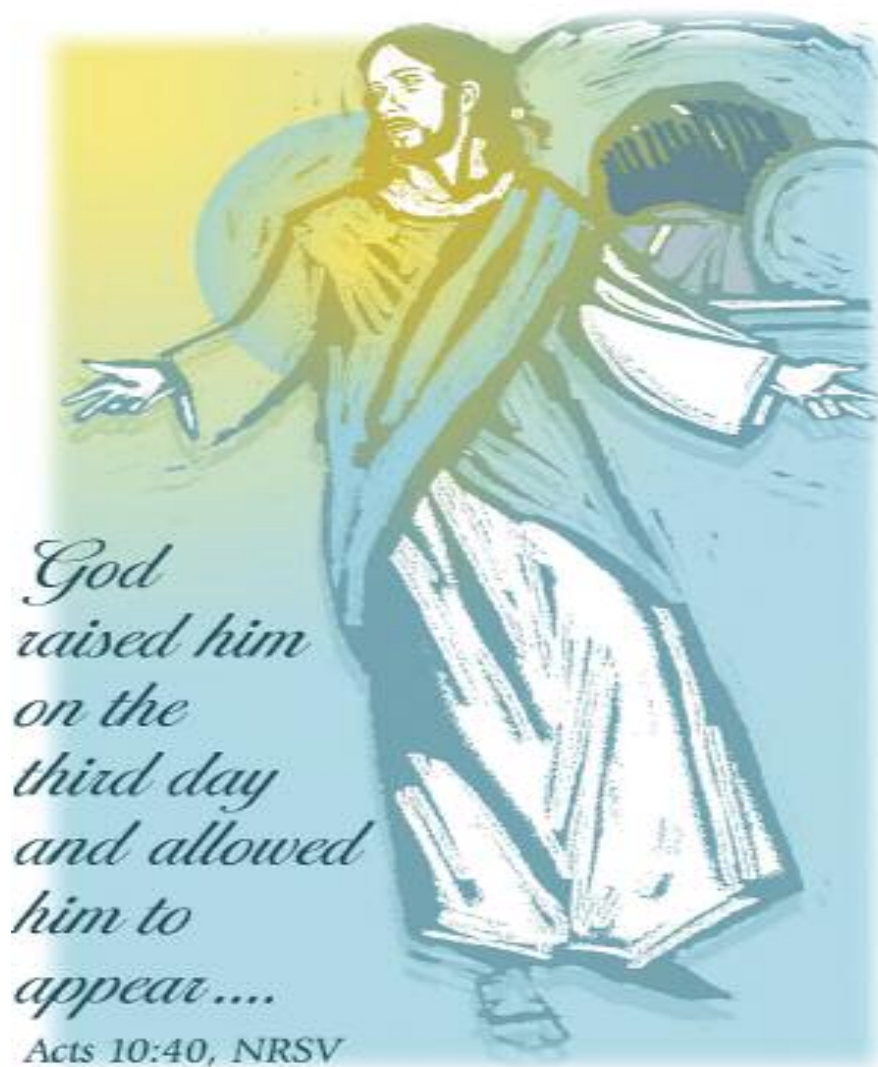


**April Church Newsletter from:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
8397 Piney Orchard Parkway
Odenton, MD 21113
410-672-3352
Rev. Scott MacDonald, Pastor**



Gospeltality

First
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Church

April
2009
Issue

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E-mail: churchoffice@felcodenton.org
Submit articles to Gospeltality
mailbox or e-mail
mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net

Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

Gospeltality is the
monthly newsletter
of First Evangelical
Lutheran Church of
Odenton, MD

FROM THE PASTOR

The Lord is alive!

We are coming to the close of the Lenten season in our church year. Having worshipped on Wednesdays during Lent we have taken a closer look at the timeless truths of our faith as found in the Catechism. We now approach Easter preparing to celebrate our Lord's life together! We begin to celebrate together during Holy Week.

We begin on Maundy Thursday, April 9th - at 7 PM with a service to commemorate and celebrate the Lord's gifts to us in the Lord's Supper. We then join together on Good Friday, April 10th - at 7 PM as we remember and celebrate Jesus Christ's death for us in the Tenebrae Service. (This service of reflection on our Lord's death is a dark service utilizing only a few candles and loud sounds to depict dramatic moments in the story.) Finally we will gather on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior! Our Easter service times are:

- 6:30 AM Sunrise Easter Communion Service - in the Sanctuary
- 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast - in the Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 AM Butterfly Celebration - in the Sanctuary. (A gathering for both the young and young at heart, celebrating Easter through music and puppetry.) (Easter Egg Hunt follows.)
- 11:00 AM Traditional Easter Communion Service - in the Sanctuary



Let us celebrate together. Our Lord is alive!



