

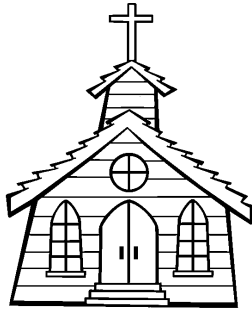
# THE PARISH VOICE

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA  
"God's Work, Our Hands."

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March, 2011

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**March 13, 2011, followed by a "St. Patty's Day" meal!  
Come, join your church family for this special day in the  
life of our church!**

### **Agenda:**

- 1) Annual Report**
- 2) Election of Nominating Committee**
- 3) Election of Synod Assembly voting members**
- 4) Constitution changes**
- 5) Other items, as needed, from the floor**

### **Mission Statement of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings by worshipping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.



***Public Office Hours*** are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*unless previously noted in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter*). Please feel free to stop by with bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter articles.

Deadlines:

***Bulletin announcements*** are due in office by ***Wednesday at 12:00 noon.***

***Newsletter articles*** are due in office by the ***10th of each month*** (*unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin*).

***Deadline for the next newsletter is March 10, with assembly on Thursday, March 24.***

Please e-mail [secretary@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:secretary@christlutheranmpa.org) with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

### **ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGE/ADDITION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

## ***“Why Lent????”***

I have never asked the question, “What is your favorite Church season?” and received the answer, “Lent.” It’s not that folks have anything against Lent, but with varying reasons we turn our “favorites” toward seasons of joy, and light, and growth in faith. Lent is the season we wrestle with Jesus’ suffering on behalf of all of us. It is a time when we must face the reality of sin in our lives and know that Jesus battled the King of Evil to rescue us. The end of Lent reminds us that Jesus won that battle. The journey through Lent, however, reminds us that not only are we the reason Jesus suffered, but we are also face-to-face with that suffering in our worship and scripture study throughout this holy season.

“Why Lent?” some have asked me – and I have asked that question myself through the years. I suppose the best answer to the question is “Why not Lent?”

- God’s plan for our salvation began with a joyful time of creation – and a call to labor for God, yes, but also to rest from our labor.
- God’s plan included freedom from oppression and slavery, and it also came in a wilderness sanctuary where God provided everything we needed to continue with life and to follow God’s commands.
- God’s plan included punishment for our disobedience, as well as release to new life and new possibilities.
- God’s plan also included that promise of salvation that God would send in a victorious Messiah, who would save us from Sin and Death – and, ultimately arrive in our midst in a tiny manger in Bethlehem, in the Holy Land.
- As surely as we celebrate that baby’s life promise, we cannot completely tell his story by ignoring the fact that his life also included suffering and death. It would be like telling our life story with only the easy and happy parts, and forgetting the tough times that brought us closer to mature and constant faith.
- Why not Lent? This is the time when our Lord Jesus paid the highest price for God’s plan of salvation. We owe Jesus a great deal for that – and Jesus never expects our

payment. Instead, Jesus expects that we will honor and worship God in his plan to save us, no matter the price Jesus had to pay.

Can we give of ourselves a little more this year, then, in this season that Jesus takes the tough road for us? Can we remember by attending Ash Wednesday services, hearing the defeat that Sin promises, and raising our lives higher to the promise of life Jesus has won for us?

Can we “take on” something that would honor our Lord’s request to care for one another? You’ll see an invitation to prepare an Easter basket for the needy during Lent. You’ll see an opportunity to worship with our Northern Lights sisters and brothers during this holy season. You’ll hear a blessed new worship liturgy that Brett Hosterman, our organist, has composed and will bless our Sunday worship during Lent. You will also see opportunities for Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship, participation in our annual meeting and “St. Patty’s Day” meal afterwards. A service of healing, the reading of the Passion of Our Lord, and Holy Week worship will also give us time to “take on” an opportunity to honor our Lord, especially as he suffers. Would we abandon one another at such a difficult time? Certainly not! So may we not abandon our Lord’s difficulties, either. May we say our “thank you’s” by participating fully in the season of Lent and giving our humble and greatest thanks that Jesus was willing to suffer and die because he loves us!

