



The VOICE of Our Savior

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

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DECEMBER 2007



Pastor's Message

It's Monday afternoon and I'm sitting in the airport in Columbus, waiting for Debby's plane to arrive from Chicago's Midway Airport after her visit to see Megan and Stephen, who are working over Thanksgiving and won't be home for the holiday. Actually, I'm waiting for Debby to call and let me know that she is boarding her plane, since Chicago is socked in with fog! It's already two hours beyond the time of her scheduled arrival. So, I've taken to waiting. Fortunately, I've brought things to do, anticipating a plane delay.

"Waiting" is one of the themes of the season of Advent, the first season in the new church year which begins on December 2. The season is about waiting for the final coming of Christ, as well as waiting to celebrate, again, that first arrival of God in the flesh. But we are called to be anything but passive in our waiting, for there are things to do. It's called LIVING! Allow me to suggest a few things to do in our waiting during Advent:

- "Be still" and know that God is God, and you aren't, but you are a child of God (psalm 46); carve out some time each day to spend with God in prayer and reading God's Word.
- Expect to be changed by God in your life, and be open to the adventure on which only

God can lead you. Understand that if your life is dull, that is your doing; faithfully following God is never staid!

- Expect to see the Christ child in everyone you meet – and then act accordingly!
- Continue to share the gifts you have from God to make someone else's life better and more meaningful.

Gotta go. No plane yet, but another person in a wheelchair is stuck in the elevator close to where I'm sitting and needs help getting out. Makes the waiting so much more enjoyable!

In Christ's peace,
Gary

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WORSHIP NOTES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Sunday, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

WORSHIP THEMES

First Sunday of Advent (December 2)

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Second Sunday of Advent (December 9)

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Third Sunday of Advent (December 16)

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 23)

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

First Sunday of Christmas (December 30)

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Council Update

You have met the challenge!! The LCOS congregation answered the challenge to raise \$5,000 for **matching dollars**, by donating \$5,800, for support of Lutheran World Federation, Jeremiah's Letter, and HVAC project. Nice work!

HVAC project pledges collected to date are \$187,008, and \$117,008 has been collected; phase one of the project is nearing completion and the final phase is slated to be completed in February of 2008. It appears that our outstanding loans will approximate \$460,000 to \$470,000 at the time of completion.

Property committee has contracted with two contractors (BeauVerre and Mr. John Pater) for **window restoration**, for some of the church windows in the worst condition.

The following have been nominated to serve on Council:

Chris Becker, for 2008 and 2009

Nancy Henry, for 2008-2010

Michelle Jackson Hahn, for 2008-2010

Sonia Davila, for 2008-2010

Wes Boord, for 2008-2010

The election of new Council members is scheduled for the December 9 Congregational Meeting.

The "**ADVENTure Awaiting Festival**" will be held immediately following this December 9 Congregational Meeting, and the youth will prepare food. There will also be an Advent/Christmas workshop for children and a silent auction to raise money for the Adopt-a-Family Program.

Leadership Retreat for Council Members is scheduled for the morning of January 12, 2008.

Evangelism Committee is planning a social event "**Hearts for the Lord's Will**," on January 27, 2008, so mark your calendar for this event.

Budget process is underway at LCOS, and we are preparing a budget for 2008 to present at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting**, complete with lunch, after second worship service, is scheduled for Sunday, February 3, 2008.

Christian Education Committee is **looking for a lead person for organizing Vacation Bible School for 2008.**

Your Council Chair,
Steve Swedlund

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE UPDATE

Now that the year is quickly coming to an end, I want to thank all the members who contributed to the campaign this year. I feel it has been a great success. We had about 47% of our members contribute to the campaign. We have raised \$182,008 in donations and pledges. We have received \$117,208 of that money so far this year. As a member of council, we are finalizing the budget for next year. This process reminds me we still have a long way to go on this campaign. I encourage the remaining members to consider a year-end donation or to start a pledge for 2008.

Doug Hammer



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Get your advent calendars! Open one window each day as you prepare for celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Calendars are available through your Sunday School class and a few extras for adults are available in the narthex.

Specials

December 23, pageant rehearsal

December 30, *All Ages* join in the fun of discovering interesting trivia and facts about the Christmas story through tasty treats.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS



- Sunday, December 2
11:50 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Passing out parts to everyone and PIZZA LUNCH
- Friday, December 7
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (for those with lines)
SNACKS provided
- Saturday, December 15
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
All involved in pageant rehearse
- Sunday, December 23
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
All involved in pageant
- Monday, December 24
Call times: 3:00 p.m., those with lines and actions
3:30 p.m., youngest angels and shepherds
Worship at 4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Sarah Anstaett (299-3267), Miss Rachel (293-1147) or Mrs. Davila (299-6269) if you plan to assist in anyway with

the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Ways YOU can help: acolyte, book bearer, crucifer, usher, create set, have lines and/or actions, sing, play chimes, play your instrument, etc.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008

Are we talking about this already?

Yes! We are beginning to plan for VBS 2008 in December, during Advent! The Christian Education team works ahead every year to prepare our Vacation Bible School. This planning is part of what makes our congregation's VBS so meaningful to all those who lead and participate. *Please take time during Advent to prayerfully consider being part of the lead team for VBS.* All you need to do this work for God's people is a passion for Christ, the joy of working with others, and some basic organizational skills. If you are interested, please tell one of the Christian Education Committee members: Linda Welin, Jan Swedlund, Shirley Coen, Che Brewer-Coon, Sharon Griffy and Rachel Spry.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Rev. Gary Eichhorn, *Pastor*
Terri Balsom, *Office Manager*
Don Hartman, *Treasurer*
Donna Gorrell, *Financial Secretary*
Ginger Minneman, *Music Director*
Rachel Spry, *Family Ministries Coordinator, Organist*
Celeste Hoerner, *Youth Ministry Coordinator, Children's Choir*
Elizabeth Beal, *Sonshine Choir*
Richard Freudenberger, *Handbell Choir*
Steve Swedlund, *Council President*
Rev. Robert A. Willauer, *Pastor Emeritus*

Youth Group News



For the last several months we have been debating about where to go on next summer's mission trip. After a great deal of debate and research, the youth group has determined that the destination in July will be the Dominican Republic. We will be working at an orphanage there which serves 156 children between the ages of newborn and 17. The orphanage is run by a non-profit agent Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Friends of the Orphans.) Their website can be visited at www.friendsoftheorphans.org

This is the most ambitious trip we have ever undertaken and we are confident that the congregation of LCOS is going to be as excited and supportive of our going as we are about the opportunity. We are planning some unique and fun fund-raising events about which you will be hearing in the future. If you are a senior high youth and are interested in going on the trip, it is important that you attend our next lunch meeting or contact me to express your interest and get the information.

In the month of **December** we are excited to be preparing the food for the annual **Adventure Awaiting** event. Every time we cook for the congregation we seem to get a little better, so we know you are going to enjoy the hors d'oeuvres and desserts and

coffee that day. The proceeds from the donations will go towards our trip fund.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- December 7 - Spiritual Journey
- December 9 - Adventure Awaiting
- December 16 - Youth lunch meeting
- December 21 - Spiritual Journey
- December 22 - Adopt-A-Family delivery



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Holy Terrors are hosting an all-church Christmas caroling outing on Saturday, **December 8** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. We will visit LCOS members who are not able to attend services but would love to hear some favorite hymns and Christmas songs!

Singing may not seem very important, but it is a wonderful gift to our members who are ill or home-bound. This event is open to everyone at LCOS and we invite you to share the joy of music as part of your Advent preparations. Join us afterwards at Graeters for desert and the good feeling that comes from service to others.



LCOS children need You! We are currently seeking a volunteer coordinator for 2008.

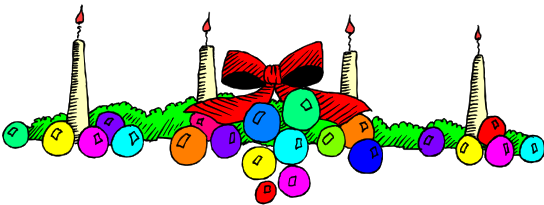
ADVENTure Awaiting

Sunday

DECEMBER 9

in the fellowship hall
immediately following the
congregational meeting

- Food prepared by our youth
- An Advent/Christmas craft workshop for children
- Silent Auction to raise money for our Adopt-A-Family program



A very Blessed Christmas
to You and Your Family
from the staff.



to YOU!

SAVE THE DATE


SUNDAY,
JANUARY 27,
2008

to Celebrate ALL
Congregation
Members' Birthdays

We will celebrate everyones birthday with a covered dish dinner, fellowship and some fun games. Mark your calendars now for this special event.



DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 11:50 a.m. Pageant lunch and rehearsal. 5:00 p.m. Confirmation	3 7:00 a.m. AA	4 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 11:30 a.m. Circle - NCR Country Club 3:30 p.m. Staff	5 7:00 a.m. AA 9:30 a.m. Sewing 7:30 p.m. Social Ministry at Dawsons	6 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	7 6:30 p.m. Pageant rehearsal 10:00 p.m. Spiritual Journey	1 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 5:30 p.m. Worship 8 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 1:00 p.m. HT caroling 5:30 p.m. Worship
9 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Cong. meeting Adventure Awaiting 6:30 p.m. Bridge Group	10 7:00 a.m. AA 4:30 p.m. Health Ministry 7:00 p.m. Exec Board	11 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 7:30 p.m. Christian Ed	12 7:00 a.m. AA 10:00 a.m. Circle - Meckstroth	13 9:30 a.m. Chorus 11:30 a.m. JOY Group lunch at NCR 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	14 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship	15 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
16 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 12:00 p.m. Youth lunch 3:00 p.m. Musica concert	17 7:00 a.m. AA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 p.m. Council	18 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 3:30 p.m. Staff	19 7:00 a.m. AA 6:30 p.m. Circle - Lewis	20 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	21 2:00 p.m. Bethany Communion 10:00 p.m. Spiritual Journey	22 Adopt-A-Family delivery 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
23 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Sacred Harp	24 7:00 a.m. AA Office close at noon 3:00 p.m. Pageant call time 4:00 p.m. Worship 10:00 p.m. Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 a.m. AA	27 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	28	29 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
30 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship	31 7:00 a.m. AA					

Welca News

Women Enthusiastically Living Christian Actions

Advent ... the time for preparation and reflection as we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth.

Church Women United will have their annual Christmas Tea on Monday, December 3 at Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church, 1501 W. Third St. at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in going, call Carolyn Haman, 845-8766. She is our key woman and invites all women to experience meeting other women from other denominations, as well as seeing other places of worship.

Sunday, December 9, following the congregational meeting, ALL are urged to stay to begin our ADVENT journey to Christmas. There will be food, crafts to make and a silent auction. Sounds like family fun to me.

Pastor Eichhorn visited each of our small groups as we met in November. As you know, he is an excellent storyteller of wonderful stories. Interesting is not an adequate word to describe the stories he told us, but he summed it up with this suggestion: listen to the stories of your parents, grandparents, other relatives, don't just listen, but hear what they are saying and write it down! Then you will know more about your ancestors and you can pass it on to the next generation. Keeping a journal is a priceless gift you give yourself and others. Pastor Eichhorn also gave us resources that we can use to guide us in writing for future generations.

ADVENT ... the marvelous story is told!
Read it, listen to it, tell it, write it down ...
the Christmas story!

Have a blessed Christmas.

Shirley Coen

DECEMBER GROUP MEETINGS

- Monday group is meeting on Tuesday, December 4 at the NCR Country Club for their Christmas luncheon.
- Wednesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Wilma Meckstroth's, 2142 E. Rahn Rd. for Christmas brunch.
- Wednesday, December 19, evening - Wendy Lewis.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating the day the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of our children, youth and adults through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please take time to say a prayer of thanks and continued spiritual growth for these and all our members. You may also give a word of encouragement to the youth listed. Were you baptized in December but don't see your name listed? Please contact Rachel Spry and let her know.

- Christopher Turner
December 25



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, November 25, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Emily Kathryn Bryant**. Emily is the daughter of Amy and Scott Bryant. Welcome to our community of faith, Emily!

Foundation News

As the calendar year comes to a close and we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we reflect on the blessings that we have enjoyed this year and promise to share them whenever possible.

We are in the midst of a very important project to replace the HVAC system within our beautiful facility, and that project is moving on nicely. Monies are still needed, though, as well as the fact that we have been challenged by a member family to donate toward the HVAC project and that family will match our gifts, as well as donate to other projects.

For those who can still do more, please don't forget The Foundation. Roger Bloomfield reminds us that there is a special opportunity available for those who are over age 70 1/2 and who have IRA funds that could be given. Until December 31, 2007, one who is qualified may make a gift from her/his IRA directly to the Church and have that gift amount excluded from federal income tax and Ohio income tax. There is no charitable deduction, but by excluding the amount from income, that is equivalent to a 100% charitable deduction. The gift transfer can qualify as all or part of the Required Minimum Distribution. It may be used for annual support to satisfy your pledge, to fulfill an HVAC campaign pledge, or to create an endowment fund. Your funds must be transferred directly to the Church from your IRA custodian to qualify.

CAUTION: The IRS restricts this opportunity to contributions to charities that are not classified as supporting

foundations because it has identified some supporting foundations as being linked to terrorist activities. However, gifts to the Church are qualified, and the Church may make a transfer to its foundation for management, etc. as it usually does with bequests, etc.

Please contact the church office for additional assistance if you wish to make an IRA gift or contact Roger Bloomfield at 1-888-438-5610.

Thank you for your support of the Foundation!

*Pam Stephens, Chair
The Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Foundation Board*

Joy Group

DECEMBER EVENT

The JOY Group of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior will gather for a Christmas buffet luncheon at the **NCR Country Club** on **Thursday, December 13** at 11:30 a.m. Cost of the luncheon is \$20.00 per person. A sign up sheet is in the narthex. Reservations must be in by **Friday, December 7**. For more information, or if you need transportation please contact Bob or Wilma Meckstroth at 434-5033.



**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 17**

Stewardship

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OPERATING FUND STATUS

October 2007

Offerings (against budget):	\$28,520.12
Foundation (against budget):	0
Other collections (non-budget):	
Social Ministry:	461.00
Memorials:	25.00
HVAC Project:	2,442.07
HVAC matching challenge	270.00
Special Projects:	78.15
Expenses:	\$40,733.64
(Receipts - Expenses)	-\$12,213.52

2007 Totals (as of 11/16/07)

YTD collections (against budget):	\$294,718.69
Foundation (against budget):	\$116,385.32
YTD non-budget collections:	
Social Ministry:	8,851.07
Memorials:	280.00
HVAC Project income ('06&'07):	137,874.14
HVAC matching challenge	4,195.00
Special Projects:	4,339.94
YTD Expenses:	\$410,740.93
YTD Balance (rcpts-expenses):	\$ 363.18
HVAC expenses ('06 & '07):	\$361,416.06
Current HVAC Loan	\$235,000.00

Submitted by Don Hartman

FREE CONFIDENTIAL BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Blood Pressure screenings are offered the second weekend of each month. The next screenings will take place on December 15-16 after all the worship services.



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

TOY SAFETY

There are millions of toys out there and December is a month when many of us are purchasing new ones. Here are some general guidelines to keep in mind when toy shopping:

- Toys made of fabric should be labeled as flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Stuffed toys should be washable.
- Painted toys should be covered with lead-free paint.
- Art materials should say nontoxic.
- Crayons and paints should say ASTM D-4236 on the package, meaning they've been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

Steer clear of older toys. They may not meet current safety standards and may be so worn from play that they can break and become hazardous.

Make sure a toy isn't too loud for your child. The noise of some rattles, squeak toys, and musical or electronic toys can contribute to hearing damage.

Choking is a big risk in the early years. For children 3 and under, consider buying a small-parts tester, or choke tube. If an object fits inside the tube, it's too small for a young child.

Always read labels to make sure a toy is appropriate for a child's age. There are guidelines published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to help you make those decisions. Also use your own best judgment and consider your

(Continued on page 12)

Remember in Prayer

When we pray for others, we lift them to God, seeking God's grace and blessing in their individual situations. When we ask others to pray for us, we honor them with our trust.

MEMBERS

Judy Ault
Dorothy Belleman
Don Cox
Edith Ellis
Mary Ellen Granger

Bryan Griffin
Bob Haman
Florence Houpt
Anson & Finley McFarland
Loren Metzler

Hema Rajaratnam
Marion Schaefer
Thelma Snyder
Jack & Wilma Somers
Dorothy Zinkiewicz

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Colte Acord, friend of Celeste and Brian Hoerner
Mark Balsom, Terri's brother-in-law
Charlotte Bloomfield, Roger's mother
Karen Brunn, co-worker of Steve Harper
Dennis Clemenson, Andriena Erickson's father
Barbie Conlin, Laurie Harper's sister
Nelda Davis, Jackie Dawson's cousin
Julian Dawson, Greg's brother
Lendl Doty, friend of the congregation
Dick Elsberry, brother-in-law of Ron Iverson
Epiphany Lutheran Church at Springboro, our prayer partners
Cindy Greene, Jan Swedlund's sister
Morgan Gross, Lee and Sandy Scamp's son-in-law
Caelan Guthrie, Cap and Nancy Phillip's grandson
Kamal Hanna, Phil's father
Zachary Hutchinson, Lynn Wirtanen's nephew
Sarah McClure, friend of Rita Boord
Carl Nandrasy, Scott's father
Tammy O'Leary, Rita Boord's cousin
Kathy Owens and family, co-worker of Kim Buechele
Bevy Jo Parker, co-worker of Kim Buechele
Laurie Paynes, friend of Lois Smith
Rev. Terri Peterson, Confirmation pastor
Dixie Polen, Steve Harper's aunt
Gary Poteat, Eric Snead's uncle
Sandra Rose, friend of Lynn Wirtanen
Becky Stabler, Director of Lutheran Memorial Camp
Pauline Thorn, Johanna Snead's grandmother
Bill Thum, Mary Kaye Rhoades' brother
Pat Zent, friend of Mary Kaye Rhoades



Families of the Month:

- John, Kim, Stephanie, John and Chris Buechele
- Fred and Georgia Culbertson
- Allan, Nancy, James, Lauren and Ryan McFarland
- Bill, Heather, Lindsey and Dale Stager

Mission Statement

To foster a vibrant, visible community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

To continue to grow spiritually and physically as a community of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to make a difference in the larger community.



TOY SAFETY

(Continued from page 10)

child's temperament, habits and behavior whenever you buy a new toy.

Often we think that our child can handle toys meant for older kids. But the age levels for toys are determined by safety factors, not intelligence or maturity.

Once toys are at home, check them regularly to make sure that they aren't broken or unusable.

Finally, as you are out doing your Christmas shopping, be on the lookout for recently recalled toys and children's products. Before purchasing any gift, double-check to make sure that it does not pose a hazard. Visit the website of the CPSC at www.cpsc.gov, or call toll-free (800) 638-2772 to find out if it has been recalled.