



The Grapevine

All Saints Lutheran Church ELCA

May 2007



The mission of All Saints Lutheran Church is to gather all people in a community immersed in God's Word through worship and learning that equips us to serve the world in the name of Jesus.

Church Office Hours
 Mon - Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone: 301-249-6300
 Fax: 301-249-4725
church@allsaintsbowie.org

www.allsaintsbowie.org
 Pastor:
 Gary R. Rhinesmith
 301-249-6300
pastor@allsaintsbowie.org

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 Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00  
 9:45 Education Hour  
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May
 5/6 - 4:00 pm
Navy Band Chamber Group Concert

5/8 - 10:00 am
Lutheran Women Bible Study

5/9 - 9:30 - 11:00 am
Mom's Morning Out Program

5/9 - 7:00 pm
Ministry Planning Night

5/11 - Church Office Closed

5/13 - after 8:30 & 11:00 am Services
Mother's Day Flower & Dessert Sale

5/16 - 7:00 pm
Church Council Meeting


5/19 - 8:30 am
Women's Book Group

5/19 - 9:00 am
Men's Book Group

5/20 - During 8:30 & 11:00 am Services
Teacher Recognition Day

5/28 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

Pastor's Perspective


 PENTECOST

“Be Opened”

“Jesus took the deaf one aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened” (St. Mark 7:33,35)

“Ephphatha” means “be opened.”

Please pray with me.
 With a word Jesus, you opened ears. Hearing happened. With a word Jesus, you loosed a tongue. Speaking plainly occurred.
 Holy Jesus, Open my ears. Open my ears to hear your Word, to listen carefully. Open my ears to hear your voice calling and your Spirit inviting. Open my ears so that I will be aware of your presence, and I will follow you.

Blessed Messiah, Open my mouth. Unloose my tongue, to speak the truth as you reveal it in love. Open my mouth to build others up, to comfort, to offer your Grace. Do not let fear or pride or anger control my tongue. Open my mouth to boldly proclaim your Gospel, to bear witness to salvation through you. Open my mouth and let me not be ashamed of your Gospel. It is the very power of God for living.

Beautiful Savior, Open my heart. Open my heart to the reality of my sin and my need for you. Open my heart to love you with my whole being and my whole life. Open my heart to earnestly desire to do your will. Open my heart to overflowing with love for you and for your people. Open my heart to receive those whom I might want to shut out or ignore.

Holy Son of God, Open my life. Open my life to responsive readiness. Open my life to act where it is needed, to pray always, and to not be complacent or slow to act. Open my life to your forgiveness. Open my life to relish the peace your Spirit gives. Open my life to the movement of Your Spirit, and to be led willingly and trustingly. Open my life to your living presence wherever I turn. Amen.

“Be opened,” Jesus said. Pentecost – the coming of God’s Holy Spirit – is May 30. With that celebration we begin a Season of growth, service, invitation, speaking and relationships. In the Season of Pentecost, let The Spirit blow through your life. Let The Spirit open you to the work of God’s Kingdom. Let The Spirit open clogged ears, break hearts of stone, give you speech, transform your life.

Pastor Gary

2007 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Kim Watson 301-352-8781

Vice President: Liz Muller 301-352-5536

Secretary: Chris Austell 410-867-3362

Treasurer: Donita Johnson 301-249-7142

Financial Secretary: Jane Bossler 410-721-5424

Gather Ministry Liaison:

Mike Schumacher 301-805-4959

Ministry of Evangelism

OPEN

Ministry of Youth

Cheryl Trimble 301-627-4094

Ministry of Fellowship

Alan & Bonnie Harry 410-247-1273

Worship Ministry Liaison:

RoAnne Hartfield 301-925-7386

Ministry of Worship

Jan Withers 410-672-5910

Learn Ministry Liaison:

Nathan Rich 301-574-3548

Ministry of Christian Education

Ann Greenawalt 301-912-3026

Service Ministry Liaison:

Ruth Tait 410-451-2791

Ministry of Service

Jennifer Woods 410-451-3355

Support Ministry Liaison:

Raymond Wood 301-499-4670

Ministry of Budget & Finance

Ruth Ann Killion 301-856-0676

Ministry of Property Management

Wayne Bossler 410-721-5424

Ministry of Stewardship

Rob Watson 301-352-8781

Congregational Committees Liaison:

Dan Bendt 301-574-1457

Mutual Ministry Committee

Leon Weaver 301-464-1176

Memorials Committee

Maria Arnold 301-262-5484

Mission Endowment Committee

Mary Schoenfuhs 202-641-7609

Scholarship Committee

Phillip Woodruff 301-868-3355

Capital Improvement Committee

Gary Beecher 301-627-6560

Please keep the council members in your prayers and join them in the mission and ministries of All Saints. You may call them to serve on their teams, or come to the planning night for **all** ministries. The May meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, at 7:00 pm.

A Message From the Church Council President...

Lutheranism 101...Even for Church Leaders!

At the April council meeting, Jane Bossler, our Financial Secretary, started our meeting with an opening prayer and then facilitated a discussion based on an article from *The Lutheran*, "Lutheranism 101." With spirit, humor, and faithfulness we identified what it means to be Lutheran, both from a cultural perspective and from a theological understanding. So, although coffee, Jell-O salads, and Germans/Scandinavians are often associated with Lutherans, that is really not who we are as Lutherans or as worshipers at All Saints. The "real" indicators of our faith are: justification by grace through faith for Christ's sake; law AND gospel; means of grace; theology of the cross; saint and sinner, vocation, and contextual theology. (I recommend this June 2006 cover story to you for further explanation.) We were able to identify that these indeed are present as we gather, worship, learn, and serve in the name of Jesus at All Saints Lutheran Church.

It was refreshing to discuss this with the leadership as we learned a little more about each other and our experiences and viewpoints and as we reviewed our core tenets. But more interestingly to me, two more questions arose—What does it mean to be an evangelical church? And, are we true to Martin Luther's original intent of reforming the church by being a transformational (using the Great Commission ministry approach) or emergent church (engaging people with the gospel in terms of postmodern generations and future technology and culture)? We will study and explore these questions for our next two council meetings.

I don't know the answers, and I am no trained theologian. However, I do know that I witness the people of All Saints living the gospel of love, and I continue to be amazed by how the Holy Spirit is present and active in this place and time. This is my only explanation for the impact that the Saints make on the lives of others: yet another trip to Biloxi, Easter baskets and movies for the children of Shepherd's Cove, two Christmas in April teams making a difference for our neighbors in Prince George's, exquisite worship and music experiences of Lent, Easter, and Requiem concerts, varied and powerful learning experiences of Bible study, visioning, and prayer, Earth Day plantings, welcoming new members through receptions and baby showers, behind the scenes work for the temporary classroom and an outside cross, meeting our benevolence, filling Mission Endowment banks, and caring and prayer for others.

All of our ministries and activities are preparing this congregation to discern God's calling for us, His vision for All Saints and what we will strive to become. As we continue living the Gospel, we must pray for patience and wisdom, listen for the needs within our congregation and our community, and be in conversation and communion with one another.

It's amazing what a little refresher 101 article can inspire for this church leader! And, it's even more marvelous what can be accomplished when we allow the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Thanks be to God!

In thanksgiving for the Saints,

Kim Watson



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is 20 years old in 2007. The ELCA was formed by a union of three North American Lutheran church bodies. The three churches agreed to unite in 1982. The merger plan was approved in 1986, and the ELCA Constituting Convention happened in May, 1987. The ELCA began on January 1, 1988.

There are 4.8 million baptized members in 10,549 congregations of the ELCA.

The congregations are grouped into 65 synods in 9 geographic regions. 17,694 clergy serve the ELCA, including 270 missionaries, 185 campus pastors 706 federal chaplains and 965 hospital and nursing home chaplains.

There are 8 seminaries, 28 colleges and universities, 14 high schools, 296 elementary schools, 145 camps and retreat centers affiliated with the ELCA.

Congregations across the nation will celebrate 20 years of ministry together on May 20, 2007. Worship at All Saints Church will include special acknowledgement of the vision for mission in the ELCA.

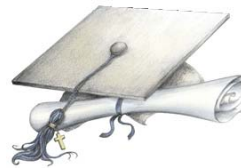


March 2007 Financial Report

March income for budget spending - \$28,586.62
Monthly income needed for budget - \$32,370.00
Year-to-date income for budget spending - \$80,514.40
Year-to-date income needed for budget - \$97,110.00

Total March income - \$33,882.07
Total year-to-date income - \$100,169.60

Expenses for March 2007 - \$31,433.87
Expenses Year-to-Date - \$83,949.11



Please contact the office:

If you or a family member will be graduating this spring or summer. We would like to recognize them in the next edition of *The Grapevine*.

Dive into the Great Bible Reef for VBS Fun!

This summer, it's time to take the plunge into waves of faith-filled fun at the Great Bible Reef, an underwater Vacation Bible School program your kids will love! Join your friends for fathoms of fun the week of July 9-13, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

At the Great Bible Reef, you'll hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy reef tunes, play super fun games, and make lots of new friends. Each day offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities.

Registration for children age 4 through grade 5 is \$5 per child if received by June 24 and \$10 thereafter. For more information or to volunteer, contact Rob Watson at 301-352-8781 or mydearwatsons@comcast.net.



**Vacation Bible School
July 9-13**

Mission Endowment Fund Church Banks Make it Easy to Save and Give

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Mission Endowment Fund through gifts and prayer! Because of YOU we were able to provide more grants last year supporting our Missions at All Saints AND helping those in the community, nation and the World.

We are introducing our 2007 All Saints Lutheran Mission Endowment CHURCH BANKS!!! With any donation you will receive this one-of-a-kind All Saints Mission Endowment Church Bank. A fellow Lutheran lovingly made these banks, which have been displayed in the narthex since Easter Sunday.

Our goal is to have a 2007 All Saints Mission Endowment Church Bank in the home of every All Saints member and friend. The All Saints Mission Endowment Church Bank serves as a reminder of our mission within the congregation, the community, and through the world.

We want to increase our annual Endowment fund by \$10,000 this year. This will enable All Saints Mission Endowment to increase the amount and/or number of grants. One hundred gifts of \$100 will make our goal. Remember with any amount you give, you will receive the new All Saints Mission Endowment church bank as a THANK YOU from the All Saints Mission Endowment Committee!

The Mission Endowment Committee asks that when your church banks are full, to contribute this to the Mission Endowment Fund on Thanksgiving 2007.

Look for more from the Mission Endowment Fund. In June we will offer a presentation by the Prince George's County Register of Wills. We will also be providing information to you on deferred giving, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, etc.

Again, THANK YOU. What you do for the Mission Endowment helps All Saints Lutheran Church, not only in the community and beyond, but also for each and every member.

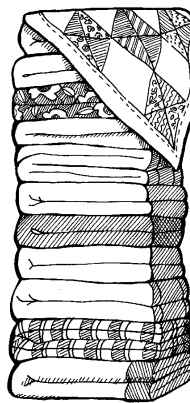
Blessings to all of you in Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior.

Mary E. Schoenfuhs, Chair



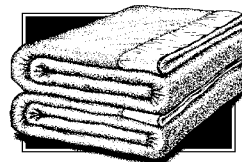
The food pantry is always looking for volunteers or substitutes on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 am. If you can only help out one time, why not consider May 12, the date of the POSTAL FOOD DRIVE. Volunteers will be needed from about 3:30 to 6:00 pm to sort food. For those of you who bowled on that snowy February day, you will be glad to know the pantry received \$1,500 from that fundraiser.

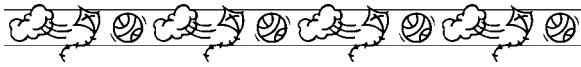
The pantry is offering an evening opening two nights per month. This is for clients who work during the day, and cannot get to the pantry during the regular hours. Reservations are needed for the evening hours. If you know someone who needs financial or food assistance or if you would like to volunteer, contact Kim Wieman at 301-262-6765.



SHEPHERD'S COVE LINEN MINISTRY

We will continue to support Shepherd's Cove with contributions of new or gently used linens. Their needs are as follows: twin sheets, blankets, comforters, mattress covers (plastic/cloth), pillowcases, bath towel and cloths. If you would like to make a contribution, please leave it in the entrance to the church and mark it "Shepherd's Cove". Thank you for your support of the mothers and children at the shelter.





Mom's Morning Out

The Mom's Morning Out program continues to grow! The field trip to Air Mania in April was a big hit. Sincere thanks to Alan Harry for hosting the group. The next Mom's Morning Out will be held on Wednesday, May 9th from 9:30-11:00 am at All Saints. Mothers, Grandmothers, and other caregivers of young children are invited to a time of fellowship for the adults and playtime for the children. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun. Please e-mail Ann Greenawalt at themuffinann@yahoo.com or call (301) 912-3026 if you will be able to join us.



Family Faith Connections

Do you know the date of your baptism? Your spouse's baptism? How about those of your child or children? Baptismal birthdays can be a special time to nurture the faith in your home and family life. Here are some ideas for ways to incorporate baptismal birthdays into your family routine:

Mark your family calendar with the baptismal dates of each family member.

Surround your child's baptismal date with special rituals and traditions. Plan a special meal or treat for your family or with some friends from Church School. Share pictures of their baptism day and light their baptismal candle.

Make a connection between birthdays and baptisms. Talk first about birthdays as the day they were named and became a part of your family. Then identify baptism as the day they became a part of God's family. Take annual pictures of your children in front of the baptismal font in your church. Point out the many ways they have grown as a "child of God."

Invite baptismal sponsors to send a special note or word of encouragement as the child continues to grow. Make the sign of the cross on your children's foreheads as a daily reminder that God loves them and considers them special members of God's family.

Reprinted from "101 Faith Place: Entry Points for Nurturing Faith in the Home"

Thanks to Our Sunday School Teachers!



Teacher Recognition Day

On Sunday, May 20, teachers of Adult and Children's Christian Education at All Saints will be honored for their efforts to share the faith during the 2006-2007 school year. They will be recognized at both services and during a special fellowship time. Please join the Learn Ministry Team in thanking the teachers, substitutes, and helpers for their dedication to teaching God's Word and deepening the faith of their learners. May 20 is the last day of Sunday School for the children.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to the following teachers:

Kelley Adams, K-2nd Grade, Co-Superintendent
Andrew Anseth, Games Debbie Ariguzo, Crafts, Co-Superintendent
Cindy Austell, Snacks Ken Bozick, 7th & 8th Grade
Kendra Bozick, Pre-K Helper
Kristin Clancy, Pre-K
Ann Greenawalt, Pre-K
Kristen Heyer, Pre-K
Pastor Gary Rhinesmith, Confirmation
Mike Schumacher, Games
Angela Sichelman, 3rd & 4th Grade
Merle Thomas, Substitute
Gail Trafelet, Substitute
Kim Watson, Substitute
Rob Watson, 5th & 6th Grade

Adult Sunday School:

Richard Bates, Rev. Ray Blanset,
Dr. Pearl Hibbard, Ruth-Ann Killion,
John Laughlin, Nathan Rich,
John Summerlot, Grace Tiva, Fred Wentland



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER AND DESSERT SALE will be held after both worship services on May 13. The elementary youth will be selling 12" Hanging Flower baskets at \$18.00 each and an assortment of Desserts for Mother's Day. Sale immediately after 8:30am & 11am services on May 13. All proceeds to benefit our Palestinian friend, Jollene (Gullen). For questions please contact Cindy Austell or Debbie Ariguzo



Growing in Faith Adult Education Program

Martin Luther: the Man Behind the Writings

How much do you think you know about Martin Luther—his personal history and the struggles that informed his faith journey? Join the *Growing in Faith* ed. series on May 6 and 13 as Grace Tiva leads us in a fascinating study of the man behind the theology. Also this month, watch for the release of our summer Christian program schedule.

Featured Addition to our Library

We invite you to check out a pictorial book of the life of Christ, which Jane Wingard has generously donated to our library in memory of her mother, Sadie Lee Miller. Illustrated by Dutch artist Rien Poortvliet, *He Was One of Us* captures in vivid portraiture the gospel accounts of Christ’s birth, ministry, death and resurrection, as well as the profound impact of those events upon the people surrounding Jesus. A particular favorite of Jane’s is the picture which captures in the face of Mary Magdalene the transcendent joy which we all feel on Easter morning as we hear the good news of the risen Lord.

In his introduction, Poortvliet writes, “It wasn’t my intention in this book to try to sketch how Mary, Peter or Barabbas looked; and certainly not Jesus’ face as it might have been. But, because the familiar Bible texts can sound much too familiar to us - while for others they are incomprehensible – I have tried to tell the story of Jesus by letting faces and hands do the talking. Because faces and hands speak their own language and so they can express more clearly the fact that the people who lived when Jesus was on the earth were completely ordinary folk....They weren’t any different than we...each of us is Peter and Thomas and Judas and the innkeeper....”

Jane was introduced to Poortvliet’s stunning artistry by Vickie DeVilbiss, and though *He Was One of Us* is currently out of print, Jane’s husband was able to secure through a used book store a copy which he gave Jane for Christmas. Subsequently they have purchased additional copies to give as gifts to friends and family; we thank Jane for her generosity in presenting All Saints with one of them.

If you have a treasured text that has impacted your faith journey and would like to donate a copy to our church library, please contact Liz Muller so that we can include a feature article about it in the *Grapevine*.

The IDENTITY of The CROSS

The CROSS is the symbol of faith in Jesus Christ as God’s only Son and the Savior of all who believe in his resurrection. The CROSS was an instrument of execution. It is now is the IDENTITY of Christians and the way we show our identity to others.

There will be a CROSS placed on the exterior of the All Saints Church building. It will be over the front entrance. It will be large enough to be seen from Mount Oak Rd. It will be black and it will be backlit. It will have a “distressed” black gel-coat finish. It will be visible evidence of faith.

Construction, lighting, shipping and installation will cost about \$1,800. Half of the cost has already been offered as special offerings. Please contribute to purchasing this visible symbol of our Christian identity. Indicate “Exterior Gable Cross” on your check. Help complete the remaining \$900.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2006-2007 ASLC CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, May 6

4:00 pm

U. S. Navy Band Chamber Players

Friday, June 1

7:00 pm

Christopher Sala, Trumpet
Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, Piano



On Tuesday, May 15, the Senior Saints will be going out to lunch and then will go to South River Health Center nursing home to deliver bird houses. For more details contact Bob Jones at 301-262-0042.



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP will meet on May 19 at the home of Mary Ann Shepherd. We will discuss *What Is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng*, by Dave Eggers.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP will meet on May 19 at All Saints Church. We will discuss *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell.



Bible Study for Women of ELCA

Women of the ELCA is a community of women committed to growing spiritually, to praying, to studying the Bible, and to maturing in faith. Most of our local units are based in congregations, but some are intercongregational. An intercongregational unit has been formed here at All Saints during our monthly Tuesday morning Bible Study. This unit is comprised of women from All Saints, Grace, and St. Luke. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am for Bible study, using the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine.

The theme for the Women's Bible Study session on May 8 is "Living Hope" and the theme verses are 1 Peter 2:21 and Luke 9:23-24. To say that God has entered into our lives is a word of great hope. This means that neither suffering nor evil has the last word. The questions asked are - How do we remember that hope during hard times and how do we share that hope with others?

ALL SAINTS CHURCH MISSION TO REBUILD BILOXI A Letter of Thanks

April 23, 2007

Dear fellow workers at All Saints Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your partnership in God's work here in Biloxi. It is always encouraging to be reminded that this work is bigger, just as our Lord is, than any denomination. I have been here almost seventeen months now and during this time I have had the joy of working with fellow believers from all over our country and from many other denominations.

The work can be difficult at times as Satan opposes us at every chance, but it is very rewarding as we Christians work together for God's glory. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of asking a fellow believer how he enjoyed living in his house, which we repaired. He was so full of joy that every other sentence he offered praise to God. This man is an amputee who lost his artificial leg during the storm; he also lost a brother during the hurricane.

It seems as lately the Lord is directing us more and more to repair houses belonging to fellow Christians. It is very common for us to show up to work on a house and be told by the home owner that they had been praying for someone to help them.

Again thanks for your very generous support, pray for our wise use of it.

In His Service,

Robert E. Bolitho
First Presbyterian Church



Letter From Jerusalem

Pastor Russell Siler, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer,
Jerusalem, 15 April 2007

... When I left that place the homeowner was showing Rabbi Arik Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights a whole box of receipts and official papers. From what I could piece together from the comments of those around me who understand Hebrew, the man had been working on getting the proper permits for more than two years and had met nothing but promises and delays. Finally, based on those promises, he had built. Every day of the construction—just a baseball throw from the Old City—police or other officials had passed by the site, quite aware of what was going on. Now, the construction over and the dwelling occupied, the demolition was about to begin, because he had no permit! Now each day, as I pass the house, I hold my breath as I round the curve, praying that I will see walls, not rubble. I can't help but think that if I am that afraid, how terrified the family must be.

People often ask, "How can this be?" They are trying to comprehend such things through the focus of our American democracy. Here things are very, very different. Here we know that in the first four years of the Intifada [2000-2004] over 5000 houses in the West Bank—including Arab East Jerusalem—and Gaza were demolished. Here we know that in the nearly 40 years of illegal Israeli occupation of those areas more than 15,000 houses have been destroyed. Here we know that in those same 40 years the government of Israel has sponsored housing units in Arab East Jerusalem: for Israelis—100,000; for Palestinians—500. Here we know that it is next to impossible for a Palestinian to acquire the needed permits to build a house. Here we keep asking the question, "Why does the United States watch this destruction and support it?" We continue to fail to find a single moral or ethical justification for such complicity.

Two things stand out from this episode. The first is that, from the perspective of a parish pastor, I can't tell you how gratifying it was last week to have several members of our small congregation around the home, trying to do what they could to protect this virtually defenseless family. It was a dramatic example of God's servants carrying the proclamation of Sunday directly into the lives of ordinary people. Gathered there also were members of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, adding their support along with their witness of protest. The second is that all the statistics, like those I cited above, will never carry the true impact of the story. But if the world could look into the faces of those children silently waiting for their home to fall, things would never be the same. That is the tragic face of the occupation—children who will grow into adults without knowing a hint of freedom.

"For the Peace of Jerusalem"

May 6-8, 2007

at the National City Christian Church and
Lutheran Church of the Reformation,
Washington, DC.

Sponsored by Churches for Middle East Peace.

I invite you to join me along with Middle East peace advocates from across the country and from a range of Christian churches to: learn about the current issues related to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and the sharing of Jerusalem; and lobby our senators and representatives with up-to-date, specific talking points designed to **make your voice heard**. Keynote speaker will be former Rhode Island Senator Lincoln Chafee on the topic "American Credibility in the Middle East." Also featured at this conference are Israeli and Palestinian negotiators of the Geneva Accords, Daniel Levy and Ghaith Al-Omari.

All are invited to the **opening worship service** on Sunday, May 6 at National City Christian Church, 14th and Massachusetts NW (Thomas Circle.) Beginning at 6:30 with a concert by the Bell Choir of St. Mary Armenian Church, the 7:00 service will include homilies by Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant church leaders. A reception will immediately follow.

For more information, please contact Nathan Rich (240-441-8724) or <http://www.cmep.org>.



The Global Mission Committee of the Metro
DC Synod presents

*Everything You Need to Know About Sister
Congregations Workshop*

and a

Shop 'til You Drop Extravaganza

World Fair Trade Day Market
featuring a Chocolate Fountain!

World Fair Trade Day Sat. May 12, 2007

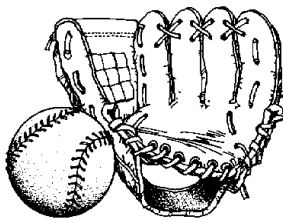
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
5800 Backlick Road Springfield, VA
9:00 a.m. until noon

To Register for the Workshop--Call (703) 548-7898 or
email TheFairTradeWay@comcast.net.
Also Participating: Lutheran World Relief • Global Health
Ministries • Thrivent • Middle East Committee • World
Mission Prayer League



Annie Mouse loves to gather news and pictures about the saints

- Too bad it was cold and snowy Easter weekend—we didn't get to worship in the outdoor chapel with all the new mulch that Gary Beecher and Wayne Bossler put out. Make sure you check it out!
- But boy was Easter weekend and worship wonderfully loud—Easter egg hunt squeals, trumpets, choirs, breakfast conversations, and shouts of Alleluia! I sure am happy to be a Lutheran mouse!
- Do you think Liz Muller has had enough coffee, yet? She looked like she needed more as she represented Everywoman, (dressed in her bathrobe and slippers!) at a temple talk for the women's retreat at Hallowood. I'm inviting my country cousins to join me for rest and renewal! (I could use some since this place seems to always be so busy with activity!)
- Aren't those MEF banks cute? They're just my size! What a great way to save and support our current and future ministries.
- Did you see that Rob Watson received the Bowie Excellence in Education Award? He represented Kenilworth Elementary School and received all kinds of certificates and accolades from political, school, and community dignitaries!
- Check out the bats of Pat Bettinger, Chris Greenawalt, Dave Johnson, Jim Sichelman, and Rob Watson on Tuesday evenings. They're manufacturing all kinds of runs on the softball field!
- The star of the mound has to be Bowie High's Marianne Johnson! She's tearing up the competition with shutouts! Way to go!
- If you want to come watch softball, the team has upcoming games at Allen Pond Park Field # 1 starting at 6:30 pm on May 8, 22, and 29. They have games at the same field starting at 8:30 pm on May 15 and June 12. Come root for the Saints!



John Wenger 's email: jfwenger@msn.com



5/1	Chris Sala
5/3	Lloyd Anseth
5/4	Dave Uber
5/6	Merle Thomas
5/7	Adamma Ariguizo
5/8	Phillip Woodruff
5/8	Caleb Summerlot
5/10	Vickie DeVilbiss
5/10	David Adams
5/11	Erin Crampton
5/12	Ken Stoops
5/13	Joan DeHenzel
5/13	Jeanne Shuey
5/14	Dick Hartfield
5/14	Cheri Jo Waesche
5/15	Kay Rowland
5/19	Andrew DeVilbiss
5/21	John Laughlin
5/21	Gretchen Helgeson
5/21	Kristin Watson
5/25	Gary Beecher
5/25	Angela Steinmetz
5/27	Grace Depp Tiva
5/27	Derrick Dasenbrock
5/29	Herb Hagenau
5/30	Cynthia Huitt

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

MILITARY DUTY: Lloyd Anseth, Ross Bogard, Mark Brinkman, John Cooksey, Matt Eversmann, Chad Field, Col. Samuel Fuoco, Daniel Gogul, Gil Gruzynski, Pierre Han, Tyson Hartwig, Jon Heyer, Chris Ingermann, Jason Lancaster, Graham Morris, Brian Niven, Brian O'Connell, Matt O'Connell, Wil Rollefson, Robby Trent, John Wierzbicki.

