

**February Newsletter from:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
8397 Piney Orchard Parkway
Odenton, MD 21113
Phone: 410-551-9189
Rev. Scott MacDonald, Pastor**

*JESUS CHRIST is the same
YESTERDAY and TODAY
and FOREVER.*



Hebrews 13:8, NIV

Gospeltality

First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

February
2009
Issue

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Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Our Lenten Journey

The season of Epiphany is coming to a close as we experience the Transfiguration with the disciples! Jesus' journey had only just begun, however. Jesus descended from the Mount of Transfiguration only to experience temptation for 40 days in the wilderness. The 40 day season of Lent we experience is a way in our church year where we attempt to relate to Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness. Jesus walks with us through the time of testing and temptation in our own lives of faith.



This season of Lent begins for us with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM on February 25th. During this service we reflect on our human frailty and sinfulness before our holy God. We also then rejoice in the good news that our Savior faced all temptations and conquered them! He forgives us as his children and is always with us in our trials, struggles and temptations! Following Ash Wednesday we will have brief Wednesday Lenten services at 7 PM continuing on throughout the Lenten season leading up to Easter. These services will have a devotional theme soon to be announced. Please join us!

SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY **FELLOWSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH**

1—Souper Bowl of Caring starts/
Auxiliary Super Sub & Soup Sale
8—Boy Scout Sunday
14—Valentine's Day
15—Valentine Bowling Party, 6:30 PM

16—Presidents' Day
21—Men's Breakfast
22—Transfiguration of our Lord
24—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5—7 PM
25—Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM



PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF JAN. 12, 2009

Condensed from Peggy Stubbe's minutes

- Handicap Lift including new motor to be repaired for \$1800.
- FELC requirements for telephone system to be discussed by council.
- Pre-K tuition will be increased to \$200 per month starting Sep 09, as well as increasing afternoon classes to 5 days per week. Pre-K wages will be increased to reflect extra time worked and school equipment will be upgraded.
- Memorial Fund balance of \$7551 distributed \$625 to purchase bricks, \$2266 for expansion fund, \$2405 to unrestricted and \$2255 remains in fund.
- Trees will not be planted in rear of church to allow for parking as needed.

- Fellowship Committee needs a chairperson.
- New chair purchase tabled until we have space to store them.
- "Free Will" offering basket to be used at coffee hours to offset cost of refreshments.
- \$1200 contributed to Southeastern District's *Ablaze Movement*.
- Holy Week services will be similar to last year's with no Seder Meal.
- Expansion documents to be presented for building permit review.
- Financial Secretary's 2008 report revealed unrestricted giving totaled \$184,899—average \$1946; total designated giving \$71,183—average \$749; total giving \$256,083—average \$2696.

ALTAR FLOWERS

by Jean McHenry



During February the following are signed up to donate flowers:

Early Service

Late Service

- 1—Jim & Wanda Travis (both vases)
- 8—Jim & Wanda Travis (both vases)
- 15—
- 22—Debbie Starke for her sister, Theresa Pine's birthday

- 1—
- 8—Pat Potter
- 15—The Graulings for Meg Anne's birthday
- 22 —Kari (20) and Amanda (17) Mencik's birthdays.
- Pat Potter—Alan's birthday

2009 VALENTINE PARTY

by Brenda Gerhardt



Everyone is invited to join the FELC family for an evening of bowling. Don't bowl? Join us anyway. There is plenty of space to relax and fellowship with everyone.

DATE: Sunday, February 15

PLACE: Greenway Bowl

SHOE RENTAL: Children—\$3.00 Adults \$3.50

GAMES: \$1.99 each (Free game for students. Bring your report card and get 1 free game for every "A" (up to 3) or for perfect attendance.)

Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to bowl, so that we can reserve enough lanes.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

by Todd Lowry

This month's Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, February 21st and will be in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 8 AM and conclude around 9:30 AM.

A breakfast, including scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage and juice will be served. All men are invited and if you wish please bring a friend, neighbor or relative along. We look forward to seeing you all on the 3rd Saturday of the month.



EVANGELISM NOTES

by John Broderick

We as Christian Lutherans are called to be both 'hot and cold'. We should burn hot in living the Love of Christ, and cold in teaching the hard facts of being without that love and the saving grace through faith that only he can provide.

