

Living God Newsletter

Go Forth with the Gospel into Our Community and the World,
loving God, growing in Christ, welcoming all!



Sunday Worship 9:30

Office Hours
Tuesday thru Thursday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Living.godlutheranchurch@gmail.com

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The Pastor's Message



(The following is an article that was recently published in the *Living Lutheran*, our ELCA churchwide magazine. It is written by our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.)

I have been thinking a lot about the parable of the good Samaritan lately (Luke 10:25-37). Parts of it are so familiar—the unfortunate victim, the robbers, the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan—that I miss points of deeper meaning. We all know the compassion and generosity of the Samaritan has become the standard by which we measure our response to suffering. Hospitals are named Good Samaritan. All 50 states have a Good Samaritan law on the books. I always imagined (or hoped) that I would act like the good Samaritan were I ever in a similar situation.

There are two other characters connected to this story that I don't always think about: the lawyer and Jesus. Theirs was not a casual conversation. The lawyer was looking to test Jesus. "Teacher, he said, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus answers with a question: "What is written in the law?"

Being a good lawyer the man answered from Deuteronomy and Leviticus: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Case closed. Conversation over.

But the lawyer couldn't let it go: "Wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"

The Pastor's Message continued

We know the man wanted to test Jesus and justify himself so his question was not an earnest inquiry about the Torah. Are some people my neighbor and some people not? How far does hospitality have to extend? Can there be limits to compassion? What is reasonable: Family? People on my block? My congregation? Fellow citizens? And, conversely, whom can I exclude? People across town or around the world? Who is my neighbor?

It's in answer to this question that Jesus tells the parable—a parable designed to be as provocative as possible.

We call the Samaritan “good” but that word is not found in Scripture. No Jew would call a Samaritan “good” nor would any Samaritan call a Jew “good.” Samaritans and Jews regarded each other as ceremonially unclean, socially outcast and heretical. They would not have come up automatically in the neighbor category.

It's not clear that the beaten Jewish man would have been entirely thrilled that he had been helped and touched by the Samaritan. (Think of the *All in the Family* episode where Archie Bunker realizes he has received a blood transfusion from an African-American man.)

Now it's Jesus' turn to ask a question: “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

This becomes the question for us and for these times. When we ask, “Who is my neighbor?” we sort people into categories. Is the refugee my neighbor? Is the Muslim my neighbor? Is the Jew my neighbor? Is the Latina my neighbor? And on and on. This makes for increasingly smaller neighborhoods. And this question can be driven by fear and suspicion. Left to ourselves we turn in and away.

Thank God that God has not left us to ourselves. Our new life in Christ leads us to ask and answer a different question. Not, “Who is my neighbor?” but “How are we neighbor?”

The world is a dangerous place—just check any news source or social media. There are people who mean to do harm to our country. Fear and the threat of danger divide us and constrict us. But we live in the hope of the resurrection and in the certainty of the redemption of the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We no longer ask, “Who is my neighbor?” The question is now, “How are we neighbor?”

The lawyer answered Jesus' question about who was neighbor to the man beaten by robbers with: “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, and to us, “Go and do likewise.”

*Submitted by Pastor John Carlson
Supply Pastor*

A Message from Council President



**Members
2016-2017**

President
Jay Arndt
Vice President
Bob Broody
Secretary
Julie Funk
Treasurer
Ray Emplit
Contribution Recorder
Linda Hume

We at Living God, continue to be a congregation . . . alive and well.

As we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter, I would like to focus on stewardship. The mention of stewardship tends to make some folks uncomfortable. However, areas that aren't focused enough are the time/talent component.

We all have varying amounts of treasure but certainly we can volunteer and help the congregation operate smoothly. Think about joining, for example, worship committee with opportunities like ushering, Sunday service reader or communion assistant. Another example would be Support responsible for Building/Grounds and Walking Trail Maintenance.

So, remember to share not only your treasure but also your time and talent.

*Submitted by Jay Arndt,
Council President*

*** For complete Council Meeting notes see Council Meeting Minutes posted on bulletin board.*

Worship & Christian Education News



Upcoming Seasons of the Church Year:

Lent
3/01/17 thru 4/12/17

The Three Days
4/13/17 thru 4/15/17

Easter Sunday
4/16/17

Easter Season
4/13/17 thru 4/15/17

Time After Pentecost
6/11/17 thru 11/26/17



Men's Bible Study meets
Every Tuesday (except 3rd
Tuesday of each month)
At 7:00 PM.



Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays, as assigned.
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Worship

Choir rehearsals are held every Sunday morning at 8:15 a.m. There are no choir tryouts. If you love to sing, please come and join us.

We are still in need of prayer shawls and baby blankets. Thank you to those who continue to knit for us!

Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Sue or Naomi if you are willing to usher, acolyte, read, assist with communion, read the prayers, or become an intercessor on a rotating basis.

