



Living God Newsletter

Sunday
Worship
9:30 AM

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

October, November, December 2013

†Go forth with the gospel! †Loving God †Growing with Christ



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY LGLC

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

20th Anniversary Day & Vesper Service: Please plan to attend our outdoor 20th Anniversary on Saturday, October 19th, 1pm through 5pm, with an outdoor Vesper Service starting at 5:30pm around a campfire. (Weather permitting.) A dinner is also being planned along with a scavenger hunt on our trail, pumpkin chunkin, kids crafts and other fun! A sign up sheet has been posted in the vestibule for anyone that wishes to donate items to the event.

Save the Date!!

Mark your calendar's and save the date for the LGLC Halloween Trunk or Treat following church. More information to come....



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

2013 Flower, Bulletin, & Eternal Candle Chart Please submit all envelopes (*flower, bulletins, and eternal candle*) to the office **no later than 2 weeks prior to the selected date.** Cost of vases \$20 each, bulletins \$10, and eternal candle \$5.

Starting Wed. Sept 25 New Members Class

If you are interested in become a member of LGLC please join Pastor Moore for one of the 3 classes starting Wed. 9/25, 10/2, and 10/9. Class is held from 6-7:30pm in the Sunday school room. Please contact Pastor Moore at revrichm@gmail.com to sign up.

New Pavilion Completed- LGLC would like to thank everyone who participated in the planning, funding, construction, and landscaping of the pavilion. The structure is a wonderful addition to LGLC.

Completing Prayer Card for Bulletin List To add a name, or prayer concern to the weekly bulletin insert **please complete a prayer card (located in the red attendance booklet) and place it in the offering plate for the church office.** To add a name(s) to the prayer chain or to speak with Pastor Moore about a concern you can reach him at 610-401-5602 or revrichm@gmail.com

OUTREACH TEAM NEWS

M&M's News

On Sunday Sept.15th 20 quilts were dedicated to be sent to LWR. The following day we boxed and labeled each quilt with an identifying barcode. The code will enable us to know when and where each of our quilts were sent. We meet each Monday at 1:30PM to continue making quilts. We have a job for all skill levels please join us. We appreciate donations of gently used sheets for backing or fabric for squares. Cash donations are also appreciated to provide for materials and shipping. These quilts mean so much to those who receive them. We are blessed to be able to help those in need. Our prayers are with them.

Deanna Arndt, Mary & Martha's Leader
Lin Williams, Outreach Council Rep.

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Veterans Day LGLC will be honoring all of our veterans during Sunday service on November 10th. If you would like your name included in the dedication please inform Sue Fessenbecker at Sue.Fessenbecker@qvc.com. Thank you for serving our country to allow us the freedom that we enjoy everyday.



LGLC Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 22nd at 9:30am



Christmas Eve Services Tues. Dec., 24th

4pm Christmas Eve Children's Program
8pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service

Choir News Choir practice for 2013/2014 has begun! Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm except for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and after Christmas. Please contact Angela 484-678-6485 if you would like to participate in the LGLC choir.

REMINDER—Newsletter articles for the Jan., Feb., & Mar. newsletter are due **by December 12th.** Please email your article to living_god@verizon.net

EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

Youth Group Information The LGLC youth group (called JAM) meets every other starting Sunday Sept., 22 through June 2014 from 11-12:30pm for those in grades 5-12. A special event is usually scheduled once a month. New friends are always welcome. For more information about the program go to LGLCYOUTH.BLOGSPOT.COM

Children's Ministry Children ages 3-4th grade are welcome to join us for Sunday school every Sunday starting Sept. 22, through June 2014 at 11am. For more information about the program go to LGLCKIDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Wednesday Adult Bible Study Oct. 16, 6-7:30pm All are welcome to participate in a 6-week study of the book "Proof of Heaven". The program will begin on 10/16 and finish on 11/20. Sign up by emailing Pastor Moore at revrichm@gmail.com

New Contemplative Classes Beginning The Contemplative Prayer program will be providing a new 8 week program, beginning at 7pm on Tue. Sept 10th and end on Tue. Oct. 29th. Classes will be open to newcomers as well as those who completed the last program. For more information please contact Tony Ring at TRing@felco.com

SUPPORT TEAM NEWS

Building & Grounds Meetings The B&G Team will hold their next monthly meetings on **Tues, Oct. 15th, & Nov. 19th**. All are welcome. If you have any questions about the team please contact Barry at 610-273-2371.

Thank you from the Support and Trail Team—Thank you to everyone who participated in "Be the Church" Sunday. The church grounds and building look wonderful!! The pot-luck lunch and large variety of desserts was a great way to end our successful day.

LGLC Council Members

Mary Walleth-President
Jay Arndt-Vice President
Julie Funk-Secretary
Sue Fessenbecker, Chris Mauchline,
Joyce Ring, 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 Attendants-Sharon Pierce &
Liza Tosunian

STEWARDSHIP TEAM NEWS

Thank you to Thrivent Financial: Thrivent Financial added \$1000 to our special collection to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief for storm victims in the mid west. New total \$3275.

Update on the 2013 Budget

Dear Members and Friends of LGLC,

Today I would like to update the congregation regarding the 2013 budget. No one wants to hear about finances but this is critical. Through the end of June the "Bridge the Gap" campaign was successful however the budget deficit for the month of July alone mushroomed to \$5,074 while the total deficit for the year grew to \$5,926. To pay our bills including staff, office administration, property, and program expenses the church's weekly income must be \$3,360.

Failure to eliminate the deficit will trigger drastic cuts in the 2014 budget. This could include replacing Pastor Moore with a part-time pastor. A part-time pastor would only be available for Sunday services, weddings and funerals. Christian education, pastoral counseling and community outreach via the Pastor's Discretionary fund are some examples of activities that would not be covered by a part-time pastor.

We have four months to turn things around---this challenge can be met with extra effort. If LGLC is important to you and your family please join Deanna and me and let's work together to eliminate the deficit and properly fund our church.

The pavilion is fully funded by donations and no church funds have been allocated for its construction.

Sincerely,

Jay Arndt, Council Vice President

FELLOWSHIP TEAM NEWS

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Christmas Bazaar November 9th 9-2pm Join us for the annual Christmas Bazaar at LGLC. We will have many vendors selling unique Christmas items and we'll announce the winner of the "Snowman Choir" framed cross stitch picture. Please look over the sign up sheets in the vestibule if you would like to help the Fellowship Team with this event.

Do You Like the Theatre? LGLC has tickets for the People's Light & Theatre located in Malvern, PA. Please visit the website at www.peopleslight.org to view the current 2013 season which highlights the productions for this year. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or are interested in reserving tickets.



Has anyone ever said to you, “Meet me in the narthex?” Did you know what they meant? Did you do a double-take to be sure you weren’t invited to join them in Narnia?

There are a lot of strange words in church-speak. Narthex is one of them.

The word narthex is an ancient word from the church’s history. It refers to the entry way of the church. In ancient church architecture the narthex was often a very elaborate and open place that welcomed people into the church, but was separate and distinct from the place of worship. By the way, the worship space also had a special name. It was called the nave. There’s a whole story behind that too, but I’ll leave that for another time. Today, we might think of the narthex simply as the church lobby. But, the early church actually had a function for the narthex that was much more significant than just a place to hang your coat, share a cup of coffee with a friend or pick up a church program.

There once was a time in Christianity when only those who were baptized were permitted to enter the nave. So, if you were unbaptized you would actually worship in the narthex. You might imagine someone watching through a doorway, listening intently to the words of the service and the singing. This may strike our contemporary sensibilities a bit rude, but the virtues of hospitality and inclusiveness were practiced by the simple gesture of opening the nave doors to the unbaptized.

This also meant that it was appropriate for baptismal fonts to be constructed in the narthexes of early churches or cathedrals. As a matter of fact, when there was a baptismal service the congregation would gather in the narthex, instead of the nave, at the beginning of the worship service. The candidate would be baptized and then escorted into the nave for the first time as a celebratory event to begin the worship service.

If you look closely there are remnants of these customs still remaining with us today. For instance, we still begin our worship service with either the confession or Baptism. Both happen to be spiritual practices of Baptism. And, in many churches the baptismal font is at the entrance of the worship space. But, for the most part, the narthex today has really become nothing more than the church lobby.

The architecture of our church is unique because we don’t actually have a narthex. There is a place that we might refer to as the foyer or lobby, that carpeted place immediately inside the entrance where the bulletin boards hang and coffee is shared, but that’s it. There is really no distinct wall separation between the lobby area and the worship area in our church. This is unique, and it can be a blessing as well as a curse.

The curse is that it can make reverence very difficult. A certain amount of reverence is important for worship, because it refers to a kind of posture or honor and awe before the presence of God in worship. In worship God meets us in the Word and the sacrament. This space and time is holy, and reverence is an appropriate response. Without a narthex we often have a difficult time making the spiritual movement from “narthex time” to “nave time”. It can also foster a false sense of appropriateness for us to treat worship time as if it is narthex time. Narthex time is that time and space where it is appropriate for us to talk and socialize with our neighbors in church. When we confuse narthex time with worship time, we do so at the loss of reverence and the loss of meaningful worship.

The blessing of not having a narthex is that it makes our worship space immediately accessible, lively and friendly to all who enter our church. For many people this is understood and even felt as a deep and authentic welcome.

Exodus 3:4-5

“Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

1 Corinthians 14:26-28, 33

When you come together [to worship], each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. When there is no one interpreting the scripture, let the church be silent and speak to God themselves. For God is not a god of disorder, but of peace.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Living God Lutheran Church

3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, Pennsylvania 19344

Office Hours

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

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Or current resident

Spiritually speaking we might say that God is experienced to be more inclusive and accessible in our church. This seems fitting for a church in which the motto is to be a church for people who have no church.

Whatever your opinion about these blessings and curses, it behooves us as a congregation to try to provide narthex space as a place that is distinct and separate from that of worship space. Without an actual physical wall to separate these, we need to remember that there has always been a necessity for worship to be set apart as sacred time and space. When the bell rings signaling the start of worship we might gently

nudge ourselves to put down the coffee, take our seats among the congregation and quietly prepare ourselves for an encounter with God. I heard a fitting quote recently;

Before worship take time to speak to God.
During worship listen for God to speak to you.
After worship speak to your neighbor.

Yours in ministry,



The Rev. Richard Moore, pastor
3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, PA 19344
www.livinggodchurch.org
revrichm@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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December 2013 Quarterly Pot Luck Lunch

LGLC will host a quarterly pot luck lunch on **Sun. Dec. 8th** following church service. A sign up sheet will be posted for those who wish to attend.

Suggestion Box A suggestion box has been placed on the table in front of the office. If you would like to make a suggestion to LGLC please use the paper provided and list your suggestion along with your name and phone number. No suggestion(s) will be considered without the contributors name.

Join Us: WELCA Chester County Fall Conference
Where: St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Cir.,
Phoenixville, PA 19460

When: Sun., October 20th—Registration: 1pm \$10
Registration Fee (More info to come)
Sign up sheet posted on bulletin board.
Sign up soon: Contact Kim Tapscott at

Please refer to the church website
www.livinggodchurch.org to
view our online church calendar.



Find us on
Facebook

View information and upcoming events
at LGLC.