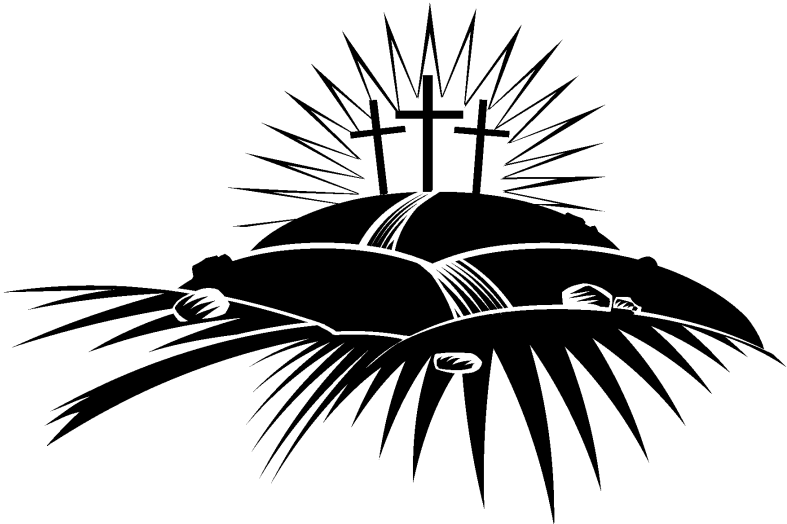
Come with all of your brothers and sisters to journey with Jesus in the darkest places. Trust me, once you have done that, the celebration of life that Jesus brings us once more at Easter will be all the more joyous.

Why Lent? Why not Lent? Jesus didn’t skip over it to avoid the pain.

*“...we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” --Hebrews 2:9*

Your partner in mission and ministry,

*Pastor Pat* ☺



**LENT**

## Prayer Concerns

### *Members, Friends and Family of Christ Lutheran Prayer List...*



***For the sick:*** Robert Campbell; Rob Comerer; Michelle Konkoly; Joyce Long; Jeff Mensch; Jane McHenry; Evelyn O'Connell; Aja Pyers; Daniel "Pops" Quinn; Christine Scholl; Harrison Shirk; Deb Snyder; Edna Spotts; Bud Streeter; Katie Thompson

***For those with ongoing, extended illness:*** Faith Bacon; Leesa Bankert; Geraldine & Christopher Betts; Joan Bilger; Inez Bingaman; Bruce Bolich; Betty Brown; Emmaline Brown; Mike Butler; Don Byerly; Jason & Ryan Caldwell; Evelyn Campbell; Karen Campbell; Joan Carpenter; Carol Conrad; Miles Crawford; Charles Danowsky; Rose Deaner; Travis Deitrick; Cy & Christine Eminhizer; Isobel Fehrer; Joann Ficks; Catherine Finn; Rosella Follmer; Virginia Frantz; Marie Gray; Dana Habecker; Miya Hadcock; Sylvia Hoffman; Mary & Jim Hollinbaugh; Lisa Hughes; Lisa Huntington; Camille Kreisher; Keith Kurtz; Patricia Leonard; Lois, Rachel, & Jessica McDonald; Shirley Menges; Jen Miskin; Stephanie Neal; Lucia Nolan; Andrew Ostrowsky; Hunter Page; Agnes Rathfon; Terry Rathfon; Joy Reaser; Katie Richards; Ned Roush; Lori Smith; Shirley Smith; Mackenzie Snyder; Florence Stahlnecker; Mary Steeley; Dorothy Stevens; Kisha Suarez; George & Tresha Sudol; Allen Sullender; Janet Swisher; Terry Valiquette; Tim Walsh, Jr.; Percy Webb; Sherry Yingling; Lois

***For those in sorrow:*** All who have lost loved ones; those in our community and the world who are recovering from fires and natural disasters

***For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:*** Doug Erickson; Kayce Hill; Charlene Hodge; Florence Ishler; Joe Korizno; Wm. Phillips; Martha Reese; Ray & Susan Trate; John Travers; Roger Watts; Todd Whitmyer; Paul Wiles; Darlas Yost

***For those adjusting to life changes***

***For those struggling with personal problems:*** Sue Bickel & family; Nicholas Machusak; Brandon Rathfon; Gary Wilson

***For the imprisoned***

***For the homebound:*** Phyllis Albertson; Caroline Bobb; Lucille Bruss; Mary Burns; Edith Coup; Betty Dotts; Gladys Fisher; Bessie Hartzel; Merritt & Doris Heffelfinger; Paul Heimbach; Margaret

