

The Lutheran Light

"As the Body of Christ, St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church is called by the Father through the Holy Spirit to worship God and witness to others."

Vol. 32 No. 03, March 2010

The Pastor's Prism



"Opinion or Conviction?"

One of the qualities of our humanity is that of being fickle. Being fickle means we are constantly changing between one opinion and another, often depending on how it will benefit us at the moment. For example, President Obama was greatly supported by many a year ago but now, only a year later, many have turned against him, because, allegedly, he has not done enough to address the unemployment and financial woes of our country. Could it be that we Americans are fickle?

Another example, there are people who seem chronically unwilling to make decisions, seemingly indecisive, and say whatever decision is made doesn't matter. Yet when someone else makes the decision for them they get upset and blame the one who made the decision when things don't go their way!

Fickleness seems to arise in part from self-centered attitudes that are constantly seeking affirmation and approval of others, and/or perhaps just out of ego centralism, as though they were saying, "If the thing (in question) will make me happy or do me some good, I'm for it!"

It takes wisdom to know when to change our mind and when to hold to that which we believe to be true. This is seen in the Passion account of Jesus Christ, which we reflect upon particularly on Good Friday. The people were all for Jesus when He entered Jerusalem as they welcomed Him as a future king with palm branches and acclamations (John 12:12-14). Just a few days later after Jesus was arrested, they denounced Him as a criminal, even calling for His crucifixion (John 18:40; 19:6, 12, 15).

In the Passion of Jesus there was enough fickleness to go around from the crowds, from Pilate, and even the

disciples as they abandoned Him! Pilate originally had wanted to set Jesus free, but because of his fear of unrest among those he governed, he decided to yield to the crowds demand and have Him crucified (John 19:1-16). Peter who was so willing to die with Jesus (John 13:37) denied Him three times (John 18:17, 25, 27). All the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested (Matthew 26:56).

At the same time we know there are those who have lived out their convictions, holding on to those core beliefs/convictions that were a part of their lives. Certainly this is exemplified in Jesus Christ as He lived among us in spite of the adversities He faced. We see similar steadfastness of conviction in Jesus' followers like Paul, Peter, and the other disciples, who though they wavered at times, ultimately lived their convictions, even dying for what they believed to be true.

The temptation for us humans is to have opinions about everything else while having few convictions, including those about our relationship with God. In this age of individuality and ego centralism our opinions are more often based on what something or someone will do for us at the moment. We are fickle.

During Lent we are reminded that Christ's conviction to go to the cross for us demonstrated God's conviction that we humans should be spared from the ravages of our sin, including our ego centralism. We can be grateful that God is not fickle in His judgment about the human condition but has called us to know redemption by living out with conviction that which we have been taught from His Word and believe by faith.

That is why the Creeds are so important to us Christians. Against our fickle nature, the Creeds remain the core of Christian belief for they state

the convictions of Christians across the ages who have distilled from God's Word the essence of their faith, which we make our own. The Creeds reveal to us Who God is as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, while at the same time telling us who we are and how we are to live out our convictions. It is no wonder that Luther recommended we use of the Apostles' Creed at the beginning and end of each day as a means for staying focused on the core of beliefs that have come down to us. The Creeds are Christian convictions, not opinions.

Praying the Creed twice each day could become a part of our Lenten devotion if we are not already doing it. Such an approach might help us in living out our humanity as children of God, and help free us from our ego centralism of our fickleness in matters of faith.

+ "Pr. Lee"

Our heavenly Father, we acknowledge our fickleness towards serving You. We confess that we too often find ourselves willing to give our opinions without stopping to reflect about our convictions. Forgive us and free us so that we might live out those convictions which have been distilled from the Holy Scriptures into the Creeds, so that You may receive all the glory. We pray that You would help us to live less for ourselves and more for others in the Spirit with Jesus Christ. AMEN



Council Highlights



Council met on February 22, 2010

1. The Maryland-Delaware Synod will hold its assembly June 10, 11, and 12 in Gettysburg, PA. We are in need a couple of delegates willing to represent St. Mary's. Let the pastor know if you are interested.
2. The Sunday held a bowling party Feb. 20 at Thunderhead Bowling Alley in Taneytown. They had 10 young people participate in the party and all those involved had a great time. Special thank you to Laura Bennett for organizing the event.
3. The council would like to extend a special thank you to Craig Fleischer and Gary Meadows for their diligence in removing the snow from the parking lot after the record breaking snows.
4. The property committee is beginning to plan the spring cleaning day. Volunteers will be needed to come and help clean and fix up around the church one day this spring. The actual date for this event will come in the near future.
5. Attached is the treasurer's report [page 6 of this newsletter] on where St. Mary's donations went this past year.