AT FULL-CARE HOME: Joan DeHenzel, Dick Hartfield, and Evelyn Simonds

OTHER CONCERNS: Wendy Andrews, Family of Meriam Beach, Paul Burke, Carl Carlson, Jerry Champion, Michael Chirigos, Sal Cirone, Elsie Deat, Carol DeHenzel, Michelle Dowsett, Steve Epstein, Family of Danny Freudenberg, Marilyn Griepentrog, Pearl Hibbard, Velma Hollar, Mark Kahler, Robert Keating, Jean Kinney, Brenda Knavel, Serge Loiseau, Donna Malone, Janice McFalls, Maria McNamara, Karen Mezzic, Robert Olds, Catherine Patsias, Karen Rees, Ed Seely, Christopher Trotman, and Bill Wesley.


LENT and EASTER
THANK YOU'S


Trumpets

Chris Sala
Robert Couto

Chancel Choir

Gary Beecher
Sigrid Beecher
Roanne Hartfield
Doug Lingle
Marilyn Morgan
Deborah Rice
Nathan Rich
Deanna Sala
Curt Stende
Florie Stende
Jayne Strotman
Merle Thomas
Nancy Pat Weaver
Jan Withers

Sonshine Choir

Ellen Hug
Marty Hug
Derek Smith
Gini Smith
Christine Steinmetz
John Steinmetz
John Wenger
Marianne Wenger
Jennifer Woods

Children's Choir

Uzoma Ariguzo
Chibueze Ariguzo
Elizabeth Crampton
John Crampton
Vanessa Ingermann
Caitlin Thomas
Doris Dasenbrock – Director

Sunrise Musicians

Christine Steinmetz
John Steinmetz
John Wenger

Spreading Mulch

Chuck Arnold
Gary Beecher
Wayne Bossler
Alan Harry
John Meyer
Jim Meyer
Mike Schumacher
Brian Taylor
Ron Taylor

Silent Soup Meal

Rick Bates
Alan Harry
Bonnie Harry
Marguerite Mattison
Nancy-Pat Weaver

Reading The Passion

Rick Bates
John Clancy
Herb Hageneau
Jerry Hughson
Nathan Rich

Stripping the Altar

Roanne Hartfield
John Meyer
Liz Muller
Phyllis Phipps
Larry Ploor
Jayne Strotman
Kim Watson
Jan Withers

Prepare Easter Baskets for

Shepherds Cove

Linda Egbers
Carol Golden
Bonnie Harry
Marguerite Mattison
Bev Roberts
Mike Schumacher
Connie Simmons
Priscilla Sparks
Ruth Tait
Jennifer Woods

Delivery of Easter Baskets to

Shepherd's Cove

Ruth Tait
Kasey Schumacher
Mike Schumacher
Jennifer Woods

Concert Set-Up

Dave Baine
Gary Beecher
Doug Lingle
Larry Ploor
Jayne Strotman
Nancy Pat Weaver
Jan Withers

Easter Brunch

Alan Harry
Bonnie Harry
Marguerite Mattison

Clean Up after Concert

Herb Hageneau
Kurt Muller
Liz Muller
Nathan Rich
Leon Weaver
Nancy Pat Weaver
Jan Withers

Arranging of Easter Flowers

Dave Dasenbrock
Jim Withers

Maundy Thursday Display

Bonnie Harry

Easter Egg Hunt

Ann Greenawalt
Adamma Ariguzo
Chibueze Ariguzo
Debbie Ariguzo
Uzoma Ariguzo
John Clancy
Elizabeth Crampton
Laurel Crampton
John Crampton
Adam Rappa
Bry Rees
John Rees
Jamie Schumacher
Kasey Schumacher
Mikey Schumacher
Emily Summerlot
Cheryl Trimble



For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church, by N.T. Wright. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1997. Nicholas Thomas "Tom" Wright is an Anglican bishop and a leading conservative British New Testament scholar. He has written 43 books including one with the liberal scholar, Marcus Borg of the Jesus Seminar, entitled **The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions**.

