



Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
A congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Messenger

Mission Statement:

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church is a community of disciples reaching out through Christ in loving worship, witness and service.

March 2015

Vol. 4 Issue 3

A publication for your information.

SUNDAYS IN MARCH



Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

9:45am Sunday School

Adult Forum: *Facility Planning Task Force: "Preliminary Report Presentation"*



Third Sunday in Lent (*Daylight Saving Time*)

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

9:45am Sunday School

Adult Forum: *"Lutheran Crossings Enhanced Living at Moorestown"*



Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

9:45am Sunday School

Adult Forum: *ELCA Study "Table and Font: Who Is Welcome" (see pg. 9)*



Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

9:45am Sunday School

Adult Forum: *ELCA Study "Table and Font: Who Is Welcome" (see pg. 9)*



Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

9:45am Sunday School

No Adult Forum



Lenten Bible Study

Tuesday Evenings

7:30pm, Begins 2/24

For more info, see pg. 9

Lenten Vespers

Wednesday Evenings

7:30-8pm, Begins 2/25

For more info, see pg. 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg.

- 2. Pastor's Message; First Communion
- 3. President's Corner
- 4. Youth & Family; Easter Breakfast RSVP
- 5. Worship & Music; Fellowship & Parish Life
- 6. Women of the ELCA; Easter Flower Form
- 7. Social Concerns; Hand-Up Sunday
- 8. Bridge of Peace; Bridge of Hope SJ
- 9. Spiritual Life; ELCA Study
- 10. Property; Birthdays
- 11. Thrivent Action Teams
- 12. Worship Assistants
- 13. Calendar
- 14. Congregation Corner

Articles for next newsletter
due March 15, 2015



This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

For sixteen centuries, Christians have marked the 40 days before Easter with "Lenten disciplines" including fasting from indulgent food, carving out time for Word, prayer and worship, and caring for the neighbor (i.e., fasting, prayer & alms-giving). The purpose of these disciplines is not to make the self suffer along with Christ – a popular understanding of Lent - as Christ doesn't need our suffering! Lent is *indeed* a more somber, reflective season, but the purpose is always forgiveness. Everything about Lent drives us right into the arms of God's forgiveness.

The honest, somber truth is that we *need* forgiveness. Year-round, we complacently indulge ourselves with food and other gifts of creation, taking them for granted and not truly appreciating the goodness of God and giving thanks. Even worse, we regularly neglect to do what we *can* do for our neighbor, and become blind to such "sins of omission." All because we begin to believe that we are accountable to no one but ourselves – which is a lonely, narrow and exhausting way to live. Not to mention prone to self-centeredness in thought & action.

Lent is an opportunity for Christians to see the somber truth about ourselves: That we are in continual need of our Creator's forgiveness. We don't stop there, though, with our guilt. The soul of Lent, rather, is the truth about God, which is utter, passionate forgiveness revealed on the cross – God's stark communication to all humanity of this forgiveness & mercy. Christ gives us new, open hearts and sets us in a community of forgiven ones. Christ continually offers us the experience of this forgiveness in community – during Lent and all year long – through Word, Meal, and the Communion of Saints.

The origins of Lent grew out of this wellspring of forgiveness. Lent came about as a time of preparation for adult converts under Christian instruction - Catechumens - before their Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The Lenten disciplines of fasting, Word, prayer, and alms-giving help us to mark the time leading up to Easter in a way that re-shapes us in Christ's image, that is, in a counter-cultural way, trusting God, set in community, and open to the neighbor.

You might consider how to set aside time this Lent to be shaped by Christ's forgiveness into which *you* have been washed and claimed. Possibly:

- ◆ **refrain** from overly indulgent foods so that at Easter you might once again, thankfully taste how wondrously delightful they really are
- ◆ **dwell more regularly** in prayer and also in the Means of God's Grace – the Word & Sacraments – by which the Holy Spirit renews and gives faith
 - ◇ Prayer partner-ing (sign up or email me)
 - ◇ Lenten Vespers focusing on Christ as our "Tree of Life"
 - ◇ Sunday worship, with Christ's weekly banquet of forgiveness
 - ◇ "Christ in Season" devotional based on Sunday readings (in foyer year-round)
 - ◇ "There in God's Garden" devotional by Luther Seminary (in foyer & on website)

First Communion ~ Sunday, April 19

This year the children will be received during the 11am service on the 3rd Sunday of Easter, 4/19. A celebratory reception will follow. We moved it from Maundy Thursday in Holy Week, which was very fitting in some ways, but it was very near to 9-year old bedtimes and the liturgy also ended very somberly—looking towards Good Friday in silence. We look forward to a new experience!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Did you miss my article in the February *Messenger*? Did you even notice there was no President's Corner section in the February issue? No matter, *The Messenger*, as usual, was chocked full of great information and opportunities to participate in activities and serve in Christ's work here at St. Matthew.

The Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting was held on January 25th. The draft minutes of the meeting have been posted in the foyer by our Secretary, Lorraine Horton. NOTE: these are draft minutes as they can not be officially approved until next January's congregation meeting. I encourage you to take a moment to review the meeting minutes for the full details.

For those of you who do not have access to the posted minutes and/or were not able to attend the meeting, I thought I would include here a short summary of the key business conducted.

While there were several financial reports presented by our Treasurer, Dr. Tom Cassel, the primary business was to obtain congregation approval of our 2015 Budget. There were 51 congregation members in attendance at the meeting. In accordance with our Church Constitution, a majority vote of the members present is required for approval. Therefore, 26 votes in favor of the budget were required for passage. Voting was by ballot; 45 ballots were cast, collected and counted. There were 43 ballots for approval of the budget, one abstain, and one ballot not marked (an illegal ballot). I am therefore pleased to announce the \$460,000.00 budget recommended by the Congregation Council for 2015 is approved.

There was also a terrifically informative presentation given by the **Facility Planning Task Force (FPTF)** regarding their recommendations for projects to improve accessibility, functionality and energy efficiency of our church campus. This work was all in response to the Congregational Survey conducted nearly two years ago in which the congregation identified a need and desire for improvements in these areas. The members of this team of professionals, meeting weekly for over a year, are all congregation members who volunteered their time, talents, and even treasure to develop this proposal for our church family. The FPTF performed all this work at NO COST to the church. To obtain a report, this comprehensive, thoughtful, insightful and detailed, from outside consultants, architects, and engineers would have cost the congregation tens of thousands of dollars. The report was well received and the FPTF announced they would be moving into the cost estimating phase of their work.

The full FPTF report is being made available on-line at the church website: www.stmatthew-lutheran.org

*God's Work, Our Hands,
Dick*

2014-15 Council Officers

President:
Dick Graybill

VP & Mutual Ministry:
Chair: Kris Burns

Secretary:
Lorraine Horton

Treasurer:
Tom Cassel



Council Members

Evangelism:
Pete Boal

Fellowship & Parish Life:
Brandie Plasket

Property:
Steve Cathcart

Social Concerns:
Bob Ganskopp

Spiritual Life:
Pete Boal

Stewardship:
Jack Horton

Worship & Music:
Peter Jensen

Youth & Family:
Katy Giberson

Youth Rep.:
Taylor Nieto

Alternate Youth Rep.:
Kylee Miller



Evangelism: Pam Bowen

**Facilities Planning
Task Force:** Jim Merrill

Memorial: Bill Acheson

Property: Brian Schultz

Easter Breakfast



**Sunday, April 5
9:30am**

Join us for the Annual Easter Breakfast celebration in Fellowship Hall.

Menu:

Eggs, bread, meat potatoes, danish

(If you wish to donate a pastry item, sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer.)

Suggested Donation at Door:

\$5pp or \$10 per Family

To benefit those participating with the Youth Gathering.

RSVP:

Complete the bottom section and place in the offering plate

NOTE: All monetary donations will be collected at the breakfast, please do not pay ahead. Thank you!

Name: _____

How many will be attending the breakfast? _____

YOUTH & FAMILY

Lutheran Disaster Response

Every summer, the Sunday school teachers meet to prepare for the upcoming year and to vote on the two missions that will be supported by the students. There are so many worthy missions out there, but this year, we decided to support Christus Academy and the Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Here's some background and insight about LDR.

The LDR's mission is to *"brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need"*. This is a great organization for the SCS offerings to support because unfortunately and too often, tragedy and crisis strike; and though it is hard for teachers to explain how and why terrible events occur, teachers can remind the children that there are ways that we can help and spread love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Internationally, The LDR is providing aid in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip, the Philippines, Syria, and in Western Africa responding to the Ebola crisis. Domestically, the LDR is providing shelter and supporting foster care programs for the estimated 75,000 unaccompanied and minor children that have crossed the U.S. border from Central American countries. In many instances, these children are fleeing from violence and drug and/or sex trafficking. The LDR is also present in American communities destroyed by flooding and tornadoes, rebuilding homes and providing resources.

The Lutheran Disaster Response's ability to immediately respond to crisis and tragedy made it an ideal organization for our SCS contributions; though no one ever wishes for a catastrophe to occur, we as a church can feel confident that when one does, the LDR will be there, ready to respond.

Please continue to encourage your child/children to support the LDR (and Christus Academy) through their SCS offerings. For more information on the LDR and the services they provide across the globe, visit <http://www.elca.org/>.

—Melissa Feeney and Veronica Hall

**Attention:
Sunday School Families**

Please remember to return your ELCA World Hunger piggy banks on **Palm Sunday, March 29**. Thank you!



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Lenten Vespers

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:00pm

2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

"Tree of Life"

Many world religions use the image of the tree of life when depicting their central beliefs and values. For Christians, that tree of life is the cross. Each week a biblical passage and a hymn cast some light on the cross of Christ as our tree of life.



Lenten Prayer Partners

What: Weekly praying with a person over joys & concerns – ideally in person, at church on Sundays

How: Sign up – on bulletin board or email the pastor – and be matched to another parishioner. You will be contacted with the name of your prayer partner by the 1st Sunday in Lent & receive weekly emails from Pastor as encouragement/instruction.

Children's Good Friday Worship

April 3, 10–11am

Interactive experience that moves from welcoming Jesus with palms (Palm Sunday) to tasting foods from the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) to the crosses of Good Friday, and ending in the sanctuary with a very brief worship service with the crosses. If possible, please bring a cross from home (wall-sized crosses preferable to necklaces).

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

Thursday, March 5

The Reverend Jim Hughes will be returning this year to portray Thomas. Bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. We will go into the sanctuary for the presentation. If you have any questions, contact Paul Otto.

Wednesday, April 8 ~ NOTE: This is a Wednesday

We will travel to the Chocolatrium in West Berlin. A guided tour, a unique gourmet tasting and a catered light lunch. Total cost for the day is \$29 pp. If you have any questions, contact Bob Ganskopp.

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

Calling All Knitters, Crocheters & Quilters

**Tues., March 3 & 17
9:30am**

In Fellowship Hall



St. Matt Readers

Monday, March 23

7:30pm

in Library

*"The Orphan Train"
by Christine Baker Kline*



Media-Movie- Munchies

Friday, March 6, 7pm

Featuring:

"Calvary"

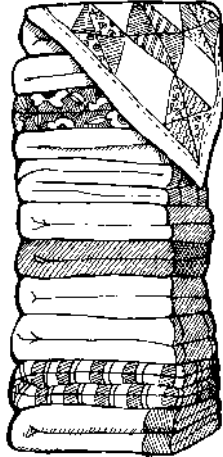
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Happy First Anniversary!

Our very small quilting group (*Thank You: Marsha, Judy, Barbara, Janet, Peggy*) is approaching its First Anniversary! We have joined a nation-wide effort to make quilts which will be used in disaster areas in the U.S. and throughout the world.

We received money from Social Concerns to buy batting; most of our fabric has been donated. We are going to apply to Thrivent for funds to mail the quilts to Lutheran World Relief in New Windsor, MD. In addition we need to send \$2.25 for each quilt to cover LWR expenses for distribution.

For \$2.25 you may name a quilt and you can literally follow your quilt to its destination (log onto the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker). Our quilts will be displayed and blessed on March 8.



Women of ELCA of New Jersey

**Thankoffering Service at SMLC
Saturday, March 14, 10am**

Special Guest: The Rev. Nancy Truscott of Zion Lutheran Church
Look for a poster in the foyer. For more info, contact Mae Trebing; ironhorse2101@gmail.com.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 6

Sponsored by Church Women United

First United Methodist, Moorestown

Theme: *"Radical Love"*

Beginning with a continental breakfast at 9:30a.m., followed by worship, prayer and music at 10:00a.m. Women of The Bahamas have prepared the program for this year, which will be used by women's groups and churches throughout the world. Concerns of Bahamian women which are also global concerns will be shared, and a freewill offering will be received. All are welcome.

Easter Flower Order Form

Please make checks payable to "Saint Matthew Church."

Please submit check/cash and order form (together) in offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.

NOTE: Last day for ordering is **Sunday, March 29**

Your Name: _____ **Envelope #** _____

Indicate the number of plants you wish to order:

_____ **Tulip (\$7)** _____ **Lily (\$7)** _____ **Hydrangea (\$14)**

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Interfaith Hospitality Network

A Community Response for Homeless Families

SMLC to host March 8-15

If you are able to help with driving, staying overnight, or cooking meals, please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer. For more info, contact Barry Grahn, bgrahn1@comcast.net or 856.303.1389. A Special Thank You from an IHN client:

Dear St. Matthew,

I would like to thank you for hosting us through IHN.

We really appreciate everyone and everything you have done to be a blessing to our family. God Bless!

Lunch Bunch ~ Mar. 12, 7pm in Teen Den

A ministry that provides a full lunch, once a month, to the homeless patrons of the New Visions Center in Camden, NJ

Drop-off your cookies, cakes, or brownies; place them on a disposable plate and mark it for "Lunch Bunch."

New Visions of Camden

The Delaware District of Lutheran Social Ministries is doing a joint collection for New Visions' new location (55-B Atlantic Ave., Camden, NJ). We have chosen toiletry items as our category:

- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Hairbrushes/Combs
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Lotion

A red basket will be in the foyer for collection from **March 1 through March 15**. Thank you for contributing to this outreach.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: New Visions has advised us they will no longer be collecting clothing. Here are several suggestions to take your clothing donations:

- ♦ **Catholic Charities**
801 Burlington Ave., Delanco, NJ 08075; 856-764-6940
- ♦ **Goodwill Industries**
2835 New Jersey 73 #1; Maple Shade, NJ 08052;
856-439-0174
- ♦ **St. Vincent de Paul**
St. Mary of the Lakes Roman Catholic Church
1 Jones Rd., Medford, NJ 08055; 609-953-0021

—Bob Ganskopp



Hand-Up Sunday March 8

The Live Civilly/Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry is in need of:

- ♦ Canned pasta
- ♦ Canned fruit
- ♦ Canned chicken, ham
- ♦ Rice
- ♦ Complete Pancake Mix
- ♦ Syrup
- ♦ Pasta sauce (*canned*)
- ♦ Peanut Butter (*small*)
- ♦ Jelly (*small*)
- ♦ Snacks

For Monetary Donations:

Make check payable to
St. Matthew Church
with "Food Pantry"
in the memo

For youth volunteers

contact:
Kahra Buss



856.313.9853

For adult volunteers

contact:
Brian & Cara Lowy
flyerzfan@aol.com



Food Pantry at Bridge of Peace

Please place donations under mailboxes in our foyer. The Peace Center Food Pantry at BOP helps to feed their neighborhood and beyond. This month the food pantry needs the following items:

- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- ◆ Dry Milk
- ◆ Parmalat
- ◆ Evaporated Milk
- ◆ Soups & Stews (w/meat)
- ◆ Spam
- ◆ Tuna
- ◆ Ham
- ◆ Chicken (canned)

NOTE: *Please check expiration dates.*

For Monetary Donations:

Make check payable to
St. Matthew Church
with

*"Camden Food Pantry"
in the memo*

Drivers Needed:

Please sign up on the bulletin board, if you are able to deliver food on the first Sunday of the month, after the 11am service. There are helpers to load your car from SMLC and helpers to unload when you reach Bridge of Peace.

BRIDGE OF PEACE

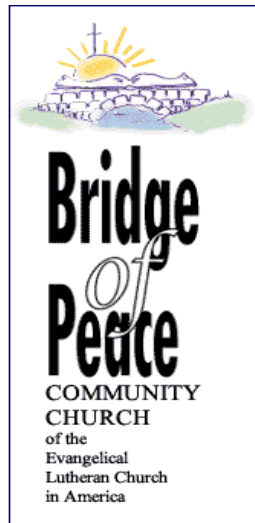
Youth Group Supper Casseroles, Salads, Beverages & Dessert

- 30 – 40 youth & adults meet at Bridge of Peace every Tuesday, beginning with supper.
- SMLC provides a full course supper the 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board
- Leave donations in Teen Den refrigerator (or nearby) **by Sunday, March 15, 11am.**

Other items to donate anytime:

Sturdy paper plates, plastic utensils, cups, napkins, apple juice, lemonade, water and condiments i.e. salad dressing, ketchup, mustard etc. These items can be placed in the teen den or in the foyer near the mailboxes clearly marked **"BOP Youth Supper."**

—Lisa Merrill, BOP Communicator
momm6434@hotmail.com



BRIDGE OF HOPE SOUTH JERSEY

Dancercise Fitathon

March 8, 1-3pm

Mt. Laurel Community Center
For more info, contact Eloise Williams
ecwill2@comcast.net; 856.235.4959



CROSS ROADS CAMP & RETREAT

Come and visit Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. Learn all about their summer and year-round opportunities. Take a tour of the camp, hear stories, ask questions and finish with a delicious lunch in the dining hall. Check out Cross Roads Camp by coming to a Saturday Open House (10:30am-Lunch). RSVP 908.832.7264 by the Monday before. Tour starts at 10:30 from the Lodge. **OPEN HOUSE DATES: April 25, May 16, June 6**

Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center
29 Pleasant Grove Rd, Port Murray, NJ 07865
(1 1/2 hours from Moorestown—in the rolling hill country of northwest NJ, the Skylands Region)

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Bible Studies

All are Welcome!

- ◆ **Monday, 10:30am** in Lounge with Wayne Becker
- ◆ **Tuesday, 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study** in Lounge
"The Most Profound Jewish Covenants: Rainbow, Father, Tablet, Pole and Heart" with Pastor Ingrid Wengert
2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24



Stephen Ministry ~ Update

Four simple words shared the good news:



"We have a class." And the excitement begins with our new students eager to become Stephen Ministers at St. Matthew's. And there is even more good news—there might be two more!

Hopefully we will have our new class beginning in early to mid- March. Joy is busy getting teachers lined up and material ordered. We are so thankful to be starting a new class as we have more people wanting a Stephen Minister than we have available. This is a blessing as it means the congregation is truly embracing the ministry of Stephen Ministry.

Names and brief bios of our class will be shared soon. In the meantime thank you for praying for this ministry and helping to raise up new Stephen Ministers.

