

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. 33 No. 04, April 2011

The Pastor's Prism



Living as the Forgiven

During the Lenten season the furnishings of our sanctuary have been modified. Gone are the altar candelabras, the Paschal candle, the Jesus-Mary banner, the processional and brass resurrection crosses. Purple paraments (to remind us of the somberness and solemnity of the season) are used for the frontals on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. On the altar remain the two candles (the great lights) but now there is a crucifix (a cross with the body of Christ on it).

These changes to the sanctuary are made to help us keep focused on Christ's suffering and dying on the cross for our sins. While we often fail to remember and honor why it was necessary for God to send His only Son to suffer and die for us, it is clear that what was accomplished was done out of God's love for humanity and desire to save us from the consequences of our sin. Because Jesus suffered, died, and was resurrected, we can receive forgiveness of sin by grace when we have faith that, "**God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life**" (John 3:16).

The consequence of such faith, as forgiven people, is huge for our living. We are freed to be the people God has called us to be in the world, rather than have to worry about our salvation since Christ has secured that for us (e.g., Rom. 1:16, 10:10; 2 Cor. 6:2; Eph. 1:12-14, Phil. 1:27-30; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 2:11). That means we can focus on using the gifts God has entrusted us for glorifying Him and serving others.

Nevertheless, we know we will sin daily, but we can constantly look to the

crucified Christ for forgiveness of our sins. In faith we receive His forgiveness. This is a situation where God's time opens up for us as we come before Christ in His suffering on that cross at Golgotha with all those who were gathered there so long ago as well as those who will come after us. This is more than an exercise in imagining but accepting the reality of how God deals with the world in His mysterious ways in every time.

Paul, even as he seemed to be almost constantly aware of how he had earlier in his life persecuted Christ's followers, received forgiveness, was able to write confidently in faith, "**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord**" (Romans 8:39).

Such faith sustained Paul as he used the gifts he had been entrusted to carry God's word into the world even as he experienced imprisonments, stoning, floggings, shipwrecks, etc. for the sake of the love and forgiveness he knew through Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 11:16-30).

While you and I may not have to witness our faith like Paul, we are called to remember that we have been forgiven so that we might be Christ's vehicles for extending the mercy and forgiveness we have received to others, particularly those who have done us wrong by their words and/or actions/inactions. Indeed, extending such forgiveness to others is not an option for us but a natural consequence of living as the forgiven. This is where remembering the suffering

Christ can help us grasp our response more fully.

Living as Christ's forgiven people means even something more. Our lives take on certain qualities by God's grace in how we relate to others. As Paul writes, "**...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control....those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit**" (Galatians 5: 22-25). These qualities as Paul lists them are not goals for our living but a description of what living as forgiven people looks like. It is the Spirit Who does these things in and through us.

Lent is a time for us to reflect on the crucified Christ and what it means to live as forgiven people. Can we do any less?

+ "Pr. Lee"

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your love for us, You suffered and died on the cross that we might receive the forgiveness of sins. Open our hearts to grasp and receive what You offer us. Strength our faith that we may continually remember Your suffering as we joyfully anticipate our future with You because of the victory You showed us over sin and death. Hear us in Your mercy as we ask these things in Your Name.
AMEN



Council Highlights



Council met on March 14, 2011.

1. Friends of the Village membership drive is going on until April 17 with individual membership fee of \$5.00 contact Fran Crist.
2. The Sunday School Brunch is being held on April 10 after the church service with the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 9 from 4-7pm.
3. The council is looking into doing a new Pictorial Church Directory during the summer of 2011, if you're interested in helping organize the scheduling and make phone calls contact the church office. The company requests participation of 35 families to do the directory.
4. The church council would like to thank Ann Brumback for all her work keeping flowers on the altar on Sundays.
5. Our congregation and St. Mary's UCC church are working to put on a Founder's Day service on May 20, 2012. More information on the services will be coming.
6. The council is looking into establishing a sister relationship with the Parish Schlamersdorf in Germany.
7. A rogation service is being planned for May 15 more information to follow. This is a service for the blessing of plants in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Wisner
Secretary

250th Anniversary Committee

The 250th Anniversary Committee is in the process of considering a theme, which probably should be stated in only a few words. Please share your suggestions with Jim Crist, Cindy Lawyer, Glen/Marion Matthias, Gary/Brenda Meadows, or Pastor Lee!



