As I write this, we are preparing for one of the most exciting community projects of my time here with you.

With the wonderful and energetic leadership of the Outreach Committee, we are preparing to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA on Sunday September 8th. That Sunday has been designated as “God's Work Our Hands Sunday” by the ELCA. It is a day for celebrating the 25 years of the ministry of the ELCA. The plan is for every one of the ELCA’s almost 10,000 congregations to take on a project to benefit their neighborhood.

Several months ago we decided that a food drive for Manna Food Center in Rockville was a project that all of our members, regardless of age or economics, could participate in. I envisioned this as a modest undertaking.

The Holy Spirit (and the Outreach Committee) had other ideas. Thrivent agreed to partner with us and donated $400 to help with the cost of banners and advertising. Then the Gazette agreed to give us free advertising in their paper for the event.

A Gazette employee asked if she could take some of the flyers to her Roman Catholic congregation in Gaithersburg. Then the employees at the Gazette decided they want to collect food also. The Church of the Cross (LCMS) decided to challenge its members to collect 300 pounds of food for the event. Our partners in the building, the Mennonite and the Indonesian congregations agreed to join in the food collecting. The Montessori School is also collecting food. So are the volunteers of Meals on Wheels. Some of our members have placed collection boxes in their workplaces and will be bringing those donations in.

Almost a dozen volunteers prepared paper grocery bags to be distributed to friends and neighbors and returned full of food on September 8th. A firm in Louisiana sent us 20 boxes of non-perishable food! Friends and relatives from across the USA have sent in checks to go to Manna.

I am not exaggerating when I say that all of this is miraculous!

Lately, the ELCA and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) just do not work on projects together. It is rare for a Roman Catholic congregation to work on a project with a Lutheran congregation. A few hundred years ago Lutherans persecuted and even murdered Mennonites in Europe.

This project to address the problem of hunger in Montgomery County has crossed theological and ethnic boundaries. I can’t remember ever being so amazed by how a project has unfolded.

Haven’t we all dreamed of a world where the issues that divide us could be set aside so that the work of God could take place? Well, here is an example of such a dynamic at work…right here in our midst!

(Continued on page 2)
Adult Sunday School to Continue in Fall
Living Faith Lutheran Church Adult Sunday School classes will be continued this fall. If you are interested in leading a class or classes, please contact Deacon Peter Fotheringham or Pastor Shaw to discuss. For parents, Children’s Sunday School or child care will be available. Bring your Bible, your coffee mug, and enjoy the discussions, fellowship, and education.

**ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY**
Saturday, October 26th; 3pm – 6pm, All trick-or-treaters and their families are welcome to a neighborhood party in the Living Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The celebration will include crafts, face painting, games, yummy treats, a spook-house, and more!
Volunteers are needed to set up, decorate, build the haunted house on the Fellowship Hall stage, staff various activities, donate candy, make baked goods, and clean-up. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Pastor Shaw, or call the Church Office.

*A planning meeting will be held after Worship Service on Sunday, September 22nd.*
LFLC ON-GOING EVENTS

**Quilters:** 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. These may be dropped off in the church office. For more information, please contact Anne-Marie Turner.

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

**Adult Sunday School:** Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room, beginning again September 15th.

**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.

**Dinning and Discussing:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at **6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Please join us!

**Children’s Sunday School:** Please talk to Pastor Shaw.

**Confirmation Classes:** For young people 12 years and older, Confirmation Classes will resume in September. Contact Pastor Shaw if you have a student ready to participate.

---

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**SEPTEMBER**

1. Grayson McCord
2. Barbara F. Edwards
3. Sara Beltran
4. Janice Kelly
5. Howell Weisner
6. Rita Engelbrecht
7. Bill Duval
8. Gregory McCord
9. Matthew McCord
10. Michael Wagner
11. Jeremiah Charles
12. Michael Lidell

---

**Blessing of Pets**  Sunday, September 29th from 2 to 4pm

In the Living Faith Lutheran Church (LFLC) parking lot. All kinds of pets are welcome—cats, dogs, birds, turtles, and even favorite stuffed animals. (For the safety of all pets and people, please have your pet on a leash or in a carrier.)

Montgomery County Humane Society (MCHS) will be here with literature about their programs, services, up-coming events and pictures of adoptable animals. During the month of September, LFLC will be collecting donations for the MCHS. You can view a wish-list of items to donate at http://mchumane.org/WishList_000.shtml -- but they can especially use unopened bags of pet food, blankets and towels, and Kong toys.

