

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



Gospeltality

First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

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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

Learning and growing together

The season of Lent began for us with our Ash Wednesday service in February. During March we will have brief Wednesday Lenten services at 7 PM. The theme for these services is the Catechism and its meaning for our lives today.



Catechism

We will journey together through the six chief parts of the Catechism over the Wednesdays of March continuing on throughout the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Over the course of these five Wednesdays we will explore together the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and the Lord's Supper. We are called as God's people to a life of learning and growing together. Please join us for these times of worship!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Pastor



SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH **EXECUTIVE BOARD EMPHASIS MONTH**

1—First Sunday in Lent
6—World Day of Prayer
6-8—Youth at Youth Zone-VA Beach
8—Daylight Savings Time Begins
14—Auxiliary Turkey Dinner 4-7 PM

15—Middle Schoolers attend Sports Plex
16—Blood Drive, 2-8 PM, St. Joseph's
17—St. Patrick's Day
20—First Day of Spring
21—Men's Breakfast, Nautilus Diner, 8 AM

BUCKLE ON THE STRAPS

A cowboy once offered this sensible notion of living the Christian faith.

"Lotsa folks who'd really like to do right think that serving' the Lord just means shoutin' themselves hoarse praisin' his name.

"Well I'll tell ya how I look at that. I'm workin' here fer Jim. Now, if I'd sit around the house tellin' what a good fella Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up in the night to serenade him, I'd be doin' just like a lot of Christians do. But I wouldn't suit Jim, and I'd get fired mighty quick.



"But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Jim's herd is all right and not sufferin' fer water and feed, or bein' off the range and branded by cattle thieves, well then, I'm serving' Jim the way he wants to be served."

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
- May 30
- June 27
- July 25
- August 29
- September 26
- October 31 (Happy Halloween!)
- November 21



Thanks to all!

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PRESCHOOL

by Viia Erwin

Although March is our "Good Manners Month", we'll also be talking about the seasonal changes spring will bring to people, plants and animals.

From March 2 to April 30 both classes will again participate in "Book It! Beginners!" a read-aloud program for preschoolers to enhance the enjoyment of story time and build reading readiness skills. Each participant will earn two certificates for a free pizza from Pizza Hut.

On March 17, we'll learn a little about St. Patrick. We'll make special hats, hear the story, "Green Eggs and Ham", and cook green scrambled eggs to eat at snack time. We'll see who's brave enough to try them too!

On the 24th both classes will enjoy a visit from the National Aquarium at Baltimore which will present a hands-on program involving horseshoe crabs, sea stars, snails, sea urchins and other sea creatures. We've enjoyed this "Slither, Slide, Creep and Crawl" program very much in the past.



Both classes will welcome spring by planting marigold seeds on the 19th. We'll take care of them and watch them grow.

The preschool is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have or know of a child who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2009, and would like more information, please contact the church office at 410-551-9189. As you may know, next year the school will be changing to a five day program for both classes.

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND ELDERS' MEETING

by Todd Lowry

March's Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 21st at 8:00 AM and will be held at the Nautilus Diner located on Rt. 3 South in Crofton.

The next Elders' Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd from 7:00 - 8:15 PM. We will meet in Pastor's office.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes, we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.



Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.

DON'T FORGET!!!

Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

by Michelle Hess

On February 1st members of both the Middle School and High School Youth Groups participated in the nationwide youth program, Souper Bowl of Caring. In one morning they raised \$220.70, which was donated to the Christian Assistance Program at our church. Many thanks to our generous congregation for making this possible.



The Middle School Youth Group held a meeting on 2/17 to discuss future activities and service projects. They are coordinating with Sarah's House in Ft. Meade (a shelter for battered women and their children) for a service project to collect "wish list" items for the residents of the shelter. A list will be distributed and donations are much appreciated.

