

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dedication Service for New Church Building at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church scheduled for September 7th

ASHBURN, VA - August 25: Although the new church building is complete and the congregation celebrated the first service in the new building earlier this summer, the official dedication service will be held on Sunday, September 7th. The community is invited to Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn at 2:30pm for a musical celebration including the Master Singers of Virginia. The official service will begin at 3:00pm with a reception following from 4:00 - 6:30pm to celebrate the heritage, traditions and food of the many people God has brought together to form this congregation. Light dinner fare will be served and children's activities, including a moonbounce and scavenger hunt, will be available during the reception.

One of the themes of the dedication service will be the community of people that make up the congregation of 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.

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 previous 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 can seat over double the amount of people as the previous 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 that our new sanctuary and classrooms are completed so that we can have additional space for the community and the congregation to come together like the AppleFest on September 27," said Bill Pfancuff, director of outreach at Our Savior's Way.

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

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