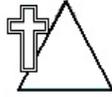


# The Lutheran Light

*"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. 34 No. 04, April 2012

## The Pastor's Prism



### A Future Prepared

Did you ever notice how much time and effort Jesus puts into preparing His disciples for the future? For example, He gives detailed instructions to them as He prepares to send them out to proclaim, heal, and raise the dead while traveling with only what they are wearing (Matthew 10:5-15). Later on, He gives instructions to the disciples in preparation for the Gennesaret ministry by telling them to cross the Sea of Galilee in a boat while He stays behind and prays. Then He surprises them as He walks on the water to meet them (Matt. 14:22-39).

Three times He prepares the disciples for what is going to be happening to Him at Jerusalem (Matt. 16:21-23; 17:9-12; 20:17-19). The importance of these preparations is indicated by the fact they are recorded in other Gospels.

All Jesus' preparation for the future reveals steadfastness and focus on the mission that the Father has given Him. Jesus seems very much in control and deliberate even when situations are frequently stressful.

In our day we are reminded of those 10 Amish school girls who were shot at the West Nickel Mines School in Lancaster County, Pa. Some people wondered how the Amish could be prepared for such a

horrific disaster. Well, the answer given by Donald Kraybill *et. al.* in *Amish Grace* (San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, 2007.13) was a paradox, "Of course they weren't prepared—except of course they were!" The Amish have a life style that is focused on the community and a realization that the earth is not their future but that they are to be stewards of the earth while here. Their focus is found in "JOY"—Jesus first, others next, yourself last, which is a working ethos of what Jesus stated when He was asked about which was the greatest Commandment, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."**

Such preparation is possible for us who also live in the knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection. The future is clear because of the promises that have been given to us, **"I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to Myself so that where I am there you may be also...I Am the Way, and the Truth and Life"** (John 14:3).

Lutheran theologian Eric Gritsch notes that life in this world is like a "boot-camp" where we are being prepared for a future with God. In the meantime we have to keep a focus on the things that really matter, like the resurrection of Jesus. Such

preparation can only happen as we wisely avail ourselves in how we use the time He has given us.

At the same time He has given Himself to us through His Word, the Sacraments, in community, among the least of these where His Presence can be known and celebrated, even with "JOY." **"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him"** (1 Corinthians 2: 9)

+ "Pr. Lee"



Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have shown the future for all those who live in You. Help us not to be so focused on the things of this world that we ignore preparations for the world to come. Send Your Spirit to give us hearts filled with true JOY which is found in serving Jesus first, others next, and ourselves last. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN

## Council Highlights

The Church Council met on Monday, February 13, 2012.

1. The Lenten Focus Program will be "Amish Grace". The main theme of which is Forgiveness.
2. The Silver Run Food Pantry is scheduled to commence operations on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.
3. Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Spring Clean Up.
4. Donations and assistance in the kitchen are being requested for the April 21<sup>st</sup> Lions Basket Bingo.
5. The council is still looking for someone that might be interested in joining the church council. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Lee or a church council member.



The St. Mary's Church Council met on March 12, 2012.

1. Jim Crist is looking for people to help in the kitchen during the Lion's Basket Bingo on April 21. Contact Jim if you can help.
2. The Sunday school is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, April 7. Monte Leister will again provide entertainment; the Silver Run community is invited to attend.
3. The property committee is planning a church clean up on April 21. Mark your calendars and plan on coming to help.
4. The Sunday school is hosting a spring brunch on April 15 for Mahantesh Baburao, the World Vision youth whom we help support. Come out and support the Sunday school and enjoy some Christian fellowship.
5. St. Mary's is again holding a special service to bless seeds and plants before the spring planting season. You are encouraged to bring your plants and seeds in on April 15 for the special Blessing service.
6. The Sunday school is taking part in the ELCA World Hunger "Buck-a-Chick" program. For only \$1.00 donation you can purchase a chick picture to support those living in hunger. We will keep track of the number of chick pictures purchased by putting them in the basement of the parish house. More information will be coming in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Wisner  
Secretary

## Holy Week 2012

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. with the blessing of the Palms in the rear of the church. Maundy Thursday service is on April 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, with a festive worship service at 9:30 a.m.]

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

Award-winning Author Debbie Levy to Present "The Year of Goodbyes: a True Story of Friendship, Family & Farewells" on Sunday, April 22nd @ 1:30pm. Debbie Levy will share her award-winning book, *The Year of Goodbyes: A True Story of Friendship, Family, and Farewells* (Disney-Hyperion) as a part of our congregations 250th anniversary joint commemoration with St. Mary's United Church of Christ. The event will be hosted in the Parish House of St. Mary's Lutheran Church. Lite refreshments will be available for purchase. Doors open at 1:30pm. Presentation begins at 2pm. Free will offering will be taken. Please see Brenda Meadows for flyers to distribute. For more information call 443-244-0453.

