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# 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. 06, June 2011

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## The Pastor's Prism



### Food Needs in Silver Run?

Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where there are needs and then we learn later that we were blind to them. This happened to me some years ago when I was working for Lutheran World Relief under the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Ethiopia. Our primary mission at that time was to help Ethiopian farmers become re-established on their lands following a severe famine. LWF, supported mostly by European Lutherans, had developed a grant program for helping farmers purchase oxen that were needed primarily for plowing fields. One day when I was out with our staff who were conducting interviews with individuals, I noticed a Danikil herdsman milking his camel. He collected about a cup of milk before the camel went dry. I had always wondered what camel's milk might taste like, and mentioned this to our interpreter. He went over and talked with the tribesman, who gave him a rather worried look.

While I was expecting more, I was given only a spoonful of milk. It was warm and rich, had a great taste. Then, I watched as the tribesman took a piece of stick, holding it between his hands, inserted the stick in the milk and started rolling it back and forth, like he were starting a fire. The milk started to froth up with air bubbles produced by his hand action.

It was then I learned that this cup of frothed camel's milk was to be the evening meal for the tribesman, his wife, and two children. Now, I understood why I had been given only a teaspoon of milk...and I felt terrible about for wanting to have a new experience at the expense of four hungry people. I had been blinded by my greed.

Recently, we learned that there maybe food and hunger issues here in the Silver Run community perhaps in part because of the current state of our economy. We don't have all the facts but according to preliminary information gathered by Brenda Meadows, 28% of the children attending nearby Charles Carroll School are receiving some sort of food assistance support. She has also learned that in our 21158 zip code area 11% of the population are receiving some sort of support from the Carroll County Department of Social Services, being the second most needy area in the county, behind only the needy in Westminster.

Yet most of us have bountiful meals at home, when we eat out, and even here at the church have great meals. We are a people who like to eat! Yet, are we being blind to those around us who are struggling? Brenda is doing more research in order to find out what might be the truth for our area, and also is investigating to learn if some sort of outreach is needed from our church.

She has discovered that should there be a need, there might be a way to connect with Carroll County Food Sunday, which is looking to assist communities who would become satellite food distribution centers (hereafter, FDC). Initially, it appears that we do have the physical means in our parish house for being a FDC. Obviously, some modifications and equipment might be needed, as well as volunteers to help. Brenda has also suggested that other groups might be involved in helping with such food distribution like other churches, civic organizations, local businesses, etc.

Again, all this preliminary to finding out the real needs and to determine if

we can assist in some way. We want our eyes opened to recognize and then address the need within our abilities.

Certainly, should such a need be shown to exist, and if we are able to assist in doing God's work using our hands in meeting that need, it would be a most fitting way of giving thanks to God while honoring our spiritual heritage of 250 years, which we will be celebrating in 2012. What a gift for St. Mary's, a wonderful opportunity to embrace and live the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Preach the gospel at all times - if necessary, use words."

God has given us mission to serve those in need as we know from Matthew 25,"...**I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.**"

Let us not be blind to the needs that are around us and to the ones God has given us the resources to address. As is recorded in 1John 3:17, "**How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother and sister in need and yet refuses to help?**"

+ "Pr. Lee"

Almighty God, we give You thanks for Your constant gifts to us, including food, drink, clothing, shelter, and health. As we enjoy what



You have given us, make us ever sensitive to the needs of those around us, particularly to those in our community.

Show us how we might share what You have given us with others so that they may rejoice in Your bounty. Help us to see the face of Jesus Christ in those who are in need, and in Whose Name we pray. AMEN

# Council Highlights



Council met on April 11, 2011.