Kline; Tom Kline; Mary Kathryn Leiby; Elva Mazeall; Dix & Pauline Reitz; Margarite Ruth; Camille Schillig; Walter Scholl; Connie Sholly; Marie Springer; Leah Walker; Kenneth Webb; Nancy Weikel

***For those serving in the military:*** Amy Brown; Joshua Brown; Christopher DePellegrin; Matthew Dorman; Justin Gonzales; Gabriel Gonzales; Larry Graby, Jr.; Dan Moll; Anthony Nudson; Ken Ring; Glenn Snyder; Eric Strobeck

***For leaders, guides, students, and workers:*** Pr. Pat; Pr. Keith; Sunday School & Bible Buddies teachers; Viking & Marissa Dietrich, missionaries; Bishop Robert Driesen & Synod Staff; Bishop Mark Hanson & ELCA Staff

***For those needing daily strength:*** Mary Cromis; Steve Ishler family; Dale Kriner & family; Rebecca Ulmer; Stephen & family

***For our partners who serve with us in Appalachia:*** The emerging authorized worshipping community, Mountain of Life, and the developers, Mary & Darrell Golnitz, in the north Georgia mountains of the Southeastern Synod as they reach out to the unchurched in their area

***More prayers needed...*** These are *member families* we have prayed for in Church since last issue: Bob & Deb Greenly; William, Stacey, Cody, Ashley, & Justin Winner; Jenelle, Jason, Olivia, & Paul Rohland; Jennifer, Skyler, Hope Harrington, & Abe Suarez; Jessica Yost; Barry & William Reed; Bessie Hartzel; Lee & Darlas Yost; Michael & Pamela Roush; Leroy & Bonnie Hauck; Susan Albert, Alexa & Gillian Mitchell, Isabelle & Sydney Blosser; Shawn Roush





*A Special*  
THANK YOU



- To all those who brought light bulbs to give to the needy and LOVE Bags to give to Geisinger's Children's Hospital. Thank you!
- To Brad & James Bartlett, for your wonderful work on preparing the banner closet in the parlor.
- Souper Bowl of Caring 2011 was a great success, and everyone walked away with warm, full bellies after a fun time of fellowship. A BIG thank you goes out to the kitchen crew who did all the prep work the day before the event: Pastor Pat, Pastor Keith, Kay Dunn, Nancy Mensch, Ruth Greenly, Julia & Donna Spear. Special, special thank you's to everyone who donated ingredients, yummy desserts, and money. And, a heartfelt thank you to all who chipped in with washing dishes and cleaning up after the lunch. There were many, but Brian Herr definitely took the lead in the dishwashing task! Everyone had a hand in this year's success! The event brought in \$481 including the "Packers" and "Steelers" collection during the children's sermon. With matching funds from Endowment plus the designated loose offerings during January for the Souper Bowl, we'll be able to make close to a \$1,000 donation to our local food bank to help feed the hungry in our community.

# Thank You Notes

I would like to thank everybody who helped me out with some useful treats. It couldn't have come at a better time for me. I received it just before finals week last semester when I had my face in a book at almost all times of the day and hardly ever had time to get food to eat. The snacks in the box enabled me to have something to snack on for a few minutes while studying.

- Trent Wargo

Thank you for your gift to Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries for Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village.

- Carol Powers, Fund Director

Many thanks for your donation of toys and clothing to needy families once again. 343 families received toys and/or food, representing over 800 children, and 498 nursing home residents received gifts and a personal visit.

- Major Ruth Bartholomew,  
Salvation Army

## Worship Attendance Records

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan. 2	45	11	1 priv. comm..	57
Jan. 9	59	3	2 Rockwell worship	64
Jan. 16	79	5		84
Jan. 23	49	8	2 priv. comm..	59
Jan. 30	49	*	2 priv. comm.	51

\*no Wed. worship (ice storm)

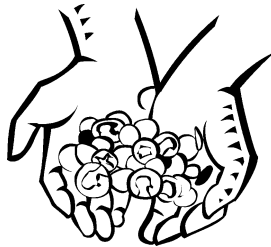
*Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...*

# Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

**Meals On Wheels & Lutheran World Relief**  
*(envelope provided with newsletter)*

*Please make checks payable to “Christ Lutheran Church.”*

*Be a cheerful giver!  
Please give generously to help others!!!*



*Tithes and offerings*

## Weekly Giving Per Envelope January, 2011

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
3	\$100.01 or more
2	70.01 – 100.00
5	50.01 – 70.00
4	40.01 - 50.00
9	30.01 - 40.00
9	20.01 - 30.00
10	15.01 - 20.00
5	10.01 - 15.00
7	5.01 - 10.00
18	.01 - 5.00
57	0

## HandUP Foundation

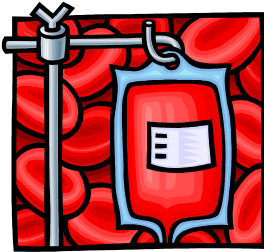
**Food Bank** – The Milton Food Bank is collecting *peanut butter & jelly* for the month of *March*. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex.



## Red Cross

Sandwich Sale  
Thursday, March 10

Watch for order sheet in the narthex!



## Bible Study Opportunities



- Thursdays, 2 p.m., in the parlor – studying the book of Genesis, using Book of Faith resources
- Sunday School for all ages – Every Sunday @ 9 a.m.
- Bible Buddies for children up to Senior High Youth age. Next meeting – February 18; March 25.
- Sunday Bible Study – Sunday, March 27, from 7-8 p.m. We will be viewing a video on the temple at Jerusalem this month and next. Come, learn with us!

- Gerasene Team ministry - we gather monthly during the Sunday School hour to study, pray, and ponder ways we can reach out with the good news of Jesus! Next meeting will be Sunday, March 27, at 9 a.m., in the parlor.

## Help us help others!

- Campbell's Soup labels and Labels for Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission project
- Can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Pennies for Social Ministry projects
- Caps for Creation – read more about this in “New Opportunity to Care for God’s World” article...



## Church Website & Facebook

Go to **[www.christlutheranmpa.org](http://www.christlutheranmpa.org)** or **[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)** and search for “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church” for up-to-date Church information! Email [celcnetwork@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:celcnetwork@christlutheranmpa.org) (James Bartlett) to have events posted on Facebook or post a status/comment on the page. For postings/ideas/suggestions regarding the website, contact Donna Spear, Webmaster, at [speardonna@gmail.com](mailto:speardonna@gmail.com).



## **Worship Participants**

fourth grade; torchbearers and crucifers are assigned after completing confirmation.

Kellie Brouse has returned to assigning acolyte schedules for the month. We just weren't getting enough folks involved who were signing up. If you have any reason you would NOT like to be on the regular assignment schedule that's published in the newsletter, please let us know as soon as possible.

Remember – acolytes are trained in the

### **From Your Finance Leaders...**

	<u>Year to Date</u>	
Total Budget Offerings		
Received in January	\$ 9,662.96	\$ 9,662.96
Total Budget Expenses		
For January	<u>8,036.39</u>	<u>8,036.39</u>
Difference	\$ 1,626.57	\$ 1,626.57
Monthly Offerings		
Needed to meet Budget		
(Needed from each family:		
\$102/mo.)	\$10,044.58	\$10,044.58
Actual Budget Offerings		
Received	<u>9,662.96</u>	<u>9,662.96</u>
Difference	<\$ 381.62>	<\$ 381.62>

Thank you for all you do to support the ministry God calls us to do at Christ Church!

## A New Opportunity to Care for God's World!

Ever wish you had a home for those rigid plastic, screw-on caps you find on beverages, milk jugs, detergent, medicine bottles, and the like? You know – the caps you CAN'T recycle with the containers? Bring those caps to Christ Church! Aveda, a beauty company in the United States, uses them to format new caps to use in the products they sell, and the Women of the ELCA have found a way for us to put them to that good use. There's a box just inside the door labeled "Caps for Creation" where you can deposit your CLEAN caps – and a picture guide for the caps we can recycle. Be a good steward of God's Creation! (No metal caps or pumps, please - - - See insert in newsletter.)



## Easter Baskets for the Needy

### *Spread Some Sunshine*



Instead of “giving up” something for Lent – why not try “taking on” this opportunity to help a family in the community? Create an Easter basket for the needy!

Throughout the season of Lent, as you prepare to celebrate Easter, purchase a basket (a sturdy laundry basket is a great choice) that a local family could use. Then...fill it up with nutritious items that will provide healthy meals and snacks. You could also include household cleaning/laundry items – and any “special” items you might like to include as treats. If you would like to bring your basket to the church to “add to” throughout the weeks of Lent – feel free to do so. We can place them on the pews near the altar, and you can bring your items to add each week if

you would like. Also, feel free to decorate your basket. Pick non-perishable food items – and have your finished basket to the church by Easter Sunday, April 24. We'll distribute them the first week of Easter to local families in need.