Save the Date! Blue Grass / Gospel Concert, Saturday, June 9th We are finalizing the details of this exciting 250th Anniversary Event. More details to follow as they become available!

## Easter Egg Hunt Celebration

will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. Please join us for a potluck dinner and fun music with Monte. If you would like to help with donations, please contact Laura Bennett at 443-847-0602. Egg hunt will be open for children of all ages.

## Past Facts

Each month during our anniversary year Cindy Lawyer will be selecting items of interest from our congregational council minutes beginning in 1876, and perhaps other sources, from past history of St. Mary's.



September, 1889, council discussed the fact that the Reformed church had unanimously voted to dissolve the existing union with the Lutherans and had started soliciting funds for building a new Reformed Church and had never informed the Lutheran Church of their intentions. It was resolved that a committee of one be appointed to notify the Reformed consistory of our desire to meet with them and at that meeting the following propositions be submitted. 1. Divide property now jointly owned. 2. Sell us their interest in a large lot to accommodate a new Lutheran Church. 3. Make a public sale of the whole property.

In April, 1890 the Lutheran congregation voted to build a church on property now jointly owned and if on the old property they would rebuild the old church. A committee was appointed to solicit money towards rebuilding the church and another committee was appointed to communicate this action to the consistory at their next semi-annual meeting.

Dec., 1890 a building committee was appointed and a treasurer was elected to receive money subscribed towards building fund. Feb, 1891 the Reformed Church refused to allow Lutherans to remodel old church or build on jointly owned property. The dispute between the two churches apparently continued until April 1893 which was the last mention in minutes about resolution of property or building of new church.

~ Cindy Lawyer

## Men's Spring Dinner Meeting

The Lutheran Church Men of the Westminster Conference will hold their Spring Dinner Meeting, Monday, April 23. at 6:30 P.M., at St. Luke (Winters') Lutheran Church, near New Windsor. The ladies of the church will be serving a family-style fried chicken dinner with all the fixing's at 6:30 P.M. As has been customary, a free-will offering will be received for the meal, with at least \$11.00 requested. **Please contact Pastor Lee by no later than Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> of you intentions to attend so that reservations can be made.** As in the past, some of us attending will be leaving from our church's parking lot at 5:45 p.m. to attend the meeting.

## Church & Village: Partners in Ministry

*This issue of news for the churches is written by Laura Sinnott, Executive Director of Carroll Lutheran Village.*

Although not born in Carroll County, I have called it home for fifty years. I attended local public schools, graduated from Western Maryland (McDaniel) College with a social work degree, married my high school sweetheart, and raised three sons in the Westminster area. I have been on the staff of Carroll Lutheran Village for twenty-one years. My entire career has been spent working with aging clients whose incomes ranged from poverty level to financial security. The universal thread has been the wish, the hope, and the dogged determination to retain as much control over one's life as is feasible. To maintain the highest level of independence possible and preserve one's personal dignity is paramount.

As I watch my octogenarian parents and in-laws, as the Village's staff guides residents and their families, as I face my own retirement within the next decade, I realize that the Village has a mission driven obligation to design and develop programs that will enhance the quality of life for present and future seniors in Carroll County so they can make choices about their lives with dignity. Some of those programs are already available to you.

The Village, in conjunction with the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association has begun an Alzheimer's Support Group for caregivers, which is open to the greater community. Respite care is available during the meeting time for persons with dementia. The meetings are facilitated by a licensed Carroll Lutheran Village social worker and held on the third Thursday of each month from 1 – 2:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Please contact Cheri Schymansky at 443-605-1057 for information.

If you are aged 60 or over, you might think about participating in wellness programming at the Village. *Family & Friends* is an economical way to swim, exercise, take classes and meet old and new friends. And it's not only about exercise! An award winning Open House series on health issues has been popular, addressing such topics as Fall Prevention, Diabetes, Arthritis, the Financial Stressors of Aging, and the Caregiving Stressors of Aging. The series continues this year and is free. Call the Wellness Center at 443-605-1070 during business hours for details.

More programs and services for the greater Carroll County community are planned for the near future. You will hear about them as they are developed. In the meantime, please call or stop by -- see what **your** leader in aging services has to offer.

## Missionary Support

Missionary Support (not in our budget) is raised through such things as our Lenten offerings, Strawberry Festival, Christmas Bazaar, and individual donations.

**Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate throughout the year, please mark as "Missionary Support".**



### ELCA Missionary Profile

Barbara Robertson  
Tanzania

**Barbara** works in HIV/AIDS prevention and education in a diocese that has no diocese owned and operated hospital. As such they focus on prevention and education because prevention is a much more cost effective option. This is a multifaceted assignment as HIV/AIDS education needs to be done in as many settings as possible-- from teachers in Sunday School to youth seminars on entrepreneurial skills.

