

**July/August 2009 Newsletter from:  
First Ev. Lutheran Church  
8397 Piney Orchard Parkway  
Odenton, MD 21113  
410-672-3352  
Rev. Scott MacDonald, Pastor**



**We wait for the blessed hope –  
the glorious appearing of our great  
God and Savior, Jesus Christ ....**

**Titus 2:13, NIV**

# Gospeltality

First  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church

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Issue

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Fellowship  
Evangelism  
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Gospeltality is the  
monthly newsletter  
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Odenton, MD

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

### REAL REFRESHMENT!

"I satisfy the weary ones and refresh everyone who languishes."  
Jeremiah 31:25 (NASB)

We are now in the midst of the season of Pentecost. This is a season of growth in our church year. God is concerned for the care and nurture of his people. He is the God of life and so also the God of growth. Where does this growth happen? It happens in his garden; the Church. Jesus says that where two or more *are gathered* in his name, he is there in their midst! Literally these are people who "are gathered" by God! God takes the initiative as he reaches out in his word, gathers and then grows us all in his kingdom of grace!



So it is that we grow as we follow his command to gather in his name. Yet, this command to gather stems out of the Lord's gracious goodness. It serves to cause and continue further growth in faith always. This is for every season...even the summer season! May the Lord have mercy upon us all for the times we have taken his grace for granted and neglected to gather in his name... Thanks be to God that he is faithful to make us more faithful to him! During this summer season may the Lord provide rest and refreshment in your life. May he above all provide the True Rest through faith in him during this season, this life and forevermore! Jesus, our Savior, gives real refreshment!

Pastor



## **SPECIAL DATES IN JULY (PLANNING COUNCIL EMPHASIS MONTH) AND SPECIAL DATES IN AUGUST (EVANGELISM EMPHASIS MONTH)**

### JULY

4—Independence Day  
29—Church Chore Day

### AUGUST

15—Men's Breakfast, 8 AM  
29—Church Chore Day

**PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2009**

Condensed from Janice Perez’s Minutes

- Treasurer’s Report was read and approved.
- Church expansion could start in July; will take at least 6 months to complete.
- Debbie Starke moving. Her positions needs to be filled.
- VBS and Preschool discussed. Enrollment for Fall Term for Pre-K low at this point.
- Phone number on outdoor sign needs to be updated.



**FIVE STEPS TO A FRIENDLIER CHURCH**

1. Speak to the other person first. Don’t wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don’t know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

by Jean McHenry

July services

Early Services	Late Service
5—	5—
12—Dave & Ursula Pinckney, 19th Anniv.	12—
19—	19—
26—	26—



August services

Early Service	Late Service
2—	2—
9—Donna & Wylie Donaldson, 51st Anniv.	9—
16—Bill Neubacher, Birthday	16—Robert Mencik, 15th Birthday
	16—Grauling’s Anniversary
23—	23—
30—	30—

Anyone wishing to donate flowers please sign up on the flower chart in the narthex. Place your name next to the date(s) desired, put flower donation in the offering and pick up the flowers in the working sacristy after the service. Questions can be directed to Jean McHenry, 410-674-5353 or mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSHRUSH FAMILY**

by Jean McHenry

Roger and Gerda Mushrush first came to First Lutheran Church in the early 1940’s. They both became very active in the congregation. Roger - working with Church Properties doing electrical work; Gerda—baking and helping with church dinners. They eventually adopted two children, David and Regina. Both children developed cancers as they grew up and eventually died before their parents.

Roger lived to 95 years of age and joined his children around 2004. Gerda at 88 years of age recently passed away of heart failure. She had been longing to join her family and

now she has. Many in our congregation remember these faithful servants and we salute their service to our church and hope to be with them in our eternal reward. "Well done you good and faithful servants...." Matthew 25:23.

### **DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE**

Let it be declared, announced and hereby celebrated ...

- That all people everywhere are dependent upon one another.
- That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love and happiness.
- That all things in the natural order are dependent upon everything else.
- That our little planet and all the planets and stars in the solar systems are in a state of mutual dependence upon one another.
- That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.
- And that each individual part of this relationship has its own part to play—its own destiny to fulfill in God's plan.



### **MEN'S BREAKFASTS**

by Todd Lowry



There will be no Men's Breakfast in July, but the men will meet on Saturday, August 15th in the Fellowship Hall at 8 AM. Breakfast will be served.

There will be no Elders Meeting in July. The Elders will meet on Monday, August 3rd at 7 PM in Pastor MacDonald's office. Due to the Labor Day Holiday being on Monday, Sept. 7th the Elders will not meet in September.

### **OUR CHURCH IS TO BE SOLD!**

Our church is to be sold! Yes, our church is to be sold! No, we are not about to lose our building through foreclosure or repudiated debt. However, our church must be sold to the city and county. It has been planted to wield an influence beyond its membership and walls. Thus, we are presented with an enormous challenge.



Our church must be sold to the unchurched! There are scores of people in our community who would attend our church and join us in the Lord's service if we would bother to sell our church to them.

How much is our church worth to you? How much do you value its ministry? How much do you value the Christ it proclaims? As a member of this church, you are selling your church to others every day. Are you selling it short? Has it helped you to the extent that you're willing to sell it to others? Will you be enthusiastic in talking about your church? Will you share your church with others who have no idea what they're missing?

Take our church seriously and talk to people about what our church has to offer them.

America stands on two great pillars—faith and morality.  
Without these, our foundation crumbles.—George Washington



## Memory Verse Games

Memorizing Bible verses is a great way to get God's Word into our hearts and minds.

### Memory-Verse Memory Game

#### What you need:

- Index cards (two for each word in the Bible verse)
- Crayons and markers
- A Bible verse

#### What you do:

1. Choose a different color for each word in the verse. Write that word on two different cards. (Non-readers can draw pictures.)
2. Mix up the cards and spread them out (face down) on a table or floor.
3. Players take turns trying to uncover cards that match. For extra difficulty, try finding the word pairs in the order they appear in the verse.

### The Vanishing Memory Verse

#### What you need:

- Dry-erase board, markers and eraser
- OR chalkboard, chalk and eraser
- OR large piece of construction paper, pen and self-stick notes
- A Bible verse

#### What you do:

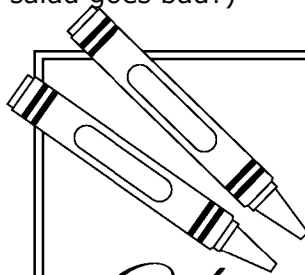
1. Write down the verse and read it (alone or with a partner).
2. Take turns erasing (or covering with self-stick notes) one word at a time. Then read the verse, remembering what word went in each blank.
3. Eventually, the board will be blank, and you'll be able to recite the whole verse!

## OOPS!

From a church bulletin in Canton, Ohio:

"AND ... the church picnic is right around the corner!"

(Is he standing around the *corner* just in case the potato salad goes bad?)



## Just for KIDS

### Upon your hearts

The Bible is the perfect guidebook for living God-pleasing lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (NIV) tells us how to remember the Scriptures.

Use the picture clues and Word Bank below to finish the verses.

#### WORD BANK

children	road
commandments	sit
down	Talk
foreheads	Tie
hands	up
hearts	walk
home	



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

"These (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that I give you today are to be upon your (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Impress them on your (3) \_\_\_\_\_. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ about them when you (5) \_\_\_\_\_ at (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and when you (7) \_\_\_\_\_ along the (8) \_\_\_\_\_, when you lie (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and when you get (10) \_\_\_\_\_. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ them as symbols on your (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and bind them on your (13) \_\_\_\_\_."

Answers: (1) commandments; (2) hearts; (3) children; (4) Talk; (5) sit; (6) home; (7) walk; (8) road; (9) down; (10) up; (11) Tie; (12) hands; (13) foreheads

## **CHORE DAYS**

by Bruce Cole



The upcoming chore days are July 25, August 29, September 26, October 31 and November 21. These are great opportunities to share fellowship and make our church even stronger. Our needs run the gamut from grounds cleanup to painting to minor repairs and beyond. You can also do some chores whenever it is convenient for you. Contact Bruce Cole to see what needs to be done or what you'd like to do; 410-903-0595, bru23@aol.com. Just look at the fence around the playground and you can see what a difference a little teamwork makes.

## **BUZZARD, BAT AND BUMBLE BEE**

found by Linda Vitchock

### THE BUZZARD:

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

### THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

### THE BUMBLEBEE:

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

### PEOPLE:

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, But faith looks up! Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator who loves us.

## **JANITORIAL COORDINATOR**

by Bruce Cole

We are looking for someone to help Church Properties by being the coordinator with our janitorial service. Responsibilities are minor and the results can be immense. If you can help in this way, please contact Bruce Cole, 410-903-0595, bru23@aol.com.