The word worship is a contraction of "worth-ship." It means giving God all he's worth. This book is a call to renewal of worship and witness—not in the sense of adopting this or that fad or introducing this or that new music, but a renewal that begins with a better knowledge of God. The book's first half entitled, "The God Who is Worthy of Praise," dwells on the greatness and love of God as these shine forth in the death and resurrection of Christ. The second half, "Reflecting God's Image in the World," shows how worship from the heart and mind leads to mission. "Are we ready," the author asks, "to speak up for the truth of the gospel over the dinner-table, and in the coffee-bar, and in the council-chamber?" In a January 2002 interview Wright compared prayer and worship to drinking a glass of fine wine:

If you have a wonderful bottle of wine, you could simply drink it out of a tea mug. But that isn't how you want to drink wine. Doesn't show it off to a good advantage, doesn't set off the flavor? It's best if you have the right sort of glass. It's the same way with . . . worship of the Almighty God — you can worship him anywhere. You can worship him in a bathroom, you can worship him in the back room of a pub. Really, God is everywhere and wants you to worship him. But if we really want to do it, wouldn't it be wonderful to have a building that was designed for it, and preferably one that has been prayed in quite a bit already, so it has the resonance and the memory.

What we believe about God makes a great difference in the way we are in the world. If God is a distant being, one who made the world and left it, or intervenes rarely, then we have a banished god, a vacuum in our life that comes to be filled with the gods of war, money, sex, power or whatever else we come to worship with our time and energy.

I was talking to somebody not long ago who said, "You know, I used to believe in God; but then, as I grew up, I found it harder and harder to think of this old man up there in the sky, so far removed from all the pain and suffering down here in the world." And I said to him, "I don't believe in that god either! The God I believe in is the god I see in the middle of the pain and the suffering down here in the world. Without Jesus, the crucified Jesus, sharing and bearing the pain and sin and suffering of the world, I don't actually know who on earth or in heaven God might be at all." You see, if you envisage a god up there in the sky, detached from the reality of the world, any worship you offer will simply be a distant acknowledgment of majesty, like the ploughboy doffing his cap as the great nobleman rides by ignoring him. And if you go the other route, as my friend was inclined to, and say that therefore the word "god" can only refer to the impulse of goodness inside ourselves, then you'll find it pretty hard to sustain any real sense of worship at all. All you're left with is the ploughboy imagining himself to be a nobleman. But if Jesus is to be the lens through which you glimpse the beauty of God, you will discover what it means to worship, because you will discover what it means to be loved.

Wright says we are all called in one of three levels or varieties. First, we are all called to hold onto God with one hand and embrace those around us in prayer, generosity, teaching and caring. There is no one that we meet who does not need healing of some kind and the pain we all suffer is remarkably alike. Who in their lifetime has not stood close to Jesus feeling beaten, mocked, crucified and in the wilderness? This kind of healing does not take miracles or a life of spiritual heroics, for the best healers are weak and wounded — just look at Paul, who was not all that healthy. This healing can be expressed in the ordinary ways we care for another, in cooking, humor, visiting and even playing.

The second level is to those who are called to Church Ministry. The church is desperate for ordained clergy, but it also needs people to step into leadership positions, as teachers, worship assistants, youth directors, etc.

The third level of calling is in prayers for those caught in crises and trapped in the middle of war, prison, unemployment, poverty, sickness. We need healing prayers to bring about the social and political changes that will bring the peace of the Lord to all. These three varieties can be seen as means to build a Christian community and bring God and the teaching of Jesus into all parts of the world. This is all about sharing and bearing the pain, the thorn in our sides.

G. K. Chesterton one of the most prolific and gifted writers of the 20th century said that the purpose of an open mind is like the purpose of an open mouth: that it might shut on something solid. Tom Wright (www.ntwrightpage.com) is as solid a writer on Paul and the New Testament as you can digest and I hope you will make this or one of his many other works part of your reading for pleasure and knowledge.

John Laughlin

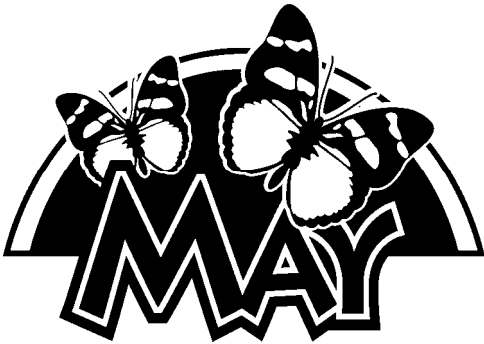




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Thank you to all who contribute their helping hands in making this newsletter possible.