We're exploring the possibility of developing "pen pal" relationships with what might become a sister congregation in Schlamerdorf Parish in the Northelbian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany. A "pen pal" relationship would likely involve writing letters (in English) or e-mailing between parishioner in their church and us. Such exchanges could develop into friendships.

Hosts Needed

Volunteers needed to host our Teaching Parish Student, Laura Heller, for Sunday noon meal on Sundays in February, March, and April.

Laura needs to get better acquainted with you in order to have a fuller understanding of our congregation as a part of her teaching parish experience with us. Also, we have a congregational responsibility to host our seminarian for the noon meal. Normally the visit and meal should be completed by no later than 2 p.m. so that Laura and Pastor Lee will have time to complete other aspects of the teaching parish curriculum.

Please contact Ann Brumback about the Sunday(s) you can host her. The dates still available are found below:

(Thanks in advance for your help!)

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 3 | Sparacino Family |
| April 10 | Congregational Brunch |
| April 17 | |
| May 1 | Brumback Family |

Go Green for 2011

Help save resources by joining St. Mary's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household.



To join for 2011, please send an email to stmarys@qis.net requesting to be placed on the newsletter list.

Lent in 2011

Our Lenten offerings will go towards the support of Barbara Robertson, missionary in Tanzania.

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 about 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. we will have presentations and discussions on "Great Persons of the Bible," utilizing a video and followed by discussion. Following the discussion we will a brief devotion, hoping to complete everything by 7 p.m. **Please contact Pr. Lee if you are willing to be a bread/soup provider/server. Volunteers are needed!** Below is a list of the dates and those who have to date offered to provide and serve the bread and soup supper:

April 3	Wisner, Wolf
April 10	Fleischer
April 17	Crist/Fairbank

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m. with the blessing of the Palms in the rear of the church. Maundy Thursday service is on April 21st at 7:00 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 22, 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.

May this Lent bring us and others His blessings as we participate in the opportunities that are provided to worship, learn, and grow as His people in service to Him and to our neighbors.

[The Resurrection of our Lord is celebrated on Sunday, April 24, with a festive worship service at 9:30 a.m.]

ELCA World Hunger -

When Fatima was first brought to Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria, she was skeletally thin and too weak to walk. Her legs were covered in sores. She desperately needed help, but she had AIDS and her family had abandoned her.



It seemed that her fate was sealed. But that was then.

This is now. Fatima has been transformed into a woman living with hope.

Mashiah Foundation staff (including ELCA mission personnel Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade) cared for Fatima for months, providing her with food and medicine, and nursing her back to health. She gained weight. She gained strength. She still carries the HIV virus, but antiretroviral drugs keep it in check.

Most importantly, Fatima met other women at Mashiah Foundation who had once been just like her. These women had regained their health and were now working in the Mashiah Foundation sewing program. Fatima learned that HIV did not have to be a death sentence. Help and treatment

were available. There was a loving community to embrace her. Through fellowship with other HIV-positive women, Fatima found new hope.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support Mashiah Foundation and dozens of other HIV and AIDS ministries worldwide. You can learn more at www.elca.org/aids. Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger.

- \$100 could provide a year of home visits and medications for a person living with HIV and AIDS.
- \$500 could provide five years of home visits and medications for a person living with HIV and AIDS.
- Other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to: ELCA World Hunger, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. To give online with a credit card, please visit www.elca.org/hungerdonate. www.elca.org/disaster.

Prayer Ventures

1 Pray for local, state, and federal elected officials, as they consider budget decisions that will affect our communities and all of God's people.