On Sunday, March 15, at 2:00, the Middle Schoolers will be going to the Maryland SportsPlex in Odenton for a fun afternoon of indoor dodgeball and soccer, followed by refreshments in the party room. All middle school age youth are welcome and encouraged to attend! See or call Middle School Youth leaders Sharon Moore (410-674-8020) or Sally Martin (410-551-1491) for details and more information.

The High School Youth Group is gearing up for another trip to Youth Zone in Virginia Beach, Va. on the weekend of March 6-8. Hundreds of high school youth attend this conference, which features many inspirational speakers and a top-notch Christian band. Informational packets with permission slips have been passed out and are due back with your deposit no later than March 1.

Many more fun activities and service projects are planned for the youth in the upcoming months. If you are not a member of a Youth Group and would like to join in on the fun, please contact Michelle Hess, Youth Director, at 410-923-1271 or

michellehess44@yahoo.com, or stop by Sunday School Room #2 after Sunday School one morning. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome!

FAITH OF A CHILD

found by Donna Cox

(Ed. Note: Some of you may have seen this on the internet, but for those don't have internet, thought I'd pass on this true story. You may hear this story yourself on www.veoh.com/videos/v16771084WaYeYXA.)

News Anchor from CBN TV News: Well, they call him the Sky Angel Cowboy, the voice of a little boy who called a radio station to share his story and a lesson that God showed him—a message that has now captured the world's attention.

This is 13 year old Logan Henderson. He lives on a ranch in the middle of Nebraska. Isolated from much of the world, he often listens to FMKSBJ Christian radio out of Houston, TX which he picks up on Sky Angel.



In late October Logan made a call to the station that would soon be heard around the world.

Logan: Hey Mike, can I talk to you?

Mike: You bet Logan, what's up?

Logan: I want to tell you something that God just told me.

Mike: Okay?

Logan: Last night my Dad was roping this calf and this calf had been born from a really old cow. She didn't really have the greatest milk. She didn't have like the Vitamin C and stuff (..sniff).

Mike: Okay?

Logan: She broke her back ... and ... this morning I went out and put her down myself (crying) and I was talking to God and I was asking God WHY? She was special ... And God said ... You know Logan, my son was special but he died for a purpose (sniff). It's kind of the same thing ... that calf was close to me (sniff) and God's son was close to Him.

Mike: Logan, you are so right. It's true. Think you're going to be okay? (crying heard in background)

Logan: Yea, I'll be fine. But I just wanted to tell you guys that it's so important. Just remember, when you lose a loved one or a pet ... always remember that God gave His son too ... and he understands. HE WILL ALWAYS UNDERSTAND! He will always, just run to Him (sniff).

Mike: Logan, you are wiser than you know buddy.

Logan: Oh, I just figured I better call and share with you guys. Love you.

Mike: Love you too.

Logan: Bye

EVANGELISM NOTE

by John Broderick



Good and bad, right and wrong; how do we define it? It seems to me that these definitions are like buildings. You must start with some kind of foundation, and if the foundation is laid properly the building will stand strong.

What is your foundation? Is it strong enough to help others build theirs? What is the reason for the hope and faith in your foundations?

Sharing these things with others makes you an evangelist! "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord." "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus." I claim these as my truth, right, and good; how about you?

Share your foundations with me at J-Wayneser@comcast.net

TURKEY DINNER

by Jean McHenry

Turkey dinner with all the trimmings is being offered at our church in the Fellowship Hall by the Ladies' Auxiliary. The dinner will be served buffet style from 4 PM to 7 PM on Saturday, March 14th. Adult tickets are \$12, children 6-12 years \$6. Children under 6 are free. Carry outs are available. Come and celebrate thanksgiving in March! Tickets are available from the church office at 410-551-9189, any member of the Ladies' Auxiliary or can be purchased at the door. As usual, we're asking our friends in the congregation to make cookies or brownies for the dessert table. Thanks for your help. Questions can be directed to Jean Mencik, 410-672-5859 or jean@mencik.com.



CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

by Jean McHenry

During March, we will be concentrating on collecting rice and rice mixes. Please contribute to the "Rice Bowl" so that we can refill our pantry. All non-perishable foods will be collected in the CAP basket in the narthex. Many thanks for your contributions of soup during the month of February. We give special thanks to the Van Dine family who are doing a wonderful job of keeping the shelves stocked as food comes in. Jim & Barbara Gousha help too but have recently been knocked out of commission by Barb's surgery and chemo.



On Monday, March 16th, St. Joseph Catholic Church will conduct a Blood Drive from 2 PM to 8 PM. Please contact Debbie Starke, 410-695-0073 to donate or just show up between those hours. To schedule a specific time contact Karen Zajdek, curiosity@msn.com. The whole process from signing in, to reading the material, blood screening, answering the questions, and then having the blood drawn, takes about 40-45 minutes. Your donation would be most welcome (and life-saving).

AN IRISH BLESSING

May you have
Walls to keep out the wind,
A roof to keep out the rain,
Warm drinks by the fire,
Laughter to cheer you,
Those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire,
Including the love of God within.



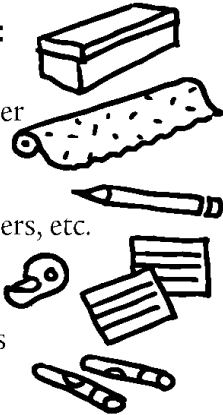


PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens

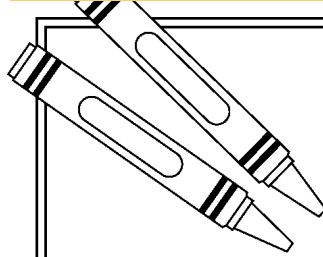


What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.

COME JOIN THE CHOIR

The choir rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM in the church basement. During Lent rehearsals will follow the Lenten mid-week service. Need many more voices for the choir for the Easter services.



A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"He ___nd ___ll h___s f___m___l___
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w___r___ d___v___ ___t___nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G___d-f___ ___r___ng; h___ g___v___
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g___n___r___ ___sl___ t___ th___s___ ___n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n___ ___d ___nd pr___ ___ ___d t___ G___d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r___g___l___rl___." ___cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Beckie Peterson has started a Ladies' Bible Study Prayer Group on Mondays at 10 AM at her house. For more information contact Beckie at 410-674-4936 or Wendy MacDonald at 410-551-8773.



ALTAR FLOWERS

by Jean McHenry

In observance of the solemn season of Lent, we will not display altar flowers during the month of March. Watch the bulletin for a chance to purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Sign up on the altar flower chart for specific days after Easter. Chart is located on the closet doorway in the narthex.



We give thanks to Wanda Travis and Donna Cox who have volunteered to arrange flowers for the worship services.

PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Condensed from Janice Perez's minutes



- Coffee Hour free will offerings to be collected on 1st, 3rd and (sometimes) 5th Sundays.
- Counters to ensure donations go where they are designated.
- Discussion held on who has Church Credit Cards and Safe Deposit Keys.
- Parts are in for handicap lift which will be repaired 2/10/09. Lift should then be good.
- Expansion fund moving forward with permits, etc.
- New phone lines again discussed. Verizon to be contacted. To be discussed at next meeting.
- School and rental properties to be inspected under Dept. of Environment's Asbestos Abatement Plan. Looking into inspection service companies.
- Number of chairs on hand to be counted before next auxiliary meeting.
- Alcohol will not be permitted to be used for fellowship hall events.
- FELC By-Law Article A.5.B.4 to be amended, to make by-laws internally consistent.
- Information on programmable thermostats discussed and voted on.
- Thank you notes received from Odenton Fire Dept., Lutheran Home Service and Lutheran Mission Society thanking us for donations.
- March is Executive Board month.

DANCING WITH GOD

found by Irene Kucholick

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G": I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God, "u" and "i" dance." God, you, and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God, as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

