



Living God Church Newsletter



Transfiguration
of the Lord

FEBRUARY 6, 2005

Heroic St. Valentine

We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D.270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted

to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in

jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.



Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th .

Inside this issue:

ELCA NEWS	2
From the Office	2
Presidents' Day	3
Stewardship	3
Fast and Feast	3
February Calendar	4

Special points of interest:

- ♦ February is African-American History Month.
- ♦ Boy Scout Sunday is February 6th.
- ♦ Teachers, teacher aides, bus drivers, or anyone interested in contributing to the education roundtable is invited to do so this month. See calendar.

Lent Is Almost Here

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, comes on February 9, 2005. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual

condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God.

Lent is also a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day on the

Christian calendar.

During Lent, most churches have additional services. It is a good time to study the life of a great Christian from the past and the ways that

Lent Is Almost Here

(Continued from Page 1)

person developed closeness to God.

It's important that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ . . . written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tab-



Ash Wednesday Service will be February 9th at 7:00 PM.

lets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).

Living God Lutheran Church will begin its Lenten Services with Ash Wednesday on February 9th at 7:00 PM. All consecutive Wednesday night Lenten Services will follow the same time schedule, 7:00 PM.



Pancake Supper will be held at the church on Tuesday, Feb. 8th from 5:30 until 7:00.

ELCA in the News

ELCA Sexuality Task Force recommends no policy changes. The task Force for ELCA Studies of Sexuality released a report regarding conclusions on same-gender marriages and rostering of persons in committed relationships. The recommendations of the task force call for no changes in existing church policy, that the church deal with these divisive issues (of same-gender

unions and rostering of persons in such committed relationships) pastorally rather than legislatively. The report expresses concern that the ELCA "concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our differences."

The Conference of Bishops and the Boards of the ELCA Divisions for Church in So-

ciety and Ministry will review the report before the ELCA Church Council decides in April what resolutions it wants to send on to the August 2005 Church-wide Assembly. The full report can be found at www.elca.org. There is a link to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod where Bishop Almquist's statement could also be read.

From the Office

I would like to thank everyone for your cooperation with the New Attendance Registration System. This weekly sign-in process allows me to review the forms and to notify Pastor Paul if someone has a desire to join our church or a request for a pastoral call. The system en-

ables you to notify me of an address, telephone, or e-mail change. As the church continues to grow, it is a great challenge to make sure that none is forgotten, especially if



Thank You

there is a need for prayer, assistance, or fellowship.

Sincerely,
Donna Lewis

Quotable

On February 21st, we will celebrate Presidents' Day. To recognize this holiday, we have quoted our first two presidents:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. . . . And let us indulge with caution the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion Reason and experience both forbid us to ex-



February
21st

pect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle." (from George Washington's Farewell Address)

Quotes

"There is no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people, it is wholly inadequate to govern any other." (John Adams)

The Stewardship Report

Your yearly statements of giving have been mailed. If you have not received your copy, please contact Donna Lewis at the office. We thank you for all of your generosity and support in 2004.

As we begin to form committees and plan events for the upcoming year, please remember

that regardless of when you became a member of our congregation, you are all invited to share your talents, ideas, and energy by participating on the committees. Feel free to contact Pastor Paul, Donna Lewis, or any council member with your wishes.

As usual, the ingathering was a tremendous success. The letter that we received from Lutheran Children and Family Services states that the Ingathering totaled over \$113,608.75. Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of the youth group and leaders, we helped make Christmas by supplying gifts for the children in foster care and home-based programs.

FAST AND FEAST

Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, quoted this Lenten advice: (From Sourcebook of Wit and Wisdom)

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

NOTICE

Please notify Donna in the office at least one month prior to the anticipated date for meetings so that there are no scheduling conflicts and so that there is adequate time to post a meeting or event.

Living God
Lutheran Church

3200 HORSESHOE PIKE
HONEY BROOK,
PENNSYLVANIA 19344

Phone: 610-273-9383
Email: living_god@verizon.net



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EXTENDING OPEN ARMS



ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will be having a weekly Lenten Bible Study at 12:00 PM, beginning on Wednesday, February 9th and running every Wednesday up to and including March 16th. Bring a brown bag lunch. All are welcome.

We will be having a Lenten Soup Supper. This will begin on February 16th at 6:00 PM followed by a 7:00 PM service. We will meet each Wednesday evening through March 16th. Roberta Bencker will be taking names of anyone interested in providing the soups for the suppers. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the board.

Pastor Paul will be away the week of February 21-25 for Continuing Education.

Bible Study at Tel Hai will be held at 10:00 AM on February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Girl Scout Meetings are at 7:00 PM on February 7th, 14th, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.

AA Meetings scheduled for February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th, and 18th. AA will NOT meet on Good Friday, March 25th.

February 3rd at 7:30 P.M.

Church Council Mtg. (open to all members)

February 8th from 5:30 PM—7:00 PM

Pancake Supper

February 9th, 16th, 23rd at 7:00 PM

Lenten Services

February 12th at 10:00 AM

Education Roundtable

February 13th at 11:45 AM

Playground Meeting