

Gospeltality

First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

April
2010
Issue

Volume 2010, Issue 4
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Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Holy Week-Holy Life!

We begin the month of April with Holy Week. Palm Sunday started things off as we move closer to the climax of this week. On **Holy Thursday, April 1st at 7 PM** we will join to commemorate and celebrate the Lord's gifts to us in the Lord's Supper. We then join together on **Good Friday, April 2nd at 7 PM** as we remember and celebrate Jesus Christ's death on our behalf. Finally we will gather on **Easter Sunday** morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior! Our Easter service times are: **6:30 AM, Sunrise Easter Communion Service** and **11:00 PM Traditional Easter Communion Service**. (All our services are being held in the fellowship hall during this time of construction on our church building.)



As we celebrate this Holy Week may we be reminded of the Holy Life we are called to in our Savior! The holy, perfect and gracious Lord sets us apart in his saving grace and fills us with his spirit to live a holy life to his glory! Let us celebrate this time together in worship. Let us in faith live our lives together for him always! *Our Lord is alive!*

Pastor

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL PLANNING COUNCIL EMPHASIS

1—Maundy Thursday
2—Good Friday
4—Easter Sunday

10—Men's Breakfast, 8 AM
21—Administrative Professional's Day
24—Auxiliary Turkey Dinner, 4-7 PM



PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF 8 March 2010

Condensed from Jan Perez's minutes

- Requirements to be established for snow plowing, cleaning and lawn services.
- Old church bell cannot be used (steeple will not support it). Discussion held on what to do with bell. Information on Carillon system was presented. Challenge Grant of \$4500 was received towards new system.
- Food Pantry approved in old Nursery spaces.
- Five board positions open for election (Youth, Community Services, Church Properties, Fellowship and Elders). Nominating committee at work.

- Easter services will be at 6:30 and 11 AM. No youth breakfast or butterfly service because of construction.
- Worship in Fellowship Hall going smoothly.
- Viia Erwin will be officially retiring from Pre-K in May.
- Church Dedication Ceremony could be as early as September 15.
- Food refreshments will be after the first and third Sundays of each month.

THE CROSS

BY Dr. Herbert Brokering

I am the cross on the hill,
On the wall,
In the embroidery,
On the brow.

I am the cross of Calvary,
Infamy, victory, destiny.

I am the cross of Oak, Tamarack, Pine,
Stained, painted, brazed,
Signed by hand.

I am the dividing line of death and life,
Good Friday and Easter,
No and yes.

I am the yes of God, the final say,
The door through,
The way to the other side.

I am the cross of people's yearning,
Weeping, begging, suffering.

I know the people's heart.
I am the one who said I will,
O God forgive, it is finished.

I am the heart of God.
I am the cross.

ALTAR FLOWERS

By Jean McHenry

Altar flowers in April are for:

Early Service

4—Easter Flowers

11—Ursula Pinckney's birthday

18—

25—

Late Service

4—Easter Flowers

11—Debbie & Bill Susie in
Memory of Bill's mother

18—

25—

RADAR PRAYING

By Charles Ferrell



I was once told how radar works. The electronic unit used sends out radio waves. When the waves hit something, they bounce back and are displayed on a screen. That's similar to a helpful way I commune with God.

When I've spent some quiet time in his presence, I let my mind slowly start moving in a circle. I never know what will appear on my mind's "screen." Whatever comes up, I consider that I should give it attention.

Today, for example, the war in Afghanistan came up first. I prayed that hostility would cease, that children could go safely to school and that the government might respond to people's needs.

I moved on to other "pictures." My friend in Texas whose wife just died. Members of Congress who need God's guidance. Missionaries in hostile places. The unemployed, the homeless, the starving, the sick.

Such praying takes time. Sometimes your mind strays or "gets stuck." Allow God to direct your thoughts. When a "picture" comes up and feels God-directed, pray about the matter.

One more thing: Don't be surprised at the results. God may well indicate what your role could be in providing answers.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

By Todd Lowry

The April Men's Breakfast will be on the second Saturday of the month, April 10th. It will be a BYOB (Bring Your Own Breakfast) and will be in the Fellowship Hall. We will start at 8:00 AM and coffee and juice will be provided. Pastor MacDonald will lead the devotional. All men, young and old, are welcome and feel free to bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you on April 10th.

God's Peace!

THE ARMY

Found by Steve Mencik

A man was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed the man by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."



Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

PRE-K NEWS

By Liz Meyer



"April showers bring May flowers" and we are looking forward to the many warm days ahead. Our topics for this month are "Spring" and "Zoo Animals." We have many crafts and activities planned. Our field trip this month will be to the Baltimore Zoo where we will see lots of animals, both domestic and foreign.

