

The Crossroads

Living Faith

Lutheran Church

July 2014

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		

A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...Hebrews 12:1

As most of you know, I have just returned home from my first trip to Italy. I spent time in both Rome and Venice and had a wonderful time. It was the trip of a lifetime for me.

In both places, but especially in Rome, I visited numerous churches, including St. Peter's at the Vatican, that are unlike any churches that we have here in the United States.

Even the smallest of churches had artwork going back to the 14th or 15th century. I think the "newest" church we visited was from the 17th century. I was struck by how we in America are such a young country.

I was especially impressed by the Pantheon. It was constructed around the year 125. As you can tell by its name, it was constructed to be a temple to "All of the Gods". Christianity was not the official religion of the Roman Empire until the 4th century. The dome of this structure was the inspiration for many domes that followed, including our U.S. Capitol building.

In the 7th century this building was given to the Pope and turned into a Christian place of worship. Many renovations have happened to this place since the year 125, but the marble floor and the concrete dome are original.



I was so moved by this place that I actually visited it twice. It boggled my mind to walk on a floor that people have walked on since the year 125! And to stare at the high spacious dome and to remember that people have looked at this dome with awe for 1900 years was almost beyond my ability to absorb.

We live in a very new country and we are members of the ELCA, a very new denomination. Yet, we are a part of a very long history of Christianity.

As the verse from Hebrews reminds us, we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses". We are practicing Christians today because someone at sometime told us the Gospel story of Jesus and His love. For almost 2,000 years, knowing how very much God loves us has not lost its power and has been spread from person to person through many generations.

Our congregation here at Living Faith is only about 60 years old. Yet, we still strive to run with perseverance the race that is set before us. We are caretakers of the story of Jesus. It is up to us to tell that story to others. It is up to us to live out in our own lives the love of God and the love of neighbor. It is up to us to insure that God's message is proclaimed to the neighborhood of Rockville.

It takes a lot of hard work and resources to keep alive our mission of sharing the Gospel.

*...let us
run with
perseverance
the race
that is set
before us...*

Hebrews 12:1

(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.

(...*Witnesses* continued from page 1)

Fortunately, we don't have a 500 year old building to maintain, but we are still in financial debt for the repairs done in recent years to the roof, the HVAC system and the parking lot. Every team in the congregation needs more help with their roles in keeping this place a place where the Gospel is proclaimed. We have few people signing up to be greeters, to host coffee hour or to help with church events. Our attendance numbers are down and we are not making our budget numbers this year.

These things are only a few of the obstacles we encounter as we "run with perseverance the race that is set before us". As your pastor, I am asking all of us to be in prayer. Pray about how we can run with perseverance rather than despair or worry. Pray that above all things, we keep our eyes on Jesus and our mission. And, pray that we may someday be a part of the great cloud of witnesses who have run the race with perseverance, joy and faith.

Blessings, Pastor Shaw

Soccer-fever Still? Join us on

Sunday evening, July 20th for D. C. United Faith & Family Night! For one low price you will get:

- ◆ ticket to the soccer match at 8pm – D.C. United vs. Chivas USA;
- ◆ access to the pre-game concert at 6pm – Keith Elgin;
- ◆ listen to faith testimonials by players;
- ◆ a souvenir D.C. United cinch bag;
- ◆ and if we have more than 25 people in our group, we get access to a tailgate party.

Tickets are \$24, but LFLC youth (under 18 years of age) and 1 youth friend will be paid for by LFLC. See

the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for sign-up and more information. Sign-up yourself, invite your family, welcome a friend, neighbor or co-worker!



Soccer

Humility isn't thinking less of yourself.

It's thinking of yourself less.

~ Michael Neill

LFLC ON-GOING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast: For July, the Men of Living Faith breakfast will be held **Saturday, July 12th 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: meets Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Old Library.

Dining and Discussing:

Suspended for Summer months. Look for it to start again September 3rd. Normally meets the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month at **6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Bring a dish to share and join us in lively discussions.

Mary Martha Circle: ***Suspended for Summer months. Look for next meeting starting in the Fall.*** The Mary Martha Circle meets the first Thursday of each month at 10am in the Conference Room.

Quilters: ***Suspended for Summer months. Look for next meeting starting in the Fall.*** The Living Faith Lutheran Women (LFLW) Quilters meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month to make patchwork quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The work is very basic, no "quilting" experience necessary, and you may attend meetings as you are able. The Quilters also appreciate donations of fabric remnants and scraps from sewing projects. For more information, please contact Anne-Marie Turner.

