

## FAQ's about the "C & O Challenge"

### **What is the "C & O Challenge"?**

On May 21, 2009, Fred Hedt, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Landover Hills, Maryland, will start in Cumberland, Maryland, and see how much of the 184.5 mile C & O Canal Trail he can ride in one day. He is seeking sponsors for this ride.



### **Why do it?**

Because we have a wonderful Day School that has served the educational and spiritual needs of children in our community since 1952. But to keep the doors open to all children, our scholarship program has grown beyond the ability of our congregation to fund it alone. The "C & O Challenge" is a fund raiser for our scholarship program.

### **Can you tell me more about Ascension Lutheran School?**

Of the 142 students enrolled in the 2008-2009 academic year, 46% are girls and 54% are boys. Many of our students have other first languages spoken at home including Spanish and several African dialects. Over a dozen different ethnicities are represented in our student body.

ALS provides sports and extracurricular activities for students including flag football, basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, student council, and spelling bee. Our 5th grade has produced an original opera each year for the past 9 years, in a program sponsored by the Washington National Opera. Our music program offers a Lambs Choir, Junior Choir, and Middle School Vocal Ensemble. Band is offered as an elective. We do many educational field trips which include the Smithsonian museums and programs at the Kennedy Center.



Ascension graduates are highly sought out by area secondary schools. Each year, many graduates are accepted into private schools such as Elizabeth Seton, DeMatha, and Bishop McNamara. A large number of our students also qualify for the special science and technology programs offered by a select group of public high schools such as Eleanor Roosevelt and C.H. Flowers. The excellent foundation in study skills which is emphasized at Ascension is well known and respected by the area high schools. During the past five years our 8<sup>TH</sup> grade graduating classes have scored an average grade equivalency of 11.1 on the CAT test, more than two years above the national average on this test.

The annual tuition and fees for one student for the current school year was only \$7,230. Even at this reasonable price, ALS still provided financial aid to 31% of its students, including grants of more than 50% of costs to 21 students this year. The total amount of scholarships awarded this school year was \$171,064.

### **Are my contributions tax deductible?**

All contributions to the "C & O Challenge" are made to "Ascension Lutheran Church" which owns and operates Ascension Lutheran School. These donations are 100% tax deductible.

**Visit Ascension School** at [www.ascensionschool.org](http://www.ascensionschool.org).