

# The Crossroads

## Living Faith

### Lutheran Church

March 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## What Does It Mean to Be the Church?

*If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*  
1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, and an ELCA task force have developed a program called *Claimed, Gathered, Sent*. This program has developed a "guide for conversation" to be used by congregations and you will be hearing a lot about in the coming months. The goal of *Claimed, Gathered, Sent* is for congregations to explore what it means when we say:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.



We will be exploring these questions in Sunday School at 9:15 on Sunday mornings beginning on March 8. I am excited about our chance to have these conversations and I hope you will be able to join us.

The questions led me to remember an excerpt from a book by C. Peter Wagner. While I don't agree with Wagner in most of his theological ideas, I think his list of measurable components of a healthy church can help us as we think about what it means to be the Church and also help us to quantify our own church health. Wagner writes:

"A survey of hundreds of pastors has allowed us to compile a preliminary list of measurable quality factors in the life of a congregation in ranking order. The twelve factors are:

1. Bible knowledge. Church members are increasing in their grasp of the teachings of the Bible. They can integrate this with a theological system that enables them to apply the Bible's teachings to their life situation.
2. Personal devotions. Members spend time daily in prayer, Bible reading, meditation, and other personal spiritual exercises.
3. Worship. Members regularly participate in the worship services scheduled by the church.
4. Witnessing. Members regularly attempt to share their faith in Jesus Christ with unbelievers.
5. Lay ministry. The lay people of the church are engaged in such ministries as teaching and discipling. In some cases this happens through consciously discovering, developing, and using their spiritual gifts.
6. Missions. The church actively supports missions, organizing and sustaining a strong program for recruiting, sending, and financing home and foreign missionaries.
7. Giving. Members give an appropriate portion of their income to the local church and/or to other Christian causes.
8. Fellowship. Members are growing in their personal relationships with each other through regular participation in church fellowship groups of one kind or another.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Living Faith Lutheran Church:** We are a living presence of God, celebrating as an extended family. We are committed to sharing our faith through joyful worship and Sacrament. We provide opportunities for growth by offering ministries that meet the needs of our members and community.

(Continued from page 1)

9. Distinctive life-style. Members generally manifest their faith in Christ by living a life-style clearly and noticeable distinct from that of non-Christians in the same community.
10. Attitude toward religion. Church members regard their involvement in the church primarily as a service to God rather than a means to fulfill personal needs.
10. Social service. Members are serving others outside the congregation. This includes direct personal involvement with the poor and needy, or in programs designed to help the needy.
11. Social justice. Either through the congregation as a whole or through specialized Christian agencies, members are striving to make changes in sociopolitical structures that will contribute to a more moral and just society."

What is not stated in the list above, but is implied is love. As a congregation we could be excelling in all of these "measurable quality factors", but without love for God and love for neighbor as our impetus, it means little.

I invite you, as we journey through this season of Lent, to think about these 12 measurable factors. Do we see these qualities here in our life together as Living Faith Lutheran Church? What is our motivation for all we say and do as a congregation? Is the foundation of our faith based in love...for God, for neighbor and for one another?

Please join us on Sunday mornings in Sunday School and on the Wednesday night Lenten Soup dinners as we explore these and many other questions.

Blessings—**Pastor Shaw**



## Fast From-Feast On

The **Feast** of the great celebration of Easter when all is made new is the comfort that allows us strength during the great 40 day **Fast**.

### Fast From-Feast On

- Fast from judging others;  
Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from emphasis on differences;  
Feast on the unity of life.
- Fast from apparent darkness;  
Feast on the reality of light.
- Fast from thoughts of illness;  
Feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute;  
Feast on phrases that purify.
- Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
- Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.
- Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures;  
Feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
- Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern;  
Feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
- Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress;  
Feast on verities that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken;  
Feast on promises that inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow;  
Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
Feast on prayer that [strengthens].

—William Arthur Ward  
(American author, teacher, pastor, 1921-1994.)

# Motoring to...



It's cold. It has been snowy and we all have a touch of cabin fever. We need to have some fellowship and some fun!

Plan to come out on March 14<sup>th</sup> (snow date March 21) for our Motoring to Motown party. We will have good food, great Motown music (my personal favorite!) and a silent auction where you can bid on some wonderful items.

What could be a better cure for the winter doldrums!

What is even better is that all of the money that we make that night will go towards sending Jack and Luke Murphy to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit.

If you have items for the auction, we will be accepting donations for the silent auction until Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>.

So, mark your calendars, bring friends, family, neighbors, and plan to be there beginning at **5:00 on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>!**

## Pastor Shaw



Join us every Wednesday evening starting on February 25th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall for a warm bowl of soup, a slice or two of bread, a short video and a discussion about the video. We'd love to see you!

### BIRTHDAYS in MARCH

1	Zoe Lukes
4	Curtis Hintze
6	Geraldine Stine
7	Edward Barth
13	Jared Miles
15	Carole Sarbacher
16	John Engelbrecht
23	Marty Grimes
23	Rod Morgan
24	Cynthia Schmidt
25	Annette Morgan
29	Irmela Ballard
29	CJ Redden-Liotta

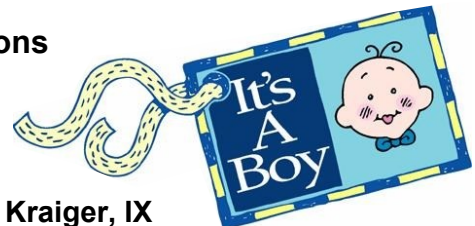
**Living Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

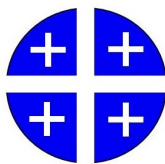
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 Congregation President: Garry McCord  
 Editor: Annette C. B. Morgan

To receive a copy of *The Crossroads*, please send a request to MyLivingFaith@gmail.com or call 301-424-8622.

**Congratulations** to William, Amanda, and Audrey Kraiger!  
**William Henry Kraiger, IX** was born February 10, 2015.





**Living Faith**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Vision - Our Mission

1605 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD 20851  
Tel: 301-424-8622  
www.MyLivingFaith.org

**Sunday Schedule**

9:15m: Living Faith Lutheran Church  
Adult Sunday School  
10:30am: Living Faith Lutheran Church Worship Service  
12:15-3:15pm: Evangelical Church of the Alpha and Omega Worship Service  
3:45-5:45pm: Indonesian Christian Fellowship Church Worship Service  
6-8pm Iglesia Jesus es Dios Worship Service  
8-9pm AA Meeting

**CALENDAR**

Conf Rm = Conference Room  
Edu. Wing = Education Wing  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
LFLC = Living Faith Lutheran Church

**March 2015**

11Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH  6pm Thrivent Workshop, Narthex 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	3	4 6pm Soup & Scriptures, FH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal, FH	5 10am Mary-Martha Circle, Conference Room 6pm AyO Practice, FH	6 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	7 8am Men of LFLC, IHOP
8	9 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	10	11 6pm Soup & Scriptures, FH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal, FH	12 9:30-12pm Quilters, FH 6pm AyO Practice, FH	13 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	14 5pm LFLC Motoring to Motown Dinner & Silent Auction, FH
15 12pm LFLC Council Mtg.	16 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	17 6pm AyO Practice, FH	18 6pm Soup & Scriptures, FH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal, FH	19 6pm Girl Scouts, FH	20 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	21
22	23 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	24	25 6pm Soup & Scriptures, FH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal, FH	26 9:30-12pm Quilters, FH 6pm AyO Practice, FH	27 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	28
29	30 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	31				

**THOSE WHO SERVE US**

<b>Those Serving: March 2015</b>					
	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 29</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Grayson McCord	<i>See Pastor Shaw</i>			
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>	E & N Bartholme	R & A Morgan; Anne-Marie Turner	Steve Ballard	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bolhoff				
<b>Coffee Host(s)</b>	Bolhoff	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>		Grimes	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Rod Morgan	Annette Morgan	T. A. Jackson	Ed Batholme	Jen Emerson
<b>Counter(s) / Bank Deposit</b>	Jeff Griffin				
<b>Greeter(s)</b>	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>				
<b>Lector</b>	Steve Ballard	Millie Hammernik	Mike Lidell	Annette Morgan	Richard Tomkinson
<b>Sound System</b>	Jeff Griffin	Jen Emerson	Rod Morgan	Eigil Madsen	Tony Lightner
<b>Ushers</b>	tba				
<b>Cooking for Chase</b>	March 16th, 2-6pm: Jay & Sandy Jensen (LFLC Kitchen)				





## Living Faith Lutheran Church (LFLC)

### ON-GOING EVENTS

**Men's Breakfast:** the Men of Living Faith breakfast is held the first **Saturday of each month at 8am** at the IHOP on Rockville Pike. Men of all ages are welcome! For more information, contact Marty Grimes at 301-424-5083.

**Adult Sunday School:** each **Sunday, at 9:15am in the Old Library.** Pastor Shaw will start a Lenten discussion on March 8th.

**Together to Eat and Discuss (T.E.D.):** *suspended during the Lenten Season. During Lent, join us each Wednesday for Soup & Scriptures.*

**Mary Martha Circle:** The Mary-Martha Circle meets the **first Thursday of each month at 10am in the Conference Room.**

**Quilters:** The Living Faith Lutheran Women (LFLW) Quilters **meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 9am in the Fellowship Hall** to make patchwork quilts for Lutheran World Relief. For more information, please contact Anne-Marie Turner.

**Choir Practice:** each **Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**LFLC Council:** The next meeting is currently scheduled for **Sunday, March 15 at 12pm in the Conference Room.**

## SWO 2015 CONVENTION "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"

The Metropolitan D.C. Synodical Women's Organization Convention will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at The Village at Rockville (formerly The National Lutheran Home), 9701 Veirs Drive, Rockville, MD. A Maryland location has been selected this year to broaden participation for all our members in our three areas—DC, Maryland, and Virginia. We encourage all women to join us in a day of Convention.

Our theme, "Love Thy Neighbor," allows us to look at some good opportunities for service as well as learn and discuss current issues that desperately need attention. We do wish to thank all those who, over the past two Conventions, have provided their thoughts and suggestions for the Convention Structure. We are using those ideas and suggestions to provide a slightly different structure for the Convention. We are listening; please continue to let us know your thoughts.

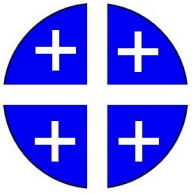
Although all of the familiar elements will be included, we've moved them around a bit to make the day flow more smoothly, give the opportunity for delegates to attend two of the workshops, and possibly give us a shorter day. The Business Meeting with Delegates will begin the day at 8:00 am. Convention participants will begin registration at 8:30 am with a continental breakfast. We will have workshops and a plenary session, lunch, a shorter worship service, followed by additional workshops in the afternoon, and a brief closing. The Rev. Philip C. Hirsch, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Metro D.C. Synod, will deliver the homily.

Not all workshops are confirmed yet, but we can tell you there will be a Bible Study, a book review (One Thousand Gifts, by Ann Voskamp, available at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com, for under \$12.00), and a fun service project. Of course exhibitors will be present for you to visit, to learn about different organizations, and to search for resources for your own programs. Updates will be forthcoming on the SWO website at <http://dwyercl2.wix.com/welcamentrodcsynod> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MetroDCSWO> as well as via e-blasts and a February/March Newsletter.

Mark your calendars now—you won't want to miss this exciting Convention.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**SATURDAY, April 11, 2015 at  
The Village at Rockville**



# Living Faith

LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Vision - Our Mission

## Living Faith Lutheran Church

1605 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD 20851



Before retiring for bed  
Saturday, March 7th,  
set all of your clocks

**Forward One Hour!**



Items for the next  
issue of  
*The Crossroads*  
are due

**Wednesday, March 25**

Please email to  
[MyLivingFaith@gmail.com](mailto:MyLivingFaith@gmail.com)

## Meditation OF THE MONTH

### Our Unique Call

So many terrible things happen every day that we start wondering whether the few things we do ourselves make any sense. When people are starving only a few thousand miles away, when wars are raging close to our borders, when countless people in our cities have no home to live in, our own activities look futile. Such considerations, however, can paralyze and depress us.

Here the word call becomes important. We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But each of us has our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen, from *Bread for the Journey*