Have a great time bringing an Easter surprise to folks who could surely use another sign of the life Jesus died and rose to bring us!

## **St. Patrick's Day Congregational Dinner Celebration**

Plan to attend a congregational dinner after worship on Sunday, March 13, 2011. The traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served! Tickets can be purchased before and after worship on Sundays or at the Church Office during the week. The cost is \$7, and proceeds will benefit Social Ministry. Questions? Call Donna Spear at 742-2117.



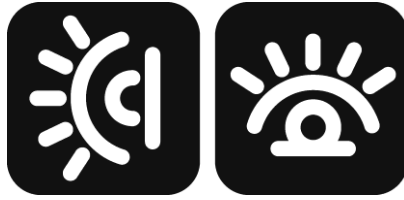
## **May Event, 2011**



It's time to start planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual May Event at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church! Whether you've been involved with this event in the past or are a first timer, it's sure to be fun. Plan to attend the May Event Planning Meeting Breakfast

on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. Bring a breakfast item to share. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided.

## Healthy Communication Tips



In these days of super-speed schedules, we often “sound-bite” our conversations as we run toward this task or another, even passing family members on the run....

Try this month’s tip for healthy communication!

Someone told you something that upset you terribly. It is so upsetting that it keeps you awake at night. You know you have to deal with it! What’s a healthy option for you?

- a. Complain to your spouse or best friend, unloading your pain
- b. Pass on the information to others, so they can know how awful it is
- c. Just forget about it; hoping nothing will come of it
- d. Ask the person who told you to explain it more clearly

It’s tempting to avoid conflict when we hear things that upset us. Yet second-guessing or suppositions only serve to deepen the anxiety we feel. Talk it out with the right person! Unload your feelings with love, and try to understand one another in a holy way. Listen as Jesus calls us to listen.

Happy Communicating!!!



## **What Things Does the Church Need? Can I help?**

If you would like to provide little gifts from time to time that would be of help to our ministry together – this is the place we will list them every month.

If you KNOW of something the church could use that we could ask people to give, make sure you share that need with us.

Here's this month's wish list – if you can help, bring them to church with you.

- Paper plates (small or large), paper cups (hot or cold), napkins, plastic silverware
- Snacks for younger Sunday School classes (juice boxes, wrapped crackers, cookies, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Boxes of tissues
- Small Hand sanitizers – or large ones to refill our current supply – and your time to fill them, if possible. Thanks!
- Clear plastic boxes w/lids – for organizing our Sunday School supply closet
- Loose cash offerings to support our local and global ministries each week
- Offerings to support youth ministry activities throughout the year
- Your time and talents to assist fundraisers throughout the year that support the needs of people throughout our community and the world

## **Northern Lights Lenten Worship**

Come, join your Lutheran brothers and sisters in the area for a shared meal, worship, and teaching time with Bishop Driesen during Lent. We will begin at 6 p.m. with a light soup meal, followed by a devotional time and teaching from the Bishop on

“innocent suffering.” Our schedule during the week is as follows:  
(Please see Pastor Pat if you would like to carpool with her.)

- Wednesday, March 16 – Trinity, Milton
- Wednesday, March 23 – United in Christ, West Milton
- Wednesday, March 30 – Christ, Milton (Bishop Driesen MIGHT not be able to be with us this week because of another professional commitment, but we will still share a meal and devotions)
- Wednesday, April 6 – St. John’s, Delaware Run
- Wednesday, April 13 – Follmer, Milton

## **Zumba Classes at Christ Church**

Every Monday from 8:30-9:30 a.m., Cheri Nicholas leads a Zumba dance exercise class here at Christ Church. The cost is \$4 per class. No set number of classes to attend; just come when you can. It’s a good aerobic workout and fun at the same time!

## **Lifeline Stroke Screening at Pine Street, Danville**

Pine Street Lutheran Church, Danville, is hosting Lifeline Screening on Friday, April 15, 2011. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-690-6313.

Five tests are offered:

- 1) Stroke (carotid artery) screening
- 2) Heart rhythm screening
- 3) Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening
- 4) Peripheral arterial disease screening
- 5) Osteoporosis risk screening

The first four tests are available at a cost of \$139; all five for \$149.

## **For Married Couples**

Time is running out to sign up for your Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. The March 25-27 weekend at the Toftrees Resort in State College, PA, is now full; however, there is a waiting list. Contact Chambers at 724-325-3166 or [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) if interest. Sign up now for the April 29-May 1 weekend at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA. Weekends run from Friday night at 8 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. and are designed to enrich all marriages. \$45/couple registration fee, plus opportunity to make a confidential contribution. Two nights' lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. Check out the information on the bulletin board at Church.

## **Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission**

The beginning of the year is always a good time to review your financial situation. Among things to check are the beneficiary statements of your financial accounts and your Will. Were there changes to your situation in 2010: loss of a spouse, divorce and/or marriage or remarriage, etc? Do the beneficiary statements and your Will reflect these changes? Is the executor information still relevant and correct? How about the charitable beneficiaries? Did you remember your congregation and other ministries of the church in your Will? Remember, if you do not have a Will, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a Will for you, and that Will does not consider your charitable interests. For more information about how to make charitable gifts using a Will or other ways to make charitable gifts, call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office, 570-374-2044, or call the ELCA Foundation, 800-638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit the website at [www.elca.org/fo](http://www.elca.org/fo).

# Upper Susquehanna Synod News

Summer Camp (Mount Luther) information is available by calling the Camp Office at 922-1587 or on their website, [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).

Living Lutheran is a new electronic resource for ELCA members to communicate with each other. A variety of ideas and topics are covered by the bloggers and other contributors to the site. See what Living Lutheran is all about at their website: [www.livinglutheran.com](http://www.livinglutheran.com).

The Bishop's Open Golf Tournament is set for May 16, beginning at 11:30 a.m., at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. Informational brochures are available in the Church narthex and on the camp's website at [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).

## **(W)holy, (W)holy, (W)holy Health Healing & Wholeness**

By Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

*“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’....” (Luke 11:1)*

If you have been raised in a faith tradition in which praying aloud by anyone other than the pastor or worship leader is not the norm, offering prayer and comfort to another via prayer (often called *Prayers of Intercession*), in his/her presence, can be a very intimidating! However, bear in mind that there is no right or wrong way to pray – just many different approaches. Sometimes the old familiar prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, or the Jesus Prayer are most helpful. At other times just one word is sufficient: “Help!” “God.” “Jesus!” “Savior.” Paul reminds us that *the Spirit helps us with sighs too deep for words*. (Romans 8:26) Rev. Deborah Patterson, in her book, Healing Words for

Healing People, reminds us: “Pray on your knees, on your back, on your feet. Pray as you wake, or before you go to sleep. Pray in thanksgiving before you eat, or for guidance before you begin your work.” She goes on to say, “Can you breathe? Can you think? Can you talk? If you can do any of these things, you can pray.”

Whether you are a parish nurse, a lay visitor, or are just someone visiting a friend who is ill, there are many prayer resources that can assist you. Several of my favorites are, The Hospital Handbook: A Practical Guide to Hospital Visitation, by Lawrence Reimer and James Wagner, Healing Words for Healing People by Deborah Patterson, and Prayers for Help and Healing, by William Barclay. You may also come from a faith tradition which has its own bound Book of Prayer or Book of Common Prayer. These resources offer prayers that can be adapted to fit many different situations, or can be used during personal devotional time.

If you have favorite scripture passages, or prayers that have been of comfort to you, consider copying them onto one side of a plain post card, and place your signature on the back – if you are comfortable with a computer, design them to be printed as needed. Think of them as you would greeting cards; they can provide you with the words that you’ve always wished you could find in the midst of a difficult situation. These handy cards can then be left with the person(s) with whom you are visiting, to serve as tangible reminders that someone is praying for, and with them. They can also serve as “calling cards” for the times you may visit someone in the hospital, only to find that he/she has been taken for testing or a procedure.

One example of a personal-favorite, hope-filled scripture, is Romans 8:37-39, *“In all these things we have complete victory through Him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Another is taken from 2Corinthians 4:7-9, *“We who have this scriptural treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in*

*despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed.”*

Rev. Patterson ends the first chapter of Healing Words .... with these profound statements, “God loves us whether we pray or not. Always. No matter what. And prayer [just] might help us to believe it. Amen!”

*Spring Blessings to all!*

Copies of USS ARK (Upper Susquehanna synod news) and CAMEL TRACKS (Camp Mt. Luther news) are available in the narthex. Help yourself!