“Practice makes Perfect”, this is a good rule of thumb as we try to decide to express our faith and reach out to others in Christian love. Like the disciples, we must grow by ‘putting it on the line’. Be bold in faith, be strong in love, and be in Christ!!



BLOOD DRIVES

by Debbie Starke

First Evangelical Lutheran Church hosted the American Red Cross Blood Drive. The first blood drive of the New Year was a great success! We collected 20 pints of Life Saving Blood.

Working in conjunction with the CAP churches in the area, the blood drives are scheduled approximately every 56 days to provide donors a consistent schedule that complies with the waiting period eligibility. The schedule* for the remainder of the year is as follows:

- March 16, 2009 – St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
- May 11, 2009 – Nichols Bethel United Methodist Church
- July 6, 2009 – Severn United Methodist
- September 14, 2009 – Macedonia
- November 16, 2009 – Severn Baptist



More information will be provided as each date approaches. Thank you for your continued support! Please share this information with your friends and neighbors as well. The blood drives are not limited to church members only. For further information, please contact the American Red Cross directly at 800-272-2048 or at <http://www.redcross.org/>

* Dates are subject to change

SOUPER BOWL MONTH

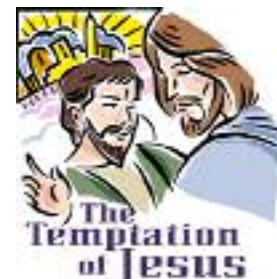
by Jean McHenry



As is appropriate for February, CAP is declaring it Souper Bowl month. CAP Food Drive for February will be for Soup. Cans or packages, all are welcome. Please deposit your soup in the basket in the narthex. Many thanks for all the pasta and sauce we received in January.

WHAT IS LENT?

It is forty days of stripping down
 To the living essentials;
 It is forty days of facing truth
 About one’s self-indulgent evasions;
 It is forty days of fellowshiping
 With Christ in the desert;
 It is forty days of rejoicing in God’s
 mercy and forgiveness.



In a world where people are looking everywhere for signs of God,
 where have you found God? What have you done about it? And who
 will you tell?
 – Robert Gorrell

OOPS

..from a church bulletin in Walsh/Peshtigo, Wisconsin
 "Lent is coming much sooner this year! Please bring your old psalms from last year to prepare the ashes for Ash Wednesday."

They must not have any *palms* on hand.

HEARTS in the morning


Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

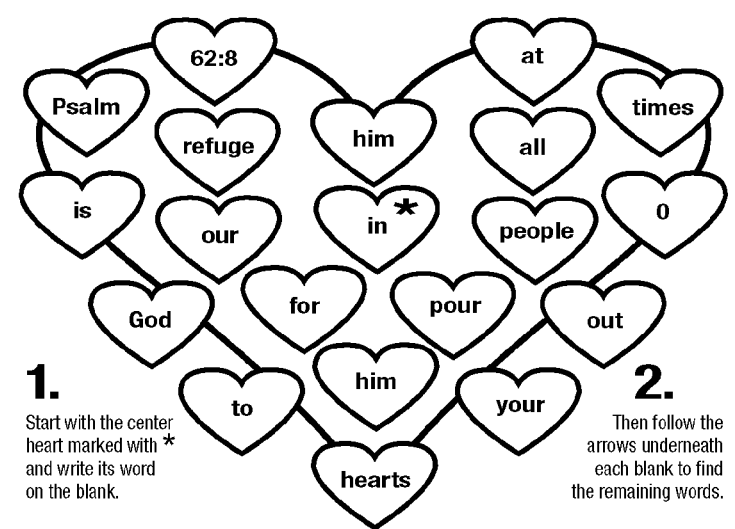
What you do:

1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.



OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.



1. Start with the center heart marked with * and write its word on the blank.

2. Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.

"Trust _____, _____; _____, _____; _____."

Answer: "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

by Jean McHenry

A pancake supper will be held on Tuesday, February 24th from 5 PM to 7 PM. The supper is given by the Ladies' Auxiliary and a free will offering will be collected. Come and enjoy the meal with your friends! Questions can be directed to Brenda Gerhardt, mblmgerhardt@comcast.net.



WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PRESCHOOL?

by Viia Erwin

What a busy month we're going to have! February, our "Good Health Month", will include several special activities and events.

Both classes will again visit the office of Dr. Richard Friedman, a local dentist, who will talk to us about the importance of good dental habits and proper care of our teeth. We've always enjoyed our visits very much!



Both classes will also celebrate Valentine's Day with a party, games and a card exchange. Happy Valentine's Day!

We'll also have fun with some science experiments and crafts as we learn about our wonderful body and how to keep it healthy. This will include a variety of special snacks having to do with good health.

To prepare for Presidents' Day we'll also learn a little about Presidents Washington, Lincoln and Obama.

The preschool is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. If you would like more information about our program or an application, please call the church office at 410-551-9189—or better yet, come watch us in action!

NEED SOME HELP PLEASE!

by Jean McHenry

Since we have started offering altar flowers for the early service AND for the late service, we are pleased to note how many are signing up. As you are aware, you may sign up for any date open. Please note the name and special occasion you are celebrating, if any. If you attend the early service, there is a place for you to sign up in that column. Same for the late service. All donors are reminded to come up to the working sacristy after the service to pick up their flowers. Two vases are used for each service each Sunday and each vase costs \$10. Thanks for participating so well.

Since this does involve some extra work, we need someone to volunteer to handle purchasing and arranging the flowers for either service. Please contact Jean McHenry, 410-674-5353 or mchenrys-north40@verizon.net for more information.



**Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get,
It's what you are expected to give... which is everything.
- Vittorio Alfieri**

SUPER SUB AND SOUP SALE

by Jean McHenry

Please remember to pick up your pre-ordered sub or soup of choice on Sunday, 1 February. We did make a few extras if you forgot to order. Please come to the church kitchen to pick up your food. Enjoy!



EXPANSION UPDATE

by Debbie Starke



We have now completed our Contract Document in time to present these documents for reviewers on Riva Road for Building Permit review before the end of 2009. The latest estimate of cost of construction of addition with steeple, windows and fire sprinklers is \$832,452.02. The Site Plan is 80% complete at a total cost of \$5000, if we disturb less than 5000 sq. ft. of dirt, the engineers believe this is all the county will require. If the county requires them to prepare a site plan application and grading plan application the cost will be \$12,000.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

by Michelle Hess

On January 11th we sadly said goodbye to our High School Youth Group leaders, Rick and Tara Colpitts and their three beautiful daughters. They have been transferred to Kansas and may (hopefully) return to us when their obligation there is over. We had many fun outings and trips with them and they will be greatly missed. However, it is with much joy and excitement that we welcome in our two new High School Youth Group leaders (and High School Sunday School teachers), Shilo Brewer and Lucas Witt. They have bravely stepped forward to fill these openings and we are very grateful. May the Lord bless and guide them in their leading and teaching our high schoolers.

On Sunday, February 1st, the youth group will again be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Twenty years ago, one little youth group believed they could make a difference and started a movement that is transforming into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and sharing. Since then, more than \$50 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the country. The Youth Group will be in the narthex with our giant soup bowl collecting donations after both services. All proceeds will go to CAP. Anyone wanting further information or to make an additional donation should visit souperbowl.org.



This year the High School Youth Group is again planning to attend Youth Zone in Virginia Beach, Va. The event is being held the weekend of March 6-8 and all active high school age youth are encouraged to participate. If interested, please contact Michelle Hess 410-923-1271, Shilo Brewer 301-257-3620, or Lucas Witt 712-269-5566.

VALENTINES TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

- Acceptance—Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with love.
- Self-Confidence—Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this

gift with a hug.

- Life without needless fears—Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation—Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith—Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.

PERSPECTIVE ON OLD BARN

found by Peggy Stubbe

Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood. A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway.



I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked. He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.



Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there's been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind. The summer sun's beat down on that old barn till all the paint's gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful. That set me to thinking.

I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

Then it came to me—we're a lot like that, you and I. Only, it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray too... and lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. And as the years pass He's busy using the hard weather of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to



think how often folks hol-
ler because they want life easy.



They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. And I reckon someday you and I'll be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch. I suspect we'll be more beautiful then for the seasons we've been through here ... and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.