~ Gail Wisner, Secretary

Newsletter Deadline: 3rd Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.
Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-1pm

Electronic Newsletter - By joining St. Mary's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website. To join, send an email request to smelc@mail.com.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumback, II 717-359-8882
Council President: Craig Fleischer, 410-346-6065
Council Vice-President: Dwyn Fleischer, 410-346-6065
Council Secretary: Gail Wisner, 410-346-7955
Treasurer: Art Wisner 410-346-7955
Outreach & Welcome: Jim Crist 410-848-4391
Christian Ed Chairperson: Laura Bennett 410-346-6729
Property Committee: Gary Meadows 410-346-6994
Staff Support: Rick Sparacino, 717-637-0067
Stewardship Committee: (vacant)
Worship & Music Committee: Don Kaufman 717-637-9795
Flower Committee: Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030
Altar Guild Coordinator: Fran Crist 410-848-4391
Lector Coordinator: Jim Crist 410-848-4391
Funeral Reception Committee: Viola Haines 717-633-7648, Marion Matthias 410-346-7380
Sexton : Mark Ruby 410-346-6840
Secretary: Susan Blizzard 410-848-6384
Organist: Joye Kaufman 717-637-9795
Thrivent Liaison: Donna Myers
Carroll Lutheran School Delegate: Shirley Stansbury
Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates: Jim and Fran Crist
Acolyte Coordinator: Alec Shapiro
Stamp Coordinator: Helen Wolf

Exercise Class

A free exercise class now being held in our parish house on Mondays and Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. in classroom #2. Focus of the class is on core stabilization and abs, but also includes arm, leg, and cardio work.

Anyone is welcomed to attend but attendees must bring their own equipment (exercise ball, towel or mat to door floor exercises on, and light hand weights 2 - 4 lbs.).

Contact Cynthia McNemar at missy5218@hotmail.com or 443-375-9943 for more information.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Weekend of Discovery...A lifetime of Love

**March 5 - 7, 2010
Gaithersburg, MD**

For details call 1-800-235-1010 or
Email jakenjune@citlink.net

To register online <http://www.Godlovesmarriage.org>

Sunday School Calendar

Sunday, March 7	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, March 14	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, March 21	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Saturday, March 27	Easter Celebration Party / Egg Hunt 4 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 28	Game Day - In the Tomb, Out of Tomb
Sunday, April 4	No Sunday School - Easter
Sunday, April 11	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Saturday, April 17	Sunday school clean-up day, Noon -2
Sunday, April 18	Brunch for church
Sunday, April 25	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 2	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, May 9	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, May 16	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, May 23	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, May 30	Sunday School/ Confirmation Class
Sunday, June 6	Last Day, closing ceremony
Sunday, June 13	Confirmation during worship service

Sunday, August 15 Ice Cream Social

For more information contact Christian Education
Chairperson: Laura Bennett 410-346-6729

Prayer Ventures - March 2010

1 During Women's History Month, give thanks for all the women and girls who heed God's call to leadership in this church, as rostered and lay leaders in many vocations, that God sustain them in their calls.

2 Pray for God to heal our resistance to addressing all forms of oppression.

3 Thank God for Pastors Claudia Bergmann and Scott Moore, serving in Germany. May Claudia and Scott's ministry help strengthen the church as it seeks to engage Germany's secular culture.

4 Take a moment to reflect what it means to work together as women and men, girls and boys, to address sexism in church and society.

5 Pray for Dorcas Wang as she teaches leadership development and capacity building of both the ELCA and its companions in China. She ministers to Chinese returnees and expatriates.

6 We pray for ELCA congregations behind prison walls: Church of the Damascus Road, Ft. Dodge, Iowa; Followers of Christ, Firth, Neb.; Living Stones, Shelton, Wash.; New Beginnings, Aurora, Colo.; Prisoners of Hope, Appleton, Minn.; St. Dysmas, Jefferson, Md.; and St. Dysmas, Sioux Falls and Springfield, S.D.

7 3rd Sunday in Lent - Holy God, we give you thanks for the witness of Christians in Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino. Grant renewal and strength to the churches in these countries, that the gospel might reach those who have not yet heard the words of our Lord.

8 Praise God for the continued growth of churches in China, Hong Kong and Macao, as these countries journey through a long period of adjustment.

9 Thank God for the companion relationships between the ELCA Southeastern Synod, the Lutheran Church in Singapore, and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore.

10 Harriet Tubman; Sojourner Truth; renewers of society - Remember in prayer Elaina Styblo, a seminary intern from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Elaina is serving her internship at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Mexico City.

11 Ask the Holy Spirit to surround the people God is calling to be a part of Rivers of Life Community Church, Colora, Md., a new ELCA ministry in Cecil County, Md. Pray that God will strengthen the faith of these new Christians.

12 Gregory the Great, bishop of Rome - Remember in prayer Candise Heinlein, a volunteer at the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran

Church headquarters. Candise serves as a communication assistant and uses her expertise to provide various media services.

13 Please pray for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and Pastor Kelly Chatman. Ask God to bless their continued efforts to be a vital presence for healing and transformation in their community.

14 4th Sunday in Lent - We lift up to you, merciful God, the members of the emerging Christian communities in Myanmar and Thailand, that they may expand their holistic ministries in their countries.

15 Praise God for Pr Benjamin and Margit Colvet, serving at the American Church in Berlin. The congregation capitalizes on its diverse membership to reach out to the changing population of the German capital.

16 Pray for candidacy committee members and candidates as they work together to discern God's calling to the next generation of pastors, deaconesses, diaconal ministers and associates in ministry.

17 Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland - Pray for the staff and volunteers who are already busy planning for the next ELCA Youth Gathering to be held in 2012.

18 Pray for confirmation students as they prepare to affirm their baptism in ELCA congregations and for the pastors and mentors who are walking with them at this important time in their lives.

19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus - Remember in prayer Pastor Wayne Nieminen and Pastor Christa von Zychlin, seminary professors at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Praise God for the dedication of the students, many of whom go forth to serve in countries including Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand and Hong Kong.

20 Thank God for the energy and commitment of young people to "God's work. Our hands." 38 youth and 12 adults from four Pittsburgh area congregations worked on the homes and yards of struggling families.

21 5th Sunday in Lent - We give you thanks, O God, for the vitality of the churches in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Build up these dynamic communities, that they may encourage other churches within the Lutheran communion.

22 Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians - Pray for Carol Anderson, Jennifer Christen and Stephanie Olson, volunteer teachers at Evangelické Gymnazium Juraja Tranoveskeho in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. The Gymnazium is one of several church-related schools to which the ELCA sends teachers.

23 Pray for Dale Goodman, executive director of Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center, Strawberry Point, Iowa, and for all outdoor ministry staff as they prepare for another summer of activity. Pray for the youth and adults who will take part in outdoor ministry experiences in the months ahead.

24 Thank God for Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, who serve at Kyushu Lutheran College, a college of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kumamoto, Japan. Patrick teaches English and Jacqueline directs a college choir.

25 Annunciation of Our Lord - Pray for college, university and seminary students and especially for those who are experiencing financial difficulties that could make it difficult to continue in school. Pray for generous and encouraging partners to help them follow their callings.

26 Thank God for the newly ordained Asian pastors: Betty Chen, Nengyia Her, and Frank Wang; for those received through the candidacy process from other traditions: Inba Inbasarasu, Seok Hwan Jeong, Stephen Kung, and Omega Varma.

27 Thank God for the faithful service of Barbara Robertson in the area of the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Ask God to bless her work as she develops and implements a program to deal with HIV and AIDS for the surrounding communities.

28 Palm Sunday - Lord, you entered Jerusalem with a peaceful heart. Be our example that we too can live as people of peace in this world.

29 Monday in Holy Week - Please pray for William Okweari, a Sudanese lay minister (Anyuak tribe) whom God is using to gather Sudanese immigrants for worship in Minneapolis and Austin, Minn.

30 Tuesday in Holy Week - Renton Lutheran Church., Renton, Wash., gifted its community upon its closure. Their generosity is creating apartments for homeless veterans and a new ministry called Luther's Table. Please pray for former members of Renton Lutheran and for those who'll be served by these ministries.

31 Wednesday in Holy Week - Give thanks for Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, and its century of partnership with the ELCA and its predecessors. Pray for Waldorf in the next phase of its life, now under private ownership, as it continues to educate young people. Pray for the Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation and its ongoing work along side the college to offer campus ministry, scholarships and other support.

Caring Carroll

YOU CAN HELP OLDER ADULTS REMAIN INDEPENDENT! Caring Carroll, a faith-based non-profit organization in Carroll County, needs volunteers to help homebound older and disabled adults in Carroll County with tasks such as light house cleaning, errands, transportation, yard work, and minor home repairs. Very flexible; you determine your availability. Adults 18+ welcome.

Caring Carroll's New Volunteer Training will be held on Saturday, March 20th from 10-11 a.m. and Tuesday, March 23rd from 5-6 p.m. (you choose one session) at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library, 50 E. Main Street, Westminster. For more information, contact Maggie Kunz at 410-775-5596 or caringcarroll@hotmail.com

Carroll Lutheran School Basket/Pampered Chef Bingo Saturday, March 27

at the school
1738 Old Taneytown Road
Westminster, MD

Doors open 12:00 Noon
Games begin 1:00 p.m.

Food and refreshments available
Door Prizes & Raffles
All Baskets Filled

Home Show Vendors and Businesses will be present for your shopping convenience.

Admission by Ticket Only
\$12 /Advance \$15/ Door
Advance ticket price valid until 3/20.

For tickets, contact:
Beverly 410-857-7616

Thank You

"THANK YOU" As chairperson of the "Outreach & Welcome Committee" I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas Bazaar. Everyone worked so well together to make this a successful event. Here are the final figures; We received \$380.00 from Thrivent to make our grand total \$3,154.13. 10% or 315.41 will go toward Benevolence, 30% or 946.24 to each of the following groups, New Life for Girls, Carroll County Food Sunday and Special Needs of St. Mary's.

Thanks again,
Jim Crist.

LENT IN 2010

Lenten Focus Meetings will be held on Sunday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a simple supper of bread and soup in the Parish House. From 6 p.m. to about 6:45 p.m. we will have presentations and discussions with our ecumenical partners. This will be followed by a brief devotion in order that everything can be completed by 7 p.m. Ecumenical partners are those churches, that the ELCA share an agreement of fellowship regarding Baptism and the Holy Communion. Speakers from the Moravian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and UCC churches will share with us something of their church's history, mission emphases, and what makes their denomination unique, along with additional information. Speakers will be:

- March 7 Rev. Dr. Richard Scott, St. Mary's UCC
Soup/bread providers/servers—Fleischers
- March 14 Mr. Delmas "Woody" Wood, Lay Minister,
Westminster United Methodist Church
Soup/bread providers/servers—Wisners
- March 21 Fr. Ron Fisher, Ascension Episcopal Church,
Westminster
Soup/bread providers/servers— Gary &
Brenda Meadows

March 28 Review, reflection, and towards the future
Soup/bread providers/services— **Volunteers needed** Please contact Pastor Lee if you can provide soup/bread for the Lenten Focus Meeting.

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday**, March 28 at 9:30 a.m. with the blessing of the Palms in the rear of the church.

Maundy Thursday service is on April 1st at 7:30 p.m. with the laying-on-of-hands for individual forgiveness, pedilavium (foot washing), Holy Communion, and stripping of the altar and sanctuary.

On **Good Friday**, April 2, we will have two services. The first service, Stations of the Cross, will be at 2 p.m. and outside, weather permitting. Please dress casually but warmly. In case of inclement weather, we will conduct the Stations of the Cross in the Parish House auditorium. This service lasts about an hour.



At 7:30 on Good Friday, our service is centered around Jesus' Passion according to St. John and Jesus' cross.

[The Resurrection of our Lord is celebrated on Sunday, April 4, with a festive worship service at 9:30 a.m.]

From Our Missionaries

Dear Friends at St. Mary's
 In these days of email and abstract communication we wanted to send you an actual handwritten note to say thank you. The vicissitudes of work normally require us to use mass mailings to our sponsors, but they are so impersonal.

So Thank you, for your kind sponsorship. Certainly ELCA Global Mission needs your gifts to keep us here, but your gifts are also important to us, a real sign that you are with us on this journey.

Life in Tanzania and our work here is hard to describe in a note, or even a book. We have learned so much since we have been here. We have seen God's work blossom in the hands

of many of our partners and the work of our missionaries. We have also seen problems and situations of intractability that make one weep. Learning indeed!

We look forward to one day visiting you and sharing some of our experiences and the work of your church.

We will be home this summer to visit all our sponsors and we hope you will have a place for us probably in June or August. We will be in touch to try to set up a time.

