

JESUS' LAST DAYS

Lent 2011

The Lutheran tradition regarding how to observe Lent has always focused on the Passion History of Jesus, exploring again the stories of his suffering and death. This is the heritage which grew out of Martin Luther's great concern that God's people be well versed in the stories of Jesus, especially those of his death and resurrection. This year we will focus on the last days of Jesus' life with the goal of again discovering the riches of God's grace coming alive in us as we tell these stories one more time. We will observe Ash Wednesday on March 9th with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 7:00 pm. Join us then and on the Thursdays in Lent for Evening Prayer, beginning at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy March 9th, 7:00 pm

Evening Prayer & Sermon

- March 17th The Last Sign
- March 24th The Last Hoorah
- March 31st The Last Supper
- April 7th The Last Conversation
- April 14th The Last Breath

Pastor Merkel

Daylight savings begins on Sunday, March 13th!
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead.



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Sewing Group

by Mae Rader

We will meet @ 9:00 AM on March 8th to work on the blankets and take some home, also to plan what to do during construction.

Any questions – call Mae @ 533-5972 or Sue @ 838-15301



Friendship Circle

by Mae Rader

Friendship Circle Meeting is on MARCH 10th at 1:30 PM. Scott Werkheiser will talk to our group about "ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD." Everyone is

invited for this topic which will keep us updated in our 'GREEN WORLD' for 2011. See you in the church parlor.



Palm Parable

is published monthly by
Palm Lutheran Church

The deadline for article submission is the 15th of the previous month. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

A Lenten Day Apart at the Wittel Farm. On Saturday, March 12, 9 am - 2 pm you can begin your Lenten journey to Easter by joining with others for a day apart. Registration is \$15 for program and meal costs. See the bulletin board in the Sunday School narthex for more information and registration forms.

Quilters: The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents **A Spring Quilting Retreat**. This is a gathering of women to share fellowship and talents at nearby Camp Kirchenwald. Friday, March 18, 7:00 pm to Sunday, March 20, 2:00 pm is the date for this weekend and you can choose the full weekend (Fri-Sun) for a fee of \$120, two days (Fri-Sat) or (Sat-Sun) for \$65 or one day (Sat, 9 am-4 pm) for \$50. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Sunday School narthex.

Summer Camp Open House!!! Both Camp Nawakwa and Camp Kirchenwald are hosting open houses on Sunday, March 27, 2:00-4:30 pm and Sunday, April 17, 2:00-4:30 pm. You can meet some of the summer staff and take a tour of the camp. Lots of great new things to see and do at our Lutheran camps. More information can be found on the bulletin board in the Sunday School narthex.

Camp Sunday On Sunday, March 20th, our friend Zach Weiss from Camp Kirchenwald will be at Palm to share information about all the great things available at our Lutheran camps. Parents and youth are encouraged to attend this presentation to learn all about the camp programs. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall at 9:30 am, Sunday March 20th.

Did you know that you can attend **Back-Country Outpost** camp at Camp Kirchenwald? During that week you will settle into the new Kirchenwald fort and learn skills and crafts dating back to the early 1800's. There is also a **Pirate's Cove Outpost** camp. You live at the lakeside outpost and learn to sail, build a raft, and search for buried treasure. For older youth there are Kayaking camps, Back-Country Outpost camp, Soccer, High Adventure camp and many others. Early registration discount expires April 2. **Palm does provide scholarships for camp.** Check on the bulletin board in the Sunday School narthex for camp brochures and more information.





by Louise Costello

Valentine Gift Boxes: The committee packed and mailed 6 Valentine gift boxes for college freshmen from the congregation. Valentine cards were mailed to 27 upper classmen.

Halcyon Bingo: Palm hosted a bingo party for members of the Lebanon County Halcyon Club on January 24th. 17 clients and 4 staff attended with 12 members of Palm volunteering. A grateful thank you to all those who helped: Bob and Fern Baker, Louise Costello, Dolly Donald, Winnie Hermanson, KD, Taylor, and Jaime LaPine, Laurie and Tim Miller, Sue Nale, and Jeanette Yewdall.

Noon Meal: Our first Noon Meal for 2011 will be held on Thursday, March 24, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon. Volunteers are welcome!! Set up usually begins around 9:30 and clean up is completed by 2:00. Come for the entire time or just for a few hours. All help is appreciated!!

Caring Cupboard: Easter – We will be collecting items from March 13 – April 10 for Easter Baskets for Caring Cupboard. The list is to the side of this article for your convenience when shopping. Designated Offering will be used to purchase hams.

