



Maundy Thursday Service — April 21st at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service — April 22nd at 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday Services — April 24th at
8:15 am and 10:30 am**

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1603 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220-2906

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EASTER THOUGHTS

I write these words on March 28, the day after the 3rd Sunday of Lent. In the traditional church calendar it was called “Oculi”, (from Psalm 25: *My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.*) If it were the year 2005 we would have been celebrating Easter yesterday; as it is, we’re only half-way through Lent. I don’t have to repeat that the April 24 date for Easter 2011 is about as late as it can occur.

But the fact that Easter is a movable festival dependent on the phases of the moon in relation to the Spring Equinox is not what interests us here. Christmas is always celebrated on December 25; Easter can be as early as March 24 or as late as April 25 (I rely on the table I found in the old *Common Service Book*, which runs from 1918-2005). What’s important is not the *date* of Easter but what it *means* for our lives.

I like what my colleague from across the Circle, the Rev. Jonathan Heaslet, writes in the April issue of St. John’s Newsletter and share a few lines from his message pertaining to Easter here: “...eventually we’re faced with the essential question of our faith: it all comes down to Easter, doesn’t it? As Rev. Robin Meyers puts it: If Jesus didn’t ‘get up’ on Easter Sunday, then why should we get up on any Sunday?”

So what we’re dealing with on Easter, be it on March 24, or April 25, or any day in between, is the very heart of our Christian faith. Indeed, as one of my seminary professors said, “If we in the Christian church don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead, the Better Business Bureau should cite us for fraud, for the very fact that we claim the name Christian implies that we believe in Christ, who rose from the dead.”

Of course Easter requires the unfortunate necessity of Christ’s death for our sins. We don’t just jump from Transfiguration Sunday (on which we hear of the disciples’ vision of Christ in his resurrection glory) to Easter. In between lie the forty days and six Sundays of Lent.

Lent begins by being reminded of our mortality through the tracing of an ashen cross on our foreheads. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The stark reality of life. You don’t have to be a Christian to be impacted by this Ash Wednesday message.

But then we move to our Lenten Wednesday night devotions dealing with the question “What Does It Mean to Be a Lutheran?” The first of these explored the theology of the cross, which teaches that only through the cross and suffering do we learn to know God rightly. In the life of Jesus Christ and in the life of every Christian, God is hidden under suffering and tribulation, and therefore cannot be known directly, but only indirectly, not on the basis of sense perception, but only by faith.

Faith! Sense perception tells us we are dust. It all ends in the grave. “Swift to its close, ebbs out life’s little day,” as the hymn “Abide with Me” states. But wait, there’s more. After the cross and the grave there is Easter dawn, the empty tomb, and the resurrected Lord who calls us by name and promises, “Because I live, you will live also.”

That’s Easter! This is what it’s all about! Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. And Easter occurs every day of the year, early and late, for those who cling to Christ’s cross and believe in him as savior and Lord. Let us continue our Lenten pilgrimage in this faith, and look forward to a glorious Easter!

~ *Pastor John Schweitzer*



Here's What's Happening

Leisure Group News



The Leisure Group will meet on **Saturday, April 9th** at **12:00 noon** for a covered-dish luncheon. Our guest speaker will be Sandra Jones, a reporter from WTVR. Please join us for lunch and Sandra's informative presentation.

Everyone is invited to join us on our day trips and the overnight trip to Baltimore and Annapolis.

Our first trip for 2011 will be on **April 13th** to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Monks Monestary. This trip is full. If you are interested in going with us, please let us know. We can put you on the waiting list.

Our second trip is on **SATURDAY, May 21st** to Stratford Hall (includes tour and lunch), George Washington's birthplace, and Westmoreland Berry Farm where we will have an ice cream sundae. The payment for this trip is due on April 15th.

The deposit is due on April 1st for our trip to Annapolis and Baltimore in September. This tour includes admission to the aquarium in Baltimore and a tour of the Maryland State House and the Naval Academy as well as a riding tour of Annapolis.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and on our trips.



Women of the ELCA Evening Group

(KATIE) KATHARINA VON BORA LUTHER VISITS WOMEN OF THE ELCA

A dramatization of Katie Luther (Katarina Von Bora Luther) will be presented on **April 8th** by Corrye Hatchell. Corrye is a member of Lakeside Lutheran Church in Littleton, NC and is an active member of their women's group. She grew up in Rocky Mt., NC. Corrye received degrees from Stratford College in Danville and the University of North Carolina.

This is a program you don't want to miss; Corrye is wonderful. She speaks to you as if she really is Katie Luther and tells of her life with Martin Luther. Please plan to attend; **ALL ARE INVITED**, just remember to bring a dish!

Also, note there has been a time change for our **April 8th** meeting: we will have a covered-dish dinner and it will begin at **5:30 pm**. We will then have the dramatization followed by our business meeting.



Jackie Rowland, Suzanne Kessler, and I would like to thank everyone for their donations for our Bake Sale in February, held during the Yard Sale. We were very successful in raising \$174, especially considering that with the exception of several cakes and pies, we sold everything for 25¢ and 50¢! We also enjoyed meeting all those who bought our goodies. Everyone was nice and friendly and seemed to be having a good time. Thank you again.

~ Libby Riggle

Thank you for the Shoes!

Mary Vaughn Smith would like to thank everyone for their donations of shoes. She has left on her medical mission trip with loads of them to hand out to the needy. First English's gift will have great meaning to those less fortunate than us.



Annual Picnic at Roslyn, **Sunday June 12th** after the 10:30 am service.

NEWSLETTER **Newsletter Deadline**



All submissions for the May issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Friday April 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff

Conrad Center Meal Ministry is Coming Up on April 10th!

First English members have another opportunity to serve a hot meal to those in need at Conrad Center on **April 10th**. Volunteers are needed to serve from **11:30-2** at Conrad Center, which is located at 1400 Oliver Hill Way (formerly 17th Street North). Volunteers are also needed to prepare baked spaghetti (recipe and pan provided by First English), bread and cakes. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. The food needs to be at the First English kitchen by 10:30 am on the 10th. Your efforts are very much appreciated by those we serve!



We've Started!

As of March 20, 2011

Exterior tuck-pointing (repairs to the mortar joints between the stone) has started and is moving forward. This outside work will not affect the scheduling of any inside work.

In our last update, we told you the building permit application had been filed for Phase I of our work. As of this writing, we are still waiting for the permit to be issued, but by the time you are reading this, we should have it. We are targeting April 26th (just after Easter Sunday) as the start of the significant work of Phase I. This will allow us to have Holy Week and Easter Services in the Sanctuary. We hope this schedule will cause the least possible amount of disruption to the ongoing activities of the Church. However, as with any large improvement project, there will be some growing pains, but the end result will be worth any temporary inconveniences.

The committee has been working closely with the contractor to review proposed costs line by line to stay within our budget. Our goal is to do all work correctly and we believe the quality of the finished product is of utmost importance. This project will make our building much safer, protecting the building with improvements such as smoke detection and electrical upgrades and protecting our people with emergency lighting, better hardware on our doors for safer egress in an emergency and improved accessibility and traffic flow through various spaces in the building.

Please look for another update next month!

Editor's note: The permits have been issued!

April Worship Assistants



	April 1 – Maundy Thursday	April 2 – Good Friday
Lectors	1. Carol McCue 2. Shep Rowland	1. Cheryl Shiembob 2. Emmett Heltzel 3. Jim Johnson
Crucifer	Stuart Myer	
Acolyte	Molly McCue, Kirk Fenerty	
Altar Guild	Libby Riggle, Peggy Davis	
Communion Assistants	Joyce Smith, Joedy Smith, Jackie Rowland	
Ushers	Jim Johnson, Bill Davidson, Roger Riggle,	Bill Davidson, Stuart Myer

	April 3 – 4 th Sunday in Lent	April 10 – 5 th Sunday in Lent	April 17 – Palm Sunday	April 24 – Easter Sunday
8:15 Lector	Nicole Krause	Kevin Murphy	Nicole Krause	Pat McAfee
10:30 Lectors	1. Cheryl Shiembob 2. Lillian Taylor	1. Shep Rowland 2. Charlie Schumann	1. Sandi Cowett 2. Charlie Schumann	1. Mary Elizabeth Ellis 2. Bill Noller
Crucifer	Jim Byerly	Ellen Sughrue	Ed Wiles	Stuart Myer
Acolytes	Nate Fenerty Cooper Hoke	Kirk Fenerty Cassidy Hoke	Nate Fenerty Ellie Fenerty	Cassidy Hoke Cooper Hoke
Altar Guild	Emmett Heltzel Jackie Rowland	Jenna Hoke Jim Johnson	Emmett Heltzel Jackie Rowland	Jenna Hoke Martha Snellings
Greeter	Bill Fenerty	Roger Riggle	Jim Byerly	Deborah Hubbs
Communion Assistants	Mary Elizabeth Ellis Jackie Rowland Ed Wiles	Julie Judge Joyce Smith Joe Thisted, Sr.	Julie Judge Carol McCue Linda Smith	Sheryl Finucane Charlie Schumann Joe Thisted, Sr.
Head Counter	Susan Fenerty	Susan Fenerty	Susan Fenerty	Susan Fenerty
Counters	Betty Davidson Elaine Smith	Sandi Cowett Elaine Smith	Bill Fenerty Cheryl Shiembob	Betty Davidson Debbie Lane
Ushers	Debbie Lane Reni Gower Jeff Nelson John Sughrue	Rob Comet Bill Davidson Stuart Myer Joedy Smith	Sheryl Finucane Reni Gower Jeff Nelson John Sughrue	Rob Comet Jim Byerly Bill Davidson Jim Johnson
Hospitality	The Emerson Family	Libby Riggle, Duke & Betty Marguiles	Della Rucks	Carol Schweitzer
Readings	1 Sam 16:1-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Ezek 37:1-14 Rom 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Isa 50:4-9a Phil 2:5-11 Matt 26:14-27:66	Acts 10:34-43 Col 3:1-4 Matt 28:1-10

**** Please find a replacement when you cannot serve and notify the church office at 355-9185 as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and service to the Church.**

FELC People News

Let's Celebrate April with the Following Members of our Congregation



Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a birthday in the month of April!



Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to all celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in April!



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-English-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church/192200837487387>





<p>Friday April 1 8:15 pm: AA</p>	<p>Sunday April 17 – Palm Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Stuart Circle Palm Sunday Parade 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Della Rucks</p>
<p>Sunday April 3 – 4th Sunday in Lent 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – The Emerson Family</p>	<p>Tuesday April 19 7:00 pm: Congregational Council Meeting</p>
<p>Wed. April 6 – Wednesday’s Together 3:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm: Lenten Meditation 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Wed. April 20 – Wednesday’s Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm: Lenten Meditation 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday April 8 6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA Evening Group 8:15 pm: AA</p>	<p>Thursday April 21 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service</p>
<p>Sunday April 10 – 5th Sunday in Lent 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Libby Riggle, Duke & Betty Marguiles 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee</p>	<p>Friday April 22 – Good Friday 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service 8:15 pm: AA</p>
<p>Wed. April 13 – Wednesday’s Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm: Lenten Meditation 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Sunday April 24 – Easter Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Carol Schweitzer</p>
<p>Friday April 15 8:15 pm: AA</p>	<p>Wed. April 27 – Wednesday’s Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
	<p>Friday April 29 8:15 pm: AA</p>

HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!

KIDS PAGE



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

		
1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition	5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners
5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart	5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____ the _____ and _____
of _____ For the _____ set before _____
he _____ the _____ its _____, and
sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____
Consider _____ who _____ such _____
from _____ so that you will not _____
and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV