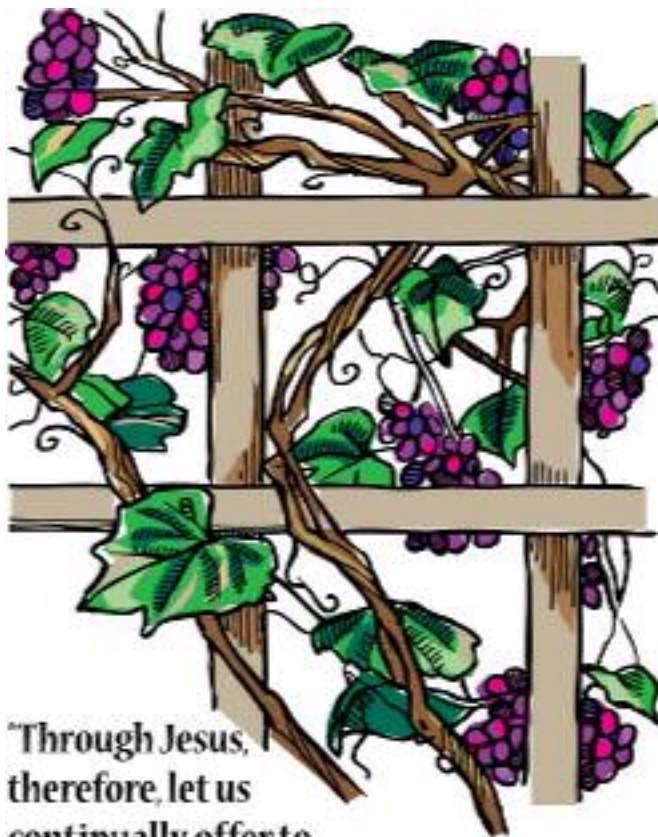


**November 2009 Newsletter from:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
8397 Piney Orchard Parkway
Odenton, MD 21113
410-674-3352
Rev. Scott MacDonald, Pastor**



**"Through Jesus,
therefore, let us
continually offer to
God a sacrifice of praise —
the fruit of lips that confess his name."**

Hebrews 13:15, NIV

Gospeltality

First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

November
2009
Issue

Volume 2009, Issue 9
Web Page: www.FELCodenton.org
E-mail: churchoffice@felcodenton.org
Submit articles to Gospeltality
mailbox or e-mail
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Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

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

FROM THE PASTOR

What's in a name?

What's in a name? There is a whole lot in the name of Jesus, to be sure. Jesus' name means Yahweh or God saves! In a real way his name shows us who he really is; God saving us! So, what's in the Lord's name for his people? The good news for all of us is that as his children, we have the blessing and authority of his name in our lives. The Lord has placed his name upon us first in our Baptism when we were washed and given faith by our Lord in the one Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Since that day we have been blessed to hear and have his name put upon us in blessing again and again in the words of the Liturgy, "The Lord bless you and Keep You!" We have been made his possession through faith in his saving name. So it is that we are privileged to be called his children and to live under that name always!

We live under his name each day of this season of Pentecost. Our church year marches on with anticipation as Thanksgiving Day approaches and the season of Advent is also soon to be upon us. This thanksgiving in lieu of our normal thanksgiving eve service at FELC we will join St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Glen Burnie and other local Lutheran congregations there for a special Thanksgiving Eve Celebration service at 7 PM on November 25th at St. Paul's!

Let us worship together and give thanks to our Lord for his many blessings, because in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior there is truly great blessing for all God's people!

Pastor

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER **COMMUNITY SERVICES EMPHASIS MONTH**



1—All Saint's Day/Day Light Savings
time ends
11—Veterans' Day
16—Blood Drive, Severn Run Baptist
21—Chore Day/Men's Breakfast

22—Christ the King Sunday
25—Thanksgiving Celebration Service
26—Thanksgiving Day
28-29 Scouts Christmas Tree Sale
29—First Sunday in Advent

**I have so much to do (today) that I should spend the
first three hours in prayer.—Martin Luther**

PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF 10/19/09

Condensed from Jan Perez's minutes



- Thrivent representatives gave a presentation and asked for FELC to help with funds to complete the Habitat for Humanity home for this year.
- Groundbreaking for expansion project to be possibly mid-December.
- Preschool requests advance notice of use of preschool rooms.
- 2010 draft budget examined. Next meeting to cover budget, expansion and preschool salary arrangements.
- Christmas decorating plans delayed until construction schedule is set.
- Men's Retreat to be held at the Church of Good Shepherd of Olney.
- Sunday School Christmas Program may be held on Dec. 13th. Looking to see if sufficient chairs are available if construction has started.

FELC EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

by Mike Petersen

Praise the Lord for His Goodness and Provision: the LCEF loan committee met on 20 Oct and approved our loan request for the expansion project. We are moving forward.



1. Getting ready for settlement: We will receive loan commitment and instruction letters providing us specific guidance on needed actions in order to go to loan settlement. Here is a list of actions we already know will have to be completed before settlement. These are not in any specific order, but there are some that would require a longer lead time. The "John and Mike" are John Perry and myself. We will be official signers of contracts, permits, etc.

--a. John and Mike sign contract with Mustang/Corkill upon receipt of LCEF instructions. These will be our approval to set a specific date to sign these contracts. We will have Mustang issue a risk insurance certification statement to us so we can send it and other items to Bay Engineering for AA County permits.

--b. John gets Church Mutual Insurance Company to increase our fire and extended coverage insurance in at least the amount of the value of the property and improvements. LCEF will be the mortgagee.

--c. John transfers current and future expansion funds to LCEF account. Once our funds are expended, we will use LCEF funds to complete the expansion.

--d. Mike informs LCEF so they can order a mortgagee title insurance policy.

--e. Mike (for FELC) requests a survey/legal description of our church property. We are to contact LCEF before ordering a survey. We could use an earlier survey Bay Engineering has done; per LCEF it's more cost and time effective. And, after any footings are poured/set in place, they must be located on another survey and recertified and provided to both LCEF and the title insurance company (and us too)

--f. Settlement takes place about 10 days after all documents are received. John and Mike are the ones who will sign for FELC.

--g. Once settlement occurs we will meet with Mustang and Corkill to determine a construction schedule. This schedule will determine when we cannot use the sanctuary and

Sunday School (SS) classrooms and for how long. This will also include impacts upon our preschool. It will also determine when we must move our services into the Annex. The possibility exists that SS may have to be cancelled for a short time. It is also a possibility that our Christmas services will be held in the Annex.

--h. We will also schedule a ground breaking blessing and ceremony based upon the construction schedule. We would expect this to occur sometime in December. Our plan is to invite SED officials and others to participate. More on this later.

2. Exciting times: These are exciting times, now and ahead, both in terms of our expansion and our ability to reach out to our community for Christ. Continue to pray for all who are involved in this project.....and then we'll see what great plans our Lord has for us.



A DAY OF GRATITUDE AND FRIENDSHIP

Most Americans learning about Thanksgiving's origins, hear or read about the destitute Pilgrims who suffered greatly during their first bitter winter in America. Many Pilgrims got sick, and half of them died.

What we don't focus on enough is the fact that Native Americans took pity on the Pilgrims. They befriended the newcomers and gave them food. They taught them how to survive the vicious cold months.

Then, when the earth grew warm again, the Indians taught the Pilgrims how to grow various crops and how to store any surplus. It was primarily because of the natives' friendship and helpfulness that the Pilgrims began to eke their way from disaster to fruitfulness.

It's no wonder that when the Pilgrims had their first successful harvest, they invited their Indian neighbors to celebrate with them. The natives didn't come empty-handed. They furnished venison, wild turkeys and probably vegetables from storage. It was, more or less, a potluck affair. The Pilgrim leaders prayed gratefully at the occasion. We can be confident that an unseen but not unexpected Guest was very much present that day.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



You'll have an extra hour of sleep on the 31st of October. Please be sure to turn your clocks back one hour so you won't be at worship services an hour before everyone else!



CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER.

by Jean McHenry

The Ladies' Auxiliary will hold their annual Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 PM. We will have our party at Cactus Willie's, 6th Avenue and Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie. Cactus Willie's is an all-you-can-eat buffet style meal including desserts. Prices range from \$11.59 for adults; \$10.99 for seniors; .70 times age for children under

12. Drinks are \$1.69 each. Everyone will be responsible for paying their own way into the restaurant. Ask for the seating for First Lutheran Church when you are to be seated. Please sign up no later than 30 November (so we can tell the restaurant how many to expect). Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. All the congregation is invited and welcome (you don't have to belong to the auxiliary). The Ladies' Auxil-

iary will handle the gratuity. If you have questions, contact Jean McHenry, 410-674-5353 or mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net. Come and fellowship with your fellow church members. Last year we had about 60 members attend.

Ladies who have a Secret Pal are encouraged to bring their Christmas gift to the dinner as it's the time for you to reveal yourself to the secret pal you've been leaving gifts for all through the year. You must give thought as to whether you want to enroll for a secret pal for the upcoming year. See the following article for more information.

SECRET PAL PROGRAM

by Jean McHenry



Every year at the auxiliary Christmas Dinner, ladies who care to participate draw names for a "secret pal". All through the year the secret pals are requested to remember the person whose name they drew with little gifts anonymously. The gifts could be for a birthday, anniversary, valentine's day, Easter, get well, thinking of you, etc. This year we will again offer the "Secret Pal" program. If you have questions, please contact me at 410-674-5353 or mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net.

