

Morning Star Lutheran Church

THE BEACON

*Rev. Timothy Glenham & Rev. John Mouritsen, Pastors
Mr. Edmund Tompkins, Minister of Music & Mrs. Wendy Roberts, Youth Staffer
Mrs. Peggy Harrison, Parish Secretary & Mr. Jerry Sutton, Business Administrator
Mrs. Jennifer Starnes & Mrs. Cindy Ladimir, Nursery*

Issue 08 Vol. 12

ONLINE: www.morningstarlutheranchurch.org

February 21, 2012

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES

7:15 PM CHAPEL

I AM

*The Light
Of
The World*



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DEDICATION OF
New Worship Center
Sunday, March 25
5:00 PM
Invite your friends and
former members!

LENTEN GET-TOGETHERS



Wednesday Evening

February 29

DINNER: 5:15—6:00 PM

Chicken Patty sandwich meal provided by the Worship and Finance Mission Teams. Tickets must be purchased by Sunday prior to Wed. from the church office: Adults (\$4) Children under 10 (\$2).

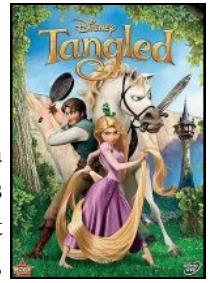
HAPPENINGS: 6:00—7:00 PM Classes for all ages: Nursery, Children, Youth and Adults.

WORSHIP: 7:15 PM in the Chapel. The "I AM" series in the midst of Evening Prayer will guide us to Christ. On February 29 - The Light of The World.

CHAPEL NURSERY will be provided for evening worship IF you sign up by Sunday prior to Wed.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT MORNING STAR

Saturday, March 3 at 6:30 PM



Walt Disney Pictures presents TANGLED, a hilarious, hair-raising tale When the Kingdom's most wanted - and most charming - bandit Flynn Rider hides out in a mysterious tower, he's taken hostage by Rapunzel, a beautiful and feisty tower-bound teen with 70 feet of magical, golden hair.

TANGLED is a story of adventure, heart, humor and hair - lots of hair. So bring your lawn chairs and blankets, grab a spot in the Family Life Center and enjoy a fun-filled Saturday night with good friends.

ANNUAL LUTHERIDGE CABIN MAINTENANCE



The annual Lutheran Men trip to Lutheridge is scheduled for the week of May 6-12. Some of the men will go up on Sunday afternoon and others will be going up on different days. Some will be staying up all week and coming back on Friday afternoon. Others will come up for one or more days. If you have not been before it is a very fulfilling trip with a lot of work and great fellowship. No special skills needed—just a willingness to serve. Please sign up on the board outside of your worship area or contact Art Szmuriga.

FOR PARENTS ONLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS

**WHO HAVE A CHILD WHO IS NOT
YET RECEIVING COMMUNION**



Sunday, February 26 at 10:00 AM
Main Conference Room

The class, taught by Pastor John, will help parents discern when their child is ready for communion and will offer some helpful teaching tools in preparing a child for his/her first communion.

ADOPT-A-STREET

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It is that time again to help clean Rice Road. Meet at the church at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 3. With a good number of helpers, children, youth and adults, we should be through in one hour. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Even if you do not get to sign up come out and help anyway.



Lutheran College Fair

The Lutheran College Fair and workshop is designed to give insight into the unique aspects of Lutheran higher education and a chance to meet representatives from some of our member colleges and universities. There is no charge for any of our events and no need to pre-register. **In addition, students who attend our events will receive four application fee waivers for use at our Lutheran colleges and universities.**

Sunday, March 11 - Charlotte, NC
St. Mark's Lutheran Church 1001
Queens Road Charlotte, NC 28207
6:30 p.m. Registration 7:00 p.m. Financial Aid Seminar 7:30-9:00 p.m.
College Fair (Reception and Hors d'Oeuvres)



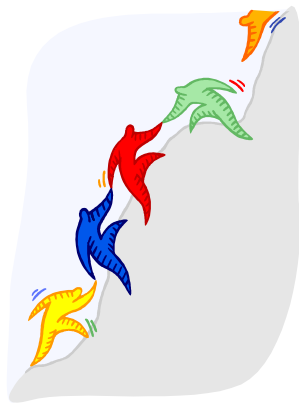
WAITING ROOM BASKETS



"Goodies" are needed by Sunday, March 5 for the Waiting Room Baskets. Place your store purchased/wrapped food items in the old kitchen by that Sunday. Members of the Social Ministry Team will package and deliver them.

AV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 11:00 WORSHIP

Are you willing to guide the Worship Slides or mind the Microphones during the 11:00 worship? If so, please contact Della Sperlbaum at (704)545-4601.



MSLC Youth News

Growing in Faith Together!

February/March, 2012

JOURNEY TO THE 2012 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

It's not too late to pick up a mile marker on MSLC's Road to New Orleans in the FLC Lobby. Every dollar given will enable our 15 youth and 2 adult advisors to worship, serve and grow in faith with 36,000 Lutherans from across the nation! Let's get rolling! Larger mile markers of support can be accrued over the next 8-10 weeks - no rush!




2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20



The youth have greatly appreciated the delicious Wednesday evening meals provided by many families of our congregation! Special thanks to:
Heather & Angelo Baerga
Tom & Pam Freeburn
Danielle & Chris Helms
Kathie & Bill Loelius
Glenda & Rachford Potter
Lisa & Andy Robinson
Eric Treeese
Lynn & David Werts





Upcoming Events

February 22, 7:15 PM, Ash Wednesday Worship
Youth attend worship with their families

February 24—26, LYO Assembly, Greensboro

February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28, Lenten Get Togethers
5:15 PM Meal (pre-purchased tickets) &
6:00 PM Happenings
Middle School Youth — Confirmation with PJ
High School Youth — “Discipleship in 2012” with Wendy

Saturday, March 3, 6:30 PM, Family Movie Night — “Tangled”



Summer Stuff

Campfirmation
June 17—23

Vacation Bible School
June 24—28

Middle School Glocal Servant Adventure
June 28—July 1

2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, New Orleans
July 17—24

Music Camp
July 23—27





On February 5, Youth Sunday, our youth spiritually nourished the Morning Star Family as they led both services' worship & music, read Scripture, proclaimed the Gospel, prayed with us, assisted with Communion, and extended their hospitality to all.

GLORY

My One Word

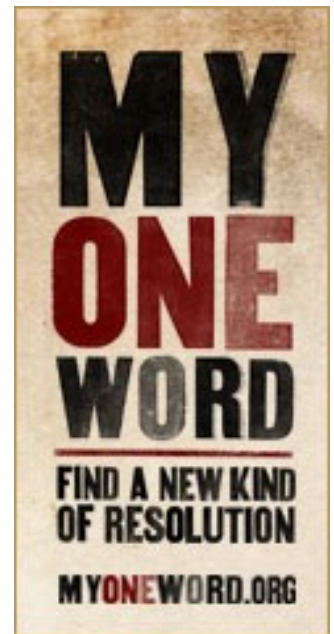
By Barbara Koziarz

It really did not take much thought to come up with my “one word” this year. I knew what my word would be long before Pastor Tim’s sermon when he asked us to “think about it.” I can still remember my last 3 years of “one words,” (strength, patience, pray) and these words continue to be important to me today. My one word this year is GLORY! I know Pastor Tim is chuckling right now because he knows what this word means to me! Let me start from the beginning.

Early in December when all the hustle and bustle of Christmas was beginning I was just not feeling in the spirit. Gary was feeling down too. A year ago December he lost his Dad. In September we lost our 16 yr old Dalmatian Candy who was the love of our lives and a big part of our family. My mom had been having health problems through the year and is now residing at Lake Park Nursing from a broken hip. This has been very difficult for both of us since she lived with us and we miss her. The house suddenly seemed very empty. I had been secretly looking for dogs/ puppies on the Internet and leaving pictures on the kitchen counter for Gary to see but he said nothing could ever replace Candy. So I kind of stopped my search but every now and then would check the Internet. One day I was at work. Gary called and asked what I wanted for Christmas. I thought about it and really there was nothing I wanted or needed. He said he felt the same way. He then said, “Why don’t we get a puppy?” Ok! I had already found an 8 week old Dalmatian puppy and set an appointment to go see her. We immediately fell in love with her and brought her home that very night! Let me tell you, I have never had a puppy and neither had Gary. What a shock!! What were we thinking?! I had no idea puppies were so full of energy, I’m exhausted! Obedience training here we come! Anyway, back to my one word.

I was trying to think of an appropriate name for her and all the normal dog names were mentioned and I said no that wasn’t it. This puppy came into our lives at a time when we really needed her. She was replacing several losses and heartaches in our lives. For this reason I named her GLORY! Glory means to me a source of joy and beauty, and she is so beautiful! Glory also has a more important meaning; great praise and honor to God. God is my Glory, he is my shield that surrounds me and protects me from harm and fear. I can sleep without fear and worry knowing He will support me and every day that I wake up again is because of God’s continual protection and presence in my life. I’ve since continue to see and hear the word Glory every day especially during Sunday service. Did you notice how many times the word Glory is said or sung each Sunday?

The word Glory is all around us...I’ve recently seen it on several neighboring Church message boards during the Christmas season. I was talking with my childhood friend recently who lives in Denver, Colorado and of course it was during a football game that Tim Tebow was playing in. I decided to tell her about my one word “Glory”, and I explained how Pastor Tim asks our congregation to think of our one words each year. Tim Tebow was in his Glory that night she said! She immediately told me of a word she had been thinking about a lot lately...Wisdom, and told me what it meant to her. We had a real connection that night and it was a very meaningful conversation. When we talk again I know for sure we will discuss our “one words”...Since then my friend sent me a letter thanking me and telling me about how her "one word" is working within her life. After struggling through 6 months of unemployment, the day after we spoke she was called for a job interview, and she got the job! She has now asked her children to think of their "one words"...passing on the Faith.



WWW.MYONEWORD.ORG will inspire you. Check it out!

If you have selected your one word, please submit to the church office your

Harry Pickett, resident at Carrington Place in Matthews, has been ill recently.

Agnes Uusitalo is residing at Lake Park.

Bob Shuford is suffering from Avascular Necrosis AVN.

Lillian and Jack Sherertz Jack is recuperating at Pine Lake Rehab and Lillian is home after being sick.

Jackie Kuhn had carpal tunnel surgery on 2/9.

Matthew Doak had surgery on 2/9 and is recovering at home.

Pat Buetow at home recovering from stroke symptoms.

Mike Bronson cancer surgery at Presby. Main 2/20.

Carol Bumbulucz gall bladder surgery in Florida 2/17.



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Roy Thillberg** (former MSLC member) upon his sudden death due to an infection while at Duke Hospital on Feb. 18.

My Dear Church Mouse,

I must tell you how much you have brightened my days with your kind remembrances. I was feeling rather blue and to see another drawing that looks suspiciously like my 2011 mouse just cheered me so much. I love the books, but even more your faithfulness and just being remembered again by you means the world to me. Many, many thanks.



Maureen Conley

Dear Church Mouse,

Thank you so much for the lovely Valentine gifts! I love the gorgeous rose plant, adore Valentine Mouse mug, delicious chocolates and fun hand cleaner. Thank you for thinking of me and brightening my Valentine's Day.

Sincerely, Lola Goebelbecker

Dear Church Mouse,

Thank you so much for all the thoughtful ways you reached out to me over the past year. I enjoyed all the cards and sweet gifts, however, the best part was simply knowing someone cared! Thank you!

Peace and joy to you, Donna Miller

Dear Church Mouse,

Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts and treats this past year.

What a wonderful feeling to attend worship on Sunday and finding not only peace with God but love from a "mouse friend." May God's blessings be with you.

Love, Janet Killough

Dear Friends,

Christmas has come and gone, but your generous contribution during the holidays has not been forgotten! We broke last year's record and were able to provide "Christmas" for 881 people (249 families) who were unable to provide for themselves.

We truly appreciate all of you who gave a toy, a bike, new clothes, or gifts for a whole family. Thank you for Christmas dinners and the gift cards. Many, many thanks from all of us at Matthews Help Center. Your willingness to serve our community represents the true spirit of the holidays!

Molly Kennedy, Kim Rhodarmer

WEEKLY CALENDAR February 24 to March 2



Friday, February 24

9:00 AM - Walkers

11:00 AM - A Meeting

4:30 PM - Leave for LYO Assembly @ Greensboro

Saturday, February 25

LYO Assembly @ Greensboro

10:00 AM - Mother/Daughter Luncheon Planning

Sunday, February 26

8:00 AM - FLC Worship Set-Up

8:30 AM - Non-Traditional Worship @ FLC

10:00 AM - Sunday School

10:00 AM - Communion Instruction for Parents

11:00 AM - Traditional Worship @ FLC

12:15 PM - Return from LYO Assembly @ Greensboro

6:00 PM - Council Meeting

Monday, February 27

9:00 AM - Walkers

10:00 AM - Program Staff Meeting

11:00 AM - AA Meeting

7:00 PM - Girl Scout Team Meetings

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts

7:00 PM - Property Mission Team

Tuesday, February 28

9:30 AM - Quilt Judging

6:00 PM - Instrumental Ensemble

6:15 PM - Girl Scouts

6:30 PM - Cub Scouts

7:00 PM - Radiance Ringers

7:00 PM - Cub Scout Pack Meeting

8:00 PM - Recorder Consort

Wednesday, February 29

9:30 AM - Quilt Judging

11:00 AM - AA Meeting

11:00 AM - Staff Meeting

5:15 PM - Lenten Meal

6:00 PM - Lenten Happening

7:15 PM - Lenten Worship @ Chapel

Thursday, March 1

8:45 AM - Home School Co-op

2:00 PM - 4-H Club

6:00 PM - Joyful Noise Ringers

7:00 PM - Chancel & Praise Choirs

Friday, March 2

9:00 AM - Walkers

11:00 AM - AA Meeting

7:00 PM - Council Retreat Begins

Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care

Charity Golf Tournament

April 19 at Olde Sycamore

See sign-up board for more information.

This is to benefit seniors and disabled adults with Alzheimer's, dementia and other diseases of the elderly.

Morning Star Lutheran Church
12509 Idlewild Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28105
Phone (704) 847-4502

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Take a Look for Lent

In another day or two, we will begin the season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday. Well, maybe *celebrating* is a bit too strong a word... We'll be observing it, certainly. We'll be worshiping together in the Family Life Center at 7:15 pm - that's true. But celebrating? Hmm.

The season of Lent is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) that is specifically set aside for you and me to take stock of who we are as people and as children of God. If we perform more than a cursory glance at the way we relate to our spouse, our children, our friends and God, it'll be easy to see ways in which we come up short, do a lousy job, or don't seem to care about what's going on at all. Sometimes we simply get caught up in our own life. Sometimes we get tired of dealing with other people's drama. Sometimes we think that God won't notice if we sleep in for the seventh Sunday in a row or if we skip our prayers altogether. All this and all the rest, brothers and sisters, is SIN, no matter how you slice it.

Lent is not about beating ourselves up and then feeling lousy about what rotten people we are - though if you're an old German Lutheran or a Dane of the "sad" variety it's going to be hard not to go that route. Lent is about being Honest about who we are as human beings. Lent is about taking off the mask of "everything's fine!" and "I can handle it myself" and looking at the fact that we are pretty much a scratched and dented bunch of people and in need of a Savior.

So maybe we won't be raucously celebrating Ash Wednesday or parading our way through Lent, and that's ok. Perhaps it's better that we simply take a good look at who we are and how we're doing and realize THIS is why the Son of God has come into our world and into our lives. When we see our need for healing and wholeness, then we're better able to receive and be thankful for all the blessings we are given through Christ Jesus. So take a good look this Lent - and you'll probably see more than you expected.

Pastor John