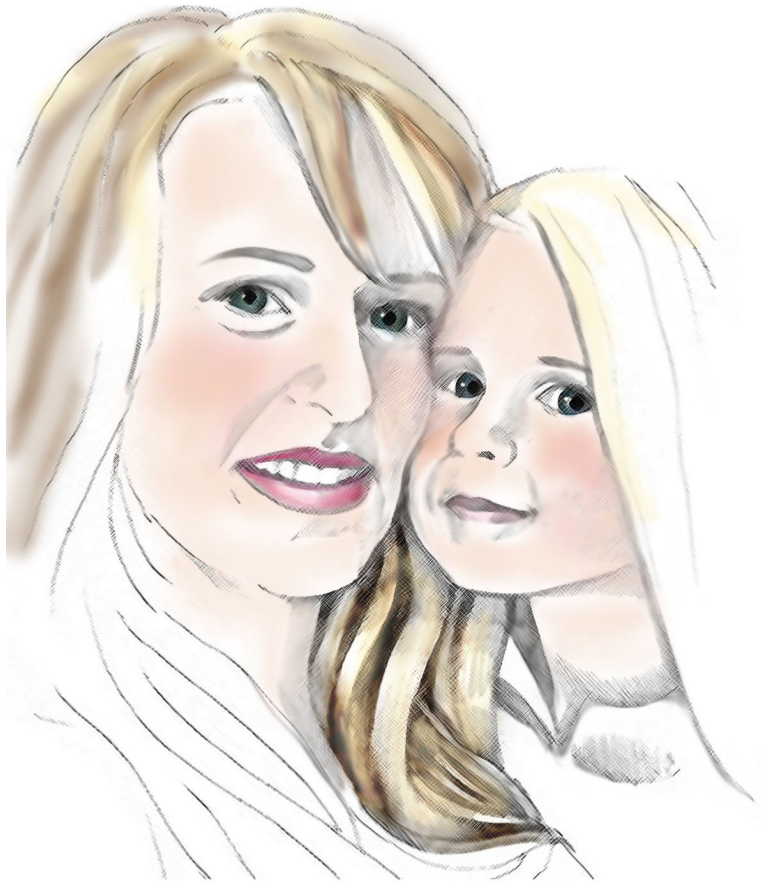


**February 2012 Newsletter from:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
8397 Piney Orchard Parkway
Odenton, MD 21113
410-672-3352
Rev. Scott MacDonald, Pastor**



*We love because
he first loved us.*

1 John 4:19

Gospeltality

First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

February
2012
Issue

Volume 2012, Issue 2
Web Page: www.FELCodenton.org
E-mail: churchoffice@felcodenton.org
Submit articles to Gospeltality
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mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net

Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

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

Up from the Ashes...

Lent is soon upon us...Jesus experienced temptation for 40 days in the wilderness. We too walk with him through the dangerous time of testing in our lives of faith. The 40 day season of Lent is a way in our church year where we attempt to relate to Jesus' 40 day experience in the wilderness.



This season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm on February 22nd. This service is an opportunity to reflect before a holy God as we face more seriously our own temptations and weaknesses. It is also a time when we must remember the good news that our Savior faced all temptations and conquered them! He forgives those of faith and is always with us in our trial, struggles and temptations! Following Ash Wednesday we will have brief Wednesday Lenten services at 7 pm continuing on through the season leading up to Easter. Please join us for these times of worship beginning with our Ash Wednesday service. As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads that evening we are reminded of our future...Death is a reality but life is the final chapter for God's people! In Jesus Christ we will be raised up from the ashes one day!

Pastor

SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY **FELLOWSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 3—Youth Bowling Night, 6 pm | 20—President's Day |
| 5—Sub & Soup Sale/Boy Scout Sunday | 21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 pm |
| 11—Family Game Night, 5 pm | 22—Ash Wednesday |
| 14—Valentine's Day | 26—First Sunday in Lent |
| 19—Transfiguration of our Lord | |

PACK WELL

Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series.

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.



Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

ALTAR FLOWERS

By Jean McHenry



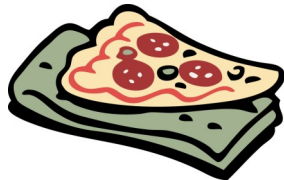
Remembering special occasions with altar flowers during February are:

5—

12—In memory of Marge Girgash by Barb
And Tom Girgash

19—Kari and Amanda Mencik's birthdays

26—Lent—No flowers on altar.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

By Brenda Gerhardt

WHEN? - February 11th, 5 pm

WHERE? - Fellowship Hall

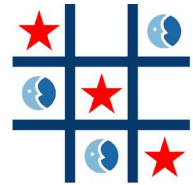
Bring the whole family!

