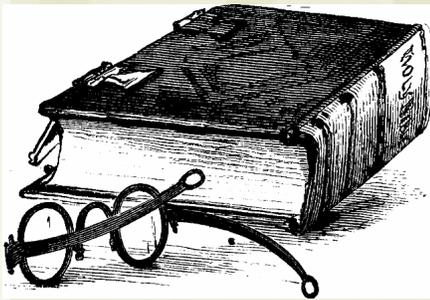


Some Words on Living Word

L I V I N G W O R D L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

P A S T O R A L P O N D E R I N G



The congregation of Living Word has taken a huge step of faith. May we not become complacent and forget that "faith without works is dead." [James

2:26]

I would imagine that practically everyone in the congregation (and probably half the population of Cumberland) knows that we voted to proceed with the purchase of the Seventh Day Adventist church building located on Hilltop Drive. We don't yet know the final outcome or the timetable – there are still many hoops to jump through – but if everything goes as we hope then we will be moving into a new building, our own building, very soon. But as I mentioned, this is a huge step of faith, and faith without works is dead.

As we contemplate the future we are faced with the reality that, even with a substantial down payment, with our current level of giving (and adding in the ongoing pledges which have already been made) will not meet the increase this change will bring to our budget... our offerings and/or other income must increase by 20 to 25% each month. I guess this really shouldn't be a concern. I once read of a pastor who said to his congregation, "I have good news, and I have bad news. The good news is that God has blessed us with more than enough money to meet all our expenses and support every ministry we want to engage in. But the bad news is the money is still in your wallets." I absolutely believe that if we are fully pursuing God then he will bless us and provide all we need to accomplish His

purposes. However, none of us is naïve enough to think that God will simply drop an extra \$1,300 out of the sky and into our bank account every month. So, a number of ideas have already begun to surface – everything from financial stewardship drives to spaghetti suppers which are open to the entire community. But any and all of these endeavors will take work. They require each of us to dig deeper and give more... whether that means giving more of your money, more of your time, more of your talents, or more of all three. But *a step of faith without works is dead.*

In addition to the increase in the budget in order to pay the mortgage and utilities there will also be the added expenses of purchasing a new church sign, improving handicap access, making up-

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PASTORAL PONDERINGS CONTINUED

grades to the sound system, possibly replacing the air conditioner condensers in the near future, and any other capital improvements and repairs that come along. This means even more work to be done as we put our faith into action. Yes, we have a great group of folks who have been willing to pitch in to mow and trim the grass at WoW, and I'm sure their service will continue in our new setting. But the rest of us cannot expect that same small group to also be responsible for dusting, vacuuming, damp mopping, polishing, and maintaining the entire facility, as well as cleaning up after every event that is held in the church. So, without the money in the budget to hire a custodian we must all be willing to pitch in and work as we are able.

In our excitement and hope for the future many people have mentioned that a larger place of our own will give us the opportunity to bring more people into our congregation so they may come to know Jesus. That is a wonderful dream and vision which God has given us, and the fields are white unto harvest. But this is not the movie "Field of Dreams" and the days of 'if you build it they will come' are long gone. Not being located on a major thoroughfare with a lot of passing traffic means that our location will be unseen, and even for many who may be looking it could still be difficult to find. So, once again... new people coming will only happen if

each one of us is willing to do the work of evangelism – not only telling others about how we encounter Jesus in our lives and in our church and *inviting* them to come, but also taking that extra step to actually *bring* them to church so we can introduce them to Jesus and the saints who gather to worship Him. Evangelism may mean systematically going through the neighborhood and knocking on doors, and it may mean inviting our own family members, friends, and neighbors who are not yet part of our family at Living Word to come and check us out as they come to meet Jesus. No matter how uncomfortable this witnessing may be for some people, it must be done by all people - intentionally and continually. Most new people do not come to church after being invited just once; and we know that for most of us, taking the risk of sharing ourselves and sharing our faith is hard work. But, faith without works is dead.

Another thing we are looking forward to is having a place for our kids – a place for them to gather, to fellowship, to learn, and to grow. But again, just because we have a place in which these things can happen that does not mean they will. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about some of our plans to divide our one Children's Sunday School class into three or four separate classes, and when we move into our own facilities we will have the opportunity to have

them each meet every Sunday rather than just twice each month. However, that also means we need a whole lot more teachers (we don't want the same three or four people to feel tied down every Sunday and get burned out), and we will need a whole lot of helpers also (have you ever seen a room full of 3, 4, and 5 year olds who have been given glue sticks and markers for a craft project, with only one teacher to try to help them all at the same time?). Our faith must be put into action in order to make our dreams and visions a reality.

And, of course, with our own space we will be able to come and go as we please. We can quilt as often as we like. We can have Youth Group meetings and activities during the week and not just on Sundays. We can offer additional learning and worship opportunities like Bible Studies, Small Groups, or Prayer Meetings... There will be so much more that we can do! But none of it will happen unless we are all willing to put our faith into action and do the work. We will need leaders, teachers, hosts, participants, dreamers, doers, ... we will need EVERYONE! Great opportunities also mean great responsibility; and every one of us must be willing to step up and take on some of that responsibility... you can't leave it up to the pastor, or the organist, or the teachers, or the council members, or ... anyone else. Because without *your* commitment the mortgage payments won't be made, the children won't be taught, the lost won't be saved, and the kingdom won't increase. But with

PASTORAL PONDERINGS CONTINUED

your commitment, your hard work, and God's continued blessing, Living Word can become a shining light in our community – not turning inward as we try desperately to take care of ourselves and meet our responsibilities, but recognizing and sharing our blessings as we turn outward to take a living Christ to a dying world.

We have taken a step (or should I say a leap) of faith, and in order for us to be successful in this venture the old 80-20 rule cannot be applied. That is the rule whereby 80% of all the work is done by 20% of the people. As we step forward as a congregation we need to follow and apply the 'sports rule'; each and every member each giving 110% ... or more. Just showing up for worship on Sunday mornings will not do; of course that has never been God's expectation of us – just giving one hour a week back to Him. So let us continue to walk with Jesus every day as we work out our faith, "and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us" [Hebrews 1:2]; because we know that "with God nothing is impossible." [Luke 1:37] He is our source, our inspiration, and our strength – and we are His hands, His feet, and His voice. May we, His Church, represent Him well!

Pastor Mark

NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION BY SADIE KOSER

Mother's Day, May 12th, was celebrated in our church with the women receiving a variety of candy bars tied with ribbons at the close of the service. Pastor Mark and Sue were on vacation, and taking his place was our own Bob McIntyre! He delivered a meaningful sermon, including the children's sermon. In the 'bag' were items pertaining to Mother's Day. Karl Eriksson enjoyed getting items from the bag, but did it while seated on the floor...seems it has to be Pastor Mark's lap as his favorite perch!! Our appreciation to Bob for filling in, in Pastor Mark's absence.

Congratulations to Karen McCabe who recently qualified for the Red Belt in Karate. Her next goal is the 2nd degree Brown Belt!

Following the worship hour on Sunday, May 19th, the youth group held a covered dish luncheon. After they devoured a variety of delicious dishes, the group travelled to the Egle Nursing and Rehab Center, Lonaconing, to deliver ten fleece blankets they knotted. The congregation was invited to join them for the luncheon and to accompany them on their goodwill mission. The blankets were held by the youth and blessed during the worship hour. The youth group is under the leadership of Phyllis Alban who does a great job!

Sincere sympathy to the family of Janet Pollock Davis who passed away on Sunday, May 19th at the age of 75. Janet resided in Ridgley

with her husband, Edward, who survives. She is also survived by two sisters, Kay Chaney and Pat Counihan (our members) and a brother, Robbie, Ridgley. Janet's Mass of the Christian Burial was held in SS Peter and Paul Shrine on May 23rd with interment in Restlawn Memorial Gardens.

Pastor Mark delivered the sermon at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berlin, Pennsylvania at the invitation of Pastor John Harmon, on Sunday, May 26th. After the worship service, a question and answer session was held with the members concerning ELCA and our experiences. Attending with Pastor Mark and Sue was Susan Weems. Also attending the church service were Joe and Paula McIntosh, Mary Lou Socia and myself. The congregation was very friendly and anxious to learn more about LCMC.

Meanwhile back at LWLC...the worship hour was in the capable hands of Chris McCabe, delivering the sermon and also the children's sermon...both being very well presented! Paul Eriksson was the presiding minister with Carol Lantz filling in as the assisting minister. LWLC is fortunate to have so many talented volunteers!

The final Sunday School class session was Sunday, June 9th. We appreciate our teachers for the 2012/2013 season. They are: Dave Snyder, Susan Weems, Lori Eriksson, Karen McCabe, and Phyllis Alban (leader/teacher) assisted by hubby, Mike! Phyllis expressed her appreciation to everyone

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATION CONTINUED

who donated snacks for Sunday School. Classes will resume in September.

A total of \$730.00 was given by the most generous congregation in South Cumberland to the Oklahoma Disaster Assistance! The check was sent to our synod (LCMC) to be added to the other churches donations. Thank you!!

Saturday, June 1st, our men met with some Woodmen of the World members and thoroughly cleaned their property. They cut and trimmed grass, removed small trees and undergrowth from the area at the side street. Some of the undergrowth was POISON! Yep! You guessed right...several of our volunteers got a huge batch of the itchy, runny 3 leaf forbidden plant and even were missed at the next weeks worship service. Sorry guys...but over-all you did a fantastic job!

Saturday, June 15th, the third parking lot sale was held with proceeds going to the building fund. This sale was no different from the other two...we had the assistance of many church members both in marking prior to the sale and the day of the sale. We thank Mike Alban for manning the grill for hotdogs and Phyllis Alban for being in charge of the bake goods table. She was assisted by Karl Eriksson, Annabeth and Carolyn Hughes, youth members.

The \$951.00 was the total realized from the sale as the soft drinks, hotdogs, room rental, the channel 20 TV

ad and the Times-News ad were all paid by individual church members. Our appreciation to everyone who contributed to the bake table, donated clothes and all the articles for the sale. Thanks also to the clerks and cashiers, too! The leftovers were taken to the Union Rescue Mission and Goodwill by volunteers. You all are a super great congregation!!

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Stan Goodrich who passed away June 18th at the Golden Living Center at the age of 84. Stan was a member of the choir and was anxious about having a permanent church home. Stan is survived by his wife, Helen; his son, Stan Jr.; a stepson, Ronald Isner; a sister, Joy Weaver; 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Stan's funeral was held at Adams Family Funeral Home on June 21st with Pastor Mark officiating and interment in Sunset Memorial Park. Memorial contributions were made to our building fund in memory of Stan. Following grave services a luncheon was held in the WOW building for family and friends.

Note: Carol Lantz, chairperson, personally thanked her committee and volunteers for their assistance with the hall setup, food contributions and cleanup. Don't we have a great congregation!?!?

Saturday, June 22nd, was the final quilt day for the summer and will resume in September. The finished quilts were blessed on Sunday, the 23rd and have been delivered to the

Lutheran World Relief, New Windsor, Maryland by the Alban couple...Mike and Phyllis. From September 2012 through June 2013, 86 quilts were completed with 20 being donated to the Union Rescue Mission, 5 donated to a fire victims family and 61 being donated to LWR. Since this ministry started in 2011 by Phyllis...162 quilts have been assembled by the quilters! A tremendous mission for our church and we congratulate the quilters!!

Congratulations to our recent newlyweds...Carol Larsen and Tim Martin! Tim and Carol were united in marriage on May 18th in the Episcopal Church. Tim's brother, Episcopal Deacon, John Martin officiated at their private ceremony. A reception and dance in their honor will be held Saturday, August 17th, at the Hen House Pavilion from 5-9 o'clock. An invitation and sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board with the RSVP being August 1st. PLEASE sign the list if you will be attending their reception. Carol is employed by McCaugh-Roberts-Herring Dermatology and Tim has Martin's Home Improvement and is also employed as the Facility Manager for Canal Place. The couple resides at 10314 Shortest Day Road, LaVale.

Dante Dill, 2 1/2 year old son of Nathanael Dill, was baptized by grandfather, Pastor Mark, on Sunday, July 7th. Sponsors were grandmother, Susan Dill; his aunt, Heather Faust; and Nathanael's friend, Sara. Blue balloons were sent skyward in the parking lot following the service.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATION CONTINUED

Congratulations to the Squires sisters...Jessica and Caitlin!! Jessica made the Dean's list at Frostburg State University where she will be a senior majoring in education. Caitlin made the Dean's List at Allegany College of Maryland where she will be a sophomore. The proud parents are Jim and Lori Squires!!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

*The turtle **ONLY** makes progress when he sticks his neck out!!!*



MINISTRY OF NURTURING SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP PLANS

The Ministry of Nurturing team met to review what we have learned from our first year of providing Sunday School and Youth Group ministries in our congregation and begin plans for the Fall. In our first year we tried to service all of our ages (3 yrs to 12 yrs). Thank-you to everyone who volunteered to teach, assist with activities, and provide snacks so that we could provide Sunday School two Sundays per Month following the service. Those involved did a wonderful job of trying to include all age groups at once. We believe that we can, however, create an improved experience for both our children and teachers if we can divide the Sunday School group into smaller groups. Looking at the ages we have, it would make sense to break them up into as many as 4 groups. In order to accomplish this, we need more volunteers to help with teaching the lesson of the day, and extra hands to help the younger children with crafts that are part of the lessons. The number of groups we have will depend on how many volunteers we have. Having more groups will allow the teacher to tailor the lesson to the age group they are working with, and to fit the time slot. The 3 younger groups will meet for a shorter period, focusing on the bible stories themselves, while the oldest group will take a little longer time to discuss the application of the lessons to their lives. If you are un-

sure about teaching, feel free to join us for a class and see what is involved. More are always welcome, and you may be surprised about how much fun it can be. Sunday School will meet after service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month starting with the 3rd Sunday in September. We will have a Rally Day the 2nd Sunday in September to kick off the Fall season of learning for all ages (that includes all adults). Be watching for more details as we get closer to these dates.

The children clearly enjoyed having a Youth Group and getting to know each other better. We want to thank Phyllis Alban for coordinating each Youth Group event and all of the service activities. We did find that some activities were more age dependent and having the youngest children together with the oldest meant that the oldest children were always helping rather than having time for themselves. To improve the experience for the children, we plan to divide the youth into two groups as well. There will still be times that the groups will meet together and work as an entire group. Who meets will depend on what activities are planned. At the first Youth Group meeting, the two groups will get to choose names for the two groups. Then it will be clear to them which group or groups are meeting on the youth group Sundays following service (2nd Sunday of the

Month). Any volunteers to help with this service are also welcomed.

We have several children who are at an age to receive first communion, Pastor Mark will be contacting those families and coordinating the class. This may occur in the summer prior to the start of Sunday School. Confirmation was also discussed. There are a couple of different groups, some older youth and then middle school youth. We chose some materials, but actual scheduling needs to be worked out with the families involved, so more to come later. There may be some additional volunteer opportunities here if you feel led to work with these ages.

There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers that are interested in teaching, being an assistant, or providing snacks for Sunday School. Also feel free to contact Phyllis Alban, Lori Eriksson, Karen McCabe, Susan Weems, or Pastor Mark about volunteering, or with any questions.

We will be determining the number of groups we can divide the children into for Sunday School based on the volunteers we have for teaching so that we do not overburden our teachers.

Youth Group Picnic & Hike

The Youth Group is having a Picnic followed by a Hike through the Daw Daw tunnel on July 28th.

Following service we will depart LWLC for the Daw Daw tunnel picnic area.

The congregation is invited to join in the potluck picnic, and even join in the hike through the tunnel.

A sign-up sheet is available so that we can plan for supplies needed.

See you there!



Constitution Park Pavilion 6

Come for Worship, Lunch and Fun!

Andi Liller will have sign-up lists for what to bring.

Bring your family and friends to join in the fun and celebration! Watch the bulletin and listen for announcements with additional details.



PRAYER LIST

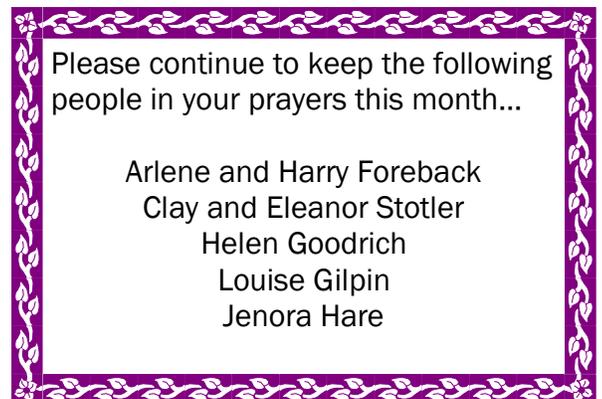
Please continue to keep the following people in your prayers this month...

- Arlene and Harry Foreback
- Clay and Eleanor Stotler
- Helen Goodrich
- Louise Gilpin
- Jenora Hare

QUILTING MINISTRY

Quilt Ministry needs your help!

We are in need of **twin size flat sheets** for quilt backs.
 You can purchase single packages of twin flat sheets in a variety of colors at Wal-Mart for \$4.00.
 We can also use gently used sheets in all sizes.





LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 1825
Cumberland, MD 21502
Meeting at 801 Virginia Avenue

Pastor Mark C. Dill
LivingWordCumberland@gmail.com
301-777-0000

Also find us at:
www.LivingWordCumberland.org

Taking a Living Christ to a Dying World

July Events

Sun 7/21 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. - Worship

Sun 7/28 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. - Worship
*Youth Group and congregation picnic and hike at
Paw Paw tunnel following worship*

August Events

Sun 8/4 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. - Worship

Sun 8/11 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. - Worship

Sun 8/18 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. - Worship

Sun 8/25 - 10 a.m. - Worship at Constitution Park
Picnic following Worship

July Birthdays

6 - Kira Chaney
8 - Mark Dill
11 - Caitlin Squires
22 - Charles Sibley
24 - Stan Goodrich - deceased
25 - Chris McCabe
26 - Greg Lewis

August Birthdays

2 - Pat Rob
4 - Dave Snyder
9 - Janis Dobbins
15 - Hannah Eriksson
18 - Connor McCabe
19 - Brendon McCabe
19 - Trevor McCabe
27 - Wesley Weems
31 - Scott Chaney

July Anniversaries

9 - Raymond and Kristi Hughes
12 - Bob and Rose Rank
15 - Bob and Kay Chaney

August Anniversaries

6 - Pat and Pete Rob
6 - Ken and Sue Winters
21 - Heather (Dill) and Dan Faust