



Living God Newsletter

Sunday Worship
9:30 AM

3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, PA 19344
Phone: 610-273-9383
www.livinggodchurch.org

Volume 23, Number 4

October, November, & December 2012

HAPPY 19TH ANNIVERSARY TO LGLC

LGLC Council Members

President- Mary Wallett
Vice President Jay Arndt
Secretary-Janet Krackov
Luther Gates, Chris Mauchline, Chris Wagner
Bob Williams, Lin Williams, and Lana Wolfe

Church Staff

Pastor Richard Moore
Office Manager Donna Lewis
Music Director Angela Zoltek

Treasurer- Patty DeLong
Contribution Recorder- Linda Hume
Nursery Room Attendant-Sharon Pierce

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

WE WELCOME SHARON PIERCE

LGLC welcomes Sharon Pierce as our new Nursery Room attendant. Before starting with LGLC, Sharon was a nanny for 10 years in the Downingtown area and worked thirteen years in the house keeping department at Hickory House.

SUPPORT TEAM NEWS

Building and Grounds Meetings The Building & Grounds Team will hold their next monthly meetings on **Tuesday, Oct. 16th and Nov. 20 at 7:30pm.** All are welcome to attend the meeting. If you have any questions about the team please contact Barry at 610-273-2371.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Quarterly Pot Luck Lunch – LGLC will host the next quarterly pot luck lunch on **Sunday, Dec. 9** following church service. A sign up sheet will be posted for those who wish to attend.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS CONT.

The WELCA Fall Conference will be hosted at LGLC on Sunday, November 11th at 1:30pm

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America will present a program with the theme **BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.** A lunch, speaker and short business meeting will be included for \$11. The speaker, Cynthia L. Pollard is a fresh, exciting storyteller and inspirational speaker who embraces the sacred texts with all of her being, sharing the Good News in a lively, dramatic and expressive manner. She has a Masters in Theological Studies. Cynthia has lectured, conducted Storytelling Workshops/Retreats and taught Biblical Interpretation for storytelling at various settings across racial, cultural and denominational lines. She serves as a minister at the Resurrection Center in Wilmington, Delaware where she leads "The Storytellers of TRC." Cynthia is also the creator of **UtteranceNow**: a ministry in Biblical storytelling whose mission is to create an environment where individuals can **explore, examine, express** and **experience** the power of the Biblical text through the spoken word. She has served as governance chair and is a past president of the Network of Biblical Storytellers. More details to follow; watch the bulletin board for sign-up sheet and other information.

Women's Retreat The Fellowship Team is gathering information and making plans regarding a one day retreat to be held at LGLC. The fall and winter season is a busy time of year for everyone and the team would like to take a survey to determine what date would best suit our members. The team proposes a morning speaker and another speaker in the afternoon. The choices for booking the event are a week day or a Saturday or Sunday?; please drop Lin Williams a note or call her with your selected date. One speaker would be a writing coach and would speak about journaling and bible journaling. The other would speak about Women's Health issues. There will be a lunch break in between and the day will end at about 4:00pm. Please call Lin W. with comments or suggestions.

Lin Williams, boblin00@comcast.net 610-857-3247



View information and upcoming events at LGLC.

EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

Treats From the Trunk Come join us on Sunday Oct. 28th at 11am for Treats from the Trunk. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and Trick or Treat safely in the parking lot at church. Adults are invited to participate by decorating the trunks of their cars and handing out treats. Come join us for lots of Halloween fun!

Tel Hai Bible Study we hope you will join us at Bible discussion in the Tel Hai Health Center Conference Room. This fall we are discussing the books of I & II Thessalonians and Philemon. All are welcome.

Saint Nick Party We're in process of planning a 2 hour party at church either Saturday the 8th or 15th of December. It would be open for VBS age children and include crafts, Bible time and maybe a visit from Saint Nick. This would give parents a chance to drop off their kids and get some last minute Christmas shopping finished.

Youth Group Information The LGLC youth group (called JAM) meets every other Sunday 11-12:30pm for those in grades 5-12. A special event is usually scheduled once a month. For Confirmation information for your child please contact Pastor Moore, revrichm@gmail.com New friends are always welcome.

Children's Ministry Children ages 3-4th grade are welcome to join us for Sunday school every Sunday at 11am. For more information about the program go to LGLCKIDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

OUTREACH TEAM NEWS

Annual Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, November 3rd from 9-3pm. This is an annual event that has grown over the years and we expect another wonderful assortment of gift items for family, friends, or yourself! Please reserve the date and join us for shopping and lunch.

New Members Luncheon Sun. Oct. 21 at 11am

On Sunday, October 21st, LGLC will welcome several new members to our congregation. Following the service we will gather for a pot luck luncheon and spend some fellowship time getting to know the new members of our church family as they get to know us.

***For the pot luck lunch Living God Church will be providing the main course and those attending can bring side dishes and desserts to go along with, pulled pork and chicken BBQ from Something Grilled. Please note the sign up sheet that has been posted on the bulletin board.*

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Sunday After Service Snacks Anyone who would like to offer snacks/beverages for fellowship after Sunday service, please contact Sue Fessenbecker at Sue.fessenbecker@qvc.com or Janet Krackov (610)-384-2350. Thank you!"

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS CONT.

New Quarterly Envelope Starting in October members of LGLC will see an additional quarterly envelope included in the giving envelopes. The new envelope has a blue boarder and lists 6 different options for giving. This new quarterly envelope will take the place of passing the plate twice during Sunday's offering. If you have any questions please call the church office.

What is a Health and Wellness Ministry?

This Fall, a new ministry directed at our whole health (mind, body and spirit) is being introduced at LGLC. This type of ministry is becoming more and more familiar in churches everywhere as church congregations deal with the vast health and well-being needs of their congregations. This ministry is being initiated by Julie Funk who is a hospital-based registered dietitian, diabetes educator and health promotion specialist. Julie hopes to bring her many years of experience of working with people seeking to prevent or manage a chronic illness to LGLC to add a new dimension of stewardship – that of becoming responsible stewards of our health. This healing ministry addresses the lifestyle roots of chronic illness such as nutrition and weight management, physical activity etc., (body), but also the issues of stress, loneliness, helplessness etc. (mind and spirit) that can erode health. Initially, the congregation will be asked to complete a short survey to help determine areas of interest and types of activities that might be welcomed. What follows will be determined by the expressed areas of interest, but might include such activities as a screening program, monthly education seminars, bulletin announcements etc. Over time, the hope is to develop a health ministry team of people interested in health and wellness to share in this ministry and infuse energy and creativity to its effort.

Attention Veteran's

We are looking to honor you at our Sunday Service on Veteran's Day, November 11th. We are hoping you will share a picture or two of yourself in uniform along with the following information: What branch of service were in? How many years did you serve? Where did you serve? Any additional information you would like to share from your time in service? Please hand your pictures and information to Sue Fessenbecker or Dotti Wilkie by Sunday, October 28th. Your pictures will be returned. Thank you for serving our country to allow us the freedom that we enjoy everyday.



Who should I vote for?

A friend forwarded this story to me about a church's reasoning for collectively agreeing to not vote in a particular election. It seems the members actually came to agree as a whole that it was against God's will to vote. Not that they determined voting or democracy are evil, but that the political process has become so corrupt that it is now an abomination and lacks the potential to produce the fruit of God's will. So, as a congregation they all agreed to not vote.

This ought to sound extreme, because it is. But I think most of us can relate to the concerns of these church members, even if we cannot agree with their resolution. After all, isn't politics known more for its corruption, divisiveness and deceit than anything else? As Christians, are we not called to reject all that defies the will of God? My father is a perfect example. He hasn't voted in decades. When I challenge him on this his answer is always the same, "Why vote? We can't trust any of them to do what they promise." Personally, I think answers like this are a cop out. But, as a Christian we are called to defend our actions with a bit more than just knee jerk reactions, even when it seems we are overwhelmingly correct. These days, I think Christians need to grapple with the question about why it *is* God's will that we vote.

Principally, it's because we are not just citizens of the United States. We are *Christian* citizens. In this pluralistic society shouldn't we stand out, or up, for things that bind us in our ever-increasingly unique faith?

We are living in a time like no other in America's history when it comes to matters of faith and religion. According to a survey conducted this year by the PEW Research Group, the number of those who claim no religious affiliation has climbed to 16% of Americans. That's the highest it has ever been, and it is trending upward. This number has doubled just since the time when the people surveyed today were children. Meaning, the primary reason for the rise in this number is due to people being raised by people claiming to be Christian, but now their children are not following in their parent's faith. Among Americans between the ages 18-29, the number of those who claim no religious affiliation is 25%. That is a staggering statistic, especially when considering the Christian roots of our particular democracy in this country. Meanwhile, the number of those who claim Christianity as their religion continues to decline, with mainline Protestants, like us, slipping to 18%, an all time low. Clearly the "mainline" in American Christianity has become more of the "sideline" today.

This is precisely why it is important for us to not merely vote as citizens, but to vote as *Christian* citizens. Our particular voice needs to become relevant again. And there is no other time when it is easier for our voice to be made relevant than when we are given the opportunity to vote for a president.

What does it mean to vote as a *Christian* citizen?

