

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



*He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of
God's very being*

Hebrews 1:3, NRSV

Gospeltality

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First
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

October
2009
Issue

Fellowship
Evangelism
Love
Community

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Free



As God's people we are truly free and blessed as Jesus Christ has given his saving Word that makes us free indeed! Whether we are young or older, single or married, as God's people the message is the same for all of us: we are free from sin in our Savior, Jesus Christ! So we celebrate together. On October 18th from 4-7 PM we will celebrate our time and fellowship together as we will enjoy a Harvest Festival with plenty of apple pie to go around! Also, we will celebrate that freeing word of grace he has given as we share our Reformation Sunday on October 25th at both the 8 AM and 11 AM services.

Whether in the assembly of the church or simply in the home as God's own we are always to celebrate God's goodness remembering what we have received so freely and can freely share back in return. We can respond to his goodness giving back in return as we use our time, also talents and treasure for his work and glory!

Pastor

SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER **STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH**



12—Columbus Day Observance
17—Men's Breakfast, 8 AM
18—Harvest Festival

25—Reformation Sunday
31—Chore Day

EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

by Mike Petersen

Great News! At the 28 September voters' assembly, the vote was unanimous that we submit loan application documents to Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for our expansion project. Below is a summary of ongoing actions and next steps:

--The total estimated cost of our expansion project is \$1,444,454. We have received \$463,996 in building fund pledges to date and estimate we'll receive from your contributions to the fund another \$61,000, for a total of \$524,996. This means our total loan request is for \$928,653.

--We are requesting a 30 year mortgage from LCEF but will be also paying additional amounts, as if we had a 20 year mortgage, on the loan principal. This will allow us to also cover loan payments at the lower 30 year mortgage rate during the summer months when giving generally decreases.

--Essential to this project is continued giving towards this project. As earlier approved, we've requested that building fund pledges continue through December 2014 and that those who have not yet begun pledges to the building fund begin their participation.



--The loan application package consists of the following documents, all of which are available in the FELC Secretary's office for anyone to read. If anyone would like a soft copy to read, please email me at maprlp@verizon.net

-----loan application; certificate of resolution and bylaws; congregational resolution; copies of current and most recent complete fiscal year finances to include balance sheets and income/expense versus budget; FELC constitution and bylaws; certificate of property insurance; FELC Ministry Plan; and drawings or description of the work to be done. LCEF will obtain our Articles of Incorporation from the State of Maryland.

--We have requested that Dan Baker, the LCEF Vice President/Director for Laborers For Christ visit us for two days in late Oct to meet with our Expansion Committee, our contractor, and our architect. His visit will provide guidance to everyone involved with this project on what to do to get the best return on our project.

Bottom Line: While a focus has been on completing all the work and planning and forms to move our expansion project ahead, the main focus of our project is to provide facilities for all to worship our Lord and an inviting environment to those who have yet to meet Jesus Christ as Savior. Please continue to pray for Him to lead everyone involved in this project. Remember, FELC doesn't just mean First Evangelical Lutheran Church; it also means Fellowship, Evangelism, Love, and Community!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE PRESCHOOL

by Viia Erwin

As many of you probably know, we only have a morning session at our school this year. However, we will be as busy and active as usual during October, our Farm Animal Month.

As we learn about all those wonderful farm animals, we'll try our hands at cooking apple-sauce on "Apple Day", and make butter to eat on crackers on "Cow Day". On "Chicken Day" we'll eat hard-boiled eggs. We'll also have fun making raccoon and cow puppets, cat masks, funny hats, jack-o-lanterns and lots more.



On the 7th we'll visit Green Meadows Children's Farm in Jessup. This has always been a great trip with something for everyone and lots of fun for all. We'll have a self-guided tour, a hay ride, a chance to try to milk a cow, an animal show and more than 300 animals to see, pet and learn about. We'll end our visit with a picnic lunch and pick a pumpkin to bring home.

We'll finish the month with a Halloween party. We'll dress up in costumes, have a parade, go trick-or-treating, play games, eat lots of treats and just have a good time!

