disciples of all the ages to see clearly the path Jesus invites us to follow.

*Looking Forward: The winter study will center in Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth, “One in Christ.” Finally, a spring/Easter study will consider First John.*

**Daily Discipleship: The Adult Sunday School Class,** is offered each Sunday from 10:10am – 10:50am. Meeting in the front of Fellowship Hall, all are invited to bring their coffee and refreshments. Daily Discipleship is a lectionary Bible study, based on the appointed Gospel reading for each Sunday. Whether you worship at the early or late service, this Sunday morning conversation will enhance the faith and fellowship of all who gather on the Lord’s Day.

## For Children and Youth...

**CHILDREN'S Sunday School** occurs each week between services in the classrooms surrounding Ogram Hall. Thanks to each leader for teaching the priceless and precious stories found in the Book of Faith to the youngest among us.



**HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Sunday School** meets each week in the Conference Room (10:10 – 10:50 am). The class, led by Steve Blackledge and Gary Moore seeks to conversationally connect faith to daily life using the scripture readings from worship.

**Sunday School Classes will not meet on December 25 & January 1**



**LIBRARY NEWS....** Those of you who have recently visited our Library will notice another change in progress. This is because we have received numerous books that were donated by another church, as well as from some of our members. This requires shifting and eliminating many of our books in order to make room for the new ones. The extra books will be for sale (on a continual basis), and the proceeds will go into the Library Fund. They will be displayed on a book cart in Fellowship Hall. A suggested price is written on the inside cover however, any donation is acceptable.

Temporarily, our novels are on a small book shelf at the entrance to Ogram Hall, and our children's books (although not many), are presently not shelved. The children's video tapes were moved to the nursery. It will take a while before all the new additions are shelved -- but in the meantime, please visit our website ([starmandschurch.com](http://starmandschurch.com)) to see if there may be any books of interest to you. We also have complimentary books that are on top of our glass video bookcase. Checking out and returning books couldn't be easier -- just fill out the card and put it in the basket. When you return it, put it in the narrow space below by the indicated sign.

Please call Jackie Whalen at 387-8001 or Lynn Nieting at 383-6762 if you have any questions -- or if you would like to have your book placed in the Narthex for your pickup. (How easy is that?) We have a good collection to choose from, and we hope you will enjoy the convenience of our Library.



### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE**

**Please submit your articles for the JANUARY edition of  
Keynotes to the Church Office on or before December 15, 2011.  
Thanks!**

**[Hoffice@starmandschurch.com](mailto:Hoffice@starmandschurch.com) or fax: 388-1360**



## SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE 2012

Do you want to be

- Informed ?

- Inspired ?

- Enlightened ?

- Engaged ?

Then, the Scholars in Residence Program at SAKLC is for you. Once again, an outstanding trio of highly-respected Lutheran educators will be our guests in the opening months of the new year, and each will share with us in ways that will certainly be a spiritually uplifting experience. Those who have participated in this unique offering through the years can glowingly attest to the excellence that characterizes this marvelous learning opportunity. Treat yourself to what is sure to be a faith-deepening encounter with gifted professors who come eager to share their God-given gifts. Year number eleven of this fine program will not disappoint.

For your convenience, scholars, topics, dates and times are noted below. Also, be looking for the colorful SiR banners soon to be displayed around the church and keep an eye on the worship folders and future Keynotes for additional details. And, of course, all will be receiving the informative SiR brochure for 2012, as well.

**Here's what you can look forward to in 2012:**

### JANUARY

**Dr. Paul D. Hanson**, the Lamont Research Professor at Harvard University, will offer three mid-week presentations on the topic, "The Bible and Politics." He will preach at both services on Sunday, January 8 and lead the Adult Forum on January 8 and 15.

**Wed. Jan. 4** "One Bible - Contradictory Conclusions! Why?"

**Wed. Jan. 11** "The Song of Hannah: Locating God's Presence in a World of Contending Powers"

**Wed. Jan. 18** "As You Did It To One Of The Least Of These: Discovering Christ's Presence in a World of Injustice and Inequality."

### FEBRUARY

**Dr. Paul S. Berge**, who retired from Luther Seminary, will share with us on the theme, "What are you looking for ... Come and you will see!" His presentations will be based on the Gospel of John. He will preach at both services on Sunday, February 5 and lead the Adult Forum on February 5, 12 and 19.

**Wed. Feb. 8** "Jesus: Our Light In a World of Darkness "

**Wed. Feb. 15** "Jesus: Our Promise In a World of Death "

**Wed. Feb. 22** "Jesus: The Messiah Lifted Up For the World "

## **MARCH**

**Dr. Gerald Christianson**, Emeritus Professor of Church History at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, will focus his presentations on the theme "Renewing Christian Identity." He will preach at both services on Sunday, March 18 and lead the Adult Forum on March 18 and 25.

**Mon. Mar. 19** "The Gospel in Art I - The Shape of the Early Church"

**Wed. Mar. 21** "The Gospel in Song: New Hymns for our Generation"

**Tues. Mar. 27** "The Gospel in Art II - Believing Is Seeing"

Times for mid-week presentations - 10:00 to 11:30 AM (except on March 21 which is at 5:30 PM as part of the Lenten Service that evening)

Come for fellowship, coffee and goodies in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM prior to each mid-week morning presentation.



## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**



Stephen Leaders: Pastor Herb Mohlenhoff, Sherry Moore, Ray Walborn

Have you or a friend recently experienced the loss of a loved one? Are you struggling through a divorce or separation? Is this a time of unemployment, or is there a crisis connected with your job? . That's when the help of a Stephen Minister can prove to be invaluable.

Stephen Ministers are trained to assist persons going through a multiplicity of crisis situations. Never losing sight of the importance that each care receiver arrives at his/her own conclusion to a hard life situation, Stephen Ministers function as spiritual shepherds, guiding but not forcing clients to embrace the reality of the present moment.

If you are presently experiencing some apprehension in navigating life's road, a Stephen Minister could provide you with a means of orientation. There is absolutely no cost or obligation involved! For further information, call the church office and request that one of our Stephen Leaders be in telephone contact with you soon.

**SAKLC's Stephen Ministry Team will meet for training and supervision sessions on  
December 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

## PARISH NOTES

### In Loving Memory ....



**Mary Virginia Elliott** passed from this part of life on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the age of 97. A Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, November 9 at the Plymouth Harbor Chapel.

**Anne Marrow Adams** passed from this part of life on Friday, November 19 at the age of 92. A Memorial Service was held at SAKLC on Wednesday, November 23.

Condolences may be sent to Anne's sister, Louise Marrow at  
3962 Oakhurst Boulevard  
Sarasota, FL 34233

**Bob Hupp** passed from this part of life on Monday, November 21, 2011 at the age of 74. A Memorial Service will be held at the Bradenton Country Club on Wednesday, December 7 at 1 pm.

Condolences may be sent to Bob's family  
Casey Hupp  
4114 Marina Court  
Cortez, FL 34215



## Merry Christmas!

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, in observance of Christmas & New Year's Day.

Wishing you joy in your heart as you celebrate the miracle of His birth.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; authority rests upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



**WELCOME BACK...** to those who are returning to Florida for the winter! Please contact the church office (388-1234) or [Hoffice@starmandschurch.com](mailto:Hoffice@starmandschurch.com) so can change your mailing address.

Thanks!

**Has your email address changed? Please let us know**

## Groups/Ministries

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Joyce Hunt, Chair., Becky Culp, Darlene Hauser, Sue Kerzisknik, Marilyn Meinhardt.  
Council Liaisons: Bob Rowe, Ed Schaeffer

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** On Sunday, November 13, nineteen New Members were received during worship services at SAKLC. Please add their names and contact information to your address directory.

**Nona & Roger Arnholt**

(941) 893-5111  
7912 Oak Grove Circle  
Sarasota, FL 34243

**Carolina & Valentina Bell**

(863) 660-4132  
416 Willow Run  
Lakeland, FL 33813

**Michael Beibler**

(941) 961-8043  
7280 Eleanor Circle #201  
Sarasota, FL 34243

**Lois Cieply**

(941) 379-3359  
5274 Myrtlewood  
Sarasota, FL 34235

**Charles Griffith**

1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**Stephanie Kitsemble**

(941) 313-0874  
825 South Osprey Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**Jenny Murphy**

(941) 923-2282  
7520 Renato Court  
Sarasota, FL 34238

**Inna & Steven Snyder**

(941) 539-3200  
7520 Preservation Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34241

**Ashley & James Templeton**

(941) 360-3651  
502 Chevy Chase Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34243

**Tami Ulch**

(863) 287-9677  
110 12<sup>th</sup> Street #111  
Bradenton Beach, FL 34217

**Gisela Virgien**

(941) 383-2444  
2045 Gulf of Mexico Drive  
Longboat Key, FL 34228

**Ann & Ray Walborn**

(941) 921-1981  
8115 Deerbrook Circle  
Sarasota, FL 34238

**Helen & Steve Zielinski**

(941) 538-0885  
7021 Kingsmill Court  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



### SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming Winter Social (information is on the following page). These special events are a great way to meet other members of SAKLC whom you might not know. Feel free to invite your neighbors and friends to join you! SINGLES are always welcome and encouraged to attend all of the social events -- so don't be shy -- there's a place for you!

# February 4, 2012 Winter Social

Dinner & Dancing  
at the Sarasota Yacht Club



6:00 pm Cocktail Reception with passed Hors D'Oeuvres (Cash Bar)  
6:30 pm Dinner Service  
Live dance music by "LaCroix" following dinner

Tickets will go on sale after the first of the year between services or at the Church Office.  
Cost is \$59 per person which includes 18% gratuity.

## Dinner Menu:

Greek Salad & Bread, Seasonal vegetables, Entrée – Choice of Chicken or Beef  
Dessert – Molton Chocolate Cake with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream  
Beverage

You will be asked to select one of the entrées listed below when you sign up:

Chicken Florentine – Stuffed chicken breast with Fontina cheese, spinach and sun-dried tomato beurre blanc

Filet Mignon – Barrel Cut with wild mushroom demi-sauce

As mentioned earlier, we encourage all people, whether married or single, members or friends, to attend our social gatherings! Hope to see you there!

## HEALTH MINISTRY

Health Committee Members: Ann Walborn, Chair., Linda Czech, Ruth Mohlenhoff, Deb Piner, Doris Rowe, Tracey Rzepka, and Ed Schaeffer, Council Liaison

### Weekly Exercise Classes

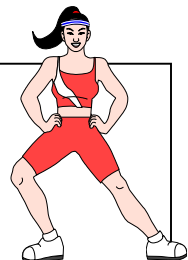
**Basic PILATES** is a core strengthening and stretching exercise program meeting on **Monday evenings at 4:00 pm**. Please bring a mat with you to be able to exercise on the floor.

**GET FIT** Is a cardiovascular exercise session that is meant for all abilities, you can adapt the class to your fitness level! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from **8:45 - 9:30 am** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** right before the 9:30 a.m. Thera-band class!

**THERA-BAND** is a low impact exercise class using elastic bands to strengthen and stretch. Classes are held on **Tuesday & Thursday mornings** from **9:30 – 10:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall.

**PLEASE NOTE: All exercise classes will be cancelled on Thursday, Dec. 22, Monday, Dec. 26 & Tuesday, Dec. 27. Merry Christmas!!**

Contact Debbie Leslie-Minier for more details at 726-9306 or [Hdleslieminier@gmail.com](mailto:Hdleslieminier@gmail.com)





Tracey Rzepka, MS, ARNP,FCN  
941-388-3764

[parishnurse@starmandschurch.com](mailto:parishnurse@starmandschurch.com)

**Merry Christmas Everyone from the Health Ministry Team! Wishing you a safe and happy holiday!** If for some reason you are not having a happy and healthy holiday season, please feel free to call Tracey, our Parish Nurse, who would love to visit and pray with you.

**Your Whole Life  
12 Week Weight Loss Program  
Starting Tuesday, January 17th, 2012**

We will be starting our Your Whole Life Program again in January. This program has helped many to lose 10+ pounds in 12 weeks and to continue with healthier eating habits throughout the year. Many of the previous members are looking forward to continuing the program which is open to new members both inside and outside of the congregation. Our two "biggest losers" were not members of our congregation and lost 24 and 46 pounds over the course of two 12 week sessions in 2 years. Congratulations are in order to them and to those who lost even a few pounds, as well as to those in the congregation who are doing well on their own and through other programs. We have to be good stewards of our bodies so that we can do all the wonderful things that God has gifted us to be able to do as we serve in the body of Christ.

The program will consist of weekly meetings focused on Diet, Discipline and Devotion to God. This year we are meeting only on Tuesday mornings from 10:45-12:15pm. If you are interested in an evening class, please call Tracey and we can arrange this as well. There will be a charge of approximately \$25 for a book and workbook. E-books are available. Please call Tracey to sign up. Everyone is welcome along with your friends, relatives and neighbors.

**SAVE THE DATE: Health Fair – Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

**Blood pressures are taken the last Sunday of the month between services. However, in December we will have our Blood Pressure Sunday on December 18<sup>th</sup> due to the holidays.**

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

Committee Members: Darla & Don Anthony, Chairs., Lynn Blackledge, Richard Elliott, Ronda Hewitt, Cindy Mennicke, Pastor Victor Mennicke, Geri Nelson, Christine Ortiz, Carilyn Reiter, Donna Schlorf, Jane Wittlinger, Sandi Carlson, Council Liaison



**FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES ...** With the unprecedented local need for food, we are continuing to collect food items for the All Faiths Food Bank. Even small donations – one or two items a month will help meet local food needs. **Suggested Donations:** Protein items are urgently needed – canned meats, tuna, peanut butter, soups, stews, canned fruit & jelly. PLEASE no glass containers. The FOOD BARREL is conveniently located in the common area.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Have you noticed the garland with gift tags in the Narthex at Church? The Social Ministry Christmas Gift Drive started on November 27 and will run through December 11. We are partnering with the **Lutheran Services Guardianship Program** to meet the needs of over 70 individuals in our community who have very little and may be otherwise forgotten this Christmas season. YOU can make a difference in their lives!!



Just pick up a gift tag and purchase a gift anytime between now and December 10<sup>th</sup> and drop the gift off at the church no later than Sunday, December 11. Your gift will make a person's Christmas a little brighter and cheery.

**Be sure to keep the gift tag and attach it to the outside of the wrapped gift.**



Social Ministry is also partnering with **YMCA Schoolhouse Link** to provide \$50 gift cards to the more than 50 youth who are homeless and in transition in our community. There will also be a package of freshly baked cookies and treats to accompany the gift cards. If you are interested in helping, contact the church office for specifics.

Thank you to all people of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church for your generosity and support of these gifting opportunities making a difference in people's lives.

### **St. Armands Key Lutheran Church receives Certificate of Appreciation**

The YMCA sent an award recognizing SAKLC for outstanding community service for assisting with the school supply drive. Thank you to all who helped pick up the school supply bags from Publix, bring them to the church, sort supplies, stuff backpacks and then bring to the YMCA location for the remainder of the school year. Many hands this summer made for light work keeping the ELCA's mission motto, "God's Work, Our Hands."

## SAKLC CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The **SINGLES GROUP** meets after the 11 am worship service on the second Sunday of each month for lunch at one of the local restaurants. All singles are invited to join us.

**Sunday, December 11 – 12:30 pm**  
Café L'Europe

A sign-up sheet is provided on the table in the Narthex.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



*Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ*

2011 WELCA Board Members: Cathy DeGeorge, Chair., Mickey Brunke, Kay Coletta, Margot Eagleton, Jane Huff, Ann Walborn, Iris Wilhelm and Shirley Zimmer. \* *All Women at SAKLC are considered members of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF:** In this Season of Giving, we would like to **THANK all** at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church for your generous contributions of time and money to our **Lutheran World Relief drive**. **Last year we assembled 1116 Health Kits, out of a total of 3654 donated, in the entire State of Florida.** Our **Quilters made 121 quilts to be part of the 5711 total for the State.** This is a significant accomplishment and we are grateful to you. **But we're not done! We are going to do it again this year with your help!** There are envelopes in the Narthex for your contributions, or simply mark your check "LWR donation" and place it in the offering. We are **halfway** to our goal of 2000 bars of soap, thanks to your generosity. **Only 1000 more bars of soap and 300 toothbrushes to go!** Drop your donations in the basket marked for "soap donations" in the Narthex. Dates for assembling and packing at the church, will be announced in January

## Women of the ELCA Charitable Fund Raising Event

Looking for a special gift for that "hard to buy for" someone? Would you like to feel good about your purchase, knowing you helped someone by buying, giving, and giving again? How about stopping by **Artisans' World Market Place** on Pineapple Ave? Their products are purchased only from Alternative Trade Organizations, who are members of the **Fair Trade Federation** that ensures the craftsperson is always paid a fair price for their craft. They have a vast variety of hand crafted items, with a story behind each one. The **Women of the ELCA**, in partnership with Artisans' World Market Place, are participating in their "**Pay It Forward**" program, where **10% of your purchase** amount will be sent to WELCA, and we will "**Pay it Forward**" to the **WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER in Sarasota**. You must **present a coupon at time of purchase**. Coupons are good for one year. Please pick up your coupons at the WELCA Table in the Narthex.



Children at the Women & Children's Center in Sarasota will be receiving a pillow doll this Christmas season. Take a look in the "house" donation box in the Narthex to check out pillow dolls sewn & donated by Audrey Ganzel. Women attending the Fall Gathering in November took the pillows home for stuffing and will be bringing them back to the Church before passing them on to the shelters. Thank you, Audrey and all who helped stuff the pillows which will give displaced women and their children a little "soft and fuzzy" feeling while they are trying to put their lives back together.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship & Music Committee Members: Les Lorenz, Chair., Margot Eagleton, Anna Lee Ernst, Betty Hendry, Jim James, Jane Lautner, Lois Mellor, Geri Nelson

### SAKLC PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE

Committee members are: Sandi Carlson, Jim James, Jane Lautner, Lois Mellor, Ed Schaeffer

The Performing Arts Committee is in the process of firming up artists for the 2011-2012 program year. As in the previous two years, we will have both vocal and instrumental performers. We attempt to keep the price of tickets at \$10. For those folks who would like to underwrite performances, please contact Jim James (758-4904). We also have a "Music Memorial" account that you might consider when honoring a birthday or anniversary or in memory of a loved one. We invite you to give us input into the kind of performances you feel would be appropriate at SAKLC.



### SAVE THE DATES!

The following events have been scheduled and are listed on the Calendar of Events on the SAKLC Website – [www.starmandschurch.com](http://www.starmandschurch.com) – just click on the calendar icon on the home page to see what's scheduled each month.

Last month, a 2011-2012 Performing Arts Series brochure with detailed descriptions of the events listed below was mailed to our members and friends in the community. Please take a few minutes to read through the brochure and make note of the many wonderful music programs that are scheduled at SAKLC during the next several months – Christmas programs, concert pianists and other international and regional professional musicians, an organ concert, a handbell ensemble, and beautiful voices – just to mention a few of the musical treats in store for us in the coming months!

**Friday, December 2**      **Christmas on the Circle – “Choir & Carols” -- 7 pm**  
(Events on the Circle are scheduled from 6 – 9 pm)

**Saturday, December 3**    **The Messiah -- 1:30 pm & 4:30 pm**  
(Performed by The Sarasota Choral Society)

**Monday, December 5**    **Liszt Festival -- “Wedding Fantasy” -- 7 pm**

**Sunday, December 11**    **Christmas Cantata – “Ceremony of Candles” -- 7 pm**

**Sunday, January 15**      **Martin Jean Organ Concert -- Hymn Festival -- 4 pm**

**Sunday, February 19**    **Ring Sarasota Handbell Concert -- 4 pm**

**Sunday, March 4**        **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Choir Festival – 4 pm**  
(at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church)

**Sunday, March 11**      **Belle Canto Singers – 4 pm**

**Wednesday, March 21**   **Music Gettysburg – 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, April 22**        **Doug Renfroe Concert – 4 pm**



## National Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony



On December 10, 2011, the laying of fresh 22" wreaths will be happening at many National Cemeteries around the country as part of Wreaths Across America. This new tradition was started in 1992 and is growing yearly across the country. The goal is to have a fresh wreath laid on the graves of our veterans in every National Cemetery annually.

This year, through The Sarasota Military Academy, Lou Rippo and Tom Fuorry coordinated St. Armands Key Lutheran Church donations for the purchase of wreaths for the Sarasota National Cemetery. For two weeks during May and October, donations were accepted. 109 wreaths, totaling \$1,635 were purchased. Thanks to Lou and Tom for their commitment to this program and thanks to all who contributed to the purchase of wreaths!

On December 10 at 11:30 at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72 (Clark Rd. east of the Interstate) there will be a ceremony and then the laying of the wreaths on the graves will be done by youth from the Sarasota Military Academy. All are welcome to attend this event.

From the website: WreathsAcrossAmerica.org, Pierre Claeysens a famous philanthropist who lived in California said: "To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst that can happen... to be forgotten is the worst."



## Companion Synod Updates

Submitted by Lynn Blackledge

### Suriname

Martin Luther Church in Paramaribo, Suriname celebrated their 250th year in mid-November. Continued progress is being made on the new church in Lelydorp. An event will be held in December at the church and pictures will be posted on the bulletin board display as soon as we receive them.

### Haiti

I recently attended a meeting held at the Florida-Bahamas Synod office with Pastor Levinson and others in attendance. Here is an update of the current state of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and the community.

There continues to be progress in the battle against cholera. The church supported by the ELCA Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief targeted the communities where church members lived with further education and medicine for cholera. Through this mobilization to have the Haiti people treat themselves, cholera is under control. Partnering and networking with other organizations in Haiti, the necessary changes to the local water and sewage systems are also underway. This work has excited the people to want to become a part of the Lutheran church community in Haiti. Pastor Levinson says "Hope is really good in Haiti."

The disaster work has focused on projects that will help the people repair and rebuild their lives for the longer term. These projects have included a vocational school, providing chickens, sheep and soon establishing dairies. The school is complete and classes are underway for training of mechanics to repair motor vehicles. Caterpillar is the partner with the vocational center to provide training along with a community college in Iowa. The chickens are laying eggs that are now being sold in the local markets. This provides the income for the families to rebuild their lives and in the longer term will help in providing support. The future is to provide cows to families as another source of food, income and support. There are many other independent disaster support organizations in

Haiti helping the country rebuild alongside the Lutheran disaster organizations and are all working with the various government departments (e.g., Minister of Agriculture is very involved with the chicken and dairy projects.) The ELH is working on membership into the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance. ACT is an alliance of 125 churches and church-related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development.

While the disaster workers will be there until 2013, the leaders of the church in Haiti are focusing on growing the church community and preparing to build the church. Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice is providing funds to purchase the land for a new church located between Marigot and Peredo. The FB Synod has some funds designated for a building project that is not considered a disaster relief project and will release the funds once the plans for the new church have been submitted.

The goal is for Haitian people to be engaged in activities themselves that are needed to rebuild their country and church. Mission trips to Haiti will be planned in 2012 with the objective to share knowledge and experience. For example, deacon training is needed and plans are underway for a USA team to go to Haiti to assist with the training. Also, there are plans for a Haiti immersion event in the fall of 2012 for people in this country who are interested in working with the church in Haiti. This event will offer the opportunity to "walk along side" the Haiti pastors and listen and learn about their lives and the church and people's needs. Pastor Levinson says, "We do not need people to come to Haiti to move rocks. We need people to come to know the people and share with the people."

While many people would like to go to Haiti on a mission trip, the limitations are still there for housing, transportation and church leader's time. This will be improving over the next year with some new housing and a new truck made possible through generous donations to Together in Mission. Pastor Winemiller of Faith Lutheran working with a local Sarasota Doctor's organization is involved in a medical trip in February each year for the past 6 years. This year, this group will be partnering with the Lutheran Church in Haiti instead of the previous organizations in Haiti to offer their medical services.

The Florida-Bahamas Synod will be offering some Global Mission Training sometime in 2012. If you are interested in learning more about the mission work in Suriname or Haiti, contact Pastor Mark Bernthal.

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From a recent "God Pause" daily devotion written by Paul Settergren

It is a positive experience for our congregation to partner with another, whether nearby or far away. It gives us a clear sense of being a part of something bigger than ourselves—what Paul calls, "the body of Christ."

*Lord, we pray for the whole body of Christ. We pray especially for those persons and congregations with whom we partner in ministry. Amen.*





## LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY ...

At the October Board of Trustees meeting at LTSS, President Marcus Miller announced that he would retire from his position as President of the Seminary. President Miller has been leading the seminary since 2006. Miller plans to work through August of 2012.

Under President Miller's leadership, the Seminary has experienced a deepening in mission and is positioned at the leading edge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century theological education in the United States. Miller also led the Seminary in its new partnership still under development with Lenior-Rhyne University a Lutheran University located in Hickory, NC. Miller stated that, "It's time for the Seminary to have new leadership with a different set of gifts, and it is time for me to move to a new chapter in life." We thank him for his service at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and wish him God's blessings in "his new chapter of life."

Arthur Kuh, Trustee

If you have any questions about the SAKLC Foundation, you can contact any one of the Foundation Board Members: Dick Carlson, Chair., Jack Bill, Mickey Brunke, Audrey Ganzel, Don Geyer, Art Kuh, Keith Leeseberg, Lynette Salheiser, Bob Stobaugh, Denise Watermeier.

**Together ... we can do more... forever!**



**KEYNOTES is available on our Website**  
**[www.starmandschurch.com](http://www.starmandschurch.com)**

Just click on the "Keynotes" icon on the left side of the home page to read the monthly newsletter on the church's website. Remember to refresh your computer if you are not seeing the most current edition.

**You will also find us on FACEBOOK.com**

For information contact:

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<http://www.starmandschurch.com>

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# Merry Christmas!

## About St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

Located at the entrance to the St. Armands Circle in Sarasota, the mission of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church is to celebrate God's love, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and grow in faith and service. A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the congregation is part of one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with approximately 4.5 million members in more than 10,000 congregations. Under the banner of "God's work. Our hands," St. Armands Key joins the entire ELCA in emphasizing the saving grace for God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians, and service in the world.

## ~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

**SAKLC is a family of Christians**

**Celebrating God's love**

**Growing together in Jesus Christ**

**Sharing this love and faith with the  
community and the world.**