It means we take seriously a few things that an increasing number of others do not. First, that God is sovereign to our politics. No matter what others may say, God is *still* in charge. We are still able to claim to be one nation, but only so long as we are able to claim in the same breath the source of that unity. We are one nation *under God*. All authority belongs to God. But, God has granted us authority here in this nation to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given. This means we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our nation's laws, resources and government. What is our task? To see that it is run in a way that gives honor to God, and to raise up leaders from among us who will judge and decide what is right for our nation according to God's will. We need to raise up people who make Godly choices in politics, and pray for, encourage and applaud those who do so.

Second, it means we take seriously that Christian values contribute positively to society as a whole. Jesus gave us the mandate to love others as he has loved us. The value of service to others, generosity, and personal sacrifice are values that we should look for in a candidate, and in that candidate's decision making practices. Jesus' love is also one that places the value of righteousness over that of success, justice over that of fairness. Doing what is right is not necessarily always going to be what is considered successful. Conversely the candidate that chooses to be successful often does so at the expense of doing what is right. Making choices that conserve energy and reduce dependence on foreign nations is fundamentally right, but not likely to be popular due to the dramatic changes it would require. Likewise making decisions that are just may not always be considered fair. Making choices that aim at justice in matters of health care, education, and immigration are not going to be decisions that all people believe are fair. As Christians we need to look for a candidate who values justice over that of fairness.

And my final point here is really the simplest. We need to take seriously what St. Paul says in Romans chapter 13, where he exhorts the church to obey government leaders because all authority comes from God. Here's the catch for us here in America. We are the leaders! We publicly demonstrate our faith in God by exercising our rights and privileges in an honorable way as citizens. That means, among many other things, voting.

So, then, who does the *Christian* citizen vote for? We vote for the one who best exemplifies our faith and values. In this election this may seem a little harder to get at. In a recent Gallup poll, only 34% of Americans correctly answered that President Obama is a Christian, and 11% incorrectly answered that he was a Muslim. Why are we so confused about our President's religion? It could be because his actions have adequately left Americans guessing. In 2008 we heard from his, now infamous, UCC pastor, who offended many people with his rants about race. Obama, possibly trying to distance himself, has attended many different religious institutions for worship since entering the White House. Now, four years later, his personal religious affiliation seems generic at best. On the other hand, Mitt Romney, who once held the high ranking office of Bishop, has brought Mormonism to the foreground more than ever before.

So, who do we vote for when one's Christianity is generic, and the other is a Mormon?

cont.....

Living God Lutheran Church

3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, Pennsylvania 19344

Office Hours

Tues., Wed., Thu.,
9AM to 4PM

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Coatesville, PA
Permit #444

Or current resident

Well, I don't propose that we base our voting decisions solely on religious affiliation. That would be ludicrous. I am proposing, however, that we at least lift up and consider a few things to do with the faith we share prior to making our decision. Choosing a president is a purely secular event, even for Christians, but that does not mean it should be uninformed by our personal faith. In short, Christian voters act appropriately when they evaluate candidates for public office based on anything that is relevant to how Christian values are used to inform the candidate's ability to perform the duties of the office. This means we choose a candidate based upon our best guess of how the candidate's values and abilities line up with our Christian values, regardless of whether or not the candidate is actually faithful or religious at all.

Good citizenship sets an example for generations to come. But, responsible Christian citizenship passes down blessings upon blessings to those who follow us. It seems frighteningly clear that secularism and humanism are going to continue to threaten the values that we Christians hold dear. Yet, when given the opportunity to vote, how many of us do so with our Christian values at the foreground of our decision making process? Too many of us make the choice of a candidate based solely upon what we hear our favorite news channel supporting. We and our values are like sheep being led to the slaughter when we do this. I believe that as we trust in God with prayer and obedience in each of our elections, we begin to pave the way for generations of blessing.

May God bless the USA with the fruits of our election this November.

Together in ministry,

The Rev. Richard Moore, pastor

Rich Moore

610-273-9383 (o)

610-401-5602 (m)

Pastor's Blog: www.honeybrooklutheran.blogspot.com

Living God Lutheran Church

3200 Horseshoe Pike,
Sat., October 6th 11-4pm

Join us for Oktoberfest

All are Welcome

- 10-1pm Cornhole Tourn. • Fair Entries
11-4pm Silent Auction • Raffles • Food
Bake Sale • Rootbeer Wagon
Kids Crafts • Punkin Chunkin
12-3pm Bingo • Brew Contest

Festival Foods Including

- Pork & Sauerkraut • Mash Potatoes •
Tater Tots • Applesauce • Pickled Eggs
• Pickles
• Hot Dogs • Grilled "Brats" Sandwich
• Kielbasa Sandwich • Bavarian Pretzels

For more information, visit our website

www.livinggodchurch.org

Net proceeds will be donated to Lutheran
Disaster Response, Phila., PA

