

St. Luke's Lutheran Church



Sharing God's Love with the World

March 2012

Vol. 28 Issue 1

From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

REJOICE AND BE GLAD! *because* BLESSED ARE YOU!
therefore
THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS YOURS!

This is the message we have been celebrating during Lent as we study the Beatitudes as written in Matthew 5:1-12. By looking at a different Beatitude each Sunday we are discovering how drastically Jesus turned the world's thinking upside down! In the Beatitudes God offers us both an invitation and a gift, urging us to be part of the transforming work of the Spirit in our world. We Christians have power that we haven't yet tested that can turn Montgomery County into the Kingdom of Heaven, a place of love, peace and justice.

How is this possible? That is what Easter is all about. Be part of the conversation/action at St. Luke's especially during Lent, Holy Week and the season of Easter.

We are getting to know each other even more deeply at our mid-week dinners and worship gatherings. Each Wednesday someone in the congregation shares a story about their faith in God, which opens up discussion among all of us.

Members of the congregation will be reflecting on what Christ's last words on the cross mean to them personally during the sermon portion of our Good Friday worship at noon and at 7:00. If you would be willing to offer a 2-3 minute personal reflection, please get in touch with me!

A fun idea percolated up through an especially spirited church council meeting. Continuing the fun so many of us had at Blob's Park and at our Wednesday evening dinners, St. Luke's will be celebrating "Dinners Together" twice a month at local restaurants. On the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, we will gather at 6:30 at the chosen restaurant, bringing families and friends along with us. The first "Dinner Together" will be right after Easter, Wed. April 11th at Ledo's Pizza in Derwood. Watch for more information as the date draws closer.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sarah

Inside this issue:

Restoring Creation 2
Lent Dinner/Worship
New Sunday Schedule
Service Project

President's Letter 3

Bob Erkert Funeral 4
Gifts of Hope
Habitat Homes
Adopt A Plot

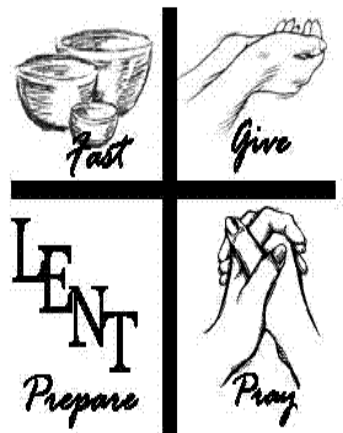
Holy Week Schedule 5

Egg Hunt/ Bible Verse 6
Carnival
Vacation Bible School

Senior Lunch 7
Compassion in Action

March Calendar 8

April Calendar 9



A monthly newsletter of
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
17740 Muncaster Road
P.O. Box 5504
Derwood, MD 20855
Phone: 301-926-1220
FAX: 301-926-0113

Email:

stlukesmdc@aol.com

Website: stlukesderwood.org

Sunday School

9:15am Adult Class

Confirmation

High School Class

**Elementary Sunday School
during 10:30am worship**

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Sarah Lewis

Home: 703-255-0918

Cell: 703-402-7219

Music Director: Jim Buras

Secretary: Betsy Krotz

Council President: Karl Protil

For God So Loved the World.....

Interested in beginning to or reenergizing yourself and your congregation's commitment to honoring God's World and his charge to us to care for it? Don't know where to start? Wondering how this fits into your faith journey? Join with fellow area Lutherans and attend the **Lutherans Restoring Creation Workshop** on Saturday, March 24th at Living Faith Lutheran in Rockville, MD from 10am to 4:30pm. There will be a second chance to attend on Saturday, April 21st in DC. Contact Pastor Sarah if interested.



Lenten Dinner & Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

March 21 & 28

6pm Dinner

7-7:30pm Worship

New Sunday School Schedule

9:15am

Adult Class

Confirmation Class

High School Class

10:30am Worship

Elementary students are dismissed to Sunday School following the opening song and return to receive Communion with their families

Confirmation Service Project: Easter Eggs & Carnival Prep

The Confirmation students will participate in a service project on Friday, March 30 from 6-9pm. After sharing a dinner of pizza, they will fill the eggs with candy for the egg hunt and will sort and prepare prizes for the Bible verse carnival. Both the egg hunt and Bible verse carnival will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 1-3pm, rain or shine. Confirmation students will also help hide the eggs and run games on that day. The egg hunt and carnival are both open to the community and completely free. This is a great way for the Confirmands to serve the church and community.



From the Council President

Law-Works and Faith-Works: There's a Big Difference

Christian ethics provides a great bulwark in helping us determine what is good or right, and what is bad or evil. But that is not the end of the road because as Christians we are called, indeed commanded, to put that ethic into practice and therein lies a great distinction between Christianity and standard philosophy. Within Christianity, different denominations stress various themes: some churches hold up works while others stress faith. I have long struggled to understand the importance of this distinction. Until recently, I do not believe explanations I have heard have ever eased my confusion about faith versus works.

In a recent book that I read titled In Search of Paul, the authors make the point that the distinction should really be between law-works and faith-works. It was one of those "aha, now I get it" moments that caused me to sit up and reread the section; one of those flashing light on the road to Damascus moments. The authors set forth a more accurate translation of Galatians and their distinction was the key. In their translation Paul writes:

A person is justified
 Not by works of the law
 But through faith in Jesus Christ
 And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus
 So that we might be justified by faith in Christ
 And not by doing the work of the law
 Because no one will be justified by the works of the law (Galatians 2:16)

The translation above is slightly different than the one in the New Living Translation, but the translation above more clearly points out the distinction Paul was trying to make and is truer to the original Greek. Here, the more accurate translation makes a huge difference in the meaning of what Paul wrote and in the command we take on as Christians. The clash is not between faith and works, but between faith-works and law-works. The distinction is crucial.

Taking what Paul wrote to heart and incorporating it into our lives takes on an added dimension when we think about the importance of faith-works. Christ's teachings in The Sermon on the Mount take on an added dimension and a whole new richness when we read them with faith-works in mind. Our responsibility as Christians changes when we focus on faith-works. We are now in the season of Lent where we get a chance to reflect on our faith. Each Wednesday, we have planned dinners where we come together to share a common meal, pray, discuss our faith journey, and worship together. It's a wonderful and rich time to share thoughts and, I submit, to reflect on what faith-works mean to you.

So during this period of Lenten reflection, stop and smell the roses, share a communal meal, take a step on your faith journey, read a little something that causes you to ask questions, and think about how to put your faith-works into action. I'm going to try and do the same.

Wishing You a reflective Lent,
 Karl Protil

Military Funeral for Bob Erkert

A Full Military Burial for long time St. Luke's member, Bob Erkert, will be held on Thursday, April 12th at 11am at Arlington National Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to attend but must present themselves at the Arlington Cemetery Guard House no later than 10:30am.

Gifts of Hope – Year Round – Online

Celebrating its 20th year, Gifts of Hope now offers year round gift-giving and donation opportunities on its website, www.giftsofhopemetrodc.org. or see the link on our website.



Habitat for Humanity Home Purchase Program

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland Inc. is hosting information sessions on how to purchase one of 19 affordable townhomes in Gaithersburg, Maryland through Habitat's zero interest loan program. For more information on program eligibility and information session dates please visit www.habitat-mc.org/homeownership or call 301-990-0014 x26. Household incomes ranging from the high \$30,000 to low \$70,000 (based upon household size) may be eligible.

Already own a home but looking for energy improvements? You may be eligible for Habitat's FREE home weatherization services.

Spring Has Sprung! Adopt A Plot!

The warm weather has arrived early this year and with it spring gardening season. It's time to turn our attention outdoors and care for the flower beds and grounds at St. Luke's. The Adopt a Plot program from last year was very successful and many of you signed up to mulch, weed and plant an area of the St. Luke's property. The poster listing who signed up for which area has reappeared in the Overflow Room. Please check to see where you signed up or, if you haven't chosen an area yet, take the time to sign up now. Two plots are still available for adoption.

Herm Nelson is able to get damaged bags of mulch and soil at a greatly reduced price so let him know if you would like any for you garden spot.



**Holy Week at
St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

Egg Hunt & Bible Verse Carnival, March 31

1-3pm Traditional Egg Hunt and Carnival Style Games

Prizes for everyone!

Rain or Shine

All Free! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Palm Sunday, April 1

10:30am Worship with Holy Communion and Procession with Palms

Maundy Thursday, April 5

6pm Seder Meal

**A full meal remembering Jesus' celebration of the Last Supper
with his disciples**

(please sign up if you plan to attend)

Good Friday, April 6

12 noon & 7pm Worship

Easter Sunday, April 8

10am Coffee & Refreshments

10:30am Worship Celebration with Holy Communion



Easter Egg Hunt & Bible Verse Carnival
Saturday, March 31
1-3pm
Rain or Shine

Traditional Egg Hunt
And
Carnival Style Games

All Free! Prizes for everyone!
Invite your friends and neighbors!