#### Contact

P.O. Box 6511  
Madarada  
Morogoro, Tanzania

Email  
bubia2@hotmail.com

#### Calendar

Barbara's birthday: February 26

#### Connect

##### Companion Synod:

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D), St. Paul Area Synod (3H), Southeastern Minnesota (3I), Nebraska Synod (4A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Northern Illinois Synod (5B), Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D), Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G), Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J), Southeast Michigan Synod (6A), Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D), Southern Ohio Synod(6F), Metropolitan New York Synod (7C), Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E), Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A), Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D), Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F), South Carolina Synod (9C)

##### Home-base States:

Olympia, Washington

#### Education

B. A. Choral music with secondary ed. Certificate  
Western Washington University  
(Bellingham, WA)

## Notes & Thank Yous



March 9, 2012

St. Mary's Evang. Lutheran Church  
3978 Littlestown Pike  
Westminster, MD 21158-1541

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent gift of \$240.33 to Carroll Hospice from your Ash Wednesday service. Your gift ensures that our patients and their families will continue to receive the highest quality palliative care and emotional support right here in our community.

Carroll Hospice sure has come a long way in serving and comforting our patients over the last 25 years. We are very proud of our accomplishments and realize that without the support of our community our success would not have been possible. One of our dreams and fondest achievements is our in-patient facility, Dove House, opened in 2007.

As you may know, the hospice philosophy of care is patient driven and comfort focused. Our interdisciplinary team of nurses, home health aides, social workers, volunteers and spiritual caregivers work diligently to ensure that our patients' needs are met so they may live their last days to the fullest.

On behalf of our associates, patients and families, thank you again for helping us to celebrate this wonderful milestone of 25 years of a *special kind of caring*.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Vetter  
Annual Fund Manager

## ELCA Prayer Ventures

**1 Palm/Passion Sunday** - O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ as today we pray especially for your saints in Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore. Preserve your people until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**2** On this World Autism Awareness Day (recognized by the United Nations), give thanks for the unique perspective of people on the autism spectrum. Pray for increasing autism awareness in our communities and support for those who care for people living with autism.

**3** Pray for Pastor Jeffrey Truscott who serves as an ELCA missionary in Singapore.

**4** Pray for the ministries of ELCA Disaster Response including the gearing up for a response to the March 2012 tornados in the central United States.

**5** Pray for Pastor Phillip Baker who serves as an ELCA missionary in Malaysia.

**6** Pray for Christians who petition government to fund poverty-focused programs that provide food assistance, affordable housing, health services, job training and educational opportunities as we walk alongside people who are at risk of becoming homeless.

**7** On this World Health Day (recognized by the United Nations), give thanks for the advancements in public health throughout the world and pray that all may have access to adequate health care.

**8 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday** - O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection. Grant new life and hope in Christ for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**9** Pray for Pastors Bradn and Natasha Buerkle who serve as ELCA missionaries

in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**10** Pray for all who attend the South Dakota Spring Rostered Leader event April 10-12 at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, S.D.

**11** Pray for all who participate in the election process in the United States as we consider leaders who will serve our communities, states and country.

**12** Pray for Pastor Sam and Cindy Wolff who serve as ELCA missionaries in Nairobi, Kenya.

**13** Pray for the people of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod who meet in assembly in Tulsa, Okla., April 13-15.

**14** Pray for the ELCA Church Council who meet at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill., April 13-16.

**15 Second Sunday of Easter** - Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do especially in Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**16** Pray for the renewal of the earth, a new understanding of what it means to be stewards of God's creation, and a future of abundance, hope and life.

**17** Pray for the staff of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod who meet every Tuesday morning.

**18** Pray for Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, Dana Dutcher and Christine Eige, ELCA missionaries who teach English as a second language in Japan.

**19** Pray for the executive board of the Women of the ELCA who meet in Chicago, Ill., April 19-22.

**20** Pray for Pastor Eric Anspach-Hanson and Christie Hanson, and Pastor Nathan and Sharonette Bowman who work in parish ministry as ELCA missionaries in Japan.

**21** Pray for the people of the Eastern North Dakota Synod who meet in assembly in Fargo, N.D., April 21-22.

**22 Third Sunday of Easter** - Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill

the people of Djibouti and Somalia with your words of life that we all may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**23** Pray for all areas in Africa that are torn apart by violence, famine and corrupt leadership. Pray that just and wise leaders rise up to stand with all who suffer from injustice and who live in fear.

**24** Pray for Pastor Brian and Christine Palmer who serve as ELCA missionaries in Monrovia, Liberia.

**25** On this World Malaria Day (recognized by the United Nations), pray for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which strives to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease.