2 World Autism Awareness Day - Pray for all who live with autism spectrum disorders and celebrate their unique talents and skills. Pray for those who diagnose, treat, advocate and care for those living with autism.

3 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Lord of the nations, we pray for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines as they struggle with religious and political diversity. Grant that they may receive your peace and a sense of the richness of life that comes through your abundant gifts.

4 Pray for the participants in the Leadership Conference at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago April 4–5 as they reflect on the theme, “Experiencing God through Preaching and Worship.”

5 Pray for the Rev. Justin and Kari Eller, who serve in La Paz, Bolivia. They work in the Office of Mission in the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (Bolivian Lutheran Church).

6 Pray for the Lutheran Summer Music Program and the young people who are applying to participate in this four-week music program that focuses on community, faith and Lutheran musical heritage.

7 World Health Day - Pray for those who research antimicrobial resistance and its global spread that threatens the continued effectiveness of many medicines used to treat the sick.

8 Pray for the ELCA Church Council as they meet April 8–11 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago.

9 Pray for Nancy Stevenson, an English teacher at Makumira University College of Tumaini University, the senior seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and for the educational ministry of the church in Tanzania.

10 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Blessed God, in the midst of serious political and economic challenges in the region, we pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, that your abundant grace may be showered upon them.

11 Pray for the Lutheran AIDS Network Biennial Conference, which meets at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, April 11–12.

12 Pray for missionaries serving as English teachers as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church: Douglas Foster, John Hoyle, Susan Wironen, Dana Dutcher and Carolyn Stypka.

13 Pray for the ELCA public policy directors and the advocacy ministry shared by ELCA members as they speak out for families struggling in tough economic times, for internationally recognized human rights and for the good stewardship of God's creation.

14 Pray for Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig. Kristopher serves with the Palliative Health Care program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania exploring hospice care with people living with HIV and AIDS. Rebecca is involved in a music and nursing ministry.

15 Pray for the Rev. Phillip Baker, ELCA regional representative for theological education and church relations in Asia, as he works with institutions and churches throughout Asia.

16 Pray for those who grieve because of war or natural disasters throughout the world.

17 Sunday of the Passion - God of mercy, send the gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti and Somalia. May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of their constant living with drought and hunger.

18 Pray for the ministry of the Leadership Program for Musicians and all church musicians during this week of many worship services.

19 Pray for displaced people and refugees so that they may receive what they need: shelter, food, clothing, blankets, education and security.

20 Give thanks for the Rev. Richard Young's ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. He has just returned from service in a parish of four congregations where, as a medical doctor, he coordinated and developed health programs for the church in Guyana.

21 Pray for Linnae Stole who teaches English at the Lutheran High School in Cieszyn, Poland. Bless her continued ministry as she completes her first year of service.

22 Pray for ELCA Global Mission volunteer Dana Olson who serves as a tutor at Springboard for Children in London, a faith-based organization committed to serving at-risk children in the United Kingdom.

23 Pray for those who must adapt to an increasingly unpredictable environment and for those who speak out and educate about climate change.

24 Resurrection of our Lord - God of hope, we praise you for the witness of the growing churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Continue to strengthen and comfort these churches as they reach out with compassion to their neighbors.

25 World Malaria Day - Give thanks for the progress in controlling and treating malaria throughout the world. Pray for continued progress in preventing and treating the disease and for greater access to health care for those at risk.

26 Pray for Anna Rudberg, intern pastor in Slovakia, as she assists the Bratislava International Church and teaches religion in the local high school.

27 Pray for the Rev. Tim and Mari McKenzie who serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Tim teaches church history at the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary and Mari assists with orientation for new ELCA personnel who teach English at Lutheran schools in Japan.

28 Pray for the Alaska Synod of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 28–30.

29 Pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northeastern Minnesota, and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 29–May 1.

30 Pray for the participants of the 2011 Book of Faith Jubilee: Inspiring Everyday People to Engage the Bible as they meet at Luther Seminary, April 29–May 1.

Please Get Acquainted with Our Newest Members

We welcome our newest brothers and sisters who, following a series of new member classes, joined our church through Affirmation of Baptism during our March 6th worship service:

Tammy Fairbank is also originally from Baltimore, having been a member of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. Because her father was in the US military she moved around a lot in her youth and was confirmed at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Harrogate, England. Tammy is married to Jim Fairbank and they have a daughter, "Katie," who also is coming into our church family and attends "Mrs. Ann's" Sunday school class, while sometimes singing in the choir, acolyting, and participating in other events of the church. Tammy has various clerical skills which she uses as a special education assistant with Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS). She is interested in all sorts of crafts while her husband Jim is interested in tractors (buying and selling parts for older tractors) and trains, but unlike the former, none of the latter are parked at his home...yet! Jim also works for CCPS in plant maintenance. The Fairbank family lives at 1335 Brehm Road.

Richard and Alayna Hoffman both have Lutheran church connections from their youth, and grew up in the Baltimore area. Richard currently works as a Chef Instructor at Baltimore International College while Alayna works in financial services for the Torgerson Group. They have two children, "Fox" and Autumn, both who were baptized here at St. Mary's. Even with his vocation, Richard continues to enjoy cooking, and certainly enjoys being a dad to his children. Alayna keeps herself busy with taking care of her family as a wife, mother and still manages to find time to work outside the home. They are continuing to adjust to living at their home and property on 2806 Murkle Road. Among other skills at home-owning, they are becoming experts on plumbing and managing well water!

Jim and Betty Huber come to us from St. Matthew UCC at Pleasant Valley where Jim had previously served as president of the consistory. Originally, Jim was born in Reading, Pa, where he was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. Betty was born in Ellicott City and has Episcopalian roots. Both are semi-retired but still have many interests, much of which is centered on their grandchildren. Using his law enforcement background, Jim can sometimes be found around the Carroll County Courthouse where he works as a bailiff, that is, when he and Betty aren't camping, reading, gardening, or doing things around their property at 2116 Richardson Road. Jim is also skilled at home maintenance work and has an interest in firearms. Betty, too, has a wide range of interests that include floral arranging, sewing, and typing. They have two grown children, Lee and Vicki, and grandchildren.

"Church Bulletin" Jewelry

Come join us and learn how to make unique, recyclable jewelry from St. Mary's Sunday church bulletins. Bulletins are cut into small strips, rolled into beads, strung, and mixed with other decorative jewelry notions such as pearls, charms, stones, etc...

The jewelry-making workshop *will be held following church service downstairs in the parish house every Sunday thru April 10th, 2011.* We'll also be making assorted beaded pins. The jewelry will be offered for sale at the upcoming Strawberry festival on June 4th, 2011.

If interested, please see Cindy Sparacino ph: 717-637-0067, e-mail: rasparacino@earthlink.net

Card Shower

On Tuesday, April 27th Harvey Bowersox will be celebrating his **100th Birthday**.

In honor of this occasion, the members and friends of St. Mary's are asked to help brighten his day by participating in a "card shower".



Well wishes can be sent to:

Harvey Bowersox,
3 Footer Street,
Hanover, PA 17331

~Susan Bowersox-Blizzard,
Secretary

Our Missionary (from the Spring 2011 issue of "Hand in Hand" - www.elca.org/handinhand)

Barbara and the "Garage Boys"

An ELCA missionary in Morogoro, Tanzania, Barbara Robertson serves as part of a team establishing a Primary Health Care program in the local diocese. Barbara shares how her ministry touches the lives of young men.

"It was my great privilege to spend a morning with a group of young men I fondly refer to as my garage boys. Over the years, I have come to know quite a few of these young men and have watched them grow and mature. Because I had done a HIV and AIDS seminar before, the older fellows have hounded me to have another session for the new boys who have joined the garage. Seventy young men attended the session!

"The main themes were 'have long-term life goals, be responsible, and get tested.' Joseph, the owner of the garage, told me, 'It matters that you come. They have changed because of you.' And, I've changed because of them. How honored I am that they should listen to what I have to say."

ELCA missionaries change lives! ELCA missionaries, alongside our global neighbors, strengthen medical ministries, preach the gospel, train pastors, teach, help build churches, advocate for the poor, help develop communities, and—through word and service—share the good news of Christ to restore people's lives.

Through your support of ELCA missionaries, you help to change lives! Thank you! Your gifts make a lasting world of difference.



Barbara Robertson, ELCA missionary in Tanzania, meets with the "garage boys."

Revs. Janice Marie and Robert Lowden completed their service in Tanzania and now we will be supporting Barbara Robertson who also serves in Tanzania. Our congregation is pledging \$1,000 in 2011 (not in our budget) which will be raised through such things as our Lenten offerings, Strawberry Festival, Christmas Bazaar, and individual donations.

Newsletter Information

Newsletter Deadline: 3rd Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-1pm

Please contact the office when:

- ✓ your committee plans a meeting/activity so it can be listed on the master calendar.
- ✓ you have an announcement to be included in the newsletter or Sunday bulletin. (Announcement forms are available on the church and parish house bulletin boards. Please fill out a form and place in the church office's "In Box". You may also email your information to the church office, to the Secretary's attention.)

Electronic Newsletter - You'll be notified when the newsletter has been posted on our website. To join, send an email request to: stmarys@qis.net.

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:** Jim Huber; **Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates:** Jim and Fran Crist; **Acolyte Coordinator:** Alec Shapiro; **Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf

Notes & Thank Yous

Global Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our Hands.

March 20, 2011

Dear St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thank You for your ELCA Missionary Sponsorship gift of \$75.00...


...Your gift will make a world of difference as our ELCA missionaries and global companions minister, teach, grow and build, heal and nurture and proclaim the good news of Christ's redeeming love...

..Peace in Christ,
Twila Schock
Director, Global Mission Support

8765 West Higgins Road - Chicago, IL 60631-4101
www.elca.org

April 2011

Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. Sunday School/Lutheran Christian Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Helpers Acolyte: Victoria Sparacino, Anna Ruby Usher: The Meadows Family Altar Guild: Ann Brumback Communion Asst.: Helen Wolf		Anniversaries Bob and Janice Marie Lowden - April 16 th			1	2
3 4 th Sunday in Lent - Purple 1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13 Psalm: 23 Ephesians 5: 8 - 14 John 9: 1 - 41 Basket Offering: 10:45 a.m.- Songs & Lessons with Mrs. Joye 11:15 a.m. - Sunday School 5:30 p.m. - Lenten Focus	4 Kourtney Powell	5	6	7	8	9 Easter Egg Hunt 4 - 7 p.m.
10 Ronald Blizzard, Jr. 5 th Sunday in Lent- Purple Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14 Psalm: 130 Romans 8: 6 - 11 John 11: 1 - 45 Sunday School Brunch -No Sunday School 5:30 p.m. - Lenten Focus	11 Church Council Meeting - 7 p.m.	12	13	14 James Pearre	15	16 Church/Parish House Clean-up 8 am - Noon 
17 Alec Schapiro Sunday of the Passion /Palm Sunday-Purple Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a Psalm: 31: 9 - 16 Philippians 2: 5 - 11 Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66 10:45 a.m.- Songs & Lessons with Mrs. Joye 11:15 a.m. - Sunday School 5:30 p.m. - Lenten Focus	18	19 Sharon Adams	20 Newsletter Deadline 10 a.m.	21 Shirley Stansbury Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 p.m.	22 2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7:30 p.m. Good Friday - St. John's Passion	23
24 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day- White Acts 10: 34 - 43 Psalm: 118: 1 - 2, 14 - 24 Colossians 3: 1 - 4 Matthew 28: 1 - 10 Social Hour - Outreach Committee No Sunday School	25 Church Office Closed Easter Monday <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i>	26	27 Harvey Bowersox	28 Rodney Bupp	29	30 Joanne Carpenter