Our class is going well with the extended 1/2 hour per day. We have been able to expand on some of our topics and the children seem to enjoy the extra time spent with each other.

We are closed for Easter from Maundy Thursday, April 1 through Easter Monday, April 5.

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On Saturday, 3 April (weather permitting) we plan to do a "litter pickup service project" around the church and neighborhood. We'll start with the church parking lot and grounds, and then walk up Odenton Road, picking up litter. Bags and disposable gloves will be provided.



Our destination is Rita's Italian Ice; we'll stop for refreshments and walk back to church. Please arrive at church by 5 PM. We hope to be finished by 7 PM. When we return to church, we'll spend some time preparing light refreshments for fellowship time after the Easter Sunday services. Our Youth Group usually prepares Easter breakfast, but this year, due to ongoing construction, we will limit it to pastries and donuts, fresh fruit and yogurt parfaits.

Any youth that are in need of service hours may bake something at home for the Easter Fellowship time and bring it to church on 3 April. All Middle School and High School Youth are welcome and we also invite incoming 5th graders to join us; service can be fun!

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

By Jean McHenry

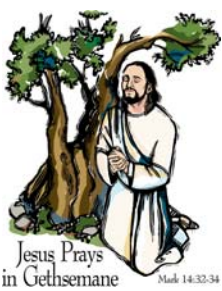
Let's not forget to thank our own administrative professional, Leann Weaver, on Wednesday, 21 April for all the time and effort she puts in at our church.



THRIVENT BUILDS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

By Amanda Fritsch

There will be a meeting on April 11th after the late service for members interested in volunteering with Thrivent Builds. Please bring your calendars to this meeting so we can decide which days would be good to work with Thrivent Builds.



GREAT GIFT FOR EASTER!

By Mike Mrozek

Want a great gift to give for Easter? One that reminds us of the true reason for this wonderful holiday? What about a sun catcher of Christ praying at the Garden of Gethsemane! Our ornaments can double as a sun catcher that you can put in any window. We still have a few left for \$20 each and the money goes directly to the Expansion Fund. They can be found on the table in the temporary sanctuary or in the Secretary's office. Place money in the offering plate marked "for ornaments."

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

By Bill & Fran Xenakis

Change a life by saving your Change for Life! Next week the Baby Bottle Campaign kicks off and everyone will have the opportunity to partner with Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park Pregnancy Clinic Ministry. Filling your bottles with pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and

good old paper money or checks can make a life saving difference in our community. Your spare change helps in the following ways:

- \$1.70 buys a pregnancy test
- \$15.00 provides emergency formula for 2 weeks
- \$25 gets God's Word into the hands of 10 clients
- 100 provides 2 abstinence presentations
- \$200 provides a life affirming 3D/4D sonogram



Pregnancy Clinic Ministry office locations:
Bowie/Cofton Pregnancy Center—4341 Northview Drive., Bowie, 301-262-1330
Severna Park Pregnancy Center—650 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, 410-431-5000

Thrivent will provided \$300 in matching funds. Please make checks payable to First Ev. Lutheran Church and place in the baby bottle.

TURKEY DINNER

By Jean McHenry



The Ladies' Auxiliary is offering a turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Saturday, 24 April from 4—7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your friends and relatives and come enjoy the fellowship. A dessert table and carry out dinners are also available. Ticket prices are:

- Adults—\$12.00
- Children 6-12 years—\$6.00
- Under 6 years—Free

Tickets are being sold by any member of the auxiliary or by the church office. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST

The 14th chapter of John's gospel contains this promise our Lord gave his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (sometimes translated Comforter), to be with you forever" (John 14:15-16, NRSV).

Jesus added: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live" (John 14:18-19).

What a wonderful promise! Jesus knew he would be dying. He knew the disciples would see his resurrected body. But even after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples wouldn't be alone. The Holy Spirit would come to comfort and embolden them.

"[My] peace I leave with you," Jesus concluded. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27).



A colorful CROSS



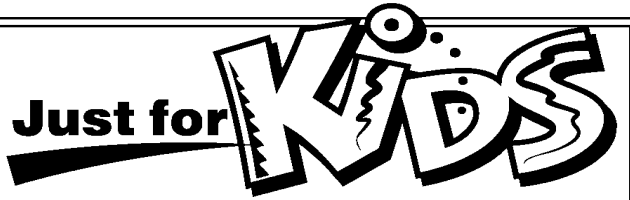
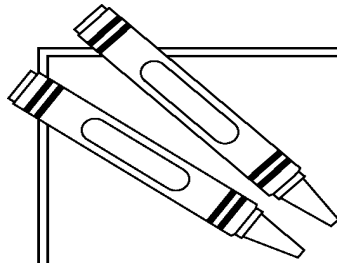
Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.



SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

At this time of the year, we see many crosses draped in purple, black or white cloth. They remind us of the loving sacrifice Jesus made for us – and that he rose again.

Use the code in the big cross to complete 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

“ i o u i a

c d w r
f n b y

t e

i o u

i ... a

u i ...

a a i

o

i a

”

Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.

SERVE CHRIST THROUGH YOUR CHURCH

Some people ask, "Can I be a Christian without working in my church?" The answer is yes. But let's put this question in perspective. Being a Christian without serving in the church is something like:

- A **student** who will not go to school.
- A **soldier** who will not join an army.
- A **citizen** who does not vote or pay his taxes.
- A **salesman** with no customers.
- An **explorer** with no base camp.
- A **seaman** on a ship without a crew.
- A **businessman or woman** on a desert island.
- An **author** without readers.
- A **tuba player** without a band.
- A **parent** without a family.
- A **football player** without a team.
- A **politician** who refuses to meet people.
- A **scientist** who refuses to share his findings with others.



At this time there are plenty of opportunities to serve. Contact a member of the nominating committee to see how. They are Jean Mencik, Jennifer Perry, Buford Hansberger and Todd Lowry. Contact the church office at 410-672-3352 to get in touch with them or check your church directory.

AN EMPTY TOMB INSTEAD

Author unknown

*They came to the quiet garden
In the early morning gloom,
And there in the shadowed darkness
They found an empty tomb.*

*They brought their scented spices
To anoint the hallowed dead,
But found, to their amazement,
The living Lord instead.*

*Their hearts were heavy-laden—
Bowed down with deep despair -
But when they lifted tear-dimmed eyes
Lo Jesus was standing there.*

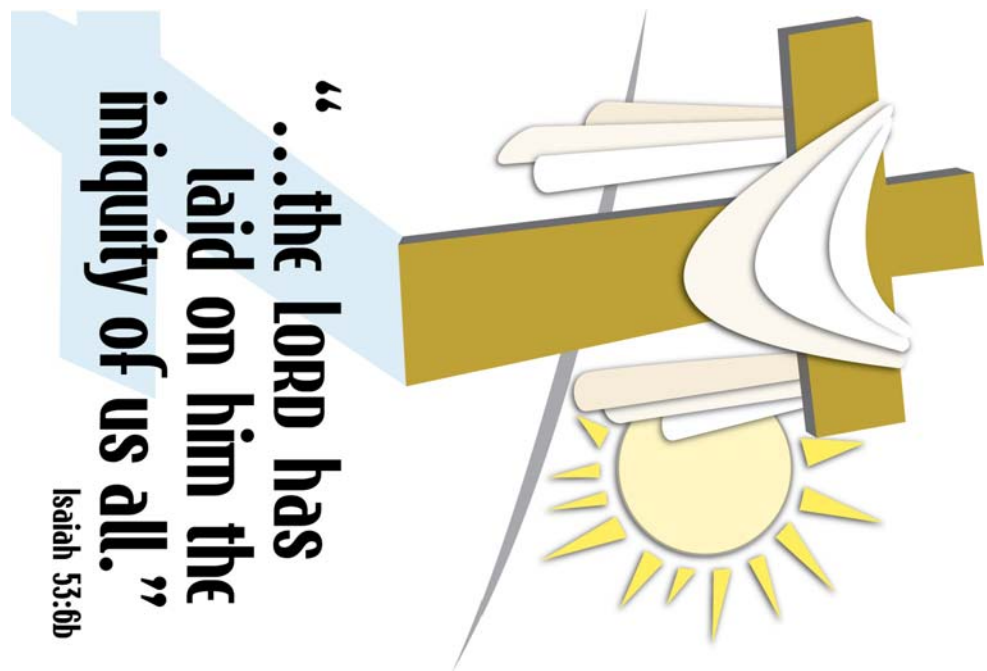
*They thought all hope had ended
With Calvary's dying breath,
But they found a powerful Savior,
Triumphant over death!*

*On that wonderful Easter morning,
In a garden sweet with dew,
He came from the grave—a world to save—
To live and reign anew.*

*So oft in the midst of sorrows
When hope seems cold and dead,
With lifted eyes, we too may see
An empty tomb instead!*



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**“...the LORD has
laid on him the
iniquity of us all.”**

Isaiah 53:6b