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PRESCHOOL

by Viiia Erwin

November, our "Transportation Month", will begin with a visit from our photographer who will take both class and individual photos with a Christmas theme.

On the 10th, we will again visit the Maryland Science Center to take part in a Davis Planetarium program entitled "Don't Duck, Look Up". This is a fairly new preschool program which introduces children to the basic features of the day and night sky. We will also have time in the KIDS room as well as the rest of the Science Center.



We will also learn about all the various forms of transportation available to us today as well as discuss the changes in our weather and seasons and how that will affect us.

November is also Thanksgiving Month and as we talk about the Pilgrims and Indians and the first meal they shared, we'll discuss the many things we are thankful for in our lives.

I will once again ask the children to bring in food to share with our food pantry.

The children will also have fun with various crafts, such as making paper bag Indians and Indian puppets, as well as baking corn bread and eating popcorn.

School will be closed November 25-27 as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Liz, Diane and I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

RETURNING THANKS

"Life-saving" was a popular extracurricular activity at Northwestern University during the second half of the 19th century. During four decades, students saved more than 400 people from drowning in Lake Michigan.

During a nighttime storm on September 8, 1860, *Lady Elgin*, a steamboat carrying 393 passengers, was hit by a lumber schooner. The steamboat sank, and 287 people drowned. Northwestern sophomore Edward Spencer swam out to offer aid and ended up rescuing 17 people.



Jesus Heals 10 Lepers

Apparently, the ordeal was so stressful that Spencer became delirious and was confined to a wheelchair for life. When he turned 80, Spencer was asked to share his most vivid memory of that tragic day. "Not one of the 17 returned to thank me," he replied.

This is reminiscent of Jesus' miracle in Luke 17:11-19. Only one of 10 healed lepers returned to thank Jesus for restoring his physical health.

God made a tremendous sacrifice to rescue us. We can return thanks to him each day through our love and grateful obedience.

MEETINGS

by Todd Lowry

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, November 21st at 8:00 AM and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will include pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. All men are welcome to join us.

The Elders will meet on Monday evening, November 2nd at 7:00 PM in Pastor's office. God's Peace.



ALTAR FLOWERS

by Jean McHenry

Those donating flowers for the altar during November are:

Early Service

- 1—Forsyth Family in memory of Bill
- 8 -
- 15—
- 22—Normalee & Darrel Foat, 52nd Anniv.
- 29—

Late Service

- 1—Hansberger Family in memory of their girls
- Pat Potter's birthday
- 8—Debbie & Bill Susie, 14th Anniversary
- 15—Potters for Jeff's birthday on the 10th
- 22—Elizabeth Vitchock's 27th birthday
- 29—

SUPPORT BOY SCOUT TROOP 712 AND LOCAL BUSINESS

Fresh cut Christmas Trees will be available at:

WILLOW OAK HERB FARM
 8109 Telegraph Road
 Severn, Md. 21144
 410-551-2237
 www.willowoakherbs.com



- November 27 5-8 PM
- November 28 10 AM—8 PM
- November 29 12 PM—8 PM

- December 11 5—8 PM
- December 12 10 AM—8 PM
- December 13 12 PM—8 PM

December 4 5—8 PM
December 5 10 AM—8 PM
December 6 12 PM—8 PM

December 18 5—8 PM
December 19 10 AM—8 PM
December 20 12 PM—8 PM

Prices range from \$40.00- \$65.00
Hours are subject to change
Please call first

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE NORTH POLE WHILE YOU'RE THERE!



POINSETTIAS

by Jean McHenry

Usually this time of year we are taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the altar area for Christmas services. Because of the church expansion and the possibility that we will be worshipping in the annex we will not be taking orders this year.

BAND TOGETHER IS COMING!

by Jean McHenry

On November 13 at 7 PM plan to attend a Christian concert to benefit the Christian Assistance Program (CAP). The concert will feature musical groups from Christian churches in our area. It will be held at the Glen Burnie Moose Lodge, 1911 Crain Highway. Advance tickets are being sold by Jean McHenry at the early service and Bev Hansberger at the late service. Advance tickets are \$5.00 each; tickets purchased at the door will cost \$7.00. Sponsors for the event are being sought to advertise in the program guide. Sponsorship forms are available on a table in the narthex. Concessions will also be sold at the event. Come out and help support CAP and enjoy over 3 hours of Christian music. Contact Jean McHenry, 410-674-5353 or mchenrynorth40@verizon.net if you have questions.