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Bring a snack or dessert and grab your favorite game and join us.

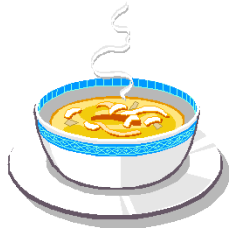
All ages welcome!

We'll have Valentine crafts and cupcakes for the children to decorate.



SUPER SUB AND SOUP SALE

By Jean McHenry



On Sunday, February 5th, the auxiliary is fixing your super bowl food. We are again offering Jean Mencik's famous subs for \$5.50 each. Soups at \$7.00 per quart are Hamburger and Chicken Noodle. Chili with deer meat and/or Chili with hamburger cost \$8.00 per quart. We need advance orders of these items so we know how much

to fix. Please write your orders in the space provided on the order form posted on the easel in the expanded narthex (to the right as you exit the sanctuary). You only have until 29 January to post your order so do it as soon as possible. We will fix a few extra but you cannot be assured of your purchase unless you advance order. We ask that you pick up your order in the church kitchen after either worship service on February 5th. You may pay for your food at that time. Enjoy your day off from cooking! Questions can be directed to Jean Mencik, 410-672-5859 or Jean@Mencik.com.

TRANSFIGURATION

By Desmond Tutu, *God has a Dream*

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom peace and wholeness—of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.



FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

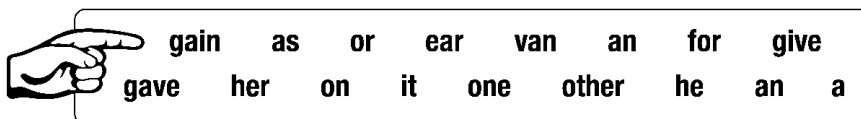


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

THANK YOU

By Jean McHenry



Many thanks to all who participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive at First Lutheran on Monday, 23 January. We welcomed many from our community, our church and the Christian Assistance Program churches and collected 23 usable units. We had 30 people show up to donate blood. Because of the critical need for blood at this time the donations were most welcome. Thanks to God’s caring people!



YOUTH BOWLING NIGHT

By Amanda Fritsch

On February 3rd, at 6 pm we will be having a Youth Bowling Night. Please bring your report card for 3 free games for your “A’s”. Also bring \$2.50 for shoe rental. Snacks will be provided. RSVP to Amanda.Fritsch@cuw.edu or 920-226-1623 so we can have a head count to make sure we reserve enough lanes. See you there!

DISABILITY AWARENESS

A friend tearfully shared how an usher asked her to leave a church service because of her squirmy toddler. But the boy wasn’t just having a bad morning; he was born with a genetic disorder called Fragile X, which makes it nearly impossible to sit quietly.

It was nearly a year before that mother attended a church again. Then she found one with a shepherd program, where trained volunteers help children with special needs participate in worship, Sunday school and church activities.

As we look for ways to reach out to people with disabilities, remember that God’s love has no limits. How can we, as God’s church, reflect that love?

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

By Jean McHenry

Once again this year the Ladies’ Auxiliary will serve a pancake supper from 5-7 pm on Shrove Tuesday, 21 February 2012. All are welcome. We will collect a free will offering for the meal. Come and enjoy the fellowship.



LOT’S WIFE

Found by Fran Xenakis

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly,' and she turned into a telephone pole! '

REFOCUS FOR LENT

Author unknown

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.



Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
 Give up hatred—return good for evil.
 Give up anger—be more patient.
 Give up pettiness—become mature.
 Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
 Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
 Give up sin—turn to virtue.
 Give up giving up—persevere.



PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF JAN. 9, 2012

Condensed from Jan Perez’s minutes

Because they did not have a quorum the council could not act officially. Discussed were:

- New gutters and downspout work completed and paid for.
- One-third paid towards waterproofing.
- Work being done to replace air conditioners.
- Landscaping work will continue as soon as Frank Hart recuperates.
- Work continuing on outside digital sign.
- Sign above door looks great.
- Mike Petersen lauded for his leadership in expansion work on church.
- Need nominations for new President and Board head for Community Services.
- Proposal received from Verizon regarding change in service.
- Signatures to church Constitution and By-Laws to be verified.