Development and Disability Services of Lebanon County: We will be collecting items for a “Baking Basket” until March 6th. The basket will be donated and used as part of the DDS annual auction. The proceeds benefit DDS. Items can be anything related to baking such as, mitts, cake pans, cookie sheets, cake mixes, etc.

Next meeting of Social Ministry is scheduled for March 8, 2011, at 7:00.

- Caring Cupboard
Easter Items
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
 - Instant potatoes
 - Corn
 - Peas
 - Green Beans
 - Canned Fruits
 - Cake Mix
 - Frosting

Church Music Conference

We are pleased to announce that this year we will be taking children and youth to the Massanetta Church Music Conference July 31-August 5. The conference will be held at Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Registration forms will be sent home through choir rehearsals.

We attended this conference the past two years due to the cancellation of the Westminster Conference. Those that attended found it an outstanding and fun filled week of activities and music making. It attracts a larger number of young people than Westminster and provides excellent housing (no more dorm rooms and hall baths).

Funding is provided by our annual flower sale and support from the Christian Education Committee. However, due to rising costs and the large number of people we expect to take, additional funding is needed. The designated special offering for March will go to this event. Please consider giving generously so that as we can take as many young people as possible.



WERE YOU THERE? What a response! What great questions! What wonderful input!

The Facilities Planning Committee presented an update on our building plans following each service on Sunday, February 13. Assisting Robyn Eckert and Harry Fox in the presentation were Nathan Fry of Arthur Funk and Sons, and Dale Yoder and Ginger Houser from Cornerstone Architects. This team responded to questions ranging from concerns about handicap accessibility and security issues to adequate light for the stained glass windows and preserving precious artifacts. Did you know...

- There is a difference in elevation of nearly 3 feet from the current narthex doors to the doors on Railroad Street, BUT the new building will be entirely handicap accessible through ramps and even a wheelchair lift to get folks to the choir room and balcony.
- When outside groups use our facility it is very difficult to restrict them to specific areas of the church, BUT the new facility will allow two classrooms and the multi-purpose room to be completely secured from the rest of the building.

Input from those present even brought up new issues like disposing of communion wine (a "dead drain" can be installed in the sacristy), and the time capsule in the courtyard (it will be located and re-buried upon completion of the building project.)

In the very near future we will need many hands to complete the project. Please give your name to any council member or Pam in the church office if you can help in any of the following ways:

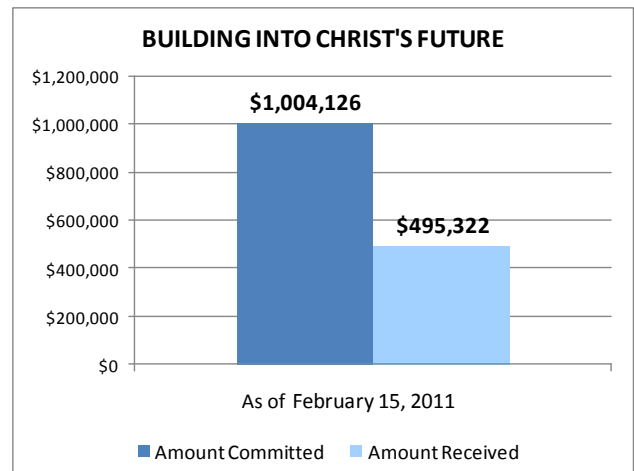
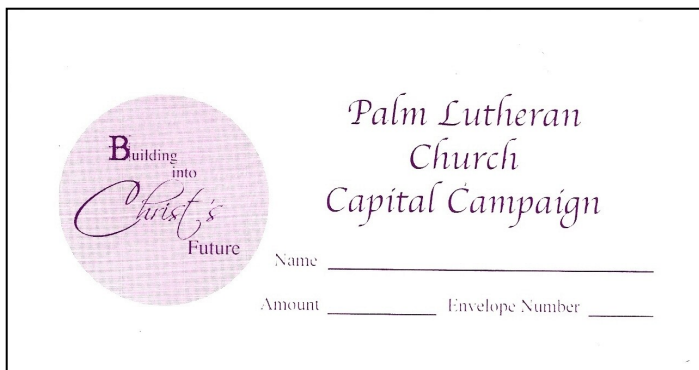
- Clean / sort / box items in current storage areas (Greatly needed!)
- Know of somewhere, or have capacity to, store church items during the rebuild
- Have experience in interior decoration or design

This is an exciting time for Palm. Interestingly enough, even the scripture for Sunday, Feb. 13th, included Paul's words "you are... God's building." (1Cor. 3:9) The *people* are the church. But the people need an adequate place to gather for fellowship, study the scriptures, and reach out to others with God's word. We are on the verge of creating a beautiful new facility to do just that. The best part is that we are doing it together, as a community of believers to the glory of God!

Help Ensure That Your Contributions Are Going Where You Want Them To Go!

Since the Capital Campaign fund began receiving your contributions in late May, envelopes specifically made for the ***Building into Christ's Future*** "Capital Campaign" have been available for your use. It is important that your contributions for the Capital Campaign are put into these special envelopes. If your contribution is earmarked for the Capital Campaign, please use these special envelopes (pictured below). They are available in the Narthex.

Faith Commitment Update:



Cleaning House

by Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse



March and the “madness” of the long, cold winter is slowly coming to an end! It was so nice back in mid-February to finally see some of that snow melt away and

be able to enjoy some warmer temperatures!

The Health Ministry has been very busy over the winter months! We’ve hosted two workshops on getting things in order for the end of our lives – “Getting Your House in Order...” and they were both WONDERFULLY attended with feedback that indicated they were a resounding success. We’ll try to do them again in the future. In addition, we’ve been planning for the return of some exercise to get you all up and moving and IN SHAPE for the spring and summer months – Tai Chi and Line Dancing. BOTH are BEGINNER level classes – gentle, easy exercise, and FUN... did I mention FUN? If you haven’t already signed up, there’s still time! Also, we’re bringing back CPR – a skill SO IMPORTANT for all to have – come sign up now for either the March or April sessions. The particulars for all three of these offerings are in the narthex – come check them out and sign up NOW!!

Now...with the excitement building that we are probably looking at the beginning of the renovation on the church in early June, all the ministries have been tasked with “clearing up and cleaning up” our prospective spaces and that means – in MOST cases – getting rid of “stuff.” Most of us have a tendency toward being packrats so my topic this month is “COMPULSIVE HOARDING.”

If you watch TV, you probably have noticed several reality-based shows that deal with individuals who suffer from compulsive hoarding. We’re not talking about someone who is a typical packrat, or collector. The impulse to save “stuff” takes over, as papers, garbage, junk mail, plastic grocery bags, yes even animals, are ‘collected’ and begin to encroach upon the sufferer’s life – cover-

ing the counters, floors, tables, bath tub, appliances, everywhere you can imagine – in some cases from floor to ceiling – making it impossible to eat, sleep, bathe or have any semblance of normal life. People who hoard often do not see their behavior as a problem. They succumb to an impulse that refuses to allow them to ‘let go’ of items of significance to them, or that they think might be useful ‘some day.’

No one really knows what causes this behavior. Experts tell us that it can appear on its own, or can be in tandem with obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, psychosis, depression, or dementia. Clutter and an inability to sort through or discard items are usually the first signs of a problem. Social isolation becomes an issue as embarrassment prevents inviting others to the home, while simultaneously, the self-imposed isolation leads to further distress, loneliness and more hoarding. Experts indicate that those who hoard are often perfectionists who cannot decide whether to keep or throw items away.

Cognitive Behavioral therapy is typically the treatment of choice and might also include the use of medication. Therapy sessions may include exploring the origins of the impulses for hoarding, de-cluttering with the assistance of the counselor or a professional organizer, learning to change harmful beliefs about one’s self, reaching out to others socially, taking small steps and focusing on each short-term goal.

With patience, trust and support, it is possible to change! So come on folks... let’s clear out the “stuff” we’ve been accumulating in this church for greater than 160 years! Our new building will thank us!



Dear Rev. Merkel,

Please pass along to the congregation our many thanks for the cards and prayers my mother, Mary Neiswinter, received during her recent illness and over the years.

Please know that our family finds healing in God's tender love and in knowing others loved her and cared.

Many thanks,
Nancy & Roy Miller

+++++

I would like to thank everyone involved in the bingo night, which was held for the Halcyon, at your church on Jan 24, 2011. Louise Costello and all of the volunteers did a fantastic job making our members feel welcome and have a wonderful evening. They look forward to this event every year. It really means a lot to them and allows our individuals to socialize with the community.

I wish you all the luck in your future renovations and hope that everything goes quickly and as planned. Please let me know, when the time comes around again next year, what I can do to help arrange things for another evening event.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Roseanne Koch
Mental Health Intensive Program Supervisor
@ Halcyon Activity Center

+++++

Many thanks to Palm Lutheran Church and helpers during my convalescence. Helpers such as: Pastor Merkel for visit and delivery of communion; Teresa Keller for the visit, model, crutches; Kathy Phillips for the visit and prayer shawl and delivery of casseroles; Phyllis Verderame for visit and flowers; Sanctuary and Bell Choirs for flowers.

Also to all who sent cards and made phone calls.

Many thanks,
Karl Koch

+++++

Dear Friends at Palm,

Many thanks for the pretty Valentines. They are special!

Sincerely,
Irene Heaps



Dear Palm Members,

I would like to thank Teresa for all she did for my Aunt Kathryn and thank you Pastor Merkel for the visits to the hospital and ManorCare. Thank you Fern Baker for delivering her fruit basket and visiting with her. The cards and prayers from Palm members were all greatly appreciated.

Faye Gingrich

+++++

Dear Palm Family,

We would like to thank the members of Palm for the condolences you expressed in the death of our sister, Debbie Cassel-Turnbach. The cards we received were very comforting. A special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Committee. Lori Orehek delivered a beautiful shawl made by Judy Merkel. We also received literature from the Stephen Ministry Committee that will help us to work through the grief and time of mourning. However, Debbie asked that we celebrate her life and to remember happy times, laughing times, bright sunny days and keep with us the happy memories when her life was done. That will be easy to do because we have enough wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

In appreciation for your kindness,
Jane & Glenn Snover
Edward Cassel

+++++

Dear Jeanette & Friends of Palm:

Thank you very much for the beautiful act of kindness shown to me at Christmastime.

The gift was beautiful and it uplifted my otherwise sad spirits.

Also, I'm so thankful & grateful that we have caring loving people at Palm Lutheran Church—May God bless all of you!

With love,
Millie Early

+++++

Dear Friends at Palm Church,

I want to thank Teresa Keller, Pastor Merkel and members of Palm for all their support and prayers throughout this past year. Thank you for the monthly visits, the fruit baskets, and the many cards sent at Christmas and after the passing of my wife, Lucille.

Your care and continued concern are very much appreciated by me and my family.

Sincerely,
Roy Nice

Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

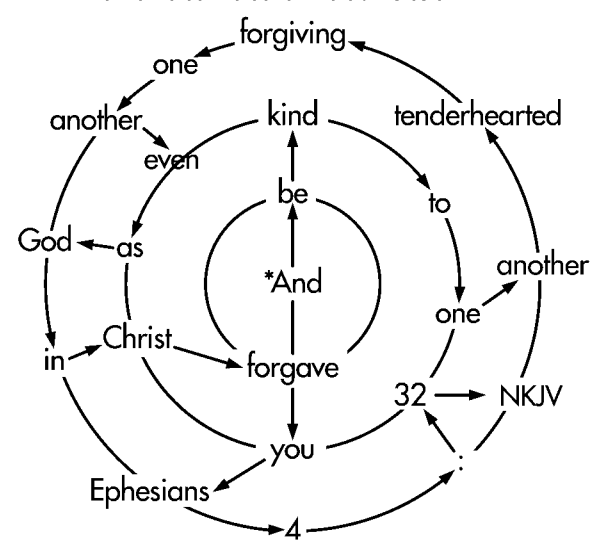


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .”
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV



Kids Corner

March Birthdays

March 2
Barbara Espenshade

March 3
Marissa Dietrich
Judy Merkel
Ann Miller

March 5
Adrienne Kuhlengel
Raymond McHenry Jr.
William Nagle

March 7
Kataleena Ward

March 8
Kristie Cavallaro

March 11
David Brander
Jeanette Yewdall

March 13
Harry Fox

March 14
Emma Hoover
Gregory Wherley

March 15
Gene Sindlinger

March 16
Marie Daniels
Janet Ollivier

March 17
Cameron Weaver

March 19
William Fasnacht

March 22
Bonnie House

March 24
Dale Yingst

March 26
Daniel Galvan

March 27
Lee Miller
Joan Weaver

March 28
Ryan Cassel
Alicia Kepley
Sterling Werkheiser

March 29
Benjamin Ricker

March 30
Ronald Conard, Sr.
Phyllis Verderame



March Anniversaries

March 2
Barry & Dorothy Felt 27 yrs
Michael & Melissa Hand 20 yrs

March 6
David & Rosalie Jerpe 50 yrs

March 9
Duane & Vivian Rexrode 26 yrs

March 15
Lester & Patricia Hollinger 59 yrs

March 17
Bernard & Frances LaPine 49 yrs

March 18
James & Lois Keiter 65 yrs

March 20
George & Virginia Curfman 46 yrs
Raymond & Deborah McHenry 24 yrs

March 21
George & Donna Felder 15 yrs

March 24
Robert & Karen Kepley 27 yrs
Terry & Kathy Phillips 41 yrs

March 28
Sterling & Sandra Werkheiser 47 yrs



Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary during the month of March. If your name is missing, kindly contact the church office and we will update our records. Thank you!

Pastoral Acts:



Kathryn Clingan
January 31, 2011

Richard Kotzatoski
February 1, 2011

Lucille M. Nice
February 8, 2011

Offering and Attendance Review

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		
		<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>SCS</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Jan 16	\$6,209.90	65	43	136
Jan 23	\$3,733.87	58	49	126
Jan 30	\$9,648.24	63	55	151
Feb 6	\$5,342.29	60	31	143
Feb 13	\$7,039.70	65	24	157

Money Mattersfrom Palm's Treasurer



For the month of January, 2011

Current Fund

Offerings	\$29,178.46
Expenses	\$25,637.36
Difference	\$ 3,541.10

Capital Fund

Beginning Balance	\$113,068.39
Deposits/Interest	\$ 1,973.10
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$115,041.49

Capital Campaign Fund

Beginning Balance	\$549,696.83*
Deposits/Interest	\$ 93,324.24
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$643,021.07

January Designated Offering:

Casserole Bank	\$625.00
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*Includes \$150K transferred from Capital Fund

*Special Designated Offering for March will be:
Children's/Youth Choirs - Massanetta*

**March
Ministry Meetings:**

Archives Committee
Mar 8 - 9:00 AM

Christian Education
Mar 14 - 7:00 PM

Church Council
Mar 21 - 7:00 PM

Executive Committee
Mar 17 - after Evening
Prayer

Finance Committee
Mar 14 - 7:00 PM

Health Ministry
Mar 14 - 7:00 PM

Personnel and Salary
Mar 3- 7:00 PM

Property Committee
Mar 1 - 7:00 PM

Shawl Ministry
Mar 20 - 6:30 PM

Social Ministry
Mar 8 - 7:00 PM

**The Lebanon Valley
Brethren Home**

Communion Service will be held on Monday, March 28th. All services begin at 10:00 am in the Home's Chapel. Volunteers are always needed to transport our members who attend the service.



Alcoholics Anonymous	279-4989
Al-Anon	270-4974
American Red Cross	273-2671
Caring Cupboard	838-9493
Child Abuse Hotline	800-932-0313
Domestic Violence Hotline	273-7190
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
LutherCare	626-1171
Narcotics Anonymous	277-7500
Suicide Prevention	800-273-8255
Crisis Intervention	274-3363
(Suicide acute emotional drug and alcohol problems)	
Rape Crisis of Lebanon	272-5308

Committee Chair Directory



Director of Volunteer Ministries

Contact: Sue Nale, 469-0852
sanale@verizon.net

Archives Committee

Contact: Ann Passenger, 534-2077

Capital Campaign Steering Committee

Contact: Harry Fox, 838-6217
hafoxiii@comcast.net

Casserole Bank Committee

Contact: Patricia Gontz, 838-1484
patgcooksew@verizon.net

Caregivers Support Group

Contact: Jeannette Thomas,
361-4045 or 269-5863
dandjthomas1@comcast.net

Christian Education

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jlmslp@comcast.net

Facilities Planning Committee

Contact: Robyn Eckert, 838-0770
checkert22@verizon.net

Finance Committee

Contact: Harry Fox, 838-6217
hafoxiii@comcast.net

Friendship Circle

Contact: Nancy Eckert, 838-1474
Or Mary Kreider, 838-2465

Health Committee

Contact: Teresa Keller, 838-6182
parishnurse0407@gmail.com

Hospitality Committee

Contact: Lori Orehek, 838-6561
laorehek@comcast.net

Lebanon County Lutheran Men

Contact: Bob Baker, 838-1544
rlbfab@msn.com

Personnel and Salary Committee

Contact: Fred Tilberg, 838-1239
tilbe7@aol.com

Property Committee

Contact: Rick Wherley, 867-2796
jrgwrherley@evenlink.com

Quilters Group

Contact: Joan Weaver, 838-3557

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**Appointed, non-voting position of Council

Sewing Group

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mrader1630@comcast.net

Shawl Ministry

Contact: Patty Van Scyoc, 832-1337
pvan.scyoc@verizon.net

Social Ministry Committee

Contact: Sue Nale, 469-0852
sanale@verizon.net

Stephen Ministry Committee

Contact: Ann Miller, 838-6122
akmiller33@verizon.net

Stewardship Committee

Contact: Mae Rader, 533-5972
mrader1630@comcast.net

Worship & Music Committee

Contact: Sue Nale, 469-0852
sanale@verizon.net