FOOD PANTRY MOVED

by Jean McHenry

The Christian Assistance Program's (CAP's) Food Pantry has moved to Severn United Methodist Church, 1215 Old Camp Meade Rd. in Severn in order to be out of the way when First Lutheran begins its construction. Contributors to the Food Pantry from our church will continue to put their donations in the basket in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Jean McHenry, 410-674-5353 or mchenrynorth40@verizon.net. We look forward to moving back into the new building when it is finished.



For the month of November, we will be emphasizing collection of canned vegetables. Many thanks for your support of this program.

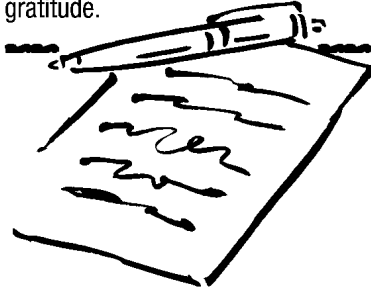
THREE KINDS OF GIVING

by Robert N. Rodenmayer

There are three kinds of giving; grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to', duty giving says, 'I ought to', and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

Attitude of GRATITUDE

The Thanksgiving holiday reminds us that we should always be grateful for the many blessings God provides. Keep a special gratitude journal, and write in it often to keep an attitude of gratitude.

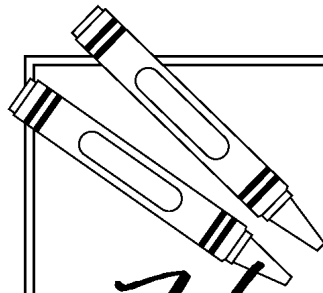


What you need:

- Paper (8½" x 11" sheets, plain or lined)
- Stapler
- Stickers
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. Fold several sheets of paper in half.
2. Staple the pages together on the folded crease.
3. Write "Attitude of Gratitude" on the cover.
4. Decorate your journal with stickers and drawings.
5. On the inside cover, write "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).
6. Use your journal daily as a reminder of your blessings and as a guide for when you say prayers.



Just for **KIDS**

He gave thanks

This Thanksgiving, you may share a special meal with family and friends. Do you remember the time when Jesus shared a meal with thousands of people and gave thanks?

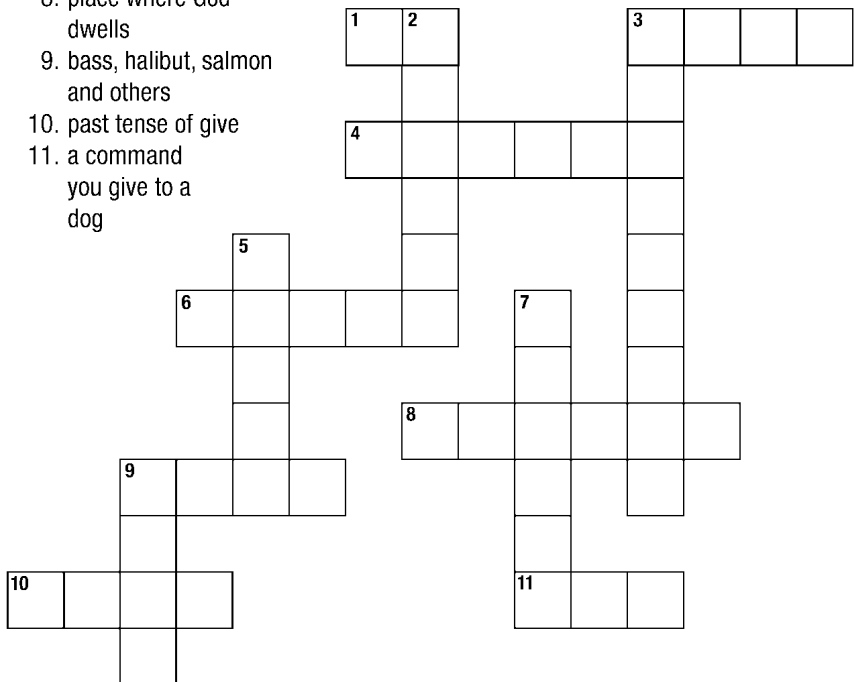
Use the clues to find important words from Matthew 14:19 (NIV).

Across

1. opposite of down
3. opposite of up
4. more than one loaf
6. penniless
8. place where God dwells
9. bass, halibut, salmon and others
10. past tense of give
11. a command you give to a dog

Down

2. another name for humans
7. _____ giving
3. twelve of Jesus' closest friends
9. odd number after 4
5. what a lawnmower cuts



Across: 1. up, 3. down, 4. loaves, 6. broke, 8. heaven, 9. fish, 10. gave, 11. sit
Down: 2. people, 3. disciples, 5. grass, 7. thanks, 9. five

