

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**  
Volume XIV, Issue 11

# Open Arms

November 2005



**NOVEMBER 11TH**



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## From Pastor B.

Martin Luther famously nailed ninety-five ideas intended for debate on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg on All Hallows Eve of 1517. On that day when he lifted his hammer, Luther certainly had no intention of causing so much strife. I imagine he would have posted more opinions over the years if his these had sparked calm discussion. Martin rec-

ognized that the reformation of the church must be a continuing process. In keeping with his example, I have composed a modest set of debatable ideas for consideration by good people of God today.

### Nine Point Five Theses

If we are to be the body of Christ in our time, if we are to continue genuine incarnation of the living Word, and if

we are to remain God's pilgrim people, then

1. Our mission will extend the concerns and style of Jesus.
2. Our ministries will express our Lord's outlook and aims.
3. Our methods will draw upon the renewing mind of Christ.
4. Our means of explaining our-  
(continued on page 2)

## Thanksgiving Service

Pastor Braun believes that Thanksgiving functions as a national holiday more fully than as a church festival. Therefore, it surpasses even the Fourth of July

as the most appropriate time in the entire year to celebrate our blessings as a nation. We will especially give thanks for the benefits of liberty and the heritage we enjoy in this abundant

land.

Thanksgiving worship will be held at Living God Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30 P.M.

# From Pastor B. (continued from Page 1)

selves, like those of our Lord, will be evocative, inviting, not coercive, controlling.

5. Our moral posture will cherish compassion above correctness.
6. Our moods as a people will emerge from trust instead of fear.
7. Our motives will be rooted, not in the requirements of the law-giver, but in relationship with the life-giver.
8. Our movement as a community of faith will be away from security, as

our world defines it, and frantic activity toward solidarity with God's little poor ones and peacefulness.

9. Our model of success will be faithfulness to the ways of Jesus.

9.5. This challenges us toward change.

Reformation Sunday at the end of October and All Saints' Sunday at the start of November are two of my favorite moments on the Christian calendar. We must grapple in worship with Lutheran identity as

we mark Luther's bold challenge to the church of his day. Then, we will lift our eyes to the far horizon of hope as we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. The Gospel for All Saints' Sunday encompasses the beatitudes of our Lord. They are so beautiful and so central to his teaching that I believe I will stay with them for two or three Sundays, rather than move on the Gospel texts appointed for those days. I hope that focus upon the beatitudes will illuminate the meaning of these 9.5 theses.

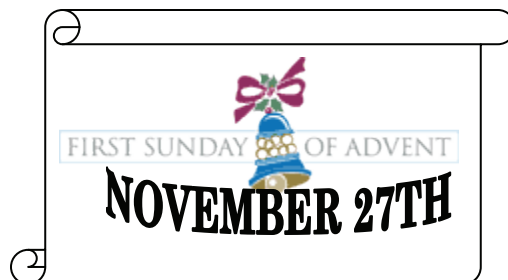


## Second Annual Holiday Bazaar

Do you have your Christmas list written? Have you started your holiday shopping? Why not stop by Living God Lutheran Church on November 12th between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. to see the wonder-

ful holiday crafts created by crafters from around the county? There will be several raffles throughout the day and a silent auction. Holiday soups, hamburgers and hotdogs will be cooking in the kitchen, and, for any-

one with a sweet tooth, we will have a bake table full of cookies, cakes, and pies for sale. So mark your calendar, and start your holiday shopping with us at Living God Lutheran Church.



# Thank You

The Fall Festival Committee would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their generous support:

**Stoltzfus Market—Honey Brook**

**Martin’s Country Store—Morgantown**

**Zook’s Good Foods—Honey Brook**

**Kern’s Hardware—Honey Brook**

**Yoder’s—New Holland**

**Shady Maple—East Earl**

**Good’s Store—East Earl**

**Honey Brook Pharmacy—Honey Brook**

**Marsha Kirschner, D.D.S.—Honey Brook**

**Home Depot**

**Chester County Library—Exton**

**Brandywine Agway—Guthriesville**

**Wal-Mart—Elverson**

**The Fun Factory (Moon**

**Bounce Rental)—Honey Brook**

**Earth Care—Honey Brook**

**Risbon Excavating—Honey Brook**

**Ruth Buzzard—Honey Brook**

**Charolette Shoemaker—Honey Brook**

**Marlene Oatman—Honey Brook**

**Audrey Cleaver—Honey Brook**

## Pastor Richard Moore Called

89 members of Living God Lutheran Church called Pastor Richard Moore to serve as minister after months of quality interim pastors, The Reverend Paul Townsend and The Reverend William Braun.

Pastor Richard Moore comes to us from a not-so-far-away church, Living Word Lutheran Church in Roslyn. However, he traveled a much greater distance to become a minister and eventually our called minister.

Pastor Richard Moore was born and raised in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. His call to ordained ministry took him through a host of experiences from selling

water softeners to being a radio disc jockey before his earning a B.S. in Business in the summer of 1997. He attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia in the fall of that same year.



The most influential of his experiences was the Children’s Home of Wheeling, where he was responsible for providing care and guidance to the youth of a group home. There he worked as a program director, and after six years, he left to attend seminary.

During seminary, Richard Moore served two years at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Lafayette Hill, PA. Upon being ordained on July 21, 2001, Pastor Moore was appointed by Synod to Living Word Lutheran Church in Roslyn, PA as a redevelopment pastor.

A hunter, fisherman, and bicyclist, Pastor Moore is married to his wife Amy who is a business woman for a venture capital firm in Conshohocken. They reside in their new home in Morgantown with their two cats.

Pastor Moore will take the helm on December 1st as Pastor of Living God Lutheran Church.

# News In Short

**MANY THANKS** to those of you who organized events, donated time, talents, food, and gifts, and worked to make this year's FALL FESTIVAL a huge success. Together, we raised over \$6,000.00 through food sales, auctions, yard sales, and raffles.

**A** boy scout seeking his Eagle's Certificate is working with the church on a project to create a path in the woods around our church property. He is currently talking with local officials regarding zoning. More details to come.

**L**iz Risbon will be organizing Small Groups (i.e. women's clubs, men's groups, etc.) Anyone interested in leading or forming a small group or fellowship event, please contact Liz.

**L**anco has finished the job of sealing the stone on the front of our church. A debt of gratitude is expressed here to those who answered the appeal for funding this repair.

**Y**ou can compare the attendance average for the years of 2005 and 2004 from the listing below:

| MONTH     | 2005 | 2004 |
|-----------|------|------|
| January   | 145  | 121  |
| February  | 147  | 107  |
| March     | 198  | 161  |
| April     | 147  | 183  |
| May       | 140  | 155  |
| June      | 131  | 111  |
| July      | 111  | 96   |
| August    | 118  | 98   |
| September | 148  | 128  |

## A REMINDER

# FOR STEWARDSHIP

### Outside the Realm of Things

A bride of a few months listened to two members of her husband's family deciding who were the happiest couple they knew. The decision for first place went to a cousin and his wife. A little surprised at first, she studied the situation.

She found that the happiest couple in the world

had the lowest income of any of the brothers and sisters in the family. She found that they lived in the smallest house; they knew the fewest big-name people; their professional work drew the least national recognition. But she also discovered that they had jobs which were their choice of any in the world; they liked their community; they lived in the part of the

United States they loved most; their home was the center of informal friendly groups; they had more interests on the string than a dozen people could conquer in a lifetime; they instigated many community and church activities.

The young bride came to the decision that this couple was happy not because of the money

they did not have, and not because of the money they did have, but because the interests around which their lives centered were interests that money had no power to make or break.

Their greatest happiness was found outside the realm of things.

(Continued on Page 5)

# Church and State

An interesting fact about one of America's Founding Fathers that you will not read or hear amidst the political discussions regarding the separation of church and state: Thomas Jefferson, while President of the United States of America, was also on the school board of the District of Columbia which required the children learn to read by reading the **Bible**.

# Advent and the Church Year

Advent begins on November 27th this year. Many Christians may not realize that Advent is the beginning of the "church year." The church year starts with our preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ. Advent obviously leads to Christ-

mas Day. After Christmas, churches move on to observe Epiphany (the arrival of the wise men). Epiphany is always observed on January 6th. Next comes the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent continues through Holy

Week when we observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Forty days after Easter, we recall the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9) on Ascension Day. Fifty days after Easter comes the birthday of the church when the Holy Spirit de-

scended upon Christ's followers in Jerusalem, giving them power and unity. It happened on the day of Pentecost, a harvest holiday celebrated by Jews. Pentecost is observed until the start of Advent, when the church year begins again.

## A REMINDER

# FOR STEWARDSHIP

### ENJOY YOUR GIVING

Giving to God a weekly amount from the top of your income makes giving easier and adds the satisfaction of knowing, as you spend the rest of your income, that you have given God the "first fruits" rather than

the "leftovers."

### STEWARDSHIP

The goal for the Stewardship Committee in 2006 is to have 100% pledge returns from the members of Living God Lutheran Church. The return box is located in the back of the church.

Also, in the back of the church is a graphic of the church which delineates the percentage of returns received. Members should return their pledge cards by November 15th in time for the November 19th's Budget Meeting at which the Church Council will set the 2006's

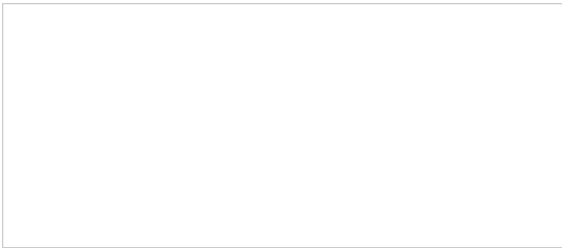
budget based on the pledges. Council needs numbers with which to work so that it can accurately predict spending in accordance to costs without "expecting" more or guessing what else may come in from absentee pledges. Help them out.

**LIVING GOD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Extending Open Arms

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.livinggodchurch.org](http://www.livinggodchurch.org)



When thou  
hast eaten and art full, then  
thou shalt bless the LORD  
thy God for the good land  
which he has given thee.  
Deuteronomy 8:10

NATIONAL BIBLE STUDY  
WEEK RUNS FROM NO-  
VEMBER 20TH TO THE  
27TH.

**NATIONAL  
BIBLE WEEK**

**NOVEMBER 2005**

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday, November 2nd @ 12:30 P.M.  | Prayer Shawl Meeting @ Barb  |
| Thursday, November 3rd @ 7:30 P.M.    | Council Meeting              |
| Sunday, November 6th @ 11:45 A.M.     | Service Committee            |
| Wednesday, November 9th @ 7:00 P.M.   | Honey Brook Women's Club     |
| Thursday, November 10th @ 7:00 P.M.   | Christian Education Meeting  |
| Saturday, November 12th 9:00 A.M. un- | Holiday Bazaar               |
| Saturday, November 19th @ 9:00 A.M.   | Council Budget Meeting       |
| Sunday, November 20th @ 11:45 A.M.    | Small Group and Fellowship   |
| Tuesday, November 22nd @ 7:30 P.M.    | Building and Grounds Meeting |
| Wednesday, November 23rd @ 7:30 P.M.  | Thanksgiving Worship         |