

Christ's People Report

MARCH 2010

FROM THE PASTOR....

"Are we there yet?"

"Are we done yet?"

"Is there more yet to do, to think of, to work on?"

"Is the snow done yet? School closings and changed schedules finished yet?"

"Are things back to normal yet?"

Who knows.....but the Lord!!!

In light of our Lenten theme this year, God's Better....., I like His "yet" better: *"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power is of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not dis-*

tressed; we are perplexed, yet not in despair; persecuted, yet not forsaken; cast down, yet not destroyed" (II Cor. 4:7-9).

We're not done yet, because God is not yet done with us!" *"Do not lose your courage, then, for it brings with it great results!.....For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come; He will not delay" (Heb. 10:35,37).*

For "yet" can be, and in Christ will be, better yet.

Pastor Koehler

REDEEMER'S LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

LENTEN SERVICES - Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.:

March 3 - God's Forgiveness is Better (I John 2:2)

March 10 - God's Insight Is Better (I Sam. 16:7)

March 17 - God's Thoughts Are Better (Jer. 29:11)

March 24 - God's Results Are Better (John 20:30,31)

HOLY WEEK (12:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.)

April 1 - Maundy Thursday - God's Love Is Better (John 15:13; Rom. 5:8)

April 2 - Good Friday - God's Payment Is Better (I Pet. 1:18,19)

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise - Old Mill Park - 6:30 a.m. - God's 'Because' Is Better (John 14:9b)

8:30 a.m. Worship - God's Question Is Better (John 11:25,26)

11:00 a.m. Worship - God's Up's and Down's Are Better (Eph. 4:10)

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EMBRACED BY CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ladysmith, VA

March 2010 - Submitted by Kathryn Russell

The first Ash Wednesday Lenten Service at Embraced By Christ was very well attended. A soup and sandwich dinner was had by all beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the service at 7:00 p.m. led by Pastor Carter. The February 24th Lenten Service was led by Chaplain Russell; Pastor Hughes will lead the March 3rd service; Pastor Koehler will be with us for the March 10th worship service; Pastor Carter is scheduled for March 17th and Vicar Keinath for the final service March 24th. Holy Week services will be April 1st, 2nd and 4th. Please join us for fellowship and worship.

The plans for our Easter Sunrise Service are going forward with a cross already made for the service. We will be worshipping in the vineyard at Gary and Ann Dudley's. We are all looking forward to this unique worship service April 4th at 6:30 a.m. A breakfast after the service is being planned at the church building in Ladysmith.

The Mission U members have finished their training and are encouraging members to plan for the canvassing effort March 7th and March 14th following the worship services. The door hangers are ready along with the invitation cards to be handed out. We pray for good weather to help in this endeavor.

We would like to welcome the Wagner family into our midst. Bonnie has already volunteered her time and talents in making hymnal markers for all the hymnals at Embraced By Christ. Granddaughter Alyssa will be confirmed soon and join the communicant members here. Welcome Wagner family.

The men of the congregation are discussing the possibility of a Men's Breakfast Bible Study to be held once a month. More details will be forthcoming in the April newsletter.

Two new additions to our worship area are a bulletin board erected by Ted Stark and a banner cabinet constructed by Julius Dabelstein. These accents to our worship area are very pleasing. Thank you gentlemen.

Don't forget the Daylong Congregational Workshop on March 20th. Please look at the weekly bulletins for more information. Mark your calendar for Ladysmith Day, May 22nd. It will be here before you know it.

The Bible study meets immediately after the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Sunday School class continues with Ann Dudley as the teacher for the elementary students.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR...

Last month we finished our instruction and participation in the Southeastern Districts Mission U program. If you were interested but not able to attend the power points and hand-outs used are all still posted on the District website under the Developing Leaders, Training Leaders for Outreach Tab at: <http://se.lcms.org/developing-leaders/training-leaders.php>.

As we did during Advent we also prayerfully ask you to carry around some of the invitations that have been prepared to share with people about our Lenten worship services. As you meet people you can use the acronym FORM, **F**amily, **O**ccupation, **R**ecreation, and **M**otivation, to start discussions with them that may show you where it is that the Holy Spirit intends that you share an invitation to grow in faith, hear the Gospel Message, and worship with us.

One of the tools that has been shared with us as a part of Mission U is a Seven Step Process to Sharing the Gospel. There is a detailed handout at the website referenced above that tells you more about it. The seven steps are (1) Actively listen to them. (2) Connect with them by finding common ground or shared experiences. (3) Introduce Christ through how He is present in your own life. (4) Explain what sin is. (5) Explain atonement and how our sins have been paid for by Christ. (6) Reintroduce God's love for us. (7) Extend an invitation to them to pray and worship with you. These steps help us to intentionally and actively share the Gospel within the relationships that we build with the others and can happen within minutes or be stretched over several interactions with another person.

During March we will be canvassing neighborhoods around both Redeemer Lutheran Church and down in Ladysmith after the Sunday services to put up door hangers to invite people to worship with us during Holy Week. Please listen to the announcements and look in your bulletin for the details so that you can help us with this.

The next scheduled District Outreach training event is the Tending the Flame Conference, July 30 to August 1st, Richmond, VA. More information is available at <http://se.lcms.org/top-menu/news.php?id=50>. Let us know if you are planning to attend so that we can get a group to go down together. Another opportunity for you to prayerfully consider as we look at how the ministry is growing here is the Mission Development Academy which works to prepare Mission Outreach Teams to explore, develop, and launch an outreach ministry or a congregational revitalization effort within a local congregation, community or potential new site, <http://se.lcms.org/developing-leaders/mission-development.php>. If you have additional resources that you would like to have the Outreach Board consider for use sharing our gifts, as service and outreach projects, and for training and development the Board of Outreach know at outreach@embracedbyhim.org or Pastor Carter at pastor2@embracedbyhim.org.

TASTE OF REDEEMER

Spend some tasty time with your Redeemer Family

April 18, 2010

After second service

What is Taste of Redeemer?

Taste of Redeemer is the opportunity for you to showcase one of your best finger foods – appetizers, cookies, desserts, dips, breads, etc. You make 6 dozen of one food to share with your Redeemer Family. The food will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall after second service on the 18th of April. You then get to eat great food, fellowship with your Redeemer Family, and maybe exchange a recipe or two.

Who is this for?

Everyone! Men, women, children, grandparents, singles, couples – EVERYONE! If your children enjoy cooking, encourage them to share their favorite finger food.

What do you have to do?

You make six dozen of your favorite finger food. You bring a serving platter to put your food on. You put the extras in a container marked with your name. You bring the food to church prior to second service starting. You congregate in the fellowship hall after church and ENJOY!

What is the Entry Fee?

The entry fee is simply bringing six dozen of your favorite finger foods.

How to sign up?

Email Cheryl Durham at familylife@embracedbyhim.org with the following information:

Name and Name of item bringing

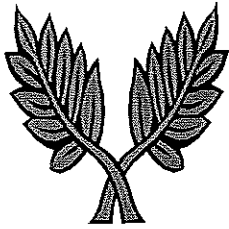
(Place cards will be located by each food item to share with people what they are eating as well as who made it)

OR....

Fill out and give to Cheryl Durham

Name _____

Name of Food item _____



ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH 6TH GRADE: If you would like to march in with palms on Palm Sunday (March 28), we will rehearse at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 21 just before the

Sunday School opening upstairs in the sanctuary. Parents are welcome to walk in with palms with their 3 or 4 years olds who might be afraid to walk in alone. *If you would like to sing on Easter Sunday*, CDs of the song are available from Mrs. Koehler back by the organ if you have not already received one from her. Rehearsals will be held every Sunday the month of March at 9:25 a.m. just before the Sunday School opening in the sanctuary or immediately after 2nd service if you do't attend Sunday School. Please see Mrs. Koehler if you ahve any questions.



WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED for volunteers to help with our nursery during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. If we could get 12 willing to help, it would mean being with the nursery once a quarter! If you can help us with this, be sure to let Pastor Koehler, or Head Elder Brett Easler, know.



THE REDEEMER QUILTERS will meet on Sat., March 20th, at 9:00 a.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Richmond. All ladies of Redeemer are invited to join in and participate. If anyone has any material to donate, please bring it along, as we are getting low on material. A special thanks to Nancy & Ed Minnich for the donation of a large supply of batting, needed to complete our quilts. Questions? Contact Pat Barlow, 804-742-5315.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL NEWS

In January we talked about Martin Luther King, a minister who believed all God's people, black, white, or red should be treated equally. Martin Luther King had a dream, that one day all people would live together in harmony. He knew in his heart, that his dream would be possible without violence.

Preschoolers have to learn to be *friends* to all students in their class. If a confrontation does occur, it must be settled with their *words*, using their mouth, not their hands or fists. We learned a new song this month in honor of Martin Luther King, "He Wants Everybody to Put Their Hands Together".

This month, we also talked about snow. We made all kinds of snowmen. We talked about hot and cold, and other opposites. We made pretend ice cream cones. We drank hot chocolate with tiny marshmallows and ice cream with sprinkles for our snack. We also completed a unit on the state of Alaska.

May our strong faith and love in our Lord help us all to live together in peace and harmony!



God Bless You,
Donna Bartholomew & Staff

Our thanks to our members for their help during the month of March:

USHER SCHEDULE - Early

- Mar. 7 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
Mike Evenson, David Bye, Tom Church
- Mar. 14 - Ken Petermann (Lead)
Jim Pittman, John Uschold, Dave Hunter
- Mar. 21 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
Kevin & Kris Trowbridge, Jason Biscamp
- Mar. 28 - Mike Bush (Lead)
Tom Barlow, Ed Minnich, David Rhodes

If unable to usher on your assigned date, please arrange for your replacement. All attendees of the early service are invited to participate in this important ministry. -Tom Barlow, Earl Service Coordinator, 804-742-5315.

USHER SCHEDULE - Late

- Mar. 7 - Brandon Sullivan Mark Fife, Kirk Hymes
- Mar. 14 - R.O.M.A.N.S.
- Mar. 21 - Eric Gasperoni, Joe Barrales, Mark Fife,
Jerry Limerick
- Mar. 28 - Ted Smith, John Hinz, Mike Mullinax,
Ken Billings

Volunteers needed. Please call Mark Fife, 2nd Service Coordinator, 786-2336 and leave a message or email to chofudgeman1@yahoo.com if you can help.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

EARLY:

- Mar. 7 - Abigail Durham/Allison Weiland
- Mar. 14 - Eric Weiland/Tyler Fehrman
- Mar. 21 - Maeve Montgomery/Jacob Waltman
- Mar 28. 28 - Ryan Tutchings/Vinny Tutchings

LATE:

- Mar. 7 - Tion Brown/TrejonBrown
Crucifer - Cason Whitt
- Mar. 14 - Sam Medlin/Mathew Zimmerman
Crucifer - Josh Medlin
- Mar. 21 - Emma Leidy/Lauren Hybl
Crucifer - Ally Baker
- Mar. 28 - Kacey Schwenzer/Cara Gasperoni
Crucifer - Jonathan Cerritelli

LAY READERS:

- Mar. 7 - Dick Bogle (E) - I Corinthians 10:1-13
- Mar. 14 - Mark Sullivan (L) - II Corinthians 5:16-21
- Mar. 21 - Keith Verbosky (E) - Philippians 3:8-14
- Mar. 28 - Brandon Sullivan (L) - Philippians 2:5-11

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY:

	Church	Sunday School
2010	351	136
2009	343	130
2004	275	119
1999	192	98
1981*	66	42

* = 1st Year

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 - Heidi Stello
- 1 - Christina Karpiscak
- 2 - Jonathan Zimmerman
- 4 - Nancy Minnich
- 6 - Lu Good
- 8 - Tom Hall
- 9 - Jan Hill
- 9 - Brianna Ciuffo
- 10 - Linda Karapiscak
- 10 - Jerry Wilhelm
- 11 - Matthew Jerson
- 13 - Karen Hall
- 13 - William Lewis
- 15 - Ted Smith

- 17 - Mallory Graham
- 17 - Kooper Miller
- 19 - Joe Barrales

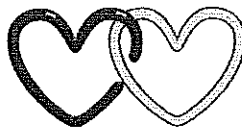


- 20 - Maddie Bye
- 20 - Julius Dabelstein
- 21 - Lauren Hybl

- 21 - Randy Mayer
- 23 - Ellen Church
- 23 - Jennifer Nehls
- 24 - Barbara Roberts
- 24 - Mary Smith
- 27 - Charlotte Martinek
- 28 - Bunny Melzer
- 28 - Josh Medlin
- 28 - Taylor Dudley
- 29 - Ed Stello
- 30 - Amber Keinath
- 30 - Camren Whitt
- 31 - Mark Fife
- 31 - Candace Wiltenmuth

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- 1 - Tom & Holly Thomas
- 2 - Bill & Bev Floyd
- 3 - Lester & Kristen Jedlicka



- 25 - Keith & Donna Verbosky
- 26 - Kenneth & Becky Elam
- 30 - John & Lea Wiltenmuth

**RECEIVED INTO GOD'S FAMILY OF FAITH THROUGH
HOLY BAPTISM:**



**COLBY VERNON BESTICK
REGAN KATHERINE BESTICK &
KAITLYN JOYCE BESTICK**
Children of Diane & Matthew
on
Sunday, February 21, 2010

**CAMDEN TOD KISNER &
LYDIA JOELLE KISNER**
Children of Meredith & Tod
on
Sunday, February 21, 2010