1. The St. Mary's Church Council met on May 9, 2011.
1. The council agreed to let Jeffrey Spencer proceed with his Eagle Scout project. Jeffrey plans on working to create fire safety plan for the Parrish House that will meet fire marshall recommendations.
2. A special thank you to Helen Wolf, Faye Baugher, Linda Bupp, Jim Crist, Marion Matthias, and Don and Shirley Stansbury who cleaned the Parrish House kitchen on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They cleaned out all the cabinets and drawers and washed all the equipment.
3. The council agreed to the possibility of jointly hosting our missionary from Tanzania, Barbara Robertson, with St. Benjamin's when she visits our area in August. More information will be forth coming.
4. A group of individuals from St. Mary's visited St. James Lutheran Church in Union Bridge on May 23 to see how their food pantry is run in hopes of establishing a food pantry at St. Mary's. Anyone interested in being part of this venture contact Brenda Meadows.
5. The pictures for the new St. Mary's Church Directory will be taken on Aug 2 from 2pm-9:20pm and Sept 22 from 2pm-9:20pm. Mark your calendars. We still need someone to step forward and be a coordinator for this project.
6. On or around October 8, 2011 Pastor Dieter Kuchenbecker and his daughter will be here visiting our area from a Lutheran church in Schlamersdorf, Germany. This trip is to be a preliminary trip with another trip being planned for 2012 with the youth of their congregation. More information will follow about plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wisner, Secretary

## June Bulletin Deadlines

Announcements for the June 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> bulletins should be in the church office by 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Secretary's vacation.

This is also the regular deadline for submitting information for the next issue (July/August combined) of The Lutheran Light newsletter.



# News Around the Parish

Laura Heller, our former Teaching Parish Student for the 2010-2011 academic year has given our congregation a purple passion rhododendron, which has been planted between the sidewalk and church on the Mayberry Road side of the church. At the dinner held in her honor, our church gave her two books for her studies, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* and a *Six English Translation Parallel of the New Testament*. Laura may be contacted at 18707 Upper Beckleysville Road, Hampstead, MD 21074; phone-443-291-6044; e-mail-[lheller1@msn.com](mailto:lheller1@msn.com).

We are planning a new Pictorial Directory but need your help! Our last directory was done in 2003. Picture taking is tentatively scheduled for August and September. A coordinator is needed to help us set-up appointments and oversee the process.



Please contact Pastor Lee for more information.

Exciting News! A group of members met in the Parish House and agreed to continue exploring the opportunity of serving our local neighbors through a food distribution program (method currently under discussion). We are visiting a Food Pantry in Union Bridge on Monday evening, May 23 to see their operation in action. If you know anyone at all that may be interested in joining us, please let Brenda Meadows know.



Do You like to Read? We're looking for interested persons to start a book club here at church. Possibly meeting once a month. Please see Jill Spriggs or contact the church office ([stmarys@qis.net](mailto:stmarys@qis.net)) if interested.

We are now using a reconditioned copier at church which will require access codes for use. Please contact Susan, our secretary, for your personal code, and to receive instruction on use of the copier.

The Grace Lutheran Mission Team will be traveling from Grace Lutheran Westminster to the Goldsboro, North Carolina area the week of July 10, 2011, to assist with rebuilding after flooding and other service projects. In light of the recent tornado damage in North Carolina, we may be asked to assist with clean-up and rebuilding from that as well. Please contact Laura Heller at 443-291-6044 or [lheller1@msn.com](mailto:lheller1@msn.com) for additional information or to sign-up for the trip. [There is no cost paid by the volunteers and we try to car pool as to take fewer vehicles.]



**MISSION TRIP**

## Notes & Thank Yous

5/1/11

To the "People" of St. Marys

It has been my great joy and privilege to worship with you during my teaching parish experience.

Thank you for your warmth and openness in sharing your lives and your faith.

I will miss all of you very much.

Wishing you God's peace and blessing in the future.

"Now go in peace and serve the Lord."

Shalom,  
Laura Heller

## Contact Information

**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 & Fran Crist; **Acolyte Coordinator:** Alec Shapiro; **Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf

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## From Our Missionary - [excerpts from Barbara Robertson's e-newsletter]

Since my very first year in Morogoro, I have been part of a team of people chosen to establishing a Primary Health Care (PHC) program in our diocese. I had the great good fortune of going on a study tour for the second time, this trip to Northern Diocese in Moshi at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. We were familiarized with all the ways in which the church is active in the community, helping to improve basic health and living standards. We made house to house visits, took a look at a milk processing project, observed a primary school health screening day, met members of that congregation which gathers at Nkwarunga – the site of the first Lutheran Church in Tanzania, saw a bread baking project, and saw how an efficiency wood stove conserves firewood and boils water all at a go. It was a wonderful experience and we hope to replicate some of the programs.

In September of last year, two members of Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church in Washington came on a fact finding trip. I was asked to be their guide while they were in the diocese. I'm always glad when work is fun and I had a lovely time speaking American English for a week. Linda and Peg graciously hosted me for the weekend as well and we had a terrific day at Mikumi Park and

a lovely stay at Bagamoyo. Thanks you guys!

It was my great hope to have our newest oil expeller up and running the first of October. I'm disappointed to report that, as of this writing, it is not in place yet. The building is ready; the machine is ready. The wiring is ready. We just need some electricity to get going! But that is ALWAYS a challenge. One setback we faced in putting our press in place was that the chairperson of the women's group of Kimamba where the press will be installed, died suddenly. Marselina John was only 41. The entire community was shocked at her death. She was the engine of the group and is sorely missed. My colleague, Tabitha Kilatu, and I attended her funeral. What a sad day it was. We have observed a time of mourning and shall now get on with finishing installation as a way of honoring her.

### Prayers

· Please pray that we find favor with the local electricity authorities and our oil press gets hooked up to electricity – SOON

· That we have the right amount of rain at the right time in order to ensure a good harvest so all may be spared another year of food shortage

· For Morogoro Diocese as it starts preparations for its General Assembly, held every four years

· For new pastors who were ordained in 2010 that they may be good and faithful leaders

### Thanksgiving

· I'm thankful for safe travel – to and from the Mt Kilimanjaro region, numerous trips to Dar-es-Salaam, and to and from South Africa

· I'm thankful for wonderful colleagues who invite me to work side by side with them

· I'm grateful for my family and friends, both here and in the US for their continued support and encouragement

### PS

This year I will be in the US for my home assignment, most likely from the end of July to the end of September. I will be available to visit congregations, Bible Study groups, synods, or any other group that would like to hear about life and work in Tanzania and the ELCA.

May God bless and keep you all. May 2011 be a year of health, prosperity, love, joy and peace.

Barbara Robertson  
bubia2@hotmail.com

# Prayer Ventures

**1** Offer thanks for the young people who give one year of their lives to serve the church around the world through the Young Adults in Global Mission Program. Pray especially for Lauren Frail and Julie Rower who serve in Hungary.

**2** Pray for the Allegheny, Central/Southern Illinois, Delaware-Maryland, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, North Carolina, Western North Dakota, Virginia, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Metropolitan Chicago, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Central States,

Eastern Washington-Idaho, Indiana-Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, New England, Northeastern Iowa, Oregon, Southeastern and Western Iowa Synods as they meet in assembly this week.

**3** Pray for the Pastor's Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the two pastors from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin who will join faculty this month in Malawi to teach Bible and the Lutheran Confessions to all the pastors of the church, as well as lay evangelists.

**4** Pray that those attending the Bread for the World Gathering in Washington, D.C., this month come home inspired and equipped to speak boldly for poor and hungry people.

**5 Seventh Sunday of Easter** - Merciful God, we thank you for the growing peace in Angola and Mozambique, and for the Lutheran churches there who are making positive impact in their communities through health service programs and the proclamation of the Good News.

**6** Give thanks for the service of Carolyn Rasmussen, who serves as a volunteer teacher at Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Liberia.

**7** Pray for summer camp ministries of Lutheridge + Lutherock Ministries, Inc., and Agape Kure Beach, outdoor ministries of the ELCA serving the southeast.

**8** Pray for all world leaders, especially those in war-torn countries, as they consider decisions that will affect God's people and creation.

**9** Pray for the Grand Canyon, South Dakota, La Crosse Area, and Southwestern Minnesota Synods who meet in assembly this week.

**10** Pray for the June 10-12 gathering of the Women of the ELCA as they explore the

theme, "Women of Faith with Arms Wide Open."

**11** Pray for ELCA missionary Karen Anderson, is serving the people of Chile, as they recover from the February 27, 2010, earthquake. Karen helps to design, launch and direct an international training course on popular education in health.

**12 Day of Pentecost** - Good and gracious God, we thank you for the signs of hope in Brazil today. Continue to enliven the churches in their witness to the hope in Christ that is brought within reach of men, women and children in their everyday lives.

**13** Pray for all of the young people participating in the Young Adult in Global Mission program especially Katelyn Petrille, Valerie Rivas, Andrew Steele, Amanda Tompkins, and Joy Waughtal, who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in South Africa.

**14** Pray for the summer camps of Bear Creek Camp in Pennsylvania and Vandercamp in New York, both outdoor ministries of the ELCA.

**15** Pray for the Rev. Ingebjorg Laugeland, who serves as children and youth pastor at Hjelmeland Lutheran Parish in Norway.

**16** Give thanks for those who volunteer their time and gifts to teach at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia, especially Carol Anderson, Kathy and William Fredell, Elizabeth Mitchell, Jim and Paula Stensvaag, and Suzanne Strekal.

**17** Pray for the Southwestern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Illinois and Upper Susquehanna Synods as they meet in assembly this week.

**18** Give thanks for all ELCA short-term volunteers who give three to six months to service in locations around the globe.

**19 First Sunday after Pentecost** - O God, you who are a part of the very fabric of our whole lives, we lift up to you the people of Argentina and Uruguay. Living in the natural wealth you have given these countries they struggle with economic challenges, may they find peace with you and justice for their people.

**20** Pray for the Bishop's School, a residential week for seniors in high school on the campus of Southern Seminary that gathers June 19 – 25.

**21** Give thanks for God's good creation—from the smallest of sea creatures to the birds of the air—and all your magnificent handiwork at risk of exposure from our human errors.

**22** Pray for the 30 youth who will gather this week for the Leadership Pathways program at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina, which serves to build up young people as strong disciples.

**23** Give thanks for Bette McCrandall who began serving with the Lutheran Church in Liberia on June 1, 1984, and is concluding her service in Liberia this month. She served as an advisor for the church's educational ministries.

**24** Pray for the Caribbean, Slovak-Zion and Greater Milwaukee Synods as they meet in assembly this week.

**25** Pray that medical personnel be trained and clinics be made available for the people for those suffering from AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases, who currently have no access to medical care.

**26 Second Sunday after Pentecost** - Come, Lord Jesus, into the life of Christian churches in Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Help them be signs of your mercy as they work with the poor, the indigenous and the marginalized, and give them courage and faithfulness to walk in your steps.

**27** Give thanks for the ministry of Nancy Anderson and the Rev. Rodney Nordby in Papua New Guinea. Rodney serves as an auditor in the national offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea in Lae, and Nancy assists with work with the church's international relations

**28** Pray for the ELCA Region 9 Mission Resource Staff who are consulting together for mission strategy development today in Columbia, South Carolina.

**29** Pray for those who have no clean water to drink, and who suffer with otherwise preventable diseases and infections.

**30** Pray for the Rev. Dana Nelson and Thomas Ososki who serve in Peru. Dana serves the Cristo Rey Lutheran Congregation in Lima, Peru and assists the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru with other congregations and mission work. Tom shares his architectural skills as a consultant for new church buildings.