In the meantime, may God bless you and your ministry with every good gift.
 Wishing you Peace in The Lord
 Amani na Bwana iwe ningi.

Bob & JMe Lowden

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Amani na Bwana iwe ningi.

Bob & JMe Lowden



St. Mary's Lutheran Donations 2009

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Monthly Donation:				
Carroll County Prison Ministry	Jan.	1/25/09	37.00	
Pleasant Valley Fire Co.	Mar.	3/27/09	64.00	
New Life for Girls	Apr.	4/22/09	45.00	
Habitat for Humanity	May	5/23/09	52.00	
ELCA Vision for Mission	June	7/27/09	60.00	
Carroll County Food Sunday	July	7/27/09	51.00	
Silver Run Lights Fund	Aug.	8/30/09	44.16	
Gettysburg Lutheran Sem.	Sept	9/26/09	35.25	
Alpha Fire Co.	Oct.	11/2/09	32.00	
St Dymas	Nov.	11/27/09	35.00	
Carroll County Food Sunday	Thankg.	12/18/09	120.50	
The Gideons Int'l	Dec.	12/18/09	<u>38.00</u>	
			613.91	
 Delaware/Maryland Synod:				
Benevolence			6,500.00	
Missionary			1,392.00	
World Hunger			<u>100.00</u>	
			7,992.00	
 Christmas Bazaar:				
Benevolence			316.16	
Carroll Access			958.48	
Human Services Program of Carroll County			958.48	
Special needs of St. Mary's			<u> </u>	958.48 *
			2,233.12	
Total Christmas Bazaar				3,191.60
 Basket Bingo:				
Silver Run Lights			468.35	
 Strawberry Fest.:				
Shepherd's Staff			825.39	
Rape Crisis			825.39	
Missionaries Support			825.39	
Special needs of St Mary's			<u> </u>	825.39 *
Benevolence			<u>366.83</u>	
			2,843.00	
Total Strawberry Fest.				3,668.39
Total outside Donation			<u>14,150.38</u>	
 Delaware/Maryland Synod Summary:				
Benevolence			7,182.99	* To special needs of SMELC.
World Hunger			100.00	
Synod Mission			60.00	
Missionary			<u>2,217.39</u>	
			9,560.38	

March 2010

Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Anniversaries Rodney and Linda Bupp - March 17, 1990 Arthur and Gail Wisner - March 20, 1982	1 Shirley Hare Kelsey Powell Worship & Music 7 p.m.	2 Dominic Vonella	3	4 Kelli Scott	5 Glenn Snyder Sarah Bollinger Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend 5th - 7th	6
7 3 rd Sunday in Lent - Purple Isaiah 55: 1 - 9 Psalm: 63: 1 - 8 1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13 Luke 13: 1 - 9 Basket Offering - Pleasant Valley Fire Co. 5:30 p.m. Lenten Focus -Rev. Dr. Richard Scott, St. Mary's UCC	8 Laci-Jo Ernst	9	10 Paul Sell Faye Boughter	11	12 Donna Myers	13
14 4 th Sunday in Lent - Purple Joshua 5: 9 - 12 Psalm: 32 2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 21 Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11 - 32 5:30 p.m. Lenten Focus - Mr. Delmos Wood, Lay Minister of Westminster United Methodist Church <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	15 Church Council Meeting - 7 p.m.	16	17 Marie Snyder 	18	19 Jason Bennett	20  Spring Begins
21 Ann Brumback 5 th Sunday in Lent - Purple Isaiah 43: 16 - 21 Psalm: 126 Philippians 3: 4 - 14 John 12: 1 - 8 5:30 p.m. Lenten Focus - Fr. Ron Fisher, Ascension Episcopal Church of Westminster	22 Nicholas Middleton	23	24	25	26 Dorothy Bowman	27 CLS Basket / Pampered Chef Bingo @ the school Doors open Noon Easter Celebration Party / Egg Hunt 4 - 7 p.m.
28 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday - Purple Isaiah 50: 4 - 9 Psalm 31: 9 - 16 Philippians 2: 5 - 11 Luke 22: 14 - 23:56 Social Hour - Council Members 5:30 p.m. Lenten Focus - Review, reflection, and towards the future.	29	30	31	April 1 st Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 p.m.	April 2 nd 2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7:30 p.m. Good Friday - St. John's Passion March Worship Helpers Acolyte - Zach Scott Head Usher - The Fleischer Family Altar Guild - Ruth Warfield Communion Assistant - Ann Brumback	