Choir Practice: ***Suspended for Summer months. Look for next meeting starting in the Fall.***

LFLC Council: ***Suspended for July.*** Next meeting currently scheduled for **Sunday, August 17th at 12pm.**

Nurturing the Song

Lutherans have often been called “The Singing Church.” Martin Luther was an enthusiastic supporter of church singing and expected that we would care for and nourish God’s gift of song in our churches. He extolled this gift and expected it to be stewarded.

So even though it’s summer and our choir is on vacation, we’d like to steward and nurture the song here at Living Faith with renewed vigor this summer.



Nurturing the song is not ‘easier said than done’ in today’s culture where public communal singing is becoming less and less common. The invention of the microphone and other technology has allowed us to surround ourselves with song without raising our own voices. It has elevated singing to the performance level and leads most of us to count on others to sing. Although there is nothing wrong with technology that puts us within earshot of our favorite singers, it makes it too easy to hide our voices and leave the singing to the professionals both in and out of church! Let’s shift our mindset slightly and once again start thinking of singing as a participatory practice in our church rather than a performance.

By now you have probably seen the bulletin announcement that we are going to have a pick-up choir this summer. This means you can pick up where you left off as a kid and just sing your heart out for the joy of singing. You don’t need to be able to read music. You don’t have to be pitch perfect. You don’t have to attend Wednesday night rehearsals and you certainly shouldn’t feel self conscious. After all, we’re family! Just pick up the CD in the Narthex, listen and sing along. Then show up in church July 27th and sing. The commitment is minimal but the experience will be incredible when we all join in song.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? (“My Life Flows On in Endless Song,” Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 763).



Items for next *Crossroads* are due
Wednesday, July 23
 Please email to
MyLivingFaith@gmail.com

DEADLINE

BIRTHDAYS in July

- 4 H. Kurtz Weiser
- 13 Claudia Hampsher
- 15 Kathryn Hildebrand
James Murphy
Madeleine Poulin
- 17 Ralph Mayer
- 18 Paula McCord
- 20 Steve Corbin
- 27 Donald Bokelman, III
- 29 Carleen Alves-Crespo
- 31 Barbara Brobst

If we missed your birthday please call the Church Office to be added! to the list !

Sea of Circumstances

Amid the ebb and flow of challenges and changes, it can be difficult to keep our footing. We can get so caught up in daily concerns that we lose our balance. When anxiety replaces peace, we may realize something isn’t right with us spiritually but not know how to fix it.

According to Samuel Rutherford, the problem is our perspective. “Trust God’s Word and his power more than you trust your own feelings and experiences,” he said. “Remember, your Rock is Christ, and it is the sea that ebbs and flows with the tides, not him.”





July 2014

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

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30am: LFLC
 Adult Sunday School,
 Old Library
 10:30am: LFLC
 Worship Service,
 Sanctuary
 12:15-3:15pm:
 Evangelical Church of
 the Alpha and Omega
 Worship Service, FH
 6-8pm Iglesia Jesus es
 Dios Worship Service,
 FH
 8-9pm AA Meeting, Old
 Kitchen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5 Men's Group moved to July 12th
6	7 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	8	9	10 7-8pm AyO Band, FH	11 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	12 8am Men's Group, IHOP Rockville
13	14 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	15	16	17 7-8pm AyO Band, FH	18 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	19
20	21 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 2-6pm Chase, Kitchen 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	22	23	24 7-8pm AyO Band, FH	25 7pm Chamber Orchestra, FH	26
27	28 9:30am Rug Braiders, FH 7-8pm Al-anon & Ala-teen, Edu Wing	29	30	31 7-8pm AyO Band, FH		

THOSE WHO SERVE US

<u>Those Serving: July 2014</u>			
	July 6	July 13	July 20
Altar Guild			July 27
	The Bolhoffs		
Communion Assistants	Emma Witt	Peter Fotheringham	Carol Sarbacher
Lectors	David Jones	Tony Lightner	Millie Hamernik
Sound System	Eigil Madsen	Jen Emerson	Rod Morgan
Acolytes	Grayson McCord	<i>See Pastor Shaw</i>	
Ushers	Pat Lightner; Tony Lightner; and Liz Roybal		
Greeters	<i>Sign-up on clipboard - ask an Usher</i>		
Counters / Bank Deposit	Pat & Tony Lightner		
Coffee Hosts	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>		
Altar Flowers	Janet Page & Children of Bill Larson	<i>Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex</i>	Kathy & Peter Fotheringham
Cooking for Chase	July 21; 2-6pm: Marty & Grace Grimes (LFLC Kitchen)		

Jen Emerson & Carleen Crespo



Freedom in Christ

*This Independence Day, remember
that our true freedom comes from faith in Jesus.*

★★★★★

Directions: In each set of letters, determine the pattern. Then write the letter that completes the pattern, to reveal Galatians 5:1, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

F	Q	L	V	C	R	O
G	R	K	U	D	Q	P
H	S	J	T	E	P	Q
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I	O	B	H	A	L	P	Q	K	D	W
H	P	C	G	B	M	O	R	J	C	V
G	Q	D	F	C	N	N	S	I	B	U
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

F	E	U	L	P	W	E	D	V
E	F	T	K	Q	V	F	C	U
D	G	S	J	R	U	G	B	T
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

P	B	Q	R	V	C	O	H	B
Q	C	R	S	U	D	P	G	C
R	D	S	T	T	E	Q	F	D
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Answers: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1, NIV)

A Note of Thanks from Life Line Screening

On April 11, Living Faith opened our doors to Life Line Screening who transformed the Fellowship Hall into a preventive health screening clinic. As a community partner of Life Line, Living Faith hopes to provide opportunities within our community for everyone to become advocates of their own health and wellness. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

How many people were seen and for what, you ask? Here's what Life Line had to say in a letter they sent to the church on June 5th.

On behalf of the staff at Life Line Screening, we would like to thank you for allowing us to come to your community. The results from the Friday, April 11, 2014 screening are as follows:

<p>Carotid Artery Disease Total Screened: 36 Normal Range: 15 Moderate: 21 Unspecified: 0 Findings of Possible Significance: 0 Required Followup: 0</p>	<p>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Total Screened: 30 No Aneurysm: 30 Aneurysm: 0 Unspecified: 0 Required Followup: 0</p>
<p>Peripheral Arterial Disease Total Screened: 36 Normal: 35 Abnormal: 0 Unspecified: 0 Unable to Compress: 1 Critical: 0</p>	<p>Atrial Fibrillation Total Screened: 33 No Atrial Fibrillation: 33 Atrial Fibrillation: 0 Unspecified: 0 Critical Heart Rate: 0</p>

... Thank you for your help in bringing such an important service to the members of your community. We look forward to our next screening together.

*Sincerely,
 Jennifer Baptist
 Life Line Screening
[www.lifelinescreening.com/
 community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners)
jennifer.baptist@llsa.com
 Phone: (800)897-9177 ext. 1545*

Living Faith Lutheran Church Invites You!

1605 Veirs Mill Road Rockville, Md 20852
 mylivingfaith@gmail.com 301-424-8622 www.mylivingfaith.org

Sharing Our Faith Without Fear

A Faith Storytelling Workshop Aug 23-10 am

How do I find the words and courage to talk about my faith when I have never done it before? How do I know if I even have a faith story? This workshop will highlight several ways to encourage congregation members to tell their faith stories in a non-threatening way using resources and methods provided by the Horizons Task Forces of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

Presenters: Horizons Task Forces Members,
 The Rev. Michelle Doran and Marjie Mack

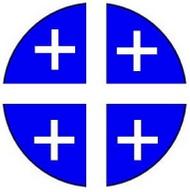
Lunch Served \$20 Donation Suggested





Living Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH
God's Vision Our Mission

RSVP by 15 Aug 301-424-8622



Living Faith

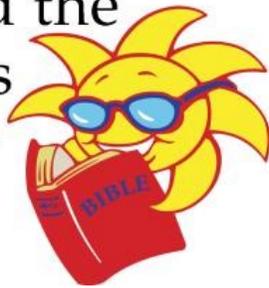
LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Vision - Our Mission

Living Faith Lutheran Church

1605 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD 20851

Read the
Bible this
Summer



Living Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Meditation OF THE MONTH

The Key to Paradise

Find the time to think.
Find the time to pray.
Find the time to laugh.
This is the fount of power.
This is the greatest power on earth.
This is music for the soul.
Find the time to play.
Find the time to love and be loved.
Find the time to give.
This is the secret of eternal youth.
This is the privilege given by God.
The day is too short to be selfish.
Find the time to read.
Find the time to be a friend.
Find the time to work.
This is the fount of wisdom.
And the road to happiness.
And the price of success.
Find the time to be charitable.
This is the key to Paradise.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta