

FAITH LUTHERAN



705 Leeland Heights Boulevard East
Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936

APRIL 2011

GREETINGS

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth be moved and the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult..... the Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold.” Psalm 46 RSV

I didn't sleep well last night. Now I know what the early Christians meant when they said they prayed all night. News of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan with thousands of lives feared lost stayed in my head. Word that the nuclear plants stand like Trojan Horses waiting to spew more death and destruction in a nuclear meltdown captures my attention. Seismologists offer little comfort when they tell us the earth is “ringing” with earthquake activity, like that in Haiti last, or in New Zealand. What appears to be climate change brings unfamiliar weather patterns to “our” earth. In addition restless demonstrators in the near East threaten to topple their leaders and in our land we hear discussion of yet more military intervention.

And I begin to wonder “Who's in charge here?” Are we abandoned to chaos? Is there no meaning to all this? These are forces and events far beyond anyone's control.

But the Psalmist knows: “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early. The nations rage, the Kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

It appears the Psalmist has been where we are now. His faith in God guides him...and us, even in the midst of earthquake and unrest. Such faith puts our fears at rest and offers the hope of restoring sleep, knowing that our Creator God has a plan of salvation. Not in this life or on this earth, but through Jesus Christ he redeems our life and experience and offers us hope.

In this Lenten season, come and worship God, share your burdens with God, restore your faith, forego the fears that bind us, and receive God's blessings.

Rev. David B. Stacy

COUNCIL MINUTES

February minutes were reviewed and approved. The Executive Committee will now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, prior to the regular Council meeting.

Pastor's report: Need to prepare a job description for a part-time Associate in Ministry position. This new position would have an emphasis on Evangelism. Motion Passed

Social Ministry and Property reports were submitted. Tim Hershey project was discussed and Tim was asked to speak to the church on a Sunday morning about his half-way house project.

Church sign on the Leeland Heights side of the church needs a lot of repair. Mention in church on Sunday morning.

HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIME IS NOW 10am.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IS NOW 9am

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS DURING THE 10am WORSHIP TIME

DISEASTER RELIEF FUNDS

The ELCA is working very closely with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran World Federation, and Church World Service in providing direct assistance to survivors of this disaster--and we'll continue to walk with them as they rebuild their lives. Please continue to pray for the people of Japan and for our companion church, the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

They face dangers relating to the damaged nuclear facilities and the massive humanitarian crisis resulting from the earthquake and tsunami. Visit the ELCA Disaster Response page and the Florida-Bahamas Synod page for more information, prayers, bulletin inserts, and updated situation reports.

LENT

Our Lenten journey continues with a service that begins at 7pm each Wednesday evening with a soup supper in Sweatlock Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:15pm *or a little earlier!!!*

Soup Suppers will be staffed as follows:

April 6—RUTH/EVE & MARY/MARTHA CIRCLES

April 13 – SCOUT TROOP 702

THRIVENT ASSISTANCE

Thrivent Dollars: Our Church Council encourages our members and regular visitors to prayerfully consider apportioning your "Thrivent Dollars" to Faith or the Learning Village Preschool. If you have an insurance product with Thrivent, and have not received a letter about your "Thrivent Dollars," you can call 1-800-847-4836 to check on your distribution. You can now direct your Thrivent Choice money directly to Faith Lutheran. Just call and say "Thrivent Choice." Someone will help you get your fund request to Faith. We have already received some money from this particular fund by members.

WITHIN THE FOLD

DEATH

Ralph McDonald

March 2, 2011

ADDRESS CHANGE

Otilia Dierks new address is: % Ingrid Jamieson; 3428 N. Edison St; Arlington, VA 22207. Her phone number is 703 534 2625

ALTAR GUILD FOR APRIL

Patricia Brooks & Sheila Rogers

GREETERS FOR APRIL

04/03-Nancy Eng & Merrill Gottschall

04/10-Bob & Doris Bollenbach

04/17-Mary Jane McArthur & Gloria Heidelberg

04/24-Larry & Frances Vandivier

ACOLYTES FOR APRIL

04/03-Faith Erickson & Marlee Shaw

04/10-Austin & Abigail Brock

04/17-Nolan Jerriey & Zachary Welsh

04/24-Natalie Peters & Bryan Natoli

READERS FOR APRIL

04/03-LaVon Koenig

04/10-Merrilyn Penegor

READERS CONTINUED

04/17-Lynn Beck (PALM SUNDAY)

04/24-

USHERS FOR APRIL

Doug Patterson, Len and Laura Barney

DRIVERS FOR APRIL

04/03-Damon Shelor

04/10-Tom Hansen

04/17-Damon Shelor

04/21- (Maundy Thursday)

04/22- (Good Friday)

04/24-Richard Peters (Easter)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Hildegard Rosner | 04/03 |
| Thomas Hansen | 04/03 |
| Elfrida Gay | 04/05 |
| Diane Elswick-Day | 04/07 |
| April Erickson | 04/10 |
| William Hawkins | 04/10 |
| Lynn Beck | 04/11 |
| Caitlin Nelson | 04/11 |
| Russell Neal Merckens | 04/13 |
| Russ Fels | 04/14 |
| Nils Lindroth | 04/14 |
| Joan Shultz | 04/14 |
| Alexander Manetta | 04/15 |
| Ralph Boettger | 04/16 |
| Helen Benson | 04/18 |
| Ted Bawor | 04/18 |
| Sharon Shively | 04/19 |
| Leanna Quinnell | 04/19 |
| Phyllis Vonderhaar | 04/22 |
| Lea Harvey | 04/23 |
| Donald Quinnell | 04/26 |
| Laurie Jerriey | 04/26 |
| Jacob Schmidt | 04/27 |
| Joan Ruchti | 04/28 |

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Siegfried Lorenz | 04/29 |
| Mary Carter | 04/29 |
| Niel Brandt | 04/30 |

Happy Anniversary and God's Blessings to:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Larry and Diane Day | 04/06 |
| Richard and Lisa Peters | 04/06 |
| Robert and Mary Waigand | 04/10 |
| Kenneth and Patricia Brooks | 04/14 |
| Siegfried and Julie Lorenz | 04/29 |

The Lord bless you and keep you....Num. 6:24

MILITARY PERSONEL NEEDING YOUR PRAYERS

CPL **Tyler Blum**, USMC—Cherry Point, NC
 Senior Airman **Kenny Brooks**—Mothan AFB, AZ
 LCPL **Logan Raymond** USMC Reserves - California
 CPL **Hannah Frank** USMC—Japan
 CPL **Trevor Frank** USMC—Miramar, California
 Senior Airman **Matt Hanning**, Afghanistan
 STGSN **David Pykal**, Naval Station Norfolk (ddg Oscar Austin)
 Sergeant **Nick Schmidt**, Baghdad, Iraq

PRAYER LIST

FAITH Members in need of prayer

Edith Reiter, Debra Gobus, Marie Biedermann, Kris Andrews, Jim Hausle, Rev. Henry Hendel, Harry Ludwig, Edie Andrews, Don Getz, Verling Krissinger, Dan Varner, Norma Jean Lovejoy, Erna Rink, Ellen Sommerfeld.

Friends or Relatives of FAITH members in need or prayer

Jay Wright, Tammy Laws, Richard Jahnke, Ethel Kreger, Ryan Crespi, John Toth, Joe Horrom, Mary Beck, Kristen Fidalgo, Lucille Smith, Tammy Laws.

BISHOP'S VISIT

Bishop Edward Benoway will visit our congregation on Sunday, May 1st to speak on the 50th Anniversary of Faith here in Lehigh Acres. Please come and join us and meet the Bishop. A luncheon is being planned for this

occasion. Bishop Benoway will meet with our Congregation Council following the luncheon.

In the fall of 1959, Pastor Arthur Schmidt and Mrs. Schmidt felt the need of a Lutheran Church in Lehigh Acres, FL. On March 20, 1960, the first service was held in the Lehigh Acres Auditorium with 57 attending. Rev. Schmidt served as Pastor and Mrs. Alma Meyers was the pianist. The 1st Anniversary was recognized on March 26, 1961. The organization charter was signed on April 30, 1961 with a Charter Membership of 71 persons. The name adopted for the Mission was Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lehigh Acres, Florida, Inc. The Congregation was received as a member of the Florida Synod on May 8, 1961 and incorporated as a not-for-profit religious organization with the State of Florida on October 5, 1961.

Two acres of land was donated by the Lee County Land and Title Company and the Congregation purchased two (2) adjoining acres. The land was consecrated February 25, 1962. The Rev. Schmidt served until the Rev. John H. Menges was called on July 15, 1962. The Lutheran Layman's Movement conducted a Capital Fund Drive in February of 1963. The new Sanctuary was dedicated on February 7, 1965. The second mortgage was paid off in December of 1974.

Rev. John Menges retired due to illness on November 15, 1975. On January 6, 1976, the Rev. William A. Renn was called to serve as Pastor. A building contract was signed for the new fellowship hall now known as Whisnant Hall on September 17, 1976. It was dedicated in March of 1977 and was named for the benefactor – Laura Whisnant. A committee was formed in June of 1978 to make plans for a new Sanctuary, which was built and dedicated in 1981.

More history to follow.....

MORE CHAPEL HUMOR

The Pastor vs. the Choir Director

There was a feud between the Pastor and the Choir Director of the Hicksville Southern Baptist Church. It seems the first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on 'Dedicating Yourselves to Service' and the Choir Director chose to sing: 'I Shall Not Be Moved'. Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him.

The next Sunday he preached on 'Giving.' Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: 'Jesus Paid It All'. By this time, the Pastor was losing his temper.

Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on 'The Sin of Gossiping.' Would you believe the Choir Director selected the song: 'I love to tell the story'.

There was no turning back. The following week the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the Choir Director led them in: 'Why Not Tonight'?

Truthfully, no one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The Choir Director could not resist: 'What A Friend We Have In Jesus.'

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Rev. David Stacy, Interim Pastor

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

J. L. Kreger

OFFICE STAFF

J. L. Kreger, *Administrative Assistant*

Jo Anne Borkert, *Financial Secretary*

Linda Carter, *Webmaster*

Volunteers for Filing and Reception

In our office

Dorothy Nelson, Marguerite Kull, Mariam Snider, Sandra Brandt,

Mary Jane McArthur, Lynn Bowman, Lois Duff,

Nancy Eng & Frances Vandivier, Barb Lindroth (attendance)

Laura Barney, Diane Bernatz (Memorials)

(Tuesday and Friday afternoon spots are open)

COUNTERS

Ruth Richardson, Mary Jane McArthur, Faye Engels,

Edythe Hewitt, Joan Sozzi, Jerry Emmel,

Gloria Heidelberg (alternate)

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President, Donald Poidevin
Vice President, Richard Naus
Secretary, Laurie Jerriey
Treasurer, Charles DiFelice
Jerry Emmel, Phil Koenig,
Tom Nelson, Douglas Patterson,
Merrilyn Penegor, Richard Peters, Ron Shively
Pastor David Stacy

Website: faithlutheranla.org
Email: FaithLutheran@embarqmail.com
Phone: 239)369-6177
Fax: 239)369-3411

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lisa Peters, Dee Waigand, Suzanne Mojta, Melissa Welsh, *Liaison—
Council at large*

EVANGELISM

Bob Wolfe. Barb Lindroth, *Liaison—Richard Naus*

FINANCE

Betty Richards, Jo Anne Borkert, Barbara Snyder, Jerry Emmel, Pr. Stacy,
Liaison—Charles DiFelice

LEARNING VILLAGE

Lisa Peters-Director, Barbara Emery-President, Jennifer Glassser-
Secretary, Dee Waigand, Barry Moll, Mary Jo Howard, Bonnie Kintz,
Donald Poidevin Pr. David Stacy, *Liaison—Richard Peters*

PROPERTY

Larry Vandivier, John Kintz, Damon Shelor, Len Barney, Laura Barney, Ron
Shively, Larry Snyder, *Liaison—Doug Patterson*

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Barbara Emery, Sheila Rogers, Jim Kreger, LaVon Koenig, *Liaison—Jerry
Emmel*

STEWARDSHIP

Lorraine Schultz, Charles Emery, Barry Moll, Hank Hendel, *Liaison—Tom
Nelson*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Jeanette Vesper (Altar Guild), Marguerite Kull (Greeters), Lynn Beck (Readers), Jim Kreger (Music Director), Bob Wolfe (Communion Assistants), Jerry Emmel (Music), Damon Shelor (Drivers), (Ushers), Melissa Welsh (Acolytes), Pr. Stacy, *Liaison—Merrilyn Penegor*

YOUTH/ORGANIZATIONS

Barbara Emery, Pr. Leon Dale (Christ's Redemption Ministries), Charles Emery, *Liaison—Don Poidevin*

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Hallie Jerome, Tom Nelson, Sheila Rogers, Barbara Emery, Mickie Shaw, Jim Kreger, Lisa Peters, Chairperson, Liaison – Don Poidevin

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO BE A PART OF ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES.
CALL Don Poidevin @ 239-281-7133!**

| Sun APRIL | Mon <i>HC—Holy Communion</i> <i>SFH—Sweatlock</i> <i>Fellowship Hall</i> <i>TLV—The Learning Village</i> <i>AA—Alcoholics Anon.</i> W&M Worship & Music GWC—General Women's Club | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri 1 8a-Bread Day 7p-Church of God 8p-AA/Women Helping Women | Sat 2 9a-Altar Guild 7:30p-Spanish Ministry 8p-AA/Beginners WH-8a |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| 3 9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10a-Worship HC/ Sunday School 11a-Worship in Schmidt / 50 th Anniversary Comm. 3-5p Canada Club 3p-Lehigh Children's Chorus Concert 7:30p-Church of God | 4 6:30p-AA Big Book 7p-Mary Martha Circle/ Scouts 8p-AA Big Book | 5 7p- Boy Scouts/Prayer Group-WH 7:30 Spanish Church of God | 6 10a-TLV Chapel 6:15p-Soup Supper 7p Worship Sanctuary Choir 8p-AA. | 7 5:30-Jr. Handbells 6:30p-Handbell rehearsal 7:30p-Church God/AA/STEPS | 8 8a-Bread Day 7p-Church of God 8p-AA/Women Helping of Women | 9 9a-Church of God of Prophecy-SFH Derby Day for Scouts (outside) 7:30p-Spanish Church of God 8p-AA/Beginners |
| 10 9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10a-Worship / Sunday School 11a- Worship in Schmidt 3p-Cantata "The Living Last Supper" 7:30p-Church of God | 11 6:30p-AA Big Book / TLV Board Mtg 7p-Scouts 8p-AA Big Book | 12 6:30P-Confirmation /Exec Committee 7p-Prayer Group 7:30-Council/Church of God Hispanic | 13 10a-TLV Chapel 6:15p-Soup 7p-Worship Sanctuary Choir 8p-AA | 14 6:30p-Handbell rehearsal 7:30p-Worship Music Committee 7:30p-Church God/AA/STEPS | 15 8a-Bread Day 12N-3p-GWC &7p-Church of God of Women 8p-AA/Women Helping | 16 11a-9:30p-Hidalgo Reception 7:30p-Spanish Church of God 8p-AA/Beginners |
| 17 Palm Sunday 9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10a-Worship HC/ Sunday School 11a-Worship in Schmidt 7:30p-Church of God | 18 6:30p-AA Big Book 7p-Scouts 8p-AA Big Book | 19 6:30p-Confirmation 7p-Prayer Group 7:30p-Church of God Hispanic Feast of Passover | 20 10a-TLV Chapel 7p Worship 7p-Choir 8p-AA | 21 Maundy Thursday 7p-Service with Communion 7:30p-Church of God/AA/STEPS | 22 Good Friday 8a-Bread Day 7p-Service / Church of God 8p-AA/Women Helping Women | 23 7:30p-Spanish Church of God 8p-AA/Beginners |
| 24 Easter Sunday 9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10a-Worship/ Sunday School 11a-Worship in Schmidt 7:30p-Church of God | 25 6:30p-AA Big Book 7p-Scouts 8p-AA Big Book | 26 6:30p-Confirmation 7p-Prayer Group /FINANCE COMM 7:30p-Church of God Hispanic | 27 10a-TLV Chapel 7p- Choir 8p-AA | 28 1p- Ruth/Eve Circle 5:30p-Jr. Handbells 6:30p-Handbells 7:30p-Church of God/AA/STEPS | 29 8a-Bread Day 7p-Church of God 8p-AA/Women Helping Women | 30 7:30p-Spanish Church of God 8p-AA/Beginners |