**26** Pray for the people of the Alaska and Rocky Mountain Synods as they meet in assembly this weekend and each elect a bishop.

**27** Pray for the people of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Western Iowa, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Northeastern Minnesota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana and Oregon Synods as they meet in assembly this weekend. Pray especially for the bishop's election in the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

**28** Pray for Megan Ross who serves as an English teacher at the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan Deaconess School in Balige, North Sumatra. As a deaconess, her walk with other women committing their lives to faith and service in Christ is an inspiration to those with whom she works.

**29 Fourth Sunday of Easter** - O Lord Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one, especially with the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**30** Pray for all of us as we strive to answer our baptismal call for justice and peace in all the earth.

## St. Mary's Lutheran Donations 2011

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
<b>Monthly Donation:</b>				
Carroll County Prison Ministry	Jan.	1/23/11	40.00	
Pleasant Valley Fire Co.	Mar.	3/22/11	51.00	
New Life for Girls	Apr.	4/14/11	40.00	
Habitat for Humanity	May	5/19/11	35.00	
ELCA Vision for Mission	June	6/20/11	39.00	
New Life for Girls	July	7/18/11	38.00	
Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary	Anniv.	8/24/11	265.00	
Lilver Run Lights Fund	Aug.	8/24/11	81.00	
Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary	Sept.	9/13/11	35.00	
Alpha Fire Company	Oct.	10/22/11	30.00	
St. Dysmas	Nov.	11/21/11	37.00	
Carroll County Food Sunday	Thankg.	12/6/11	250.46	
The Gideons Int'l	Dec.	12/13/11	40.00	
			981.46	
 <b>Delaware/Maryland Synod:</b>				
Benevolence			6,500.00	
Missionary			989.86	
World Hunger			100.00	
			7,589.86	
 <b>Christmas Bazaar:</b>				
Benevolence			257.70	
Shepherd's Staff			773.00	
Caring Caroll			773.00	
Special needs of St. Mary's				773.26
			1,803.70	
Total Christmas Bazaar				3,724.00
 <b>Strawberry Fest.:</b>				
Rape Crisis			838.00	
Missionaries Support			838.00	
250 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary				838.00
Special needs of St Mary's				838.00
Benevolence			372.00	
			2,048.00	
Total Strawberry Fest.				3,724.00
World Vision (Mahantesh Baburao)			360.00	
Total outside Donation			12,783.02	
 <b>Delaware/Maryland Synod Summary:</b>				
Benevolence			7,129.70	
World Hunger			100.00	
Synod Mission			39.00	
Missionary			1,827.86	
			9,096.56	

Submitted by Art Wisner, Treasurer

# April 2012

\*\*Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday\*\*

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday - Red Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a Psalm: 31: 9 - 16 Philippians 2: 5 - 11 Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47 <b>Basket Offering - New Life for Girls</b>	2	3	4 Kourtney Powell  <b>Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</b>	5 <b>Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 p.m.</b>	6 <b>2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross</b>  <b>7:30 p.m. Good Friday - St. John's Passion</b>	7  <b>Easter Egg Hunt &amp; Potluck Dinner 4:00 p.m.</b>
8 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day - White Acts 10: 34 - 43 Psalm: 118: 1 - 2, 14 - 24 1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11 Mark 16: 1 - 8 <b>No Sunday School</b>	9 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <b>Church Council - 7:00 p.m.</b>  Easter Monday	10 Ronald Blizzard	11	12	13	14 James Pearre
15 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - White Acts 4: 32 - 35 Psalm: 133 1 John 1: 1 - 2:2 John 20: 19 - 31 <b>Rogation - Blessing of Plants &amp; Seeds Sunday School Spring Brunch</b>	16	17 Alec Schapiro	18  <b>Newsletter Deadline - 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</b>	19 Sharon Adams	20	21 Shirley Stansbury  <b>Church/Parish House Clean-up 8 am - Noon</b>
22 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter - White Acts 3: 12 - 19 Psalm: 4 1 John 3: 1 - 7 Luke 24: 36b - 48 <b>Yom Hashoa Commemoration Author Debbie Levy Presentation - 1:30 p.m.</b>	23  <b>Lutheran Men Spring Dinner Meeting at St. Luke's - 6:30 p.m.</b>	24 Carl Eyler	25  <i>St Mark, Evangelist</i>	26	27	28 Rodney Bupp
29 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - White Acts 4: 5 - 12 Psalm: 23 1 John 3: 16 - 24 John 10: 11 - 18 <b>1855 Liturgy Soil &amp; Water Conservation Commemoration Social Hour - Outreach Committee</b>	30 Joanne Carpenter	<u>Worship Helpers</u> Acolyte: Katie Fairbank, Suzy Spriggs Usher: The Meadows Family Communion Asst.: Helen Wolf Altar Guild: Crystal Ruby, Tammy Fairbank				