## **Bible Trivia**

In which New Testament Letter (1 John, 2 John, or 3 John) do we read this verse? “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness?” -- and where have you heard this verse in worship?



BIBLE TRIVIA

*Answer on Page 24.*

## **Synod: Did You Know? We Need Your Help!**

Are you Internet savvy? Do you like dabbling in demographics and the census? Do you pay close attention to detail? With the new census results due to come out in March, our

synod's Mapping Your Mission Field (MYMF) process is due for a major update!

MYMF helps our congregations look at the demographics of their communities and, with prayer and Bible study, discern how God is calling them to participate in God's work in the community.

We need several volunteer teams of 2 people who can help us "harvest" the new data and incorporate it into the MYMY database. We anticipate the work to begin sometime in March.

If you are gifted and interested in this new ministry in our synod, please contact Beth Yenchko, Director for Evangelical Mission, at the synod office: 524-9778, 717-579-3845, or [eyenchko@uss-elca.org](mailto:eyenchko@uss-elca.org)

Beth promises a fun celebration when the project is complete!

## **ELCA : Did You Know?**

### **ELCA Missionaries from Egypt Arrive Safely in Istanbul**

Ten Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) missionaries arrived safely in Istanbul, Turkey, Feb. 1, after they left Cairo, Egypt, on a chartered flight provided by the U.S. Department of State.

The missionaries were among hundreds of U.S. citizens who were advised by the U.S. government to leave the country amid protests, some of them violent, against the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Traveling with the ELCA group was a missionary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner church of the ELCA.

The missionaries left Istanbul Feb. 2 and flew to Minneapolis through Amsterdam, Netherlands. They were met by members of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. They will be housed temporarily at apartments reserved for ELCA missionaries at the Luther Seminary campus.

One of the missionaries, the Rev. Peter Johnson, pastor of St. Andrew's United Church and director of St. Andrew's Refugee Ministries, said the missionaries were treated well by Egyptians. They reported little difficulty driving to the airport in Cairo as they

passed through many military roadblocks and citizen checkpoints set up to protect neighborhoods from violence and looters.

Other ELCA missionaries serving in Egypt are Erin Odgers, Lansdale, Pa., a teacher at St. Andrew's Refugee Ministries; the Rev. Mark and Linda Nygard, Minot, N.D., who both serve at the Evangelical Theological Seminary; and Paul Schick, an intern at St. Andrew's United Church, and his wife Stephanie. Schick is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, an ELCA seminary. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) missionary is Denise England.



Pastor Pat & Pastor Keith Pittsnogle	3/20	12 years
Russ & Linda Bastian	3/26	45 years



Bible Trivia Answer: 1 John 1:9; “the confession and forgiveness”

BIBLE TRIVIA



## Birthdays This Month

Doris Heffelfinger	3/5
Joyce Frederick	3/6
Lindsey Mensch	3/7
Joanne Ficks	3/9
Ryan Solomon	3/9
Russell Bastian	3/10
Harry Berger	3/10
Justin Winner	3/12
Jerrold Roush	3/13
Terry Benfer	3/13
BeBe Bolich	3/14
Ryan Byers	3/14
Vanessa Schneider	3/14
April Mullin	3/14
Pastor Pat Pittsnogle	3/16
Terry Valiquette	3/19
Ryder Cipriani	3/20
Corey Danowsky	3/20
Linda Bastian	3/25
Penny Coup	3/25
Bonnie Hauck	3/27
Trisha Keister	3/27
Leroy Ishler	3/28
Rachael Spear	3/31
Stella Webb	3/31

## **The Truly Successful Life**

According to the Bible, true success comes when we do what God requires of us, namely “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with him (Micah 6:8, NRSV). God wants us to use the talents and gifts he’s given us to pursue his kingdom on earth.

Success comes when we share our achievements, blessings and wisdom with others, especially people who are hurting or in need. Success comes when our family is tied together with love, prayer and worship – and when we share one another’s struggles, successes and goals.

## **Pray Without Ceasing**

“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.”

- J. C. Ryle

“The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God.”

- Author Unknown

“The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.”

- St. John Chrysostom



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1125 MAHONING STREET, MILTON, PA 17847**



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**Public Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Phone (570) 742-7473  
Pastor E-mail: [pastor@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranmpa.org)  
Secretary E-mail: [secretary@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:secretary@christlutheranmpa.org)  
Church Website: [www.christlutheranmpa.org](http://www.christlutheranmpa.org)**

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