2017 Easter Holiday Service times:

Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m.	April 9
Maundy Thursday	7:30 p.m.	April 13
Good Friday	7:30 p.m.	April 14
Easter Sunday Sunrise	6:30 a.m.	April 16
Easter Sunday	9:30 a.m.	April 16

A Holy Humor service will be held during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship service on April 23.

The Call Committee continues to work with the Synod on finding qualified candidates to interview for pastor.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS Class was well attended on Saturday, March 4th. A summary of the top three gifts of those who attended are as follows:

MERCY

Have an exceptional ability to perform acts of kindness and compassion to others.

Show mercy even to those undeserving of it.

Deeds of unmerited love are modeled after God's redemptive sacrifice of Jesus, a gift of loving mercy we did not deserve.

SERVANTHOOD

Selfless, sacrificial and loving

Minister without regard for recognition or public affirmation

Perform ordinary deeds with extraordinary humility

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10)

NURTURING LEADERSHIP

Love and care for others with protective authority

Lead by sheltering, guiding, modeling, and other parenting-type behavior.

Dedicated to guiding individuals and watching over them as they grow.

Guide people where God would have them go and provide protection along the way.

What is your gift? How will you use it?

Submitted by:

Sue Fessenbecker

Christian Education

Sunday School will celebrate Easter with an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 16, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. For those who have taken eggs home to fill, please return them by Sunday, April 9th. Please fill with *wrapped* items only ~ the egg hunt will be outside if weather permits, and unwrapped items do tend to attract ants looking for a picnic.

Submitted by:

Janet Krackov

Support Team News

Building 'n Grounds

Buildings and Grounds continues to meet every third Tuesday of the month.

Building & Grounds meets every
third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

April 18th,
May 16th &
June 20th



Stewardship

Where there's a last chance to support your church, please use your will to leave a legacy to build the endowment fund.

Simply make a gift by using the following:

I, (your name), give to Living God Lutheran Church, a Pennsylvania non-profit whose address is 3200 Horseshoe Pike, Honey Brook, PA 19344, Tax ID # (see Naomi to get this number), the sum of \$_____ or (____% of the residual of my estate) for the endowment fund.

Sign/Date/Witness

And attach to your will plus any copies you may have.

Over time, if all of us do even a small amount, it will add up to help our church's future.

Submitted by:
Gary Howell



Faith & Fellowship



*For where two or three
are gathered together
in my name, there am I
in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20

Fellowship Happenings

Fellowship continues to hold its monthly birthday pot luck with great attendance. This month's pot luck will be held in conjunction with "Be the Church" day.

This year's spring fling will be a "Spring Fling Community Yard Sale" to be held in either May or June. Exact date and time will be announced once determined.

If you are interested in being a part of our fellowship activities, please see Liz Risbon.

*Submitted by:
Liz Risbon*

Events at a Glance

April Birthday Potluck
4/9 right after Sunday worship

Be the Church Day
4/9 starting right after worship.

May/June Birthday Potluck
Dates to be determined.

Outreach Doings

Outreach committee continues to work with other church committees and groups on the following activities and invite you to participate:

- Work with Fellowship on various fellowship activities for church and community members. (see the fellowship report for their information)
- Line dancing sessions at the church on Sunday evenings from 6pm to 8pm continue to be well attended by the community. Classes resumed January 15th and will end on April 2nd, at which time we will take a break until after Easter. New start dates will be announced once determined. We will again ask participants to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to our local food banks.
- Continue to collect food on Sundays for local food banks. Any non-perishable items you wish to donate are welcome. Please feel free to place them in the basket in the narthex area.
- Plan to continue working with Heart in Hands with their efforts to meet the needs of the community members they serve. We will notify you of any pending events as they arise. Please look at the bulletins and the emails sent out by our church office.
- We will explore and evaluate possible activities at local venues – things such as “night at the ballgame”, “bowling nights”, “movie nights”, etc. Please feel free to offer other suggestions for outreach to not only members of the congregation but to members of our communities.

I’ve said this before but I will mention it again here. There are most likely other outreach efforts I have not mentioned but they are also very important and could use your participation and support. Thank you so much for your help in the past with the church’s outreach efforts. We hope God blesses you and your loved ones richly and allows you to share those blessings through our outreach efforts. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any suggestions you may have for outreach efforts. Let’s truly make our church a “living God” church.

*Submitted by
Beth DeFeo*



Beth DeFeo

484-680-6968

Just2sailnalong@aol.com

Line Dancing/Lessons

Line dancing will take a break until after Easter. New dates will be announced when determined.

M&M's Stitchin' Time News

The M&Ms continue to meet each Monday at 1:30 pm. If you would like to join us, come on out. We have a job for everyone.

*Submitted by
Deanna Arndt*



Health & Wellness Ministry

Medication Safety Tips

Medicines cure infectious diseases, prevent problems from chronic diseases, and relieve pain for many people every day. But medicines can also cause harm. When this happens it is called an *adverse drug event*. There are ways we can reduce this. Important things to do include:

- Keep a list of your medicines and take it to every doctor or hospital visit
- Follow the directions given to you for how to take it correctly
- Ask questions of your pharmacist or doctor
- Keep up with any blood testing recommended by your doctor

Drugs Requiring Regular Blood Tests: Adverse drug events can land you in an emergency department visits and even into the hospital. The more medicines you take, the greater the risk for having an adverse event. This is especially true if you are 65 years or older. Some of the medicines that result in problems are those that need blood testing to help make sure the dose is just right for you. Common drugs that can require monitoring are:

- Blood thinners
- Diabetes medicines
- Seizure medicines
- Heart medicine

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any medicines that need blood testing and pay particular attention to taking these drugs properly and getting regular blood testing and follow-up.

Pain Relievers: Medicines to relieve pain improve the quality of life for many people. However, people have also died from unintentional overdoses of opioid analgesics (pain medicines such as methadone, oxycodone and hydrocodone) - more people even than from cocaine or heroin!

If you take pain relievers, only take them as directed. If you are taking opioid pain relievers, be sure to tell your doctor about all other medicines you are taking because some medicines, when taken with pain relievers, can cause an overdose.



Antibiotics: Some medication we think we need, we may not. Among these are antibiotics. They can kill bacteria, but not viruses. Most colds, coughs, flu, sore throats, and runny noses are caused by viruses. Taking antibiotics for viral infections will not cure viral infections, keep others from catching the illness, or help you feel better. Although antibiotics are good drugs for certain types of infections, they are also the type of medicines that cause the most emergency visits for adverse drug events. Nearly 100,000 adults are treated in emergency departments each year because of adverse events from antibiotics.

Do not ask for antibiotics when a doctor says they are not needed. They will not help treat viral infections. If you are prescribed an antibiotic, make sure to take all the medicine as prescribed, even if you feel better. Do not save antibiotics "for later."

Safe Prescription Drug Disposal:

To safely dispose of prescription drugs you can:

1. Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers. Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, put them in impermeable, nondescript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags with a small amount of water. Throw these containers in the trash. NEVER flush prescription drugs down the toilet!
2. Go to a CVS, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Kroger and Winn-Dixie where they sell postage-paid envelopes (\$3.99) that allow customers to mail unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to Sharp Compliance's Texas facility for disposal. Controlled substances are excluded from the program.
3. Take the prescriptions to a medication drop-off site. The following list are those closest to our area:
 - Chester County Justice Center Sheriff's Dept., 201 W. Market St., Suite 1201, West Chester
 - East Brandywine Twp. Police Dept., 1212 Horseshoe Pike, East Brandywine
 - Parkesburg Borough Police Dept., 315 W. First Ave., Bldg. 2, Parkesburg

For More Information on medication and sharps disposal, and more drop off locations, visit:
<http://www.chesco.org/1831/Medication-Disposal>

MY FUN PAGE

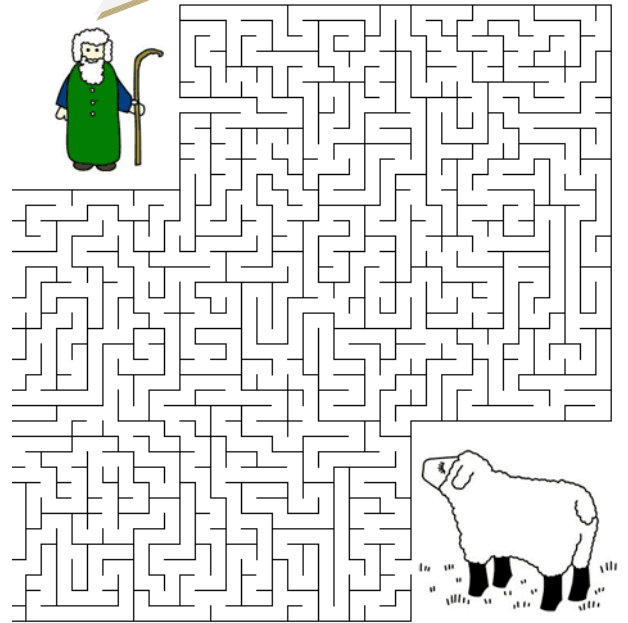
Welcome
Spring

Easter Word Search Puzzle

Circle the words that you find.



Help me get to
my lost lamb.



- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Alive | God |
| Angels | Holy Ghost |
| Cross | Jesus |
| Dead | Joanna |
| Disciples | John |
| Easter | Mary |
| Father | Peter |
| Gardener | Rabboni |

- Resurrection
Sepulchre
Tomb