This event coincides with the yearly Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), a monk and known animal lover.

_“I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.”_  
- Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M., Franciscan of the Holy Name Province
Greetings -- From Our Library Cart!

Living Faith Lutheran Church’s Library Cart now has a mission statement! The Sunday Adult Discussion Group decided upon the following:

The Living Faith Lutheran Church Library exists as a well-selected collection of books, periodicals, Internet resources, and other materials used to support the congregation’s mission.

The purposes of the Living Faith Lutheran Church Library shall be:

+ To promote a better understanding of our Christian/Lutheran heritage,
+ To provide wholesome literature and materials for entertainment and learning, and
+ To enrich the spiritual and intellectual lives of our congregation.

Continued discussion over the course of three Sundays gleaned the following suggestions and guidance for the Library books and cart.

An inventory of the existing books is being taken with an eye for “weeding-out” any books that are: heavily marked with ink or markers, out of date, damaged and beyond repair, and inappropriate according to the mission statement above.

With input from Pastor Sandra and Deacon Pete regarding the subject of appropriate materials for the Library, it was decided that the Library would focus on keeping the books in the library about Martin Luther and our Lutheran faith heritage. Then as the books become available on the cart for check-out a record will be kept as to how many times a book has been taken out for reading to determine if our congregation is interested in retaining the book. If the book does not generate interest from the congregation then it will be replaced.

The Library has a very small budget within the overall Church budget, so being good stewards means “thinking out of the box” to get the most “bang for our buck” in fulfilling our Library mission statement. The group took the time to look through different categories and a sampling of books to determine whether they might be of interest to the congregation. Books in the categories of: Christian living, Christianity and current/cultural issues, and Adult Christian fiction were just a few examples we discussed. A method for members of our congregation to recommend a book for the Library will be established, and it was suggested that a “Wish List” through Amazon.com be created.

Another suggestion was to make the Cart available after services and a proposed location could be at the back of the sanctuary during our fellowship time after worship.

Magazines and recordings of past sermons are additions to look forward to also.

Watch for the Cart and plan on picking up something interesting to read, listen to, or watch!

Kathy Fotheringham

One Mission of Living Faith Lutheran Church (LFLC) is that:

**We provide opportunities for growth** by offering ministries that meet the needs of our members and community.

So on Sunday, September 29th, after the Worship Service, there will be a meeting for anyone interested in developing LFLC’s Social Ministry.
From the Desk of Mary Madsen

My Assisted Advantage

I have been thinking about leverage in the business sense as it relates to Living Faith’s upcoming Manna Food Drive. I want our Food Drive to be a huge success. I was lamenting to a friend that I had contacts in the Chamber of Commerce in another county but I don’t have those contacts here. In her wisdom, my friend said, perhaps I need to work on building those relationships, the implication being that this won’t be our only Food Drive or the only time business connections in this area might be helpful. As I mulled over our conversation later, I asked myself if/how the leveraging concept applied to living out my faith.

Just for kicks, I googled the definition of leverage. I read, “In the physical sense, leverage is an assisted advantage”. I didn’t need to read anymore. In the spiritual sense, **DO WE EVER HAVE AN ASSISTED ADVANTAGE!** As Christians, we walk with Christ. God is with us. How much more of an advantage do we need to accomplish anything in HIS name. Now that I think about leverage in this way, I suddenly feel more confident.

Confidence is one thing but I know that no one can leverage anything without doing something. Jesus wants all of us to leverage our lives for the advancement of the Gospel and He’ll equip us for the mission. We just have to live, learn, lead and leverage (walk with God).

LFLC GOAL = 2,000 lbs. or 1 ton

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS**
- Canned Meat & Fish
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Nut Butters
- Rice, Beans, Pasta
- Chili
- Cereals
- Infant Formula
- Disposable Diapers

**NO GLASS PLEASE**

The LFLC Food Drive kicks off with bag distribution and collections beginning on **September 1st**. Give a can, call for cans and say you can help! Contact Mary Madsen at 301-770-0041 if you haven’t already signed up. Workers may also be needed on September 15th and 16th.

**Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Coffee, Tea, & Chocolate**

Thanks to Lutheran congregations around the country, thousands of pounds of coffees have been sold in partnership with small-scale farmers around the world. Living Faith receives ground Sisters’ Blend in 14 oz. cans. The price per can is $8.00. See Sandy Jensen if you have questions, or if you would like to order something by the case.
# September 2013

**Sunday Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8-9pm AA Mtg., Old</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:30am Rug Braiders, FH</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5-9pm LOP, FH &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8-9pm AA Mtg., Old Kitchen</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9:30am Rug Braiders, FH</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7-8pm Al-anon &amp; Alateen, FH &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12pm LFLC Council 8-9pm AA Mtg., Old Kitchen</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9:30am Rug Braiders, FH</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5-9pm LOP, FH &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>12pm Halloween Plan Mtg. 8-9pm AA Mtg., Old Kitchen</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9:30am Rug Braiders, FH</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7-8pm Al-anon &amp; Alateen, FH &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>12pm LFLC Social Ministry Mtg. 2-4pm Pet Blessing 8-9pm AA Mtg., Old Kitchen</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9:30am Rug Braiders, FH</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6-8pm ICFC, Sanct.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conf Rm = Conference Room  
Edu. Wing = Education Wing  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
LFLC = Living Faith Lutheran Church
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Those Serving: September 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Altar Guild</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communion Assistants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lectors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sound System</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acolytes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coffee Hosts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Altar Flowers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cooking for Chase</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sign-up on bulletin board in Narthex*

*Sign-up on clipboard - ask an Usher*
PUZZLE & ACTIVITY

From generation to GENERATION

Grandparents are a bridge of love for future generations. The greatest heritage they can pass on is their faith and love for God.

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

Joel 1:3, NIV

Directions: List as many words as you can create from the letters in GENERATIONS. You may want to challenge a grandparent to this!

2-letter words 3-letter words 4-letter words 5+ letters

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

_____________  ______________  ______________  ______________

Add up the total number of words you found. >>> ____________

Keesake BOOK

With your grandparents, create a special book to preserve cherished memories.

What you need:
- Index cards
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Binder ring (or yarn)
- Crayons or markers

What you do:
1. Brainstorm questions to ask one or more of your grandparents (topics can include their childhoods, favorites and advice). Write one question on each index card.
2. Ask your grandparent to write his or her answers on the blank sides of the cards.
3. Make a cover by decorating one index card.
4. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.
5. Use a binder ring or string yarn through the holes and tie to secure the cards together.
2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, gathered Aug. 12-17 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

The 952 voting members:

+ Elected the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod, as ELCA presiding bishop. She will be installed Oct. 5 in Chicago and will begin her six-year term Nov. 1.
+ Elected the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger as ELCA secretary. Boerger, currently on leave from call, was installed during the assembly’s closing worship Aug. 16 and will begin his six-year term Nov. 1.
+ Adopted “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” -- a social statement on criminal justice -- and its supporting implementing resolutions. The statement calls ELCA members to ministry and compassion through practices including: hearing the cries of those affected, accompaniment, hospitality and advocacy. It asks members of this church to recommit themselves to visiting the prisoner; correct the flawed criminal justice system and participate in God’s work with hands and hearts.
+ Approved a proposal for the ELCA’s first major fundraising campaign. The five-year campaign, to begin in 2014, is designed to increase this church’s capacity to renew and start new congregations, educate and develop its leaders, bolster its global mission efforts and expand the impact of its relief and development work. Voting members approved two more campaign initiatives -- encouraging and forming lay youth and young adult leaders and support for disability ministry.
+ Approved the ELCA churchwide organization budget for fiscal years 2014-2016. The budget includes current fund spending of $70,541,740 for 2014, $68,552,280 for 2015, and $67,920,675 for 2016. It also approved ELCA World Hunger income proposals of $19,000,000 for each year 2014-2016, and authorized the ELCA Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.
+ Elected ELCA members to serve on the following: Church Council, Portico Benefit Services, Mission Investment Fund, Augsburg Fortress, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee.
+ Adopted a series of amendments to the ELCA Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.
+ Moved to continue the Book of Faith initiative that invites the 4-million-member ELCA to become fluent in the first language of our faith -- the language of Scripture -- and to be renewed for lives of witness and service.
+ Considered memorials - resolution from the ELCA’s 65 synods -- on topics including Holy Communion, immigration reform, the Middle East, pastoral ministry among to same-gender couples and their families, the Uniting American Families Act, community violence, gender identity, immigration detention, hydraulic fracturing, fossil fuels and more.
+ The assembly will transition from a biennial to a triennial schedule with the next assembly meeting August 2016 in New Orleans.

For more information contact: Candice Hill Buchbinder at Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org
A Message from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson on the Occasion of the ELCA’s 25th Anniversary

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are a church rooted in Scripture, tradition, the Lutheran Confessions and the rich histories of our congregations. It is through God’s grace that we are made new day by day to proclaim Jesus Christ and boldly participate in God’s work. As Luther said, this faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we get to look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church. We celebrate the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our communities, our country and around the world.

What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 new congregations
- Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors
- Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world

Contributed more than $350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty

The year of our 25th anniversary begins Jan. 1, 2013, with the theme "Always being made new." I invite you to join me in celebrating these 25 years together in Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. It is through our willingness as a church to boldly participate in God's work in the world that we are made new day by day. I am grateful for your leadership, support and prayers in making the work of this church possible.

Thanks be to God!

In God's grace,

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

What Old Testament people experienced God parting the waters so they could cross on dry land, and under what circumstances did they do so?

A. The Hebrew slaves, fleeing Egypt through the Red Sea.
B. The 12 Tribes of Israel, as they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land.
C. Elijah and Elisha, crossing the Jordan before Elijah was taken up into heaven.
D. All of the above.

Answer: D (See Exodus 14:22; Joshua 3:17; 2 Kings 2:8.)
Card Carrying, Bag Toting Members

Having Holy Spirit Moments

Thanks to all card carrying and Need Bread bag toting Living Faith members. We love to hear how you are using these simple outreach tools to introduce yourself and others to our church. The Outreach Committee especially loves to hear that you need more cards or want another bag.

Here’s an actual email from a friend of a member who saw our Need Bread bag and has a suggestion: “I was laying in bed this morning counting my blessings and thanking God when it dawned on me that there are so many ways to play the ‘Knead Dough’- ‘Need Bread’ phrases.

‘Dough’ and ‘bread’ are common slang terms for money. Most of us think that all we need is ‘dough’. We spend our life time chasing it, worrying, wanting and praying for it. But what we really need is God’s Bread. We also need Him to knead us. If you don’t knead dough, it will rise up and look beautiful, but when you cut the bread open you find it is nothing but air...hollow, kind of like us without God’s constant “kneading” us which of course he does, often to our loud complaining usually about needing ‘bread’. Anyway, you get it. Put a picture of a hand kneading dough on the other side of your bag.

Here’s another report: Was in Safeway today. I had 3 of the LFLC bags but only needed 2. As I began to walk away, I heard the cashier ask the customer behind me, “Do you need a bag?” The man said, “Actually I just moved here and so I need to buy a few bags”. I whipped out the bag I was not using and said, “Here, my church gives these out”. He was very appreciative. Really felt like a Holy Spirit moment.

Here’s hoping for hundreds more of these Holy Spirit moments and stories from you!

Without a Home in a 'Wealthy' County

Join Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) for the premiere of the documentary "Without a Home in a 'Wealthy' County"

This documentary powerfully highlights the problem of homelessness in Montgomery County, challenges stereotypes about homeless individuals, and portrays the road out of homelessness for these individuals into permanent housing. Hosted by the Temple Emanuel Community Social Action Council.

Sunday, September 29, 2013
Temple Emanuel • 10101 Connecticut Ave • Kensington, MD
Deli buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. • Program 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Cost: $35 Individual ($15 tax deductible)
$60 Couple ($20 tax deductible)
$400 Sponsor table of 10 ($200 tax deductible)
Table sponsors will be included on promotional materials.
Funds raised will benefit MCCH programs, providing housing and services to people in need.

If you wish to attend this event, you can RSVP sending a check payable to "MCCH" to 600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Please write "Sept. 29 event" on memo line.

RSVPs must be made by Friday, September 20.

For any questions regarding this project, please contact us at mcch@mcch.net or (301) 217-0314
I had a dream that death
Came the other night,
And Heaven’s gate swung wide open.

With kindly grace
An angel ushered me inside;
And there to my astonishment
Stood folks I had known on earth
And some I had judged
And labeled unfit or of little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips,
But were never set free;
For every face showed stunned surprise,
Not everyone expected me.

—Anonymous