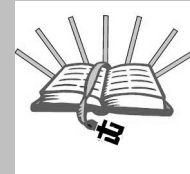


LIVING WORDS

APRIL NEWSLETTER



March 31, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 4

Living Word Lutheran Church
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"So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by Himself, He went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them" John 19:16b-17

Every Good Friday we sing one of the most heart wrenching hymns in the entire Lutheran Book of Worship. The hymn is O Sacred Head, Now Wounded #117. This Hymn is important for our journey to the cross of Christ because its words tear at our heart strings and helps us mourn Jesus' death, so when the time comes, we can fully rejoice in the resurrection. The words of this hymn bring us to the depth of Jesus' pain and suffering on our behalf, while at the same time give us hope in the gift of faith. Look again at verse 4: "Lord, be my consolation: Shield me when I must die; Remind me of thy Passion when my last hour draws nigh. These eyes, new *faith* receiving. From thee shall never move: For he who dies believing dies safely in thy love!" What powerful words! What a powerful plea! What a profound Spiritual truth!

It is only in mourning the dark, dreary, painful, bloody, shameful, death of Jesus Christ, that we might be able to fully rejoice in the power of His resurrection and sing with joy at His victory! It is only in mourning Jesus' death on the cross, that we might truly understand the heart and soul of our faith. Our faith is a belief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Savior, who loved the world so much that He died on the cross, so that all believers will have eternal life. Our faith is a belief that when our time on this earth comes to an end, because of Jesus, it will be a new beginning. Our faith is a belief that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world through his blood shed for all people, giving the good gift of redemption. That is why, when we believers gather to worship on the darkest day of the entire church year, to mourn Jesus' death, we call it "Good Friday." We call it Good Friday for the emphasis is on redemption. Redemption for the whole world, redemption for you and redemption for me; and that brothers and sisters is good!

Throughout this Lenten Season we have heard wonderful homilies on the topic of faith. We have heard Jim Bampfield, Norm Moody, and Roger Schwartz stand before this beloved congregation and use Old Testament characters to shed light on the importance of, the trials within, and the joy of faith. For the next two weeks we will hear Susan Fowler and then Mary Buchschacher continue to impact for us the gift of faith. Then we will be at the threshold of Holy Week.

Pastor Jason and I encourage you to take in all the opportunities for worship during Holy Week. We encourage you to come to Palm Sunday and hear the Passion of our Lord. We encourage you to come to the healing service on Tuesday and have hands laid upon you with the anointing of oil, for all those places that you need healing. We encourage you to come to Maundy Thursday, and come forward for the foot washing, a sign of love and service, by your pastors, in Jesus' name. We encourage you to come to worship on Good Friday for the Tenebrae Service, the service of darkness. We encourage you to come forward and hammer the nail you have carried this Lenten season into the cross of Christ symbolizing your part in His death. We encourage you to mourn with us Jesus' death on the cross for the sake of the world. For we believe that it is in mourning His death, that we might fully come together on this Easter Sunday to rejoice in the resurrection.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

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“Celebrate the Joyful WORSHIP of Christ regularly”...and bring others with you to share ‘the joy’
-expanded from the “Principals We Live by Mission Purpose of LWLC.

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” -Ps. 19:14

When you hear the word “celebrate,” what comes to your mind? Family reunions? Candles on a cake? Fireworks? Presents? Punch and cookies? Balloons? Confetti? Songs and cheers? These are some of the ways we celebrate different events in life. And yes, life is something to celebrate!

Life itself is a gift from God, and we can celebrate God every day of our lives. We do celebrate God when we come together to worship. We celebrate Jesus! We celebrate forgiveness! We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our singing and praying, and in the sharing of God’s word. Worship is celebration!

At this time of year, especially this April, life for me as a church musician and planner gets to be confusing. April is still in the Lenten Season and this year April includes Holy Week and then ends with Easter. That means that I must plan and practice for Easter while observing the removal of the “A” word and the “Hymn of Praise” from our celebrations until Easter Day even though I’m practicing Easter music.

I didn’t remember how often I use the “A” word in my personal life. Of course, I usually use the meaning (*Praise the Lord*) instead of the actual “A” word. However, I have discovered that sometimes I also exclaim “A-----“. I have a Doctor who freely uses the “A” word when giving me any good news on my health.

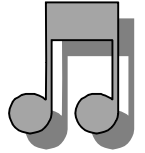
When planning out the Easter music, practicing the Easter music and then turning in Lenten music to the office in our Lenten celebration format, I sometimes slip and the “A” word sneaks in. However, I am lucky because our Secretary Pam and/or Pastor Jason catch my slips before going to print.

I can hardly wait for Easter so I can exclaim and sing “A-----!” and sing “This is the Feast of Victory for our God.” However, if Easter gets here too fast, all that festival music for Choirs and Trumpet and Trombone and Bells and Piano will not be prepared. I will not have completed my Lenten journey and will have cheated myself of the total joy of the Good News and joy of Easter. The empty tomb on Easter will have little meaning if I didn’t experience it being filled. There will not be a third-day resurrection without a Good Friday death.

So with or without the “A” word, we gather in celebration for it brings God to us and us to God.

Wendell Baechler

Organist



APRIL CHOIR SCHEDULE

April 6, Wednesday	Easter Choir and Living Word Choir Rehearsal after Lenten Service
April 13, Wednesday	Easter Choir and Living Word Choir Rehearsal after Lenten Service
April 19, Tuesday	Easter Choir and Living Word Choir Rehearsal after the Healing Service
April 24, Easter Sunday	Choirs to Warm Up at 8:45 am to be prepared for Pre Service at 9:15am

EASTER LILIES



Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord by ordering Easter Lilies. The cost is \$8.00 per plant with the last day to order on Palm Sunday, April 17. You may find the ordering sheet affixed to the order chart. Please be sure to indicate “In Memory Of,” “In Honor Of,” or “Given for the Glory of God.”

Darvalics Memorial Scholarships

Established in 1986, this educational opportunity was made possible through a gift from the estate of Joseph and Margaret Darvalics. Scholarships are awarded for use in accredited colleges, universities, graduate schools, and vocational schools; or for other special schools when prescribed by a medical doctor or professional counselor. Special emphasis is given to those beginning college.

Eligible persons are voting members of Living Word (a confirmed member who has received Holy Communion and made a contribution in the preceding year). An applicant for a special educational school must be an active, baptized member of the congregation.

Darvalics Memorial Scholarship forms for 2011 are now available on the bulletin board at the church. *Applications are due June 30* with scholarships being awarded at the beginning of August. Please see Linda or call Pam at the church office for application forms and more information.

Highlights of the February 10 and March 10, 2011 Congregational Council Meetings

By Mary Buchschacher, Council President

Our new sign was hung recently, definitely a sign that our Church is a presence in Arlington. What exciting news we received just after the March Council meeting, that the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) had pre-approved our latest construction loan application. The Finance Board has already met with Jerry Johnson with MIF. The Council had an ad-hoc meeting on March 27 to approve the beginning of a Capital Campaign to raise the funds to insure we can cover the mortgage when our new church building is completed. The next few months will be busy ones for our church and the council as we move ahead with our building plans. It is also a time to plan for the Annual Congregational meeting on May 22. Three council positions will be open for election. Please, prayerfully consider serving in these important positions or on one of the committees, which will be revitalized in the next few months to build our church building. When you look at the Treasurer's report, you will notice that meeting the budget is still a challenge with the current pledges, so if you haven't pledged, please consider doing so.

Treasurer's Report: See the Treasurer's Report as a separate article. (Page 6)

Pastors' Report: Highlights of the month included the Youth Group visit to the Millington Healthcare Center to deliver Valentines; Pastor Jason's election as Secretary for LST Board; a fun filled Mardi Gras (who knew we had so much talent); a well attended Ash Wednesday and that 5 Youths are registered for Lutherock. The Wednesday Lenten Worship theme is "Faith."

Boards and Committees:

Youth: A planning meeting for the next quarter met on March 29. Activity information will be announced soon. It was approved to use funds from the Youth Fund, Thrivent Choice and Pastor's Discretionary Fund to pay the registration fee of \$1050 for Lutherock Summer Camp. Fund raising was discussed at the planning meeting for the remaining \$4,346 fee.

Finance: The Finance Board members met with Jerry Johnson of MIF to begin discussion on the Construction Loan application.

Property: Our new sign is up and the roof repaired. After a couple of work days, the lights in the sanctuary were raised, the pocket doors fixed, the Baptismal font repaired & the ceiling tiles are next on the repair list. Money has been donated for a new computer for the Secretary.

Education: Melissa Buchschacher and Marian Gray are teaching Sunday School to the children, Pastor Jason has the Middle and High School youth and Jim Bampffield is teaching the Adult Sunday School during Lent.

Fellowship: Needed hostess for Sunday mornings.

Outreach: The church will participate in Arlington in April on 30 April.

Annual Reports for the May 22 Congregational Meeting will be distributed to members on May 15. **Lenten Offerings** including mid-week, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week will be designated to Lutheran Services of Tennessee.

TREASURER'S REPORT- JANUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2011
INCLUDING UPDATE ON 2011 BUDGET / PLEDGES & BOTW

<u>2011 Operating Income (Rec'd)</u>	<u>2011 Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings (Pledged):	\$23,098	
Offerings (Other):	\$ 564	
Actual Totals	\$23,662	\$27,227 *
		(\$3,565)

* Includes \$1,500 paid from income received in 2010.

Estimated Income 2011 YTD = \$23,743 Budgeted Expenses 2011 YTD = \$26,819

Additional designated income YTD = \$662 Designated expenses YTD = \$411
 Specific Fund balances at 2/28/11 are:

Memorial*	\$6,134 (Includes contributions from prior years)
Pastors' Discretionary**	\$ 233
Youth**	\$ 358
Thrivent Choice**	\$ 397

*Funds included in Stage Road Property Account. ** Funds included in Checking Account

Checking Account (Register Balance) 2/28/11:	\$ 3,493
Stage Road Property Account Balance 2/28/11:	\$23,507

2011 Budget and Pledge Update:

The 2011 Budget for Operating Expenses is \$160,912. As of mid-March pledges received are still only \$122,204. Again, we are entreating those members who have not yet completed a pledge card for 2011, to please prayerfully consider doing so. Every contribution, great or small, is essential to the ongoing life and Ministry of Living Word, and its future growth and development.

Build On The Word/Capital Campaign Update:

Original pledges & gifts:	\$261,856 (after 30% reallocation & other deductions)
Total Received thru 2/28/11 :	\$190,802
Remaining pledges to come:	\$ 71,054
Net Receipts (2/28/11)	\$ 80,332 (After paying off land & related expenses)

Marian Gray, Church Treasurer.
 (If any member requires further details, please contact me).

Building Loan Pre-Approved

Jerry Johnson, Associate Vice President for Marketing of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA (MIF), visited Living Word on Thursday, 24 March, and met with members to discuss the recent, conditional pre-approval of our building loan and to point out the benefits of investing in the MIF by the congregation and individual members. Mr. Johnson is an Associate in Ministry, serves on the Florida - Bahamas Synod Council as Treasurer, and is the Representative for MIF Region 9, which includes the Southeastern Synod. He will be working with us as our building project progresses. Our pre-approval means that we will be able to borrow up to \$581,000 toward the actual cost of construction of our building. This will be on a 25 - year amortization schedule with a 4.875% fixed rate for five years. The full amount (\$581,000) would require a payment of \$3,354 per month. The loan will be renewed, at a new rate, at the end of the five years.

The conditions attached to the pre-approval require:

- An updated loan application with actual building costs
- Current financial reports showing a balanced budget. That is, normal operating income must match or exceed normal operating expense
- An aggressive plan for increasing our Benevolence to at least 10% of congregational giving
- A new Capital Campaign with a pledge goal of \$54,000 per year for three years to ensure that loan payments are covered

Mr. Johnson suggested that money, now held at our regular bank, could be invested in MIF at a slightly better rate of interest (1.00% vs. 0.8%) for us and, more importantly, that money would then be available for loans to other Lutheran churches, schools, or ministries - doing God's work with our money. *Our* construction loan will be funded by investments from others. Except for a minimal deposit to establish membership, MIF does not require investment by congregations or individual members, however, doing so shows that we are in partnership with MIF's mission to make loans available for construction and renovation of church buildings. Living Word members are encouraged to consider making personal investments. MIF offers several investment options, most with very small minimum deposits. Further information and forms are available at www.elca.org/mif.

Mr. Johnson further pointed out that many people at MIF and Southeastern Synod are very pleased about our getting to this point in the building process. It is, unfortunately, much more typical that congregations do not survive long after being refused a building loan. In fact, of every ten mission or re-developing congregations, only one enjoys the success of moving on to a ministry in their own building. In congratulating us, Mr. Johnson said of our building project, "It's happening!" There is much work to do in the coming weeks. It is reasonable to think of an August starting date for construction of the new Living Word Lutheran Church building. Every member is now faced with prayerfully deciding what portion of the task to take on. In addition to the requirements for service and effort, generous and sacrificial giving will be required to balance the operating budget, keep it balanced, and to comply with pledges to the new Capital Campaign for making payments for the new building.



What is Faith?

April 6 7pm Lenten Wednesday Worship - Faith of the Israelites
April 13 7pm Lenten Wednesday Worship - Jesus the Perfecter of our Faith

Holy Week Schedule

April 19
7pm Healing Service

April 21
7pm Maundy Thursday Service with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

April 22
7pm Good Friday Tennebrae Service

Easter Service

April 24

7:30-8:30am - Easter Breakfast
9:15am - Unveiling the "Alleluia" followed by
Pre-Service Music
Easter Morning Worship
and then an Easter Egg Hunt* at the Church

*We are collecting donations of prefilled Easter Eggs!

Youth & Family Ministry Events

April 24 - 7:30am	Easter Breakfast	Youth will serve and Clean Up.
April 24 - following Worship	Easter Egg Hunt (Community Event)	
April 30 - 10am-4pm	April in Arlington (Community Event)	Youth will sell donated bottled water and soda.
June 26 - early afternoon	Pool Party @ the Fowlers' Home	A congregation potluck
July (Date to be announced)	Redbirds Game	
August (date to be announced)	Lasertron	

Youth Fundraisers

Goal: Our fund raising efforts are to help send 5 Living Word Youth and 2 Adults to Lutherock Summer Camp from July 10-16.

April 30 - 10am-4pm	April in Arlington (Community Event)	Youth will sell donated bottled water and soda.
May 13 - 6pm	Spaghetti Dinner and Movie Night	The congregation is invited to enjoy a wonderful dinner and we'll be showing two movies - 1 for adults and 1 for the children.
May 15 and 22	Bake Sale	At the Church
June 4 (time TBA)	Community Event	Selling popcorn and drinks at the Kroger at Atoka
June 11, 10am-2pm	Community Event	Car Wash at Kroger in Arlington

April Birthdays

3 - Diane Heard
6 - Michele Asmus
6- Jane Douglas

9 -Robert Cornett
12 -Kristina Sarten
24 -Timmy Peterson

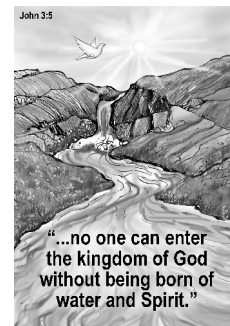


April Anniversaries

7 - Mary and Lee Buchschacher
16 - Michelle and Larry Spidler

April Baptisms

1 - Susan Hugel
10 - Michele Asmus
24 - Jennie Neiswinger



The **Living Word Ladies'** ministry for this quarter is helping to stock the Pantry at the FedEx Family House. Items needed are:

Soft Drinks (diet and regular)
Peanut Butter Crackers
Cheese and Crackers
Microwavable Meals/Soups
Hot Chocolate Packets
Ramen Noodles
Individual packages of Dry Roasted Peanuts
Chips, Pretzels, Cheetos (Individual Packages)
Individual Packages of Trail Mix
Candy Bars or Wrapped Candy Pieces
Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Nutrigrain Bars
Pudding Cups/Jell-o Cups (non-refrigerated)
Bottled Water
Water Flavor Packets
Tuna or Chicken (packages or pull tab cans)
Individual packages of Raisins or Dried Fruit
Individually wrapped brownie bites or cupcakes
Individual packages of Cookies
Individual disposable containers (To-Go Boxes)



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

Web site address

www.livingwordlc.org

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH'S
Mission and Purpose
Living the Word...Spreading the Word.

Worshiping

Celebrate the joyful worship of Christ Regularly

Praying

Pray daily for one another and for the community

Sharing

Be a light in the community by sharing our bounty

Proclaiming

Proclaim Living Word of Jesus Christ in Word and Deed

Studying

Grow in Faith and Knowledge in Study of the Bible

Welcoming

Welcome with love and acceptance ALL people

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