

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open Houses Scheduled in July for New Church Building at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church

ASHBURN, VA - July 3: After two years of construction, the new church building for Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn is complete. The congregation will celebrate the first service in the new building on Sunday, July 6. The church is now open to serve the Ashburn community and there are three open houses that will be held on Saturday, July 19th, 26th and Saturday, August 23rd. The open houses will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and members of the congregation will be on hand to give tours and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Construction began in June 2006 on this 36,000 square foot building which will contain seating for 450 in the sanctuary. The new building will also have 11 classrooms, one library, three youth/game/study rooms, two kitchens and a large fellowship area on the lower level. The current church building, at 17,000 square feet, was completed in 1999 and includes 11 classrooms which are used by Open Arms Christian Child Development Center. The additional classrooms in the new building will provide the opportunity to almost double the amount of children able to enroll.

The new sanctuary will be able to seat over double the amount of people as the current building. "We had to add a third service a few years ago to accommodate the large number of people who were attending. Now we are at capacity at each service with every available classroom filled for Sunday school. It will be nice to be able to spread out and offer more classes and Bible studies to our members," says Pastor Bill Mann.

Members of the congregation have played an active role in the construction of the new church building. They were invited to buy bricks for a memorial walkway at the entrance to the church. The names of all the founding members of the congregation in addition to many verses of Scripture are included on the bricks. Before the drywall was installed, members wrote names and messages on the wooden beams throughout the building. "We are excited to see the progress of the building and can't wait to start holding services there," said Bill Pfancuff, director of outreach at Our Savior's Way.

The new building includes a large stained glass window depicting Jesus on Easter morning with the cross in the background. The window is filled with rich, vibrant colors; however, the face of Jesus is represented in clear glass to show that Jesus came for all people, no matter what their skin color or ethnic group. The altar and pulpit are made of American Red Oak with a top of white granite from India. The sanctuary will also have a state of the art multimedia experience with two rear projection screens and a modern sound system.

The first service of Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church was held on August 3, 1994. The 29 original members met in Pastor Mann's house in Ashburn for four months until December of 1994 when they expanded and began using the gym at Broad Run High School. They drew in more members quickly and by 1999 a new church was built in the Broadlands. Membership has grown steadily since then and there are over 300 families attending services on a regular basis.

"We are proud of this new building and the opportunities it presents to our members and the residents of Loudoun County. Not only will it allow us to increase the number of children we teach at Open Arms Christian Child Development Center, but it will also give us plenty of space to grow and provide more activities and outreach programs to the community," said Jim Sheehy, president of the Our Savior's Way congregation.

Our Savior's Way, along with the Open Arms Christian Child Development Center, has provided a caring atmosphere for the children of families in the Ashburn area for almost 10 years. Open Arms is open to children from 6 weeks to 12 years old and offers preschool, day care, before/after school care, and summer camp. They are located at the intersection of Waxpool Road and Claiborne Parkway (1 mile south of Exit 5 of the Greenway) and are currently expanding their facility to provide room for additional preschool, child care and community services

For more information: <http://www.oswlc.org>
Contact: Nancy-Jean Qualls
Phone: 571-436-8277
Email: njqualls@earthlink.net