



## January E-News from LSSN



While February 6<sup>th</sup> is often a time for football fans to celebrate, area congregations and schools are taking the opportunity to join LSSN in celebrating Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. The Souper Bowl is a national drive to equip and mobilize congregations, schools, and businesses to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. LSSN's food pantry has been a recipient of local Souper Bowl donations for many years, and this year is no exception for such congregations as The Lakes Lutheran Church, New Song Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Lamb of God Lutheran Church, and the Mountain View Lutheran School.

If you are available to join with one of our many partners for this event, we thank you for remembering the needy during the Big Game. Congregations are also encouraged to report their participation at <http://www.souperbowl.org/> so that we can list and thank them properly!

Furthermore, the Board of Directors for the Southern Nevada Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is encouraging congregations to obtain matching funds for their drives this year! For every \$3 collected, Thrivent will provide an additional \$1 to support LSSN's ministries. Registration is simple, but must be done before the Thrivent board meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact LSSN's Tom Maatta at 702-807-5707 or [Thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:Thomas@lssnv.org) to obtain the necessary forms, for help with registration, or to answer any questions. Thank you so much for your support of our ministries!

## Holiday Wrap-Up



LSSN was once again proud to host our Adopt-A-Family holiday program, providing toys for many local children in need, along with gift cards for local seniors, to help enjoy the holiday. Final numbers are still being tabulated and will be reported next month.

We would like to offer our thanks to the following organizations, whose hard work helped make a real difference:

Students at Faith Lutheran High School banded together to collect over 7,213 pounds of food right before Thanksgiving to support LSSN's ministries!

The Stonegate and Safari Apartments started a new food drive, chipping in 556 pounds. In addition, Mt. View Lutheran School collected 264 pounds of food. Goodwill contributed 1,160 pounds, while the Postal Service contributed 500 pounds.

Thanks also to our congregational partners, such as New Song Lutheran with 2,647 pounds, Green Valley Lutheran with 1,233 pounds, Grace Lutheran with 1,181 pounds, Christ the Servant with 940 pounds, The Lakes with 889 pounds, and Shepherd of the Hills with 591 pounds.

Special thanks also to the Nebraskans (alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska) and the Nevada Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, for providing food baskets during the holiday season.

All your help made for a wonderful holiday for many, many people in need.

## Lutherans Really Do Have Talent!



After showing us how drums are supposed to be played, Jon Peterson was declared the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Las Vegas Lutherans Got Talent show!

The first annual Las Vegas Lutherans Got Talent...from God show was a resounding success, as thirteen acts provided a most entertaining evening for hundreds of approving fans.

### Performances included:

O Holy Night – LSSN's Tom Maatta  
Noah Found Grace – Christ Lutheran Puppets  
Silent Night – Christ Lutheran's Barbara Dudman  
Drum Solo – Jon Peterson  
Gospel Quartet – Lamb of God and St. Andrew's Members  
Kings Crown – Good Samaritan Lutheran Church  
Magic – Holy Spirit's Stuart Beck  
Amazing Grace – Christ's James Hunt  
What's So Funny – Good Samaritan's Pat and Sondra Panknin  
O What a Beautiful Morning – Christ's John Smith  
Sweet Little Jesus Boy – Christ's Lourdes Olsen  
The Christmas Song – St. Andrew's Pastor Phil Shuart  
Your Love, O Lord – Christ's Solid Ground

The event raised over \$1,800 to support the ministries of LSSN.

LSSN would like to offer its thanks to everyone who performed, all those who were kind enough to volunteer their time to make the event run so smoothly – especially MC and Event Coordinator Brian Comeno, the wonderful cooks of Christ Lutheran, and everyone that turned out to enjoy the event.

**Let's thrive:**  **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**

LSSN would especially like to thank the Southern Nevada Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, who provided matching funds to further support our ministries in the community!



These fans were also treated to a wonderful lasagna dinner, graciously prepared by the folks of Christ Lutheran Church.



Pastor Tom does a quick last-minute rehearsal before his opening act.



Solid Ground wrapped up Sunday night's performance.



Our judges had their work cut out for them.

More event pictures are available on LSSN's Facebook page at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lutheran-Social-Services-of-Nevada/117275164979836?ref=ts>

## Local Kiwanis Hold Special Christmas Luncheon



Reflecting the true spirit of the season, local Kiwanis members hosted a special luncheon (with a very special guest), providing a meal and presents for all of LSSN's Supportive Housing families. We would like to thank them for their thoughtfulness in helping to make Christmas special for all of these children.

## ELCA University Choir Coming to Las Vegas



On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, the 50-person Grand View University Choir from Des Moines, led by Dr. Kathryn Pohlmann Duffy, will be performing at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church to raise funds for LSSN. They have generously offered to add us as a part of their West Coast Tour.

The Grand View Choir performs for major college events, including Julefest, Honors Convocation, and Baccalaureate, and tours each year during spring break. In recent years the Choir has toured to Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Minnesota, Wisconsin, Canada, Denmark, and Germany. It made its first overseas tour in 2005 and returned to Europe to tour in 2009. Grand View University was founded in 1896 by Danish immigrants and is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The Grand View Choir members contribute a vibrant energy to the campus community by sharing their musical gifts at celebrations, worship services and campus gatherings throughout the academic year. Students of all majors are encouraged to audition for the Grand View Choir. In addition to enhancing many campus and community events with their music and ministry, Choir members annually travel during a spring concert tour. In past years, the Choir has been honored to sing in Carnegie Hall and also for the presentation of the World Food Prize.

Recent tours have taken them to Texas, Louisiana, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina, New Mexico, South Carolina and Georgia, in addition to states closer to home. In 2005, the Choir made its first international trip with a tour to Denmark and Germany, and returned for a second international tour last year.

It promises to be a spectacular show, and we hope that you can join us!

## Save the Date!



LSSN is planning a “thank-you” recognition event for all our volunteers on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Gardens Community Center in Summerlin, located at 10401 Garden Park Drive.

This event will feature hors d’ouerves, beverages, a pictorial history of LSSN’s volunteers, special awards, music courtesy of local DJ Ephraim Gonzales, and free professional pictures.

To help relieve all the accumulated stress of your hard work, students from the massage program at Everest College will be providing free chair massages for the entirety of the event!

If you’ve helped out at LSSN during the past year, please RSVP to Tom Maatta at [Thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:Thomas@lssnv.org) or 702-639-1730 no later than January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We hope that you’ll be able to join us!

## Thrivent Choice Donations Lead Valley - \$84,000 still remains!



To date, LSSN has received over \$2,000.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> and the Southern Nevada Chapter of Thrivent has informed us that LSSN has received more funds than any other organization in our area. This wouldn't have been possible with your help. Thank you so much!

The Chapter has also informed us that local benefit members still have over \$84,000 in their accounts available to be donated! If these funds are not distributed by March, they disappear and are replaced with next year's. If you think you might have funds, please give us a call and we'd be happy to help. If you think a friend might have funds available, please refer them to us. Don't let these funds go to waste!

As always, LSSN is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who is eligible to direct Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider LSSN as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. To do so, log in at <https://choice.thrivent.com> and follow the prompts, or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and at the prompt, say "Thrivent Choice". If you'd like to make your contributions even more convenient, you can even choose to automatically send Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> to LSSN every month using this option!

If you have any questions or encounter any issues with your direction, LSSN Development Director Tom Maatta will be happy to help. He can be reached at 702-807-5707 or [thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:thomas@lssnv.org).



Looking for more convenience in your donations?

LSSN now offers the capability for donors to set up regular automated deductions from their checking or savings accounts to support our ministries in the community through Thrivent's Simply Giving Program. All that you have to do is fill out a simple form and provide a voided check to LSSN, and we can take care of all the details. This form is available at <http://www.lssnv.org/donate.php>.

Would you like to join us in expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for those in need?

Food donations are collected at many congregations or may be delivered to LSSN.

Financial contributions may be mailed to LSSN, PO Box 2079, Las Vegas, NV 89125.

Online secure donations can also be made at [https://www.lssnv.org/secure\\_donate.php](https://www.lssnv.org/secure_donate.php).

Thank you for your support!

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Please note that Derrick Felder is the contact for food pick-up scheduling.  
He can be reached at [derrick@lssnv.org](mailto:derrick@lssnv.org) or 702-639-1730.

As the “chilly” weather begins, our January theme is “Comfort Foods of Winter”. Suggested items include canned chilis, soups, and stews, along with cornbread and muffin mixes.

Sharing the love of St. Valentine, our congregational monthly food donation theme for February is “Gifts from the Heart.” Suggested food items for the month are boxed foods, such as mashed potatoes, rice, stuffing, macaroni & cheese, Jell-O & pudding mixes, cereals, instant soups, and Hamburger or Tuna Helper.

Looking forward to St. Patrick’s Day, our theme for March will be “The I(s) of March”, focusing on Italian and Irish dishes. Suggested food items will include potatoes (fresh, boxed, or canned), corned beef, canned hash, mixed veggies, canned carrots, and any non-perishable Italian food items (such as pasta, sauce, Italian green beans, and cannellini beans).

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“Expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for people in need.”

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