
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. 02, February 2011

The Pastor's Prism



A Time of Dormancy?

February, though it is the shortest month of the year, often seems like it is longest. We're tiring of having to keep bundled up from the cold, the stark landscape of dark, bare deciduous trees, our brown lawns, and the lack of creature sounds outside. We can get snow during February but generally January is a snowier month. From a secular point of view, about the only "exciting" events that happen for some in February are Valentine's Day and the Super Bowl. A proverb shared with us by an elderly life-long resident, Mildred Cook, of Allegany County, New York, catches something of what we feel, "When the days lengthen, the cold strengthens."

February is a time when groundhogs, frogs, toads, turtles, bears, snakes, and some other creatures hibernate in what they hope are safe places. Hardly a creature stirs except an occasional fox, rabbit, squirrel, or deer but even they are less active, spending much more time hunkered down in comfortable places.

We humans spend our February a bit differently but we are affected by the darkness and coldness, adjusting as best we can, looking forward to more hospitable days ahead. For some it may mean just another month of enduring the long monotonous commutes to work in

darkness, looking forward to spring. For those who have wood stoves, this could be the time of year to fell trees for firewood next season. Orchardists use February to prune trees and for conducting rodent control measures. Dairy farmers continue to milk two or three times every day, and work to keep their cows healthy. Others use February for winter sports and gathering information for doing their income taxes; and maybe more time is spent before a TV or with a computer.

Regardless of our situation, many of us will be less physically active during February but we live in anticipation of what lies ahead, as the seed catalogues remind us!

February reminds us that there is a time when the pace of our life may have slowed down, but instead of going dormant, we have the time to reflect on the bigger issues of life.

First, we can remember that God has set up a cycle on earth that is to be respected...times of birth, times of growth, times of harvest, and times for death. This has long been noted by the ancients such as what was written in Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11a:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...He has made everything for its time..."

Secondly, the cycle in nature reminds us that God is in control and

that His will is being worked out in the world in spite of the mess we so often make of things. At this time of year we can reflect on the surrounding nature, though it appears dormant, things are happening in the earth to plants and creatures as they prepare for the next season. These things are like clues that God has placed in creation to remind us that there is more to life than just getting by. This could be the time to reflect in our lives on what it is that we are really preparing for in our lives.

Perhaps, most of all, it is knowing in confidence that we are here in this world because of His grace, and that He is with us through all the seasons of our life, even the Februarys!

+ "Pr. Lee"

Almighty God, in Your wisdom You have created us to be a part of Your world for this season and all the seasons of the year and our lives. Lead us into greater appreciation for

Your creation and its seasons. Help us to understand and live faithfully through all the seasons that are before us, so that at the end we may bear fruit for Your Kingdom, and be gathered to You in that final harvest. We ask this through Your Son Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, AMEN



Council Highlights



Council Meeting

Council met on January 10, 2011.

1. The council welcomes Jill Spriggs and Joye Kaufman as members on the church council.
2. Mark your calendars for this year's Lenten Focus which will begin on Sunday, March 13. We are looking for volunteers to provide soup and bread at 5:30 p.m. followed by the focus at 6:00 p.m.
3. The church council decided to change the time of the Maundy Thursday church service to 7 p.m. The Sunday school is looking into possibly providing a meal at 6 p.m. prior to the service and working on some involvement during the service. Plans are still being formulated and more information will be coming in the future.
4. Members of the council are exploring the idea of organizing a group of interested people to work on crafts for the Strawberry Festival and Christmas Bazaar. A room has been dedicated as a work area for projects. The group will possibly meet on Sundays. If you are interested in more information, contact Cindy Sparacino at 717-637-0067.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Wisner, Secretary

Church Roof Repairs

Major roof repairs totaling \$18,000 were completed on our church. As this was an unbudgeted expense, donations are being requested. Please make donations to "St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church", and write in the memo section, "church roof repair".

Carroll Lutheran School's 9th Annual Consignment Sale

Saturday, February 12
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.carrolllutheralschool.org

Lost Key

We're trying to locate a 2nd key for our church's safety deposit box, which was apparently originally located at the old Westminster Union Bank and now PNC of Union Mills. If you have information about this key, please contact treasurer, Art Wisner.

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.**



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!)

Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20
Feb. 27	March 13	March 20
April 3	April 10	April 17

Notes & Thank Yous

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Dear St Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your ELCA Global Gift donation of \$329.00 to support Maasai Beadwork, Tanzania [in December]. Thank you for your ELCA Global Gift donation of \$106.25 to support Masai Beadwork, Tanzania [in January].

ELCA Global Gifts are special "beyond the budget" international projects to help schools, hospitals and congregations; children, refugees, and people living in extreme poverty; communities, agencies and social ministries. For many reasons and in many ways, ELCA Global Gifts make a world of difference...

Peace in Christ,
Twila Schock
Director, Global Mission Support

The Community of St. Dysmas

January 11, 2011

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

Dear Members:

The Community of St. Dysmas would like to express our thanks and sincere gratitude for your donation of \$35.00 on November 26, 2010.

Your gift provides for the many needs of our prison ministry as well as helping us to do God's work.

Again, we thank you for your support.

Pastor Charles Frederick
Interim Pastor for the Community of St. Dysmas

ELCA World Hunger - Meet Jauvalda

Jauvalda Francique is 3 years old and eager to go to school—especially since the school she'll be going to is brand new and her parents helped build it.

The school building in Jauvalda's home town of Léogâne in Haiti was nearly destroyed in the January 2010 earthquake. With help from ELCA Disaster Response, a new school building has risen from the rubble, designed to withstand earthquakes, floods and hurricanes. To help students feel safe within its sturdy walls, families were invited to participate in the planning meetings and were kept informed throughout the construction of their new school.



Parents were hired to help with construction. Children chose the colors. School families asked that the shutters be painted with words in Creole, French, English and even Finnish, a nod to the construction manager. Natural ventilation and plenty of light make the new school a cheerful, comfortable and safe place for children to learn.

Josette Jean Pierre, age 11, is delighted to be studying again. She says, "I'm happy to be back at school." Her little neighbor Jauvalda can't wait to get started herself.

Your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, support our ongoing work in Haiti. We'll be working alongside the people of Haiti for as long as it takes, helping to bring new life from the rubble the earthquake left behind. Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support the work ELCA Disaster Response in Haiti.

I have included my gift of \$250.

I have included my gift of \$100.

Other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to "ELCA Disaster Response" and write "Haiti" in the memo line. Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to: ELCA disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300. To give online with a credit card, please visit www.elca.org/disaster.

Prayer Ventures

1 Give thanks for Revs Michael and Terri Church, in their second year working with an English-language ministry in Romania in cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania and the Metropolitan New York Synod.

2 Presentation of Our Lord - Lift up in prayer the ELCA ministries in the Holy Land, especially the Revs. Fred Strickert and Elizabeth McHan, working with Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, for peace in that troubled part of the world.

3 Pray for campus ministry staff as they gather in regional conferences this month.

4 World Cancer Day - Give thanks for the ELCA Board of Pensions health plans and all who support the ministry of preventing illness and sustaining health for staff and retirees throughout the church.

5 Pray for Sarah and Pastor Peter Grow-Hanson who live in Dakar, Senegal, serving in theological education and leadership development with the Lutheran Church of Senegal. They also provide support for ELCA-related development ministries in Senegal and facilitate a pilot Christian-Muslim immersion program.

6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - God in heaven, bless all who strive for peace and human welfare in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Take away any anxiety about the future and give them a sense of responsibility for where you have called them.

7 Lift up in prayer all graduating seminarians who with great excitement wait to be assigned to a synod where they will begin their service in God's mission in the church.

8 Thank God for Kirsten and Pastor Stephen Kienberger. Pastor Stephen Kienberger is a parish pastor of the American Church in Berlin, Germany. Pray for all international congregations who seek to bring together people of different nations and denominations as followers of Christ.

9 Give thanks for the service of David Hardy, who concludes his service as chairperson of the Board of Directors of ELCA Risk Management at the end of the board's winter meeting in February.

10 Pray for Rebecca Lee, a short-term English teacher in Hong Kong, as she engages students from different parts of

Asia studying at Lutheran Theological Seminary. She is part of a wider work by the ELCA and churches in Asia to engage the needs of churches in the region.

11 Pray for the staff and ministries of the ELCA churchwide offices as they experience a time of transition into the ELCA reorganization.

12 Please pray for all who serve international congregations, especially Mary Ann & Timothy Stewart as they serve the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway.

13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - O God, you who stand in the midst of the silent ones, bless the churches of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta, and their ministries among children, workers, the sick and the elderly.

14 Ask God to guide the Rev. Albert (Al) Starr, Jr., and other leaders of the African American Lutheran Association, as they seek to help ELCA congregations reach out to people of color with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

15 Remember Jenifer Brown and Matthew Linden as they prepare to end their service as English teachers in Kumamoto and Tokyo, Japan, as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

16 Pray for the Racial Justice Ministry Program as it strives to address the church's climate on race, ethnicity, culture, inclusivity and diversity.

17 Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Today remember Erin Bonawitz, Amelia Decker, Tricia Ernst, Nathan Lescelius, Nathaniel Murken, Kari Beth Shobe, Heidi Sjoberg, Kathleen Snyder, Elizabeth Sorenson, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

18 Thank God for Lutheran Services in Iowa, its director, the Rev. Douglas E. Johnson, and other staff and volunteers, who serve people of all ages, genders, nationalities, religions, ethnicities and sexual orientations in a wide variety of ministries.

19 Pray for the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy as they have their annual retreat February 21-25, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany - We give you thanks, O God, for signs of

your presence and activity among the people of Germany and France. Continue to bring vitality, we pray, to the churches, that the awakening that happened with the Reformation may live on in ongoing renewal.

21 International Mother Language Day - Give thanks for Pastor Abraham Lu and the members of Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, N.Y.

22 Lift up the ministry of the members of Fordham Lutheran Church, Bronx, N.Y., reaching out to African Americans and Hispanics with the mission statement, "Serving Jesus by serving our neighbors," and their interim pastor, the Rev. John Backe.

23 Give thanks for all who participate in the life and ministry of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina. Remember especially the Young Adults in Global Mission, Jenna Engquist, Krystle Moraska, Emily Singleton, and Rachel Smith as they serve in congregational and social service ministries in Argentina.

24 Pray for mission developer pastors and lay leaders, who will meet for training February 24-28

25 Pray for Martin and Suzanne Shoffner, who are serving in Jerusalem. Martin serves as the coordinator for both the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Palestine and the Holy Land trips program.

26 Thank God for the work of Ellen D. Walid, executive director, and the staff of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, as they struggle to meet increasing needs in an area plagued by natural disasters.

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

28 Praise God for the witness of Pastor Jeffrey Truscott. At Trinity Theological College in Singapore his classes in liturgy and theology equip students from many Asian countries to cultivate a worship life that will shape their faith communities.

February 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
		1 MacKenzie Bennett	2	3 Jessica Bollinger	4	5
6 5 th Sunday after Epiphany - Green Isaiah 58: 1 - 12 Psalm: 1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 16 Matthew 5: 13 - 20 Basket Offering: Missionary Support	7 Church Council Meeting 7 p.m. 	8 Michael Clagg 	9	10	11	12 CLS Consignment Sale @ Ag Center 7 am - Noon
13 6 th Sunday after Epiphany - Green Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20 Psalm: 119: 1 - 8 1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 9 Matthew 5: 21 - 37	14	15	16 Newsletter Deadline 10 a.m.	17	18 	19
20 Douglas Harner 7 th Sunday after Epiphany - Green Leviticus 19: 1 - 2, 9 - 18 Psalm: 119: 33 - 40 1 Corinthians 3: 10 - 11, 16 - 23 Matthew 5: 38 - 48	21	22	23 Ann Pearre	24	25	26
27 8 th Sunday after Epiphany - Green Isaiah 49: 8 - 16 Psalm: 131 1 Corinthians 4: 1 - 5 Matthew 6: 24 - 34 Social Hour - Congregational Volunteers	28	Worship Helpers Acolyte: Katie Fairbank, Suzy Spriggs Usher: The Wisner Family Altar Guild: Crystal Ruby, Gail Wisner Communion: Fran Crist		Anniversaries Donald and Joye Kaufman - February 7, 1981 Harvey and Naomi Bowersox - February 8, 1936 Junior and Bertha Miller - February 18, 1956		