We still have a few openings in our morning class. So if you have, or know of, a four year old who would like to join us and have fun learning all sorts of things, please contact the church office at 410-672-3352.

A PRAYER FOR PUMPKIN PEOPLE

After Liz Curtis Higgs wrote the popular children's book *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, people began using her analogies to say a prayer while carving their Halloween pumpkins. The pumpkin prayer, a Christian alternative to Halloween traditions, reminds people of all ages what God has done for us. Use it this fall when your family makes jack-o-lanterns.

- While cutting off the top of the pumpkin, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you." (See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do, and help me forgive others." (See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16.)

After carving your pumpkins, display them as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)



ALTAR FLOWERS

by Jean McHenry

Remembering special occasions with altar flowers during October are:

Early Service

4—George & Alice Andrzejewski, 33rd Ann.
Dave & Linda Vitchock, 12th Ann.
Dave Pinckney, Birthday

11—

18—Marilyn & Andrew Murphy, (Paul's Birthday)

25—In Memory of Neubacher Anniversary

Late Service

4—Jean & Steve Mencik, Birthdays
Ann & Mike Mrozek, 40th Ann.

11—Dolores & Ben Soars, Ann.

18—

25—Susie family in memory of Debbie's
brother, Steve Vossler

PRAYER IS THE PLACE WHERE BURDENS CHANGE SHOULDERS.

PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Condensed from Jan Perez's minutes

- Discussion held on finalizing expansion plans and permits.
- Preschool is running morning session only. Weekly set-ups and tear-downs will be required when worship services are held in Fellowship Hall.
- Board openings for Fellowship and Community Services to be advertised.
- Parsonage needs maintenance work.

- Pastor will be away the weekend of Oct. 11th. Communion switched to Oct. 4th.
- Square Dancing will be held at Harvest Fest.
- Members and visitors encouraged to use church office hours to drop in. Pastor is not always at the parsonage.
- A large group of sixth graders may require a separate Sunday School class.
- Properties Board is securing quotes on snow removal.
- Church Properties board will meet 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

by Bruce Bierey

Join us for some good food and family fun on Sunday, October 18 from 4-7 PM. Enter your best batch of chili and/or bake your favorite apple pie recipe for the contest. There will also be square dancing for kids of all ages!!! Come and enjoy the fellowship!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

by Todd Lowry

October's men's Breakfast will be Saturday, October 17th at 8 AM. It will be in Fellowship Hall and breakfast will be served.



BAND TOGETHER

by Jean McHenry

Members of the Praise Band at Nichols Bethel United Methodist Church have suggested that all the CAP churches get together and organize a musical event to raise money and food for the Christian Assistance Program. Although FELC has yet to volunteer any musical talent for the event, Nichols Bethel has gone ahead and named the concert "Band Together". The date will be Friday, November 13th at the Moose Lodge in Glen Burnie. The event will start at 7:30 PM and run for approximately 4 hours.



They now are looking for musical talent for the event. They already have some Christian musicians and singers volunteering. They hope to have all the talent from the CAP churches, but if none are forthcoming, they'll look elsewhere. I would really like to see First Lutheran represented in this event and it would certainly reach out into our community and let people know we are here. Musical groups or soloists are all welcome.

If you are willing and able to perform or can organize other to do so, please contact Dave Ritchie from Nichols Bethel at 410-798-6144 or dave@javelinasoftware.com. If I can help in any way, please contact me at 410-674-5353 or mchenrysnorth40@verizon.net.

**Stewardship is not just raising funds;
It's raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;
It's a matter of faith.**

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

by Jean McHenry

During October we will be collecting canned potatoes and tomatoes for the CAP pantry.

Cookies for Friends

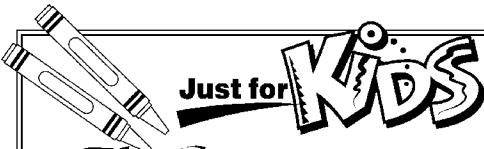
Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.



A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
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S	I	N	C	E	R	E	L	S	Y	S	O	W	
G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F



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C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F