Pastor

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL **CHURCH PROPERTIES EMPHASIS MONTH**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3-6:30 PM, Middle School Egg Project and Movie Night | 12- Easter Sunday |
| 5-11-Holy Week -see service schedule above. | 18-8 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 11-6 PM Middle School Clean-Up | 19-9:45 AM, VBS Meeting |
| | 22-Administrative Professionals' Day |
| | 25-Church Properties Chore Day, 8 AM-Noon |

Too many people want to have Easter without Calvary.
by L. P. Jacks

WEEP NO MORE

In John 20:13-15 (NRSV), the same question is repeated twice. The angels ask Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 13). And then Jesus asks Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 15).



On Easter Sunday, perhaps it's still the question before us: "Why are we weeping?" Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?

Weep no more! Christ has risen!

VBS PLANNING MEETING

by Ursula Pinckney



I know that Spring has just begun and Easter is only around the corner, but it's not too soon to start thinking about Vacation Bible School! We need to have a meeting to plan the date as well as get an idea of who will be helping us out this year. We need teachers, group leaders, assistants, snack & craft people, etc. We will be using CPH materials and a similar set up of classes and schedules as in the past. We really want to be sure to have an adult class this year. So if you have helped us in the past, never helped before but want to, or don't know much about VBS and are wanting to get more involved at FELC then we are looking for you! Please

come to our first planning meeting and let us know how we can count on your help. We will be meeting on Sunday, April 19th, in the fellowship hall, during the Sunday School hour from 9:45 -10:15. If you are unable to make the meeting but would still like to help please let us know! You can contact Donna Van Dine at dvandine@cablespeed.com or myself at pinckreshi@aol.com. Hope to see you at the meeting!

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS—THE LILY

The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.



Many thanks to all who purchased lilies to decorate our altar for Easter.

PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES of March 9, 2009

Condensed from Jan Perez's minutes

- Old metal chairs to be phased out. Bruce Cole to look for caps to repair other chairs
- Church switching to Verizon with new phone numbers; will result in \$1000 savings annually.
- Expansion plans continuing and trying to stay within 5000 sq. ft. to keep costs down. Construction costs have gone down somewhat with the downturn in the economy.
- Front church door weatherstripped. Bids coming in for asbestos inspection and compliance with required asbestos abatement plan which may run to \$1800.
- Plans being made to extend afternoon preschool and upgrading materials. School closings and the repercussions were also discussed. Only 2 students signed up for next session.
- Doors to Fellowship Hall found unlocked.
- Old copier needs about a \$200 repair.
- We may have to wait to put up new sign out front (heavy equipment could damage).
- Dave Morse will check congregation's interest in attending Nationals/New York Mets

- game on June 7.
- "Cruise-In" (antique and muscle cars, street rods, etc.) considered for early Fall as expansion fundraiser. Ladies might be asked to have hot dog stand.
- Shilo Brewer and Lucas Witt are new youth group leaders. Youth to host Easter Breakfast.
- A small amount of recyclables is produced by our church.
- We are missing the key to the church boiler room.
- We now have a person to do the snow removal.

ALTAR FLOWERS

by Jean McHenry



We thank the following who signed up for flowers during April:

Early Service

- 12—Easter Flower Donors
- 19—Jim & Wanda Travis (both vases)

- 26—Nancy Ensey in memory of her mother Ruby Howard

Late Service

- 12 Easter Flower Donors
- 19—Susie Family in memory of Bill's mother Marie
—Graulings family for Lauren's birthday
- 26—

NEW CHURCH PHONE NUMBERS

Verizon has informed us that the new numbers are to be installed the week of 30 March. New numbers are:



MAIN LINE—410-672-3352
 PRESCHOOL—672-3357
 PASTOR—410-672-3358

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PRESCHOOL?

by Viia Erwin

Since Easter falls at the beginning of April this year, we'll spend the first two weeks of our Zoo Animal Month talking about and getting ready for the Easter holiday.