COFFEE HOURS

By Jean McHenry



As most of you know we provide coffee after the early and late services. All are invited to these Coffee Hours. On Sundays when we do not have Communion the Board assigned to that month provides food also. Some boards only have one or two members so this places more of a burden on them. If anyone would like to bring in donuts, coffee cake, fruit, etc. for these Coffee Hours they are welcome to do so. (Some of you are already helping in this way.) We do not provide food on the second and fourth Sundays of the month when we have Communion (unless it is a special occasion). Many thanks to those who have helped the boards out with contributions to the coffee fund. Come over and enjoy the fellowship opportunity at these Coffee Hours.

PRE-K NEWS

By Liz Meyer

Where is the time going? We are half way through our school year and we are busy, busy, busy!



Groundhog Day gives us a jump start at the beginning of the month and we are hoping that Punxsutawney Phil doesn’t see his shadow! We want an early spring.

From there, “Good Health Month” will see us through the rest of the month. We will learn about the right foods to eat, enough sleep at night, proper hand washing, care of colds and, in general, trying to stay healthy.

Dr. Richard Friedman, D.D.S. has been kind enough to allow our class a visit to the dentist where we will learn how to keep our teeth healthy.

The National Aquarium is also on our calendar for this month. We will be seeing many interesting sea creatures and learning about their environment. This should be a lot of fun!



We have a lot of activities and crafts to do as we look forward to Valentine's Day. The classes will exchange cards and have their parties on Tuesday February 14th to celebrate this special day with their friends.

School will be closed on Monday, February 20 for President's Day. We will have a lesson about Presidents Washington and Lincoln and President Obama the week before.

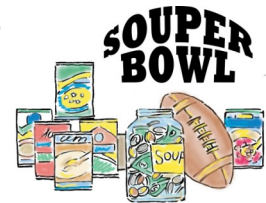
We are now taking registrations for the 2012-2013 school year. If you or a friend would like information or a registration form, please call the Church at 410-672-3352.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and Good Health.

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

By Jean McHenry

Many thanks for your continuing contributions to CAP. Because of you and our other CAP churches our Food Pantry was able to provide 141 families with food during December. This figure is in addition to the 175 holiday baskets we provided. Thus far in January we have fed 135 families (and the month is not over yet). As most of you know we ask for emphasis placed on bringing in particular foods each month. Any non-perishable food is welcome. Please check the expiration date on donated foods. If they have expired, we are unable to use them. The basket provided near the steps to the sanctuary is provided for your contributions.



February is our souper bowl month. During February we place the emphasis on bringing in cans, boxes, packages, etc. of soup. Keep up the Lord's work by feeding the hungry!

2012 BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN'

By Dolores Saars and Donna Donaldson

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 lifesaving difference in our community. Your spare change helps in the following ways:

- \$1.70 buys a pregnancy test
- \$15 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

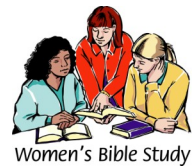


The campaign will run from Sunday, February 5 through Sunday, February 25, 2012. If you have questions, please call Dolores Saars, 410-721-7563 or Donna Donaldson, 410-

674-2677674-2677. Pregnancy Clinic office locations: Bowie/Crofton Pregnancy Center, 4341 Northview Drive, Bowie, 301-262-1330; Severna Park Pregnancy Center, 650 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, 410-431-5000.

LADIES’ FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are invited to attend a weekly fellowship, Bible study and prayer meeting each Monday morning from 9:30—11 in the church basement. For more information, please contact Rebecca Petersen at 410-674-4936 or Dana Toon at 410-987-2431.



CHURCH FINANCES THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

By John Perry

	December 2011	YTD
Approved Budget	\$31,965	\$383,580
Budget Expenses	\$26,470	\$320,268
Ordinary Income	\$33,090	\$305,391
Shortfall/Surplus (Inc.—Exp.)	\$6,620	(-\$15,877)

Approved Budget is the average monthly amount approved by the voters that can be spent if funds are available.

Budget Expenses include only expenses on the approved budget and not expenses paid by designated funds such as Expansion, CAP donations and Pew Cushions.

Ordinary Income includes Offerings, Pre-K tuition, Sunday School and Rental Income. All budgeted expenses are paid from this income. Expansion contributions and other income designated for a specific use are not included.



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

By Kevin Fritsch

The Financial Peace classes are starting in February. We have two classes starting on Sunday, February 29th and Thursday, February 23rd. An informal information session is being held on February 12th at 7 pm. If you are looking for hope in 2012, let us show you how to find real financial peace. More information will follow.

ARE YOU GOD’S WIFE?

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!' 'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him.. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now..' As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her: "Are you God’s Wife?"