Mark Your Calendars!
Vacation Bible School
July 30-Aug 3
9am to 12 noon

This year's theme is "Sky: Nothing is Impossible with God".
This event is for children age 3 1/2 through those who have just completed 5th grade.
Registration forms available in the Lobby.



Senior Lunch and Worship

Wednesday, March 21 at 12noon.

Any self described senior is welcome to attend this time of worship and fellowship.

Lunch is provided and a freewill offering will be collected.

Please call the office if you plan to attend.



Seniors'
Luncheon

LSS/NCA invites you to *Compassion in Action*.

To LSS/NCA compassion is active. It involves commitment, enthusiasm, dedication, and, yes, even work. *Compassion in Action* is a dynamic way to experience LSS/NCA's mission through the stories of the neighbors we have served. **Join us for this lively tour of LSS/NCA's mission to walk with those in need.**

What others have said about *Compassion in Action*:

"Now I understand more about my niece who is a social worker."

"The refugee story you told touched me incredibly."

"I've been involved with LSS for almost 15 years, and I didn't know all the details that go into your programs."

"I went to dinner with some friends afterward, and we talked LSS all night!"

"It was well worth my time."

"I feel a stronger connection to LSS's mission than ever before!"

Join us and be inspired!

WHEN: Tues, 3/20 11-noon (VA) Tues, 4/17 11-noon (VA) Sat,4/21 9:30-10:30 am (MD)

WHERE: VA – 7401 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA
MD – 8719 Colesville Rd 3rd Floor Silver Spring, MD

RSVP: Summer Parrish ParrishS@lssnca.org or (703)698-5026



*LSS/NCA will follow-up with guests after the program for your thoughts and feedback. You will not be added to a mailing list.



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Food for the Needy</u></p> <p><u>March 4:</u> canned and non-perishable food for Gaithersburg HELP</p> <p><u>March 11:</u> Pick up food pans for Men's Shelter</p> <p><u>March 18:</u> Return food pans for Men's Shelter</p>				1	2	3 5-6pm IBJN (sanctuary) 6-8pm IBJN (basement)
4 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	5 7-9pm Boy Scouts	6	7 6pm Dinner 7pm Wor- ship 7-9pm IBJN	8	9	10
11 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN Daylight Sav- ings Time Be- gins 	12 7-9pm Boy Scouts	13	14 5pm Council 6pm Dinner 7pm Wor- ship 7-9pm IBJN	15	16	17
18 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	19 7-9pm Boy Scouts	20 Spring Be- gins 	21 12noon Sr. Lunch & Worship 6pm Dinner 7pm Wor- ship 7-9pm IBJN	22 6pm Cemetery Meeting	23	24
25 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	26 7-9pm Boy Scouts	27	28 6pm Dinner 7pm Wor- ship 7-9pm IBJN	29	30 6-9pm Egg Hunt & Carnival Set Up	31 1-3pm Egg Hunt & Bible Verse Carnival 7-9:30p IBJN 

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN 	2	3	4 7-9pm IBJN	5 Maundy Thursday 6pm Seder Meal 	6 Good Friday 12pm Wor-ship 7pm Wor-ship 	7
8 Easter 10am Coffee & Refreshments 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN 	9 7-9pm Boy Scouts	10	11 6:30pm Dinner Together @ Ledo's Pizza, Derwood 7-9pm IBJN	12 11am Bob Erkert Funeral @ Arlington Cemetery 	13	14
15 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	16 7-9pm Boy Scouts	17	18 12noon Sr. Lunch & Worship 6:30pm Council 7-9pm IBJN	19	20	21
22 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	23 7-9pm Boy Scouts	24	25 6:30pm Dinner Together@ Outta the Way Café, Derwood 7-9pm IBJN	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Synod Assembly</div> 28 7-9:30pm IBJN	
29 10:30am Worship 1-5pm IBJN	30 7-9pm Boy Scouts	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Food for the Needy</p> <p>April 1: Canned and Non-perishable items for Gaithersburg HELP</p> <p>April 8: Pick up food pans for Gude Drive Men's Shelter</p> <p>April 15: Return food pans for Gude Drive Men's Shelter</p> </div>				