

Family Notes

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

In today's Gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. In the Easter season we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promise.

Pastor Mac's sermon, "*The Stench of Death, the Reality of Life,*" reminds us of the very real hope and promise that comes to us in the Resurrection of Jesus...forever changing us and our world.

As we continue this penitential season, please note:

- our Baptismal Font moves from the door towards the altar as we move toward Jerusalem
- a Lenten Center is at the foot of the cross
- there are no flowers on our altar
- we move to setting 4 of our liturgy
- we omit the Hymn of Praise
- we sing a psalm response between our first and second lesson
- our Lenten Sentence replaces the Alleluia
- a guided meditation in Family Notes gives direction to our reflection during communion
- there are no communion hymns
- our cross (made out of Christmas trees, to remind us that the baby at Bethlehem is the Christ of the Cross) is draped in purple, a penitential color
- draped aisle torches highlight this season
- there is no postlude

The Sacrament today will be administered by intinction. If you are visiting with us and believe as we do that in the Sacrament we receive God's gift of life and forgiveness, if you are a baptized member of the Christian Church, we hope you will join us at the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers are available at both stations

GUIDED MEDITATION: Hope doesn't throw a cloak of silence over the past. And it won't wink at injustice today. Hope does something positive with our anger. Hope takes Redemption as seriously as it takes the Fall. Which is precisely what Easter is all about. For nothing exemplifies death and resurrection as clearly as our slavery to sin and our freedom from it. At Easter God entered deep into the darkness of the human condition in order to redeem it. And he did so through the sacrifice of his only Son whose resurrection brought us life: Freedom from the awful slavery of sin and sinfulness. This Easter as we remember and reflect let's also respond. In the words of Equiano "what makes any event important" he asks, "unless by its observation we become better and wiser and learn 'to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly before God.'"

The Rev. Dr. Joel Edwards General Director of the Evangelical Alliance 2007 Easter Message

Our Lessons:

Ezekiel 37:1-14. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

Romans 8:6-11. For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

John 11:1-45. Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life. **(We invite you to sit today for the reading of the Gospel.)**

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER: As Lent moves past its halfway point, for those who observe this season, it could get easy to tire of the Lenten journey and its discipline. And so we have wonderful lessons today that are filled with the resurrection promise. In Ezekiel, God promises to give new life to the dry bones of Israel. Paul reminds the Romans of the God who raised Jesus and whose Spirit continually gives new life to us. And John's Gospel tells the story of the raising of Lazarus, a passage we often read at funerals, a passage that foretells the resurrection of us all. Words of life, hope and promise as we draw closer to Holy Week and Easter.

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you'll soon return to Faith, and that you'll feel free to share in all that is ours in Christ. Please sign our guest book and a visitor's card which you'll find in the pew. If you are interested in learning more about our community, please speak to Pastor Jim or Pastor Mac, or leave a note in the offering. Please stop by the Information Table in the narthex and pick up materials about our Family of Faith. While we encourage children's attendance and participation in our worship hour, we do provide nursery care for those needing this service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to our downstairs Nursery.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Family of Faith is a Christ-centered servant community that strives to be loving, forgiving, healing and affirming, as it continues to seek new opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

Sustained by the Holy Spirit, we worship, serve, learn and grow together by sharing God's gifts of our time, talents and treasures.

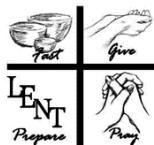
Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diantha Pearson	Vivian Mossberg
Thomas Lange	Ernie Andersen
Ron Waltemyer	John Glass
Sherry Peterson	Nancy Kordistas
Ben Santore	Ruth Bentley
Jan Siberine	Paul Lutz
Lucas Reiling	Constance Burde
Katie Anderson	Curtis D. Kelly
Annie Scherba	Eric Brodbeck
Jim Connaughton	Todd Shell
Hildy Vallevand	Julie Floch
Heidi Santore	Joe Auchter
Bob Bell	Eileen Sergent
Carolyn & Art Engelken	PJ Sneeringer
Minet Merritt	Ted Moody
Anne Rogers	Andrew Stofa
Loren Zachau	Rose Ondich
Phyllis Semegran	Oliver King
Carol MacPherson	Karen Blomquist
Aaron Shinn	Otto Picard
Cory Christensen	Aiden Bedi
Ann Bueschel	Harold Johnson
Kim Wood	Jeanne Jenkins
Kerry Michaels	Mike Sergent
Pastor Carol Lindsay	Wei Che Hu
Bob McQuaid	Margaret D'Oliveira
Donna Swanson	Jim Mastakas
Chris Bowman	Anna Mae Glassman
Marlys Christiansen	Nancy Wiles
Judy Lonn	Sven Mossberg
Nancy	Shan & Wayne Felts
Carl Seastedt	Donna Jaffee
Gertrude Kruger	Rose & Roger Wright
Maggie Hoyer	Raymond E. Smith

Jessica

The Family of Gertrude Norton
The Family of Bernard Wingo

To add to or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office. Unless we hear otherwise, names are removed after three months.



Wednesdays in Lent:

"POWER WALK"

Spoken Eucharist at 6:45 a.m.
Evening Prayer & Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.

April 13 - *The Call to Justice*

Invite your friends and co-workers to join us for
this worship opportunity.

YOUR PRAYERS/YOUR GIFTS

We continue to pray for all the people of Japan and those in the Pacific affected by the earthquake and tsunami. We are thankful that all of our ELCA missionaries and their communities are safe, even as we realize the catastrophic disaster that has forever changed so many lives. We invite your gifts for **Lutheran World Relief** which is in the midst of the recovery and relief efforts there. **LWR** has an outstanding record of getting gifts to the people for whom they are intended with minimal overhead. To share in this care of our sisters and brothers, simply make your check payable to "Faith" and mark it "Japan." Gifts after 4 weeks total \$2505.

Music Notes

Our music today continues our Lenten journey... from the poignant echoes of American spirituals to the serene music of Mozart, this is a time of preparation for the coming Holy Week... We worship next Sunday with our Sanctuary Choir, guests trumpeter Max Morden and timpanist Nick Scheuble, as we celebrate in our almost complete renovated sanctuary...our acoustics will change as the project nears completion, always for the better! ...please pardon our appearance as we near journey's end.

Holy Week continues with services on Holy Thursday, and our Sanctuary Choir and instrumentalists will help lead worship on Good Friday.



Journey
of Faith

Our theme this year reminds us that as God's people we are pilgrim people. As we follow Jesus, being formed into his image, we are people on a move, people with a mission. As a worshipping and serving community of disciples we journey wherever our Lord leads us to share the good news of Jesus Christ confident that God has provided all that we need to be his servants: water and word, bread and wine and healing oil. Join us this year and be part of our Journey of Faith.

A Servant's Prayer

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through challenges unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

RECYCLING

APRIL 30, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We need your help at the Fanwood/Scotch Plains Recycling Center. The hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. but you don't have to stay the 4 hours. Come for half hour or an hour and bring a friend because we NEED the help. Donuts and coffee will be served. Contact Ky Luu at 908-322-2540 or email kyvanluu@verizon.net or John Everson jm.everson@yahoo.com for questions and direction. Please sign up outside the Office

3rd Quarter Financial Statements

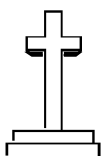
Your current "giving" update is now available thanks to Paul Mossberg. Please pick yours up outside Franklin Nelson Hall today.

PLAN AHEAD

To help us better prepare for worship each week and to provide guidance for daily Bible reading, we publish the following Sunday's lessons each week. Take a few minutes each day to read over these Bible passages in anticipation of our sharing of the Word together. Next Sunday's lessons are:

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54



**Children Ages 3 & Up
You Are Invited
Children's CrossWalk
Mark the Date –
Good Friday, April 22nd
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

FAITH NURSERY SCHOOL Registration Continues

Faith Nursery School continues registration for the 2011-2012 School Year. Three different morning classes are offered: a class for 2 ½ year olds that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays; a class for three year olds that meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and a Pre-K class that meets Monday thorough Friday. If you are interested in more information or are ready to register your child, please call Susan Nord, Director, at (908) 542-1252.



BROADWAY HOUSE - This Week more than a house...a home

Our next visit to Broadway House, our AIDS ministry, will be this Saturday, April 16th. We will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and return by noon. All are welcome to join us for a visit.

In May, we will be heading over for our annual Spring Sing at Broadway House. Look for the date soon in Family Notes. In addition, if you have any new or gently used men or women's spring clothing that you no longer need, please feel free to donate that as well. The Broadway House box is down the hall from the church office.

Opportunities for all ages, both on-site and off-site, are available. If you have any questions or for more information on ways you can help at Broadway House, contact Vicar Jane McCready at 908-233-8935 or jane@mccready.com.

LEND A HAND



As we move into our new expanded ministry center we are seeking to develop a list of folks who can assist with property needs as issues arise. Please email back or call if you can help with electric, plumbing, heating, or general maintenance. Our hope is to have a team of folks who can assist with minor problems and to let us know when we need to be calling outside help.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Please check your mailboxes for materials pertaining to Tuesday night's meeting.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum continues its educational ministry today at 9:40 a.m. Join us in Franklin Nelson Hall for coffee and conversation and then a chance to grow in your faith and why not "go green" by bringing your own cup to forum.

Today - April 17 - LENTEN LEARNINGS - Join us for our Lenten Bible Study of each week's lessons.



WORLD HUNGER

Last Sunday was the first of our world hunger Sundays in 2011. Your gifts will provide the support that enables us to serve thousands of meals at the Soup Kitchen in the coming months. They provide food for the dozens of families that will be staying with us in the Hospitality program. And they will feed the hungry here and around the world through the ELCA World Hunger program. Please prayerfully consider your gift and then respond generously and sacrificially to care for our sisters and brothers. If you forgot your Hunger envelope that came with your mailing this week, simply mark a pew envelope "Hunger." Gifts after 2 weeks total \$3347.



COFFEE TIME

Our Coffee time continues this morning at 9:40. If you can host one of our upcoming dates, please sign the sheet outside the Office. Thanks to today's hosts: Desiree & Monika Bouchat

Upcoming:
April 17 - Open
May 1 - Open

APPALACHIAN MINISTRY TEAM

If you were on last year's Team or if you are a Peer Leader, please email Pastor Mac asap to let him know if you want to be part of this summer's Team. If you aren't in either of these groups and wish to be on the wait list for the 2011 Team or if you have questions about this Tennessee ministry, please email Pastor Mac.

VISITORS CONTINUE

Last week we again saw new visitors at worship! This means we've now had at least one new visitor at worship for 1258 out of the last 1278 Sundays. Make this week the time to invite a relative or friend to join us for our worship gathering. Share the Family! Share the Faith!



Somerset Patriots Baseball Game and Picnic
A night of Fun and Fellowship between Advent and Faith
Lutheran
Friday, May 20, 2011
This is also a FIRE WORKS NIGHT
(Picnic area opens about 6 p.m., and fireworks usually run through 11:15 p.m.)

The picnic includes all you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Fred baked cookies, chips and soft drinks. (Beer and wine can be purchased separately.)

\$25 per person

(30 person minimum to book area)

A sign up sheet is on the table outside the Office.

DID YOU KNOW...

...Today is the 5th Sunday in Lent...registration is underway for our Lenten Evening Bible Study which is underway...our Membership Exploration Group met Tuesday, April 5...3 of our Peer Leaders join the Pastors for a trip to the Seminary this week...2 weeks ago we shared Godspeed prayers with the Harris family as they moved to Minnesota...our First Communion Retreat was 3 weeks ago...a new day time Bible study begins after Easter... Coffee hosts are needed for Forum...AA meets Monday through Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings ...Faith Nursery School is now registering for the 2011-2012 school year...we've had at least 1 new visitor 1258 out of the last 1278 weeks...a special welcome to all who are visiting with our Family today...check next week's lessons...we continue to have a host of new visitors - welcome...why not bring a friend to Worship next Sunday...2010-2011 calendars are now available at cost in the narthex ...see you in church next week!

Thanks, Laurie Delatour

Family Prayers

We continue to pray for ALL those whose lives have been forever affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially the over 6400 service personnel who have been killed. Today we pray by name for the families of allied service personnel who have died in both wars. Please pray for the families of the following, all of whom died recently:

Sgt. Sean Collins, 25, USA, Hawaii

Spc. Sean Cutsforth, 22, USA, Virginia

Cpl. Patrick Deans, 22, USA, Florida

Capt. Benoit Dupin, 34, French Foreign Legion, France

Spc. Ethan Gonclo, 21, USANG, Massachusetts

Lance Cpl. Jose Hernandez, 19, USMC, Florida

Sgt. Willie McLawhorn, Jr., 23, USA, North Carolina

Cpl. Kenneth Necochea, Jr., 21, USA, California

Cpl. Oliver Oertelt, 21, German Army, Germany

Cpl. Sean Osterman, 21, USMC, Minnesota

Gunnery Sgt. Justin Schmalstieg, 26, USMC,
Pennsylvania

Cpl. Derek Simonetta, 21, USA, California

Cpl. Jorge Villacis, 24, USA, Florida

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN

We continue to pray for all the people affected by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our website offers prayers for these folks and affords the opportunity to list service personnel serving there. To include a name, please see Pastor Mac. Today we pray for SPC Joe Ellis, a member of our Family, who is on active duty at Camp Drum after a year in Afghanistan. We also remember Lt. Christopher Wilk, a friend of the Daniels.

We remember Scott Farrell in our prayers. Scott is a relative of the Novaks, who is recuperating at Walter Reed Army Hospital after being wounded in Afghanistan.

YOU CAN HELP - Last Call

Through The Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children ((FIMRC) I had the opportunity to spend a week in January volunteering in hospitals and orphanages in Huancayo, Peru. As they near the end of their summer break and anticipate the beginning of another school year in March, the orphanages and school for children with special needs are in desperate need of school supplies. With this in mind, I am organizing a collection through my college for basic school supplies and would appreciate any and all donations. School supplies needed include: pens, pencils, notebooks, lined paper, construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons, markers, coloring books, folders, tape, etc. In addition, they are always in need of basic toiletries including soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Thank you and please contact me with any questions at 908-249-3908 or delatou2@tcnj.edu Our collection here will end today.

(Laurie and Alex Ebeling will be sharing their Medical Mission work at our Forum on June 6.)

AA

The gift of healing is shared through our AA ministry each Monday through Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. We give thanks to God for this healing ministry. Our Youth AA group meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING -

- April 10 - Stewardship Committee
11 - 15 - Faith Nursery School Closed
11 - Finance Committee
11 - Evening Bible Study
12 - Staff Worship Planning
12 - Cabinet
12 - Council
13 - Spoken Eucharist 6:45 a.m.
13 - Confirmation Class
13 - Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7:30 p.m.
14 - Peer Leader Seminary Trip
14 - 15 - Parking Lot Paving
16 - Sanctuary Re-Entry 9:00 a.m.
16 - Broadway House
17 - PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
18 - Staff Worship Planning
18 - FNS Enrichment
19 - Advent Church Council
21 - HOLY THURSDAY:
12:15 p.m. - Spoken Euchaist
7:30 p.m. - Eucharist & 1st Communion
22 - GOOD FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. - PLF Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - Children's CrossWalk
12:00 p.m. - Community Service
7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae Service
24 - EASTER
7:00 a.m. - Lighting of Paschal Candle
8:30 & 11 a.m. - Festival Eucharist
25 - FNS & Office Closed
26 - Staff Worship Planning
26 - FNS Lunch Party
30 - Scotch Plains/Fanwood Recycling
May 1 - Olbers Baptism
1 - Interfaith Youth Meeting
1 - Hospitality Guests Arrive

GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE

Caring for Creation Now!

Green Food for Thought

Modern Christian Thought on God's creation: "We must act now and wake up to our moral obligations. The poor and vulnerable are members of God's family and are the most severely affected by droughts, high temperatures, the flooding of coastal cities, and more severe and

unpredictable weather events resulting from climate change. We, who should have been responsible stewards preserving our vulnerable, fragile planet home, have been wantonly wasteful through our reckless consumerism, devouring irreplaceable natural resources. We need to be accountable to God's family. Once we start living in a way that is people-friendly to all of God's family, we will also be environment-friendly." (from foreword to *The Green Bible* by Desmond Tutu, South African activist and Anglican cleric, born 1931)

Green Tip: Make your spring cleaning greener, and cheaper, by using simple home-made cleaners. For example, cornstarch starches clothes and absorbs odors. For the entry closet, sprinkle some in your shoes to freshen them.

LENTEN EVENING BIBLE STUDY



FAITH: Confidence and Doubt in Daily Life LAST CLASS

Join Pastor Mac tomorrow, April 11, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for this intriguing look at the gift of faith in each of our lives. At the same time we will be working through *LENTEN JOURNEY Marks of the Christian*. Our Evening Study always has folks new to Bible study as well as veterans who have been with us before. Friends are always welcome and are a regular part of our group.

Wake up and smell the flowers!

As winter rolls to an end, it's a great time to enjoy the warming weather while sharing our abilities with communities all around the world. God has given us a beautiful new season and there is no better way to celebrate His gifts than by participating in Faith's ministries with events this spring.

This April, Faith will again be participating in recycling at the Fanwood Recycling Center. The date for this event on April 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with sorting recycled materials. Even if you can only be there for an hour or two, every bit helps. The church receives a check for our efforts at the Recycling center, which is used to help pay our electric bill. Please sign up at the information center or contact Ky Luu (908-322-2540 or kyvanluu@verizon.net). Go green!

Another great way to enjoy the spring weather while helping others is the Pedals for Progress bike collection. This program collects used bicycles for shipment to poor people overseas in need of transportation to get to jobs, markets, customers and schools. The date for this year's collection and processing is Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sign-ups can again be done in the information center or by contacting Bob Berk (908-322-1693 or reberk100@aol.com). This is a wonderful time to think about how much someone would appreciate a bike that you rarely use or has been sitting in your garage for years. You might also consider sending an e-mail to people you know and collect used bikes from neighbors and friends.

After getting through this long, snowy winter now is a great time to start the spring season by dedicating a few hours to serving others. If not you, then whom? If not now, then when?

The Stewardship Committee



JOIN US AT OUR VBS BIG ADVENTURE!

Ages: 3 years to 2nd grade

Dates: June 27 to June 30, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Registration begins Palm Sunday, April 17th

For more information, call Lynne Melhuish
at 908-464-6788.

COUNCIL AT THE DOOR

If you have questions or suggestions for the Church Council, stop and see the Council Representatives at the door.

Serving today are: 8:30 - Larry Holt
11:00 - Peter McQuaid

Cross lapel pins identify our council members. We give thanks to God for these servants who undergird and direct our ministry.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

The Sunday School stewardship project this year is *Food for Today, Seeds for Tomorrow*. This program provides food and seeds for Zimbabwe.
To date: \$1456.85 has been collected.

Youth Forum

Youth Forum continues its educational/fellowship ministry today as they gather downstairs in the Youth lounge. All high school youth are invited to share in this special ministry.

Today - April 17 - The Way of Pilgrimage

Faith Lutheran now on Facebook

Get connected and stay connected with the Family at Faith. You can get updates and reminders of upcoming events and occasions, photos & videos, participate in discussions, find links to our ministry partners, blogs, and more!



THE MINISTRY CENTER

New life surrounds us as our Ministry Center rises in our midst to equip this Family of Faith for ministry for years to come. Our new kitchen and heating system are completed, most of our parking lot is finished and now the major work on the worship end of our Ministry Center is underway. All of this has been made possible by the over \$2 million pledged during the capital campaign of 2005 and our renewed Capital Campaign these last few months. Thanks to all who made special, sacrificial gifts for the Ministry Center at year end and to all whose faithful stewardship is equipping ministry for the future. Follow progress of the work being done at the website: www.flc-mc.blogspot.com. AND....

IF you made a commitment and have been waiting to share your gift, NOW is the time as we soon will exhaust our cash and begin moving into our construction loan...with interest.

IF you have not yet made your commitment, please contact our Capital Campaign Chairs Theri and Fred Rossol (732 534 5350) to arrange for a visit.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - This Week

Attention all 6th, 7th and 8th graders...our final Confirmation classes meet this Wednesday, April 13TH from 6:15 to 7:15.



PALM SUNDAY, April 17 - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Palms & Eucharist
"Down the Mountain... Onto the Cross"

HOLY THURSDAY, April 21 - 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. - Eucharist
(7:30 p.m. - Rite of First Communion)
"Food for the Journey"

GOOD FRIDAY, April 22 -
10:00 a.m. - Children's CROSSWALK
12:00 noon - Community Ecumenical Service at Faith
7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae with Stripping of the Altar
"Crucifixion at the Crossroads"

SATURDAY, April 23 - A Day of Silence and Meditation

EASTER, April 24 -
7:00 a.m. - Lighting of the Paschal Candle in the Garden
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Easter Procession and Festival Eucharist
Bells, Brass and Timpani
"Jesus Leads the Way"