We'll have fun making pretty crafts and hearing interesting stories. We'll make Easter baskets and dye eggs in the hopes that someone, maybe a certain bunny, will fill them for us.

Then, on the 8th, we'll have an Easter egg hunt and a party and even see a video about Easter.

School will be closed from April 9 to the 13th. Liz, Diane and I wish everyone a very happy Easter.



After the holiday we'll turn our thoughts to lions, tigers, elephants and bears and all the other zoo animals we hope to see at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore when we visit there next month. We'll have fun making zoo animal masks and puppets, baking banana bread on gorilla and monkey day and seeing the video Koko's Kitten, the true story of a gorilla who learned to communicate with her handler through the use of American Sign Language. Partly because we are participating in Book It Beginners and partly because it's always been a fun and educational trip, both classes will visit the West County Area Library on

April 15th. I know we'll have a great time this year too.

The preschool is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the church office at 410-672-3352.

TEACH YOUR KIDS TO SHARE DAY— Baltimore's Port Discovery April 24
from Thrivent Financial—Virgil Gibson FIC (inquiries to 410-969-5925)

Every day, children receive messages about money and spending. From video games to movies, toys to music concerts—it can leave parents feeling overwhelmed. Now there's a way for parents to instill sensible money habits in their kids and have fun doing it. On the evening of April 24, families across the country will come together for a lively and interactive educational experience. Locally, this event will be held at Baltimore's Port Discovery Children's Museum from 5-9 PM.

Using innovative tools and techniques, Teach Your Kids to Share Day focuses on teaching kids a values-based approach to money management. Together, families will explore ways kids can share, save and spend; discuss the importance of being responsible with money; and build a financial foundation for children that will last a lifetime.



Families can look forward to dinner, activities and prizes, plus educational materials to take home. Parents will gain a better understanding of why it's important to teach kids about financial principles. Kids will learn how even small decisions regarding money can make a big difference.

Teach Your Kids to Share Day is open to adults (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) and children ages 6–10. Cost is only \$10 per family. You do not have to be a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. No products or services will be sold.

To register, please visit Thrivent.com/shareday or call 1-800-236-3736.

OUR CHOIR IS IN NEED OF HELP!!

by Peggy Stubbe



Please be willing to help in our worship service by singing in the choir. During the Lenten season we meet after church on Wednesday and practice until 9:00 PM. We need more voices especially for the upcoming Easter celebration. The music is not hard to sing and while we work hard to get it right, we still have fun singing together!

BREAST CANCER WALK

from Sally Martin

Sally's co-worker, Heather Gonzalez asks the following:

"I am taking part in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer – Washington, DC and will be walking 39.3 miles over two days. As a walker, I'm required to raise a minimum of \$1,800 to participate, but I plan to raise much more!

"To donate to me online, please go to: <http://www.avonwalk.org/goto/Heather>
Thank you very much for your support!"

CHORE DAY SCHEDULE

by Bruce Cole

Starting April 25, the last Saturday of every month through October will be our Church Properties Chore Day. The final Chore Day will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving. A little bit of work done by many will have great impact on our church. The dates will be:

April 25 (starting at 8 AM)
May 30
June 27
July 25
August 29
September 26
October 31 (Happy Halloween!)
November 21



Thanks to all!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP NEWS

by Sally Martin and Sharon Moore

The Middle School Youth Group met at the MdSportsPlex in Millersville on 3-15 for an afternoon of indoor dodgeball and soccer. There was a good turnout of youth, and judging by how red-faced and sweaty everyone was, a good time was had by all. Afterwards, they met in the private party room for much needed snacks and fellowship.

Service Project-- The Middle School Youth Group has been collecting drink mix and/or juice boxes to be donated to Sarah's House. So far, they have collected 6 cases, which is approximately 200+ containers, which will be very much appreciated in the summer months to come. Way to go middle school youth!



Upcoming Events:

Friday 4/3/09 at 6:30 PM: Egg Stuffing & Movie Night
Middle School Youth will be stuffing Easter eggs with candy & treats as a service project to assist our Fellowship Committee with their upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. After the project, we'll watch the movie Prince Caspian (from the Chronicles of Narnia Series by C.S. Lewis). Pop-corn, soda and candy will be provided. Please bring a chair or sleeping bag and relax with us in the Fellowship hall.

