



From the Pastor

Lenten Services 2011

Easter is quite late this year (April 24), and consequently Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is not until March 9. We will observe that day with a full service of Holy Communion with optional imposition of ashes at 7 pm in the main sanctuary. Please make every effort to attend. The Ash Wednesday service has always been one of great solemnity as we are reminded both of our own mortality (“remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”) and of the promise of eternal life won through the sufferings, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will continue the tradition of having half hour Lenten meditations on the six Wednesday of Lent (as in the past years from 7 – 7:30 pm), including Holy Week. This year they will be centered around the topic “What Does It Mean to be a Lutheran?” It would seem to me that this question is especially pertinent in an age of religious pluralism and a year when we celebrate 100 years of Lutheran identity at this location. In 1911 our spiritual mothers and fathers dedicated this building and proudly claimed their Lutheran identity (in a city where there was no other Lutheran church worshiping in the English language) by placing Martin Luther’s Seal at the top of the stained glass window fronting on Monument Avenue. Today, 100 years later, it is just a important that we be aware of what this thing called Lutheranism is about, especially since a lot of our members did not grow up Lutheran.

The topics covered will be as follows:

Wednesday, March 16: “Theology of the Cross”

Wednesday, March 23: “By Grace Alone”

Wednesday, March 30: “By Scripture Alone”

Wednesday, April 6: “Everyone a Priest”

Wednesday, April 13: “Education Is Important”

Wednesday, April 20: “Music to God’s Glory”

It may be necessary to hold some of the devotions in the fellowship hall due to 2011 construction projects, but unless otherwise announced all these services will be in the main sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

~ Pastor John Schweitzer

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UPCOMING EVENTS



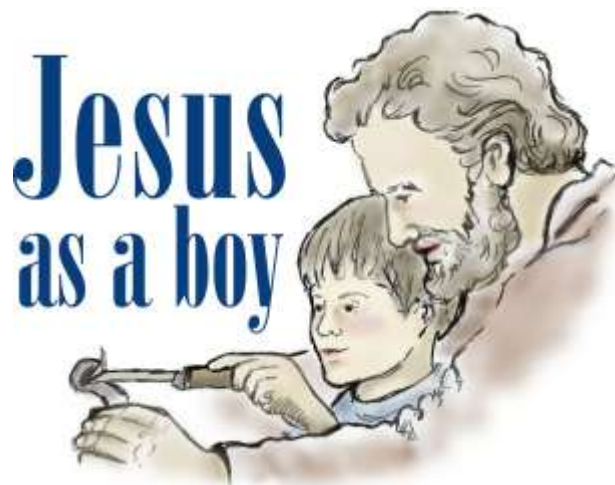
The Education Committee will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, March 2nd** at **6:30 pm** in the Sunday School Office (3rd Floor Sherer Building). We will be making plans for Spring activities as well as Vacation Bible School and the 2011/2012 Sunday School academic year. If you have an interest in participating in the planning of our events, helping out with the Sunday School program or becoming involved in other ways please plan to attend. We welcome newcomers and new ideas alike!

Crossover MINISTRIES



Lynn Williams, Development Manager for Crossover Ministries, will give the Women of the ELCA Evening Group an overview of their program and update us on recent changes. First English supports this program and member, Sheryl Finucane, works in their clinic as a volunteer. **March 11th** will be our next meeting; we'll begin the evening with a covered-dish dinner at **6:00 pm**.

~ Peggy Davis



Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!

Are you interested in learning about Jesus as a boy? Do you want to become more involved in spreading God's Word, but don't want to be a Sunday school teacher? Are you looking for a fun way to connect with the children and adults at First English? This summer's Vacation Bible School adventure is the answer! We will be holding a planning meeting for VBS Hometown Nazareth on **Sunday, March 13**, following the 10:30 Worship Service, in the Sunday School Office (3rd Floor Sherer Building). If you want to help out, or learn more about this exciting all-ages event, please plan to attend the meeting. We will begin collecting supplies as well. See the list below to see if you have any items you can share or donate.

VBS Wish List: We plan to create a biblical themed prop inventory to use each year. If you have any of the following items that you would like to donate, please speak with Susan Fenerty or Suzanne Stricker: copper bowls, copper pots or pans, woven baskets, bowls, pottery jugs, ferns, old solid-colored sheets, blankets or throw rugs.



Vacation Bible School: Go back in time!

Bring the whole flock to **Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!** You'll travel back into Bible times – without setting foot outside our community. Experience this fun, hands-on Bible-times village in FELC's Fellowship Hall. Each day, your family can become part of history as they see, hear, touch and taste what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown! You'll explore marketplace shops, visit with Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and enjoy tasty meals as you discover more about Jesus' childhood. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

So mark these dates on your calendar: **July 17 – 21**

The adventure begins with a potluck lunch on Sunday, July 17 at noon, we'll wrap up at 2:30 that day. We'll continue Monday through Thursday evenings, starting at 6:00 pm with a child (and parent) friendly dinner, and then conclude at 8:30pm. Be on the lookout for registration materials, coming soon!