*The Rev. Peggy Marks
Stephen Leader*

ELCA Study:

***"Table and Font: Who Is Welcome?
An invitation to join the conversation
about Baptism and Communion"***

All members and congregations of the ELCA are invited and encouraged to engage an important study and conversation in 2015. For most Christians through many centuries, Holy Baptism has been considered the sacrament of initiation or entrance into the church, while Holy Communion is the sacrament that nourishes and sustains Christians week by week. This remains the recommended practice in the ELCA. However, increasingly, in many congregations of this church and our ecumenical partners, the invitation to receive communion is for everyone, not only for those who have been baptized. Join the conversation during Adult Forum on 3/15 and 3/22 (led by Pastor Ingrid Wengert), grounded in our church's statement "The Use of the Means of Grace" which will be made available. —Pastor Wengert



IN OUR
Prayers

Convalescing:

- ◆ Mary Cross
- ◆ Marian Duda
- ◆ Douglas Gee
- ◆ Barry Grahn
- ◆ Joyce Hagen
- ◆ Helen Hopkins
- ◆ Herb Hopkins
- ◆ Karen Terpak

Homebound/Other:

- ◆ Nancy Beth Abele
- ◆ Grace Barone
- ◆ Nancé Carlson
- ◆ Evelyn Frintner
- ◆ Phil Hall
- ◆ Doris Holmes
- ◆ Dot Jensen
- ◆ Betty Kelley
- ◆ Lynn Krudewig
- ◆ Shane Gibson
- ◆ Neil Gilmour
- ◆ Mike Hoffman
- ◆ Lois Lukasik
- ◆ John Parkin
- ◆ Bud Radey
- ◆ Alexis Schoenhofer
- ◆ Walter Trebing
- ◆ Charles von Wrangell

Serving in Military:

- ◆ David Boehmler
- ◆ Beth Eilers
- ◆ Karl Frerking
- ◆ Carson Griffis
- ◆ Danny Merrill
- ◆ Janal Thomas

Partners in Ministry:

- ◆ **Bridge of Peace**
www.bridgeofpeace.com
- ◆ **Christus Academy**
www.christusacademy.org
- ◆ **Lutheran Disaster Response** www.elca.org
- ◆ **Stephen Deal**
ELCA Missionary-Costa Rica

Happy Birthday March

3 Grace Buss
3 Brian Forrest
3 Craig Schoenberger
4 Benjamin Castner
4 Sophia Maryanski
5 Susan Schmidt
5 Joseph Buss, Sr.
6 Eric Schroeder
8 Bobbie Purzycki
9 Angela Fury
9 Gerry Nice
9 George Boehmler
11 Joseph Feliciano
11 Janice Sweeten
12 Timothy Naylor
16 Marsha Magauran
16 Christopher Grahn
17 Aaron Blanford
17 Mia Peper
17 Julie Every-Clayton
17 Frank Radey
18 Christine Trimble
19 Taylor Nieto
19 Sandra Waxman
21 Doreen Lawrence
22 Robert Grassie
22 Christopher Giberson
23 Jeff Schofield
24 Colleen Oakley
24 Janet Paul
25 Michael Kruse
25 Kristine Butler
25 Kaiden Potere
25 Paul Loftness, Jr.
27 Leroy Werner
27 Joyce Valore
27 Caitlin MacFarland
28 (Chris) Williams
28 Katelyn Frable
28 Kirsten Van Fossen
28 Nathan Frable
28 Freeman Horner
30 Seamus Schofield

PROPERTY



The Shockey Lounge air conditioner has now been replaced along with a new thermostat in the Shockey Lounge under the state Direct Install program. We have applied for a replacement of the church office air conditioner and air handling unit along with lighting upgrades in the Education Wing under this Direct Install program. We pay only 30% of the cost under this program. Other activities this year include:

- ◆ Replacing several missing wooden plugs in the pews in the sanctuary
- ◆ Installing new batteries in the smoke detectors and replacing one defective smoke detector
- ◆ Replacing a spotlight in the Altar Ring; we are thankful that Northwest Sign Industries graciously provided personnel and a large A-frame ladder to replace this light.

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, March 28, 9am to noon (Rain date: April 4th)

Work needs to be done both inside and outside the church. Pews are polished with Pledge, windows are cleaned, and dusting is done inside the church. Rakes, blowers and tarps are needed for this outside work. Please consider helping in this stewardship opportunity.

—*Brian Schultz*

TROOP 42



Troop 42, along with family and friends, participated in the annual Super Bowl Weekend Family Ski trip. A trip that everyone looks forward to every year. The troop rented a beautiful ski house outside of Jack Frost and participated in two days of skiing, Camelback on Saturday and Jack Frost on Sunday. On Saturday, the scouts and the families enjoyed the long challenging runs at Camelback Mountain. On Saturday day night, the scouts and their families participated in a pot luck dinner. Everything was delicious. On Sunday, along with skiing and snowboarding at Jack Frost, some of the scouts worked on and completed their Snow Sports merit badge. This merit badge required the scouts to show they know the rules and regulations of skiing/snowboarding along with showing the instructor a couple of basic moves on the skis or snowboard. Everyone had a great time on the ski weekend.

(Continued on pg. 11)

TROOP 42 (continued)

The Troop also participated in a service project at the Bridge of Peace in January. It was an Eagle Scout Project for one of our scouts and the troop and parent chipped in to help. The troop refurbished their community room. It included painting the walls, door and windows. A new handrail and new flooring was put down. The floor was refurbished. Anyone who visits the church, please take a look at the hard work that Troop 42 performed.

If the ski weekend sounds fun and is something you would be interested in doing, please come check us out. We meet in the Teen Den every Tuesday night 7 to 8:30. Any questions, you can email the troop at bsatroup42mtlaurel@gmail.com.

—Pete Mirabella

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY

Make an impact with a Thrivent Action Team

If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you can lead a **Thrivent Action Team** to bring people together for a one-time project to help others be wise with money and live generously.

You can:

- Coordinate an educational event.
- Conduct a service activity.
- Organize a fundraiser.

Thrivent will provide:

- Resources to help you plan the event.
- Promotional items, including Thrivent T-shirts.
- Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money.

Learn more at Thrivent.com/actionteam and apply online.

Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent is giving away free money and changing the way they aid us in helping our neighbors. This new method is called Thrivent Action Teams. It's easy to take action on a cause you care about.

Here's how:

- ◆ Identify an unmet need.
- ◆ Apply online www.thrivent.com/actionteam for resources to jumpstart your project
- ◆ If approved, you'll bring together family and friends to make an impact where you live work and worship.

When you apply online, within 5 business days you'll learn if your project has been approved. Once approved you'll receive various resources to help get you started.

If you are not currently a Thrivent Financial Member, you can qualify by joining as an associate member for under \$20.

For more info, contact Bill Lawrence.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - MARCH 2015

DATE	TIME & CHOIR	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	*ASST. MIN. COMM. ASST.	GREETER	HEALING PRAYERS	READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD
MAR. 1 Lent 2	8:30 AM	Alyssa Cherubino	No Crucifer	Schultz	*Wayne Becker Pat Brodie Carol Cathcart	Cara Lowy	Joy Wadleigh	Joyce Valore	Duda Team	Jackie Diepold Jo Ann Lawrence Maureen Lange Willie Thomas Linda Kastner
MAR. 8 Lent 3	11:00AM CHOIR	Julia Neidzwiecki	No Crucifer	Schwarz	*Bob Ganskopp Rene Cherson Ray Fausak	Pat Brodie	Bobbie Purzycki	Doreen Lawrence	Otto Team	
MAR. 15 Lent 4	8:30AM CHOIR	Sydney Randolph	No Crucifer	Uhlig	*Mae Trebing Bernie Gustad Doreen Lawrence	Linda Kastner	Rozella Bower	Sue Acheson	Duda Team	Sue Kuhn Lorraine Horton Sue Acheson Barbara Duffy
MAR. 22 Lent 5	12:15 AM	Anna Buss	No Crucifer	Vairelli	*Karen Widin Mike Barbaccio Lou Naylor	Trish Radey	Sue Kuhn	Michael Rieker	Duda Team	Cathy Roberts Lynne Ganskopp Toni Hopkins Joy Wadleigh
MAR. 29 Palm Sunday	8:30AM CHOIR	Matthew Grahm	Chris Grahm	Aguiar	Pat Brodie Sandy Meany *Mike Rieker	Susan Hawbecker	Joy Wadleigh	PW Schedules	Duda Team	Sandy Meany
MAR. 29 Palm Sunday	11:00 PM CHOIR	Amnie Buyser	Michael Krosnodomski	Zink	Bill Lawrence Rene Cherson *Peter Jensen	Sue Acheson	Sue Kuhn	PW Schedules	Otto Team	

SMLC

Mar 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 LENT 2 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Worship	2 10:30am - Bible 12pm - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry 7pm - Ministry Night	3 9am - Property Com. 7:30pm - Lenten	4 10am - Staff Mtg. 2:30pm - Care One- 7:30pm - Lenten 8pm - Adult Choir	5 12pm - OWLS (LB)	6 7pm - MMM	7
8 IHN Hospitality Network	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 HAND-UP SUNDAY LENT 3 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Worship	16 10:30am - Bible 7pm - Exec. Comm.	17 9am - Property Com. 7pm - Facilities 7pm - Stephen 7:30pm - Lenten	18 11:30am - Ministeriu 6:30pm - Handbells 7pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Lenten 8pm - Adult Choir	19 7pm - Lunch Bunch	20 10am - WELCA	21 9am - Women's
22 IHN Hospitality LENT 4 Newsletter Info Due 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Worship	23 10:30am - Bible 12pm - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Council 7pm - Cong. Council	24 9am - Property Com. 7:30pm - Lenten	25 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Lenten 8pm - Adult Choir	26	27	28 9am - Spring Clean-
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Worship	30 10:30am - Bible	31 9am - Property Com.	1	2	3	4

CONGREGATION CORNER

Address Changes:

- ◆ Beth Eilers
19 Vaughn Way
Burlington Twp., NJ 08016
609.699.6630
- ◆ Mae Trebing
ironhorse2102@gmail.com

Pastoral Acts:

Funeral

1/23/15 Bette Higginbotham

Thank You!

I wanted to express my amazement and gratitude at the amount of volunteer work submitted thus far by the Facilities Planning Task Force during the semi annual congregation meeting on 1/25*, and their tireless, ongoing work over 12 months. We are blessed to have architects, engineers, facilities planners, construction/business management consultants in our midsts working on all our behalf's for free - wow! This has to have been tens of thousands of what would have been billable hours. Our congregation is blessed to have such highly credentialed, dedicated servants moving our facility "upwards" into the next century. Thanks be to God!

—Mary Beckett

**This report was also emailed to households on 1/20 and is currently posted on St. Matthew's website.*

LOOKING AHEAD

Palm Sunday, 3/29

8:30 & 11 AM Worship Services

9:45 AM Sunday School (*No Adult Forum*)

Maundy Thursday, 4/2

10 AM Trinity Episcopal Church

7:30 PM Worship at SMLC

Good Friday, 4/3

10 AM Children's Good Friday Worship

12 PM Community Service at

Trinity Episcopal Church

7:30 PM Tenebrae Service at SMLC

Easter Sunday, 4/5

8:30 & 11 AM Worship Services

9:30 AM Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
(*No Sunday School or Adult Forum*)

Third Sunday of Easter, 4/19

11 AM First Communion

CROP Walk, 5/3

Watch for CROP Walk information. St. Matthew will be the host for the walk. Let's make it bigger and better. For more info, see Mae Trebing 609-239-4942 ironhorse2102@gmail.com.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Ingrid Wengert
wengert2@verizon.net; 856.235.2055 Ext. 2

Parish Coordinator: William Lawrence, AiM
wal.stmatt@verizon.net; 856.235.2055 Ext. 4

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Kim Bohley
stmattthew@verizon.net; 856.235.2055 Ext. 1

Cantor: David D. Harp
daveharp@comcast.net

Leader of Music with Children & Youth:
Heather Caporaso; rosebud2585@comcast.net

Sexton: Dave Rulon; 856.235.2055 Ext. 1

Nursery Attendant: Shirley Schmidt



About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 4.2 million members in 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our Hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.