

# 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. 02, February 2012

## The Pastor's Prism



### Lenten Transformation

Ann and I spend several Sunday afternoons recently watching and reflecting on the DVD film "Anne of the Green Gables" and its sequel. The films, based on novels by Lucy Maude Montgomery, features actress Megan Fellows as Anne Shirley and is set on Prince Edward Island during the early 1900's. Ann and I were thoroughly engaged in the film and impressed by its wholesomeness and insights into human life, without the distracting cursing and extreme actions which characterizes so many recent films.

Not only that, but I was struck by how Anne Shirley, her friends, and antagonists were able to change and grow through their interactions, mostly in very positive ways. Many times that which separated them from one another was at the end transformative and brought them into a new understanding about themselves and into a healthier relationship with one another.

The Lenten season can be something like the transformative process that occurred in the characters of those in "Anne and the House of the Green Gables." During Lent we are called to examine our relationship with Christ and one another that can lead to transformation and growth.

During the Lenten season it is common for Christians to look at those things in their lives that get in the way of the fuller relationship that Christ wants with His people as well as how His relationship with them relates to their relationships with one

another.

So, on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of our fallen humanity and weakness through sins, known and unknown, that keep us from being the people God calls us to be. We are reminded that we are of dust and to dust we shall return. This we confess, seeking to bring forth fruits of repentance. We long to be transformed by God's grace to more fully be the children He has called us to be. St. Paul expresses this so beautifully in Romans 12:2

***"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you many discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."***

Such reflection leads us into concrete ways of repentance that may involve more frequent contact with God through prayer, setting time aside to read His Word, attending worship, and growing through learning opportunities that the church offers are a few things that come to mind.

At the same time repentance might include denial of some things like certain meals or foods with the idea of sharing the money we might have used for the meals for others, like supporting our missionary, Barbara Robertson in her ministry in Tanzania. These are all means that God can use to transform us into more fully grasping and knowing His will.

In "Anne of the Green Gables" people were often transformed when they recognized those things in their

past which chained them and were able to share some of these things with others. That can happen to us as well when we share with a trusted friend. In the film, Anne Shirley called her trusted friend, Diana Barry, a "kindred spirit" with whom she shared everything and both girls grew through this friendship, even when they had differences.

Of course we can go directly to God at anytime but it sometimes is helpful if we share with others who might be able to help us see within ourselves those things that need to be transformed. When we are honest with ourselves before Him, then we are open to what His transforming grace can do. That's why the suffering Christ on the cross is such an enduring reminder of what God has done because it shows us the depth of His love for us.

+ "Pr. Lee"

Almighty God, as we prepare for another Lenten season, lead us to remember the great love You have shown us through Your Son Jesus Christ and his suffering on the cross for us. Lead us into true repentance. We pray that You will send Your Holy Spirit to do those things which will open our hearts so that we can grow and be transformed in order to know and more faithfully serve Your will. These things we ask through that same Jesus Christ in Whose Name we pray. Amen



## Council Highlights

Our Church Council for 2012 was installed on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. They are Sharon Adams, Craig Fleischer (Council President), Dwyn Fleischer (Council Vice-President), Donald Kaufman, Joye Kaufman, Cindy Sparacino, Rick Sparacino, Jill Spriggs, Mark Ruby, Gail Wisner (Council Secretary), and Helen Wolf. Pastor Lee serves as *ex officio* member of the council. Art Wisner continues to serve as our treasurer.



The council met on January 9, 2012.

### Council Highlights

1. Don Stansbury has decided to step down from the choir after many years of singing praises to the Lord. The choir and council would like to thank Don for his years of service.
2. We now have 20 new tables to be used in the parish house. The council is making the old tables available to members of the congregation for a donation to the church. If you are interested in getting one of the old tables see Craig Fleischer.
3. Eagle Scout candidate, Zachary Stewart, is working on a project to fix up the pavilion for the church. He is going to add lights so that we can utilize the pavilion when it gets dark. He is also putting a spot light on the play area and grading around the pavilion as well. He has begun the fund raising for the project. Funds need to be received by March 31, if you would like to make a contribution to Zachary's project a check can be made out to Troop 483.
4. This year's Synod Assembly will be held on May 31-June 1 in Ocean City. We can send a pastor, and two voting members as well as one youth member. If you are interested in representing St. Mary's at this year's synod see Pastor Lee.
5. There is still one position open on the church council. If you would like to serve the Lord and be a part of the church council please see Pastor Lee or come to our next council meeting on February 13 at 7pm in the Parish house.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Wisner, Secretary

## Lent in 2012

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:30 p.m. will comprise of confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion. Our Lenten offerings will go towards the support of Barbara Robertson, missionary in Tanzania. St. Mary's United Church of Christ will also be joining us for this service as a reminder of our common roots in Jesus Christ for 250 years.

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 on a selected topic 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 days and those who have to date offered to provide and serve the bread and soup supper:

Feb.	26	Brumback
March	4	
March	11	
March	18	
March	25	
April	1	



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.

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 8<sup>th</sup>, with a festive worship service at 9:30 a.m.]

## 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.*



Union of St. Mary's and St. Matthew's : St. Matthew's laid the cornerstone for their church on 24th May, 1879.

In August 1879 Samuel Lawyer met with St. Mary's Council and requested that any members that make application to St. Matthew's be dismissed by St. Mary's. The council approved the request.

Jan.8, 1880- The state of affairs of both congregations was considered in regards to forming a Pastoral Charge. A committee was appointed to meet with St. Matthew's Council.

Jan. 18, 1880 - Committee reported that Pleasant Valley would not accept invitation to join with the West Pennsylvania Synod and would not accept Rev. Alleman as their pastor, therefore nothing was done in regards to forming Charge. The council also considered and accepted resignation of Pastor Alleman effective. April 1, 1880.

May 28, 1880 - Joint councils met and passed resolution that both churches unite in calling a minister to serve both congregations. A committee of two ( one from each church) was appointed to procure a minister.

March, 1881 - Joint councils met and agreed on salary for Rev. O.C. Roth. It was agreed that Silver Run would pay 2/3 of joint expenses and Pleasant Valley would pay 1/3.

~ Cindy Lawyer

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## Newsletter Information

**Newsletter Deadline:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.)
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## Carroll Lutheran School's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Consignment Sale

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 a.m. - Noon**

at the

ShIPLEY Arena  
Carroll County Agricultural Center

Kid's Clothing, Shoes, Toys, Games, Books,  
Baby Equipment, Baby Furniture,  
and Maternity Clothes.

½ Price Sale 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information check the School's website  
at: [www.carrolllutheranschool.org](http://www.carrolllutheranschool.org)

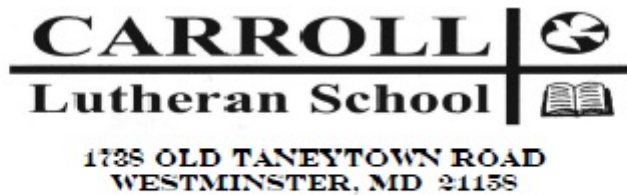
## News from 'Your Town'

Happy New Year to all parishioners in the Westminster Conference of Lutheran Churches from Carroll Lutheran Village. With that wish also comes a prayer for the blessings of God upon your congregations in 2012.

We at the Village are grateful for the prayers of congregations for the Village and its mission and ask that those prayers continue in 2012. We know that the Village has been blessed for well over 30 years now by the prayers, support and volunteer efforts displayed by many Lutherans from our church constituency. Thank you seems such a small thing to say for all those efforts, and yet, you must know that it is genuine and heartfelt.

In this new year, we invite church members to take advantage of programs and speakers that can benefit your lives. The Wellness Center offers many aquatics and fitness programs that can help you age gracefully. Please call 443-605-1070 to ask about taking advantage of those programs. Please call Hermine Saunders at 443-605-1008 to take advantage of speakers who can come to your church for general temple talks or to your special groups to hear about topics related to aging and health. We are anxious to serve the needs of parishioners.

In the future, please look for changes to this column, always with the purpose of keeping Lutheran parishioners informed about Carroll Lutheran Village.



Christian Compassion - Lifetime Learning - Social Responsibility

**JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSES**

**JANUARY 28th**  
10:00 - 12:00  
**FEBRUARY 16th**  
8:00 - 3:00  
**MARCH 3rd**  
10:00 - 12:00

- *Quality Christian Education for K - 8th grade*
- *State of the Art Building includes library, computer lab, science room & full size gymnasium*
- *Licensed aftercare and before care program*
- *Certificate of Approval - MD. Board of Education*
- *Limited class sizes*
- *Scholarships available*
- *Atmosphere of Love and Learning*
- *Program includes Art, Music, Library, Spanish, Physical Education & Computer Technology*

Serving All Faiths in Carroll County & Surrounding Area

For more information call 410-848-1050 or visit [www.carrolllutheranschool.org](http://www.carrolllutheranschool.org)

## “Spreading the Faith” Book Club

So far, we haven’t been able to meet as a discussion group due to time conflicts, maybe someday...

For now we’re just passing books around. When you’re finished reading the book, just jot down your thoughts, feelings, etc and put it in the front of the book.

ANYONE wishing to borrow books can. I carry them with me every Sunday I’m here (I work every other). More titles will be continually added.

If you’ve read a good “Faith” book, let me know. We’ll see about getting at least one copy to pass around!

Right now the books available -

1. “Have a Little Faith” - Mitch Albom
  2. “Tuesdays with Morrie” - Mitch Albom
  3. “For One More Day” - Mitch Albom
  4. “The Shack” - William P. Young
- (A large print version of this book also available.)

Thanks. May your faith continue to grow as you read!

~Jill Spriggs

## Notes & Thank Yous

Carrie and Jesse Eyler Wish to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and phone call. Also, we would like to thank Pastor Lee for his visits, and the choir for singing Christmas carols. We really enjoyed the singing and appreciate the wonderful friendship.

## Outreach Committee

There will be an Outreach meeting February the 7th at 6:30pm. We will be going over the Bazaar events and finalizing the dispersment of the \$4,939.37 income from this event. Are there other bills that haven't been handed in? If so, please hand them in before the meeting. We will be discussing a new way of handling the money. Anyone with an interest in our fund raisers is welcome to come. Thank You.

# Subscriptions & Mailings



The church office is currently updating our congregational subscriptions and mailing lists. Please help us by completing the form below and returning it to the church office or log onto [www.stmaryselc.org/pagenewsletter](http://www.stmaryselc.org/pagenewsletter) and complete the online form.

The following is a brief description of each publication:

### ***The Lutheran Light*** newsletter (monthly)

The Lutheran Light newsletter is published by St. Mary's. It includes the Pastor's Prism, Church Council Highlights, News Around the Parish, Monthly Calendar, and various articles throughout the year. The newsletter is mailed out to those who wish to receive a paper copy. Note: Members of the congregation have their paper copies available for pick-up in the overflow room of the church for two (2) Sundays prior to it being mailed out. The newsletter is also posted in PDF on the church's website. Those who want to receive the newsletter electronically will be emailed a message each month with a link to the latest issue.

Sample Email: St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church Office [office@stmaryselc.org]

To: 'newsletter@stmaryselc.org'

The January 2012 edition of The Lutheran Light Newsletter is now available.

Please contact newsletter@stmaryselc.org should you have any questions or if you wish to be removed from this email list.

## The Lutheran Light

[Click for current issue.](#)

### ***The Lutheran*** magazine (monthly)

The Lutheran offers stories to enrich your faith, a forum for tough issues, and news you'll find nowhere else. Each month The Lutheran offers a balanced, fair presentation of the issues. In addition to the news you'll read nowhere else, the magazine provides inspirational articles that help you on your faith journey. Congregational members may choose to continue your print subscription or activate a web subscription using the subscriber number located on your magazine.



### ***The Word in Season*** booklet (quarterly)

This daily devotional brings the Word to those who are new to the faith, enriching life with relevant meditations for today's Christian. The Word in Season reflects on the themes of Sunday's texts throughout the week. It's small size makes it easy to take with you. Congregational members, please check "Yes" to (continue receiving/start receiving) the publication, or check "No" if you do not wish to receive the publication.



**Please submit your selections by March 16, 2012. Thank you!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lutheran Light* Newsletter (check one)

Mail me a paper copy of the newsletter

Email me at the address below to receive the newsletter

Stop my newsletter subscription

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lutheran Magazine* (check one)

Yes - receive print or web subscription

No - Stop my subscription to *The Lutheran Magazine*

*The Word in Season* booklet (check one)

Yes - receive the *Word in Season*

No - Stop my subscription to the *Word in Season*

**Mail to: St. Mary's Lutheran Church, 3978 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158** (or drop in offering plate)



Dine at Texas Roadhouse on Wednesday,  
March 7th, 2012 from 4 PM to 10 PM  
and Carroll Lutheran School will  
receive 10% of your bill.

*Carry-out is included in our sales!*

Proceeds will go to the Harry Culbertson's  
Library Resource Fund

**Please present flyer at time of ordering! Thank you for supporting our kids!**

**Don't Like to Wait? Call Ahead!**



Can't wait to see us? We can't wait to see you, either! Want to see us faster? You can Call Ahead to shorten your wait! Just give us a call and we'll add your name to the wait list, make sure to let us know of any special needs. Write down your arrival time and confirmation number to bring with you. Once your entire party has arrived at Texas Roadhouse, check in at the host stand and we'll give you the wait time remaining.

**Call Ahead Seating is not a reservation, but it's a great way to shorten your wait time in the restaurant.**

\*All images but the school logo were obtained from the Texas Roadhouse website. Carroll Lutheran School logo obtained from school website.

# February 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
<u>Worship Helpers</u> Acolyte: Katie Fairbank, Suzy Spriggs Usher: The Wisner Family Communion Asst.: Fran Crist Altar Guild: Fran Crist, Jill Spriggs			1 MacKenzie Bennett	2	3 Jessica Bollinger	4
5  5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany - Green Isaiah 40: 21 - 31 Psalm: 147: 1 - 11, 20c 1 Corinthians 89: 16 - 23 Mark 1: 29: 39 <b>Basket Offering - Missionary Support</b> <b>Scout Sunday/Souper Bowl</b>	6	7  <b>Outreach &amp; Welcome Committee - 6:30 p.m.</b> 	8  Michael Clagg	9	10	11  <b>CLS Consignment Sale @ Ag Center 7 am - Noon</b>
12  6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany - Green 2 Kings 5: 1 - 14 Psalm: 30 1 Corinthians 9: 24 - 27 Mark 1: 40 - 45	13  <b>Church Council - 7:00 p.m.</b>	14  Valentine's Day	15  <b>Newsletter Deadline - 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Food Pantry Set-up - 6:30 p.m.</b>	16	17	18  
19  Transfiguration fo Our Lord - White 2 Kings 2: 1 - 12 Psalm: 50: 1 - 6 2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6 Mark 9: 2 - 9	20  Douglas Harner  President's Day	21  Shrove Tuesday	22  <b>Ash Wednesday Service - 7:30 p.m.</b>	23  Ann Pearre	24	25
26  1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent - Purple Genesis 9: 8 - 17 Psalm: 25: 1 - 10 1 Peter 3: 18 - 22 Mark 1: 9 - 15 <b>Social Hour - Congregational Volunteers</b> <b>Lenten Focus - 5:30 p.m.</b>	27	28	29	<b>Anniversaries:</b> Donald and Joye Kaufman - February 7, 1981 Junior and Bertha Miller - February 18, 1956		