

THE MESSENGER

February 2010

*The monthly newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things....

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.**

...shout with joy before the king, the

LORD . Psalm 98: 1a, 4, 6b

This is the beginning of a brand new year - and that means it's time for a lot of new! How about a new commitment to be God's rejoicing people who celebrate all the amazing blessings God has given us with new hearts and new spirits? How about a new "take" on who we are as new creations in Christ? St. Paul told the Corinthian Christians: *If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* There you are - right from the Apostle's mouth - or pen. And here we all are - together in Christ, and new in the bargain! So then, let us take a new look at who we are as a faith community, a house of discipleship called together by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's body on earth right where we are.

We are the church, the called-out people of God. Our very name declares clearly who and whose we are, what we believe and what we do: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

- + Christ is the holy name we bear. Our congregation witnesses to everyone that we are Christ's people; we are his disciples and we are the servants of all.
- + Evangelical - The gospels' own word for *gospel*, testifies that we are grounded in God's Word and proclaim only the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. From the New Testament Greek euangelion (eu = good; angelion = message), the "evangelical" means that we are quite literally the Good News-telling people who speak God's wonderful message of love and redemption to all the world.
- + **Lutheran** declares our tradition and practice within the "one holy catholic apostolic church." "Lutheran" says that we are the *sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura* people: the people who depend on grace alone, faith alone, and scripture alone as God's saving power, saving gift and saving word.
- + **Church** means that we are part of the body of believers that stretches all the way from Creation to the Day of Jesus Christ, saints above and saints below, God's people "of every time and every place." As Church, we preach only Jesus Christ and him crucified, the power of God, the wisdom of God. The New Testament word for church is ekklesia (you see "ecclesiastical" in that?), from the Greek preposition ek = from or out of, and the verb aleo, to call. See? We really *are* the called-out people of God!

Old is out and new is in: thus may it ever be for us, the new creations! Psalm 98, quoted above, is nearly 3,000 years old and its message is just as new as each day's dawn. Singing a new song to the Lord is not a new idea - it is just still the best plan for the best worship we can offer to honor our Maker and Redeemer. Let's do it, sisters and brother, little children and big children all together. Let us celebrate this new year the Lord has given us all year long by singing a new song to the Lord - with new hearts and spirits and voices. In Revelation 21:5, God, enthroned in glory, declares: *Behold, I make all things new.*

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday at Christ Church

Shrove Tuesday

February 16 - 6:30pm - Pancake Supper

Join this "Fat Tuesday" final celebration before Lent begins. We will enjoy a delicious pancake dinner cooked by our youth, and together we will bid Farewell to Alleluia!

Ash Wednesday

February 17 - 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

We begin our Lenten journey to the cross, to behold the mystery of our redemption. Thanks be to God for the cross of Christ, the Tree of Life, traced in ashes upon our foreheads.

Wednesdays in Lent at Christ Church

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24

12:00 noon - Lessons, Hymns and Responsive Prayer

6:30 PM - Soup Supper in the Parish Hall

(Sign up in the Information Center.)

7:30 PM - Evening Prayer -

an ancient liturgy of anticipatory prayer, praise and peace.

The Solemnities of Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion

March 28 - Holy Communion - 10:00 a.m.

with the Blessing of Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel

Maundy Thursday

April 1 - 12 noon - Holy Communion

7:30 PM - Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

April 2 - 12 noon - Adoration of the Cross and Our Lord's Seven Last Words

7:30 PM - The Office of Tenebrae

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ(1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship(Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1:5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child(Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

who you

are!?

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD's face shine upon you

And be gracious to you:

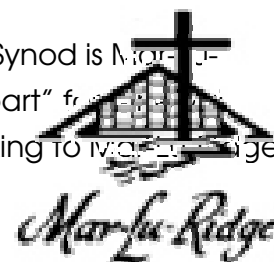
The LORD look upon you with favor

And give you peace...

Numbers 6:24-26

Mar-Lu- Ridge Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday, February 7

One of the finest Lutheran organizations in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod is Mar-Lu-Ridge, a wonderful camp and retreat facility that has provided us a "place apart" for spiritual and growth for over 50 years. More and more, congregations are looking to Mar-Lu-Ridge as a resource in providing a valuable ministry to our youth.



Because of the need for Mar-Lu-Ridge to construct a larger dining/meeting facility, the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, including our congregation, will conduct a Capital Campaign to help raise \$1,000,000. Last November, our Congregation Council voted to accept a goal of raising \$10,000 within our congregation over three years toward this project.

During the Sundays in January the congregation learned more about this important effort. Now we invite you to join us on Sunday, February 7 for Commitment Sunday when we pledge our support to the campaign. We pray that your commitment to this ministry will encourage you to become involved and excited about the *Mar-Lu-Ridge 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign*.

Thank you to those who responded to our requests for grocery items in support of the Hypothermia Project, and thank you to those who came to help, who brought cookies and breads and all manner of other helpful support.

Our week of participation in the Hypothermia Project was a great success for our guests as well as for those who were there. We anticipate being involved in this project again and invite you to consider joining us. You will be glad you did.

From the Learning Committee Save the Dates!

Plan ahead and mark these special dates on your calendars so you and your children will be able to enjoy these exciting church activities:

April 23-25 Annual Church Retreat/Work Weekend. This is the fun weekend at Mar-Lu-Ridge when we work to prepare the camp for the summer camping season plus have lots of fun with relaxing and fellowship. Anyone who is willing and able to work and help us out with the work projects are invited to attend. It's a great way to get to know your fellow church members.



August 2-6 Vacation Bible Camp - "Keeping the Earth." Our all-day Vacation Bible School was such a big success that we are going to offer the same kind of Bible Camp activities again this year. . The camp will be all day (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) and will be for students who have completed Kindergarten - 6th Grade. We will be the hosts and the counselors from Mar-Lu-Ridge will be the leaders.

Preschool Registration has Begun!

Now is the time to sign your children/grandchildren/neighbors up for preschool for next fall - the 2010-2011 school year. Classes are available for children who are 2, 3, and 4 years old. Contact the church office or Ginny Trygstad for more information. The information is also available on our church website - celc1.org - click on "preschool."

During January, the children learned all about fire safety and had a visit from the Fairfax County Fire Department.

February will be a busy month for the children. Not only will they enjoy Valentine's Day activities and parties, but they will also visit a dentist's office and take part in a vision screening activity offered by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Washington DC.

PowerXpress Sunday School Continues

In February, our children will be studying a new unit of the PowerXpress curriculum. "The Man Beside the Pool" will help the children learn that God is a source of hope in our lives and provides healing in unexpected ways.



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who so kindly contributed to the staff gifts at Christmas.

We very much appreciate your generosity.

Ginny Trygstad

Roger Long

Pat Stephens

Dennis

Donations Needed Year Round!

Katherine Hanley Family Shelter

A basket will remain in the Information Center, along with an updated list. The shelter generally needs the following items:

Diapers - all sizes; needed immediately!

Shampoo/conditioner

Deodorant

Female hygiene products (pads)

Baby wipes

Baby shampoo

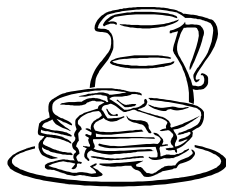
Winter coats—NEW coats, please

Toothbrushes/tooth paste

Lysol spray/antibacterial wipes

If you have any questions, please call Dorothy Sorrell at 703-591-2236. There is also a complete in-kind donation wish list online at www.shelterhouse.org under the "Get Involved" section.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. Prepared by the junior and senior high students and their parents, the supper is always a delight for the participants! Join us for dinner, enjoy a final *Alleluia* before Lent begins, and support our youth activities with your free will offering. Sign up in the Information Center

Attaca String Quartet

The Attacca String Quartet (Andrew Yee cellist) will be performing twice in the area during the first weekend in February. On Saturday February 6, 2010 at 7:00 pm, the quartet will be performing in recital in Woodbridge VA, at Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Center as part of the Woodbridge Music Club performance series. Westminster is at 12191 Clipper Drive, Woodbridge VA. On Sunday at 4:00 pm, the Quartet will perform a recital at St Patrick's Church, 3241 Brush Drive in Falls Church as part of the Odeon Chamber Music Series. See www.odeonchambermusicseries.org for details. Driving directions to St Patrick's: Take Route 50 East (Arlington Blvd). Take Right at Graham Road (Loehmann's Plaza) Take Left on Annandale Road Take IMMEDIATE LEFT on Brush Drive to Church. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.



Notes and Letters



I want to express to you and all your members who volunteer my gratefulness, and I thank you for your hospitality, your care, and your love to us during the week we were at your church. May the Lord Jesus Christ use you always for his glory! Amen.

Ben Abraham
Hypothermia Week Guest



Women of the ELCA

Ruth Circle will meet at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, in the Conference Room. All women of Christ Church are welcome to attend.

The Lydia Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. at Panera Bread on the fourth Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to attend for learning, sharing, and fellowship. Call or email Laura Albert for more information or to receive a

Lamb Center Needs

The Lamb Center, a day-time drop-in shelter located in Fairfax Circle, is in need of volunteers to provide assistance to guests at the center. Volunteers serve at hours on Friday mornings or afternoons. Volunteers help in many ways, including mentoring, laundry services, food preparation, and participating in Bible study with the guests. If you are interested in volunteering at the Lamb Center, please call Ted



New Fax Number

Our new fax number is 1-206-337-8229



PRIME TIMERS

will meet at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 3, at First Watch Cafe, 9600 Main Street, Suite S, Fairfax (Fair City Mall shopping center). First Watch's phone number is 703-978-3421.

No reservations required