Saturday 4/11/09 at 6:00 PM: Grounds & Neighborhood Cleanup, Rita's Walk & Easter Breakfast Set up
Middle School Youth will be picking up trash around the Church grounds, parking lot and continue up Odenton Road to Rita's. We'll stop for a treat at Rita's Italian ice and then return to church to set up the Fellowship Hall for Easter Breakfast. Service can be fun! Please join us!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP NEWS

by Michelle Hess

The High School Youth Group went to Youth Encounter's High School Youth Zone retreat in

Virginia Beach, Va. for the weekend of 3/6-3/8. A total of 7 youth and 3 adults shared in this fun and inspirational adventure. As usual, the speaker and band were awesome and the youth can't wait for next year.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, 4/12/09 at 6:00 AM: Easter Sunday Breakfast
High School Youth Group will be preparing and serving Easter Sunday Breakfast in the Fellowship hall following the Sunrise Service. We will be offering scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, fruit, yogurt cups, coffee, milk and juice. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM. Plan on attending and seeing what good cooks our high school youth are! A free will offering will be collected to cover the costs.



Saturday, 4/25/09, from 8:00 AM to 12 noon: Chore Day at First Lutheran High School Youth Group will be participating in Chore Day, under the direction of Bruce Cole. We plan to paint the pre-school fence and also assist in any way we can be of help. So put your painting clothes on and come and join us in a day of work and fellowship.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Children through the 5th grade in school are invited to come to our Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the Butterfly Service on Easter Sunday. Should be fun! See if you can find the golden eggs!

EVANGELISM NOTE

by John Broderick

My wife asked me the other day, "Why do people readily celebrate Christmas and have a hard time with Easter?" I answered that although we all celebrate Christmas and the joy of giving and receiving gifts, as a Christian all our hopes and fears, identity and faith are all wrapped up in the cross of Christ— our everything.

This is a difficult concept, as Paul said, "To those who are saved it is the power of God!"
Do not hesitate to explain the meaning of Easter in you!!!!!!



CEREAL BOWL

by Jean McHenry

During the month of April the Christian Assistance Program will be collecting boxes and bags of cereal. As you know, just place them in the CAP basket in the narthex. Thanks for remembering the less fortunate.

The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise." - Carl Knudsen

FELC AND NATIONALS BASEBALL OUTING!

by Dave Morse

FELC is having a special congregational baseball outing scheduled for Sunday, June 7th.

We plan on gathering in the church parking lot after the late service and traveling to the new D.C. Nationals Field to watch the Nationals take on the New York Mets. The game will start at 1:05 PM. This is for all congregation members, friends, family, neighbors, etc. Cost of the game tickets will be \$20 per person. Transportation is on your own but most will probably travel by Metro. If interested, there are two sign-up sheets, one in the fellowship hall and one in the church narthex or you can call Leann in the church office at 410-672-3352 and she will add your name to the list.



More information will follow but we need to know if you are interested so we can make the necessary arrangements soon. Deadline for signing up is Sunday, May 3rd. Any questions contact Dave Morse at his e-mail morsecode52@aol.com or talk to Leann in the church office. We look forward to seeing you there.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

by Todd Lowry



The Men's Breakfast in April will be held on Saturday, April 18 in the fellowship hall from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM. Breakfast will be served and will include pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. No reservations are necessary. All you have to do is show-up with your appetite. You're also welcome to bring a friend, neighbor, or relative along too! Hope to see you on the 18th.

THREE TREES

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, 'Someday I hope to be a great treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with an intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.'



Then the second tree said, 'Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. People will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.'

Finally the third tree said, 'I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill, look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.'



After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, 'This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter, and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.'

At the second tree the woodsman said, 'This looks like a strong tree. I will be able to sell it to the shipyard.' The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the men said, 'I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,' and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.



Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said 'Peace' and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.



Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for You. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

FLEA MARKET

by Jean McHenry

Start looking for those "white elephants" now. The Ladies' Auxiliary is having their Spring Flea Market on May 16. You can donate the items to our auxiliary or rent a space/table and sell them yourselves. To reserve a space/table contact Alice Andrzejewski at 410-987-4575.



Be sure to reserve the date to drop by and have a hot dog lunch and enjoy a bit of shopping at a very low price.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

Let's not forget to thank Leann Weaver on April 22 for the work she does for our church!

EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.



OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son, Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the bold words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you"

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