Leisure Group Trips

The Leisure Group has the following trips planned for 2011:

April 13 (Wed.) Guided tour of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Monastery in Washington DC

May 21(Sat.) Stratford Hall Plantation, the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and the Westmoreland Berry Farm

Sept. 14 & 15 Baltimore & Annapolis

Oct. 13(Thurs.) Pamplin Historical Park, Blandford Church, and a riding tour of Petersburg

Nov. 30(Wed.) "White Christmas" at Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg

We put a lot of thought and effort into planning these trips and really want more First English members to join us. More detailed information is available on the Leisure Group bulletin board. If you have any questions or want to make a reservation call Grace Gulick at 338-8783.

~ Grace Gulick, Libby Riggle & Jim Johnson,
Leisure Group Committee





Let's Celebrate Mardi Gras!

Join us for food, games and entertainment!

Saturday, March 12 6:00pm

Drinks and dessert provided

Bring your favorite pot luck entree or side dish



First English is a co-sponsor along with 16 other Richmond Faith Communities of America's largest Faith-Inspired Theatre Event! Have you had an opportunity to participate? Local theatres in Richmond have produced plays which raise questions of faith and lend themselves to thought and discussion.

Although some of the productions have completed their run, a number continue. Among the plays that are running in late February and early March are:

- ***Once on This Island*** at Swift Creek Mill Theatre through March 5 (www.swiftcreekmill.com)
- ***Kindertransport*** at the Jewish Family Theatre through March 6 (www.weinsteinjcc.org)
- ***The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*** (**NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN**) through March 19
Henley Street Theatre in collaboration with Richmond Triangle Players
(www.HenleyStreetTheatre.org)
- ***Jitney*** at the Sycamore Rouge in collaboration with African American Repertory Theatre through March 12 (www.sycamorerouge.org)
- ***THE BFG (Big Friendly Giant)***, Theatre IV through March 6 (www.TheatreIVRichmond.org)

For ticket information contact the theatres or visit www.TheActsofFaith.org

2011 Building Project Update



As of February 23, 2011

Plans are moving forward and our contractor has filed the necessary building permit application with the City to begin Phase I, which includes work in the Narthex and in the Sanctuary. They have met with the building inspector to determine what items will be needed to meet current code requirements with respect to illuminated exit signs and emergency lighting. The work on Phase I does not include any structural changes, so it is expected this permit will be received soon.

Phase II is the work in the current Chapel area. This phase is more complicated, but structural engineering studies are complete and the contractor plans to file for this building permit soon. The work from Phase I and II should overlap. We do not need to wait to finish Phase I in order for Phase II to begin!

Along with cosmetic improvements in the Narthex and Sanctuary, other improvements in this area will include upgrades to our electrical wiring, a smoke (fire) detection system and some emergency lighting to help people safely exit the building in case of a power failure when the building is being used after dark.

In addition to the construction work, the committee is looking into options of how to re-use some of the elements from the current Chapel in other areas of our buildings.

Please look for another update next month!



Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the April issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Tuesday, March 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff



Wondering how you can have a special day or person remembered and bring natural beauty into the church? You can dedicate the altar flowers. The cost is \$27.00. You can also have a basket of flowers displayed below the lectern if the altar flowers are already dedicated. Your dedication will be in that Sunday's bulletin. The flowers are yours to pick up or have taken to a church member that has not been able to attend services, in a care facility or hospital.

Send me an e-mail: ddoylehubbs@yahoo.com, in the subject line just type in "altar flowers". You request a date and write the dedication. I will then confirm the date on the schedule by return e-mail. Don't do e-mail? You can also call me at 266-7342 and leave a message. I will return your call to confirm the specifics and the date. I look forward to hearing from you.

~ Deborah Hubbs



Thanks to everyone who helped make the Silent Auction on February 12th a big success. We appreciate all the wonderful donations and the many volunteer hours setting up and running the event. Our special thanks go to Panera Bread, AMF, Keurig, the Great Big Greenhouse, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the Visual Arts Center of Richmond for their donations. The auction raised \$2100 which will be used to fund activities for the 2011 Centennial Anniversary Celebration this spring.

~ Carol McCue



Time to
Spring Ahead

**Daylight Savings Time
Sunday March 13, 2011**

Come Away to the mountains...

Caroline Furnace

Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

Fort Valley, VA (near Luray Caverns)

Spring Work Weekend

April 8-10, 2011

Roll up your sleeves and join us as we do some spring cleaning, trail clearing, maintenance and other projects around camp. You provide the labor and we'll provide the food and bed

Lutherkotel: Lutheran Migration: The Revolutionary Era

April 25-29, 2011 (cost \$425 per person or \$650 per couple)

Five days, in our comfortable Signal Retreat Center, of learning about the path our Lutheran Church into this area during a time when the thirteen colonies were beginning to join forces to break free from the British empire. Visit congregations that were started during this time, learn about the impact made by handfuls of individuals. This retreat will include worship, trips to Madison, Woodstock, Timberville and New Market. Retreat leaders include, Rev. Bill Hall, Rev. George Handley, Rev. and Mrs. Ginny Berry and Rev. Wayne Shelor.

2011 Summer Camp

begins **Sunday, June 19, 2011** (Father's Day) and continues for 8 individual weeks
cost per week ranges from \$385-495 depending on the activities

We have camps for ages 6-17. Explorer camps are 3 or 5 nights for our youngest campers. Pioneer camps offer a different focus each camp, like canoeing, fishing, staying in tents, learning about rocks, animals, stars or even dirt! Camps get more Adventurous for the middle and high school ages where we offer mountain biking, horseback riding, caving, rappelling, white water rafting or a trip to the beach! Feeling left out? Check out our Family Camp!

Mark your calendar TODAY and Come Away!

For more information www.CarolineFurnace.org

March Worship Assistants



	March 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord	March 13 – 1st Sunday in Lent	March 20 – 2nd Sunday in Lent	March 27 – 3rd Sunday in Lent
8:15 Lector	Kevin Murphy	Nicole Krause	Pat McAfee	Kevin Murphy
10:30 Lectors	1. Cheryl Shiembob 2. Chris Hamilton	1. Shep Rowland 2. Sheryl Finucane	1. Rob Comet 2. Debbie Lane	1. John Oehler 2. Joedy Smith
Crucifer	Ellen Sughrue	John Sughrue	Haley Hoke	Haley Hoke
Acolytes	Sam Griffin Lydia English	Sydney Stricker Kirk Fenerty	Cooper Hoke Sydney Stricker	Cooper Hoke Cassidy Hoke
Altar Guild	Polly Brickman Libby Riggle	Polly Brickman Jim Johnson	Jenna Hoke Stuart Myer	Jackie Rowland Libby Riggle
Greeter	Roger Riggle	Deborah Hubbs	Jim Byerly	Jim Johnson
Communion Assistants	Jim Byerly Mary Elizabeth Ellis Charlie Schumann	Mary Elizabeth Ellis Joyce Smith Ed Wiles	Jim Johnson Charlie Schumann Ed Wiles	Deborah Hubbs Charlie Schumann Joyce Smith
Head Counter				
Counters	Betty Davidson Jackie Rowland	Kurt Stricker Suzanne Stricker	Kurt Stricker Suzanne Stricker	Jenna Hoke Bill Noller
Ushers	Rob Comet Debbie Lane John Sughrue Jeff Tehovinik	Bill Davidson Reni Gower Jeff Nelson Joedy Smith	Sheryl Finucane Reni Gower Jeff Nelson Roger Riggle	Bill Davidson Stuart Myer Roger Riggle Jeff Tehovinik
Hospitality	Peggy Davis	The Noller Family	The Myer Family	The Vida Family
Readings	Exod 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matt 17:1-9	Gen 2:15-17;3:1-7 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11	Gen 12:1-4a Rom 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17	Exod 17:1-7 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42



FELC People News



Christopher Augustus Bolton Jr. died on February 10, 2011 at the age of 78 years. His funeral was held in church on February 14, 2011 at 11 am. Burial was at Westhampton Memorial Park. Next of kin is his wife, Anne Poulsen Bolton.

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

Celebrating a March



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

Anniversary Wishes



Congratulations to all celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in March!



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church – March 2011



<p>Wednesday March 2 – Wednesdays Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Education Committee Meeting 6:45 pm: Book of Faith 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday March 4 8:15 pm: AA</p>
<p>Saturday March 5 7th Day VA Synod Youth Event</p>
<p>Sun. March 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord 7th Day VA Synod Youth Event 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 – Peggy Davis</p>
<p>Wednesday March 9 – Ash Wednesday Wednesdays Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 7:00 pm: Service of Holy Communion 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday March 11 6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA Evening Group 8:15 pm: AA</p>
<p>Saturday March 12 6:00 pm: Mardi Gras Pot Luck & Talent Show</p>
<p>Sunday March 13 – 1st Sunday in Lent <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 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 Noller Family 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee Meeting 12:00 pm: VBS Planning Meeting</p>

<p>Tuesday March 15 7:00 pm: Congregational Council Meeting</p>
<p>Wed. March 16 – Wednesdays 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>Friday March 18 8:15 pm: AA</p>
<p>Sunday March 20 – 2nd 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 Myer Family</p>
<p>Wed. March 23 – Wednesdays 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>Friday March 25 8:15 pm: AA</p>
<p>Sunday March 27 – 3rd 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 Vida Family</p>
<p>Wed. March 30 – Wednesdays Together 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm: Lenten Meditation</p>

Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.



WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



"And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____ ."

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV