



The Spirit



Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church

Volume 4, Issue 4
April 2012

A Note from Pastor Robin



As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe...and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be afraid; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not there... Go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him...so they went and fled from the tomb." Mark 16:1-8

The core of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord.

With only days until Easter, I invite you to ponder this Easter text. The women at the tomb are told to "Go and tell." Yet their response is terror and amazement. They are so afraid at what they have experienced that it relegates them to silence.

We Christians of today also know something about God's command for us to "**Go and tell.**" We hear all the time that we are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are to proclaim and announce that God loves us, cares for us, and will always be there for us. We know that we have a God of love and mercy, who forgives us our sins and accepts us back with open arms. However, we continue to keep it private and sometimes think that we couldn't possibly be the ones told to "Go and tell."

Well, here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church we are a community who accepts the Biblical mandate to "Go and tell" of Christ's death and resurrection. We are called as fellow believers to usher in this love by sharing the story. We share this Good News in the many Bible stories that our young people hear in Sunday School. We hear it through our choirs, through preaching and teaching, and we especially hear it shared from one person to the next.

I invite you to find a friend and share the Good News. Help someone hear today (maybe for the first time) that they are forgiven, that they are cared for, and that they are loved. Go and tell! **AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!**



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Inside this edition, you will find words from your Pastor, committee reports, ongoing events, upcoming events, and other exciting news. We encourage you to take part and get involved at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

Dear Friends and Family of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,

Spring is here, it is April, Lent is almost over and soon we are reborn in the glory of the resurrection at Easter. This special church, where we come to learn, to worship, to grow our faith, likewise is being reborn again. We are coming into new times. There is so much excitement in this. Our membership is growing as well as our ministry and programs.

We have AIM (Associate in Ministry) Linda, newly commissioned and hard at work in service. We have bid Pastor Chris Litton all good wishes as he embarks upon life with his new parish. There are new opportunities all around us: new Bible Studies, The Women's Retreat, a new prayer garden, and many others.

With all the new excitement comes the wisdom of where we have been. Much that is new comes from the strength of our founding, 47+ years ago. We are grounded in what works and keeps us together. We have the men's breakfast group, meeting each and every Tuesday morning; we have a strong, thriving educational system that includes study for children and adults; our Talent Show, Ladies Night, and Frederick Keys nights are traditions we have come to enjoy and look forward to each year. There are many more of these fellowship times at Holy Spirit . . . As well as our ministries of love and benevolence, which we share both locally and internationally.

Last month, just after the March council meeting, I was looking for some answers to take back to council members regarding a question of policy and continuing resolutions, when I opened my copy of the HSLC constitution. I found in it some of the answers and also a great deal of inspiration. Your council is composed of very thoughtful people who reflect upon past decisions, discussion, and research to problem-solve the issues, challenges, and dreams we face today as a congregation. I recommend that you join the council in looking carefully at not only some of the programs mentioned above, but really look deep into our statements of faith.

As you begin your Easter Journey, please pray for your council and help us remember the direction we are traveling and to remember the roadmap that brings us along the way. That roadmap is our faith, lived out daily. As our Church Constitution states: *"The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."* — *C4.01. Constitution, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

As a council and congregation, let us continue to fulfill that statement of purpose!

In peace,

Beth Gray, HSLC, President



Church Leadership

Stephen Ministry

As of February 27th, 2012, Holy Spirit is enrolled in the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries, a non-profit religious and educational organization based in St. Louis, MO. We are joining over 11,000 congregations in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 23 other countries.

Pastor Robin and I will be attending a one-week Leader's Training Course in Pittsburgh at the end of July. At this training course, we will receive the instruction and materials necessary to implement and sustain this program of lay caring ministry here at Holy Spirit.

In September, a group of people from the congregation will begin 50 hours of training in Christian caring skills under my guidance. This training will prepare them to care for others, including topics such as how to listen effectively, how to deal with feelings, how to use traditional Christian resources in caring, how to maintain confidentiality, how to deal with people experiencing crises, and many other areas of concern. A Christ-centered approach to caring and the need to care for the whole person will be stressed throughout the training.

This will be an exciting time for Holy Spirit! We will be able to increase the amount of caring ministry that goes on in our congregation. As more people are equipped to care, Christ's love will be able to go out from us in ever greater and more effective ways.

If you are interested in being a part of this program or would like more information, please see me. In the meantime, please keep this ministry in your prayers as we prepare for a major step forward in our caring ministry.

AIM Linda



“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.” Mark 16

Church & Village: Partners in Ministry

This issue of news for the churches is written by Laura Sinnott, Executive Director of Carroll Lutheran Village.

Although not born in Carroll County, I have called it home for fifty years. I attended local public schools, graduated from Western Maryland (McDaniel) College with a social work degree, married my high school sweetheart, and raised three sons in the Westminster area. I have been on the staff of Carroll Lutheran Village for twenty-one years. My entire career has been spent working with aging clients whose incomes ranged from poverty level to financial security. The universal thread has been the wish, the hope, and the dogged determination to retain as much control over one's life as is feasible. To maintain the highest level of independence possible and preserve one's personal dignity is paramount.

As I watch my octogenarian parents and in-laws, as the Village's staff guides residents and their families, as I face my own retirement within the next decade, I realize that the Village has a mission driven obligation to design and develop programs that will enhance the quality of life for present and future seniors in Carroll County so they can make choices about their lives with dignity. Some of those programs are already available to you.

The Village, in conjunction with the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association has begun an Alzheimer's Support Group for caregivers, which is open to the greater community. Respite care is available during the meeting time for persons with dementia. The meetings are facilitated by a licensed Carroll Lutheran Village social worker and held on the third Thursday of each month from 1 – 2:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Please contact Cheri Schymansky at 443-605-1057 for information.

If you are aged 60 or over, you might think about participating in wellness programming at the Village. *Family & Friends* is an economical way to swim, exercise, take classes and meet old and new friends. And it's not only about exercise! An award winning Open House series on health issues has been popular, addressing such topics as Fall Prevention, Diabetes, Arthritis, the Financial Stressors of Aging, and the Caregiving Stressors of Aging. The series continues this year and is free. Call the Wellness Center at 443-605-1070 during business hours for details.

More programs and services for the greater Carroll County community are planned for the near future. You will hear about them as they are developed. In the meantime, please call or stop by -- see what **your** leader in aging services has to offer.

MARTIN'S

In need of a trip to the grocery store? Buy your Martins cards today from Sue Podobnik!

Check Out the New Website

Have you looked at Holy Spirit's website lately? I have begun to change some things that were out-of-date and add some new information. In the near future, I hope to do some more extensive "remodeling," and I need your help! Please visit the site (<http://hslceldersburg.org>) and think about what you would like to see out there. What's unnecessary? What's not there that should be? How can we best present our congregation to the world? What's on your wish list? If you have ideas, please catch me on Sunday or send me an email (lnsmith46@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for your help! -AIM Linda

Search the web

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Our purpose is to love God and bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus and His church.

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The Spirit is Moving at Holy Spirit

Our pastor is Rev. Robin Simpson Litton.
 Come and celebrate with us
 as we worship the living Christ.

SUNDAY
Worship Services
8:30 AM
 and
10:45 AM

Nursery Provided at 10:45 AM

Sunday School:
All Ages at 9:30 AM
Pre-school age 4 and under 9:50-10:30 AM



DELAWARE—MARYLAND SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
WESTMINSTER CLUSTER

February 19, 2012

Dear Pastor/Church Women Contact Person,

The Westminster Cluster Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA will hold its Spring Meeting on Monday evening, April 16, 2012 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 701 Green Valley Road, New Windsor.

Agenda:

- 6:30 - Registration with coffee and dessert
- 7:00 - Devotions - St. Luke's Lutheran Church Women
- 7:15 - Guest Speaker - Barbara Schroll
Speaking Faith Through Art

We encourage you to attend and bring a friend or two! Let's have a great turnout! See you on April 16, 2012.

Babysitting will be available if you contact Gloria Kniss by April 6, 2012.

Directions to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Windsor—
From Westminster – take Rt. 140 West

Take Rt. 31 to New Windsor

In New Windsor, take a right turn on Rt. 75 towards Union Bridge
St. Luke's is approximately 1.4 miles on the right.

Sincerely,

Gloria Kniss
Cluster Secretary

camp T.R.

A grief camp for
children ages 7 - 15



F.R.O.G.S.
Fantastic
Resource
Of
Grief
Support

Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3, 2012
Camp Hashawha Environmental Center
Westminster, MD 21157
Free

- Enjoy recreational activities such as arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, music and games
- Partner with grief buddies who provide support
- Create new friendships
- Receive grief support and education

Registration is required by calling Kathy Bare,
410-871-7231. Register early, space is limited!





**Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church**

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
2205 Old Liberty Road
Eldersburg, MD, 21784

Church Office Phone: (410) 795-6333
Preschool: (410) 795-2287

Pastor: hslc.pastor@comcast.net
Parish Administrator:
hslc.eldersburg@comcast.net

Sunday Worship Service: 8:30, 10:45 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am



Visit us online at
www.hslceldersburg.org

“Our purpose is to love God
and to bring people into a
growing relationship with
Jesus and His church.”



For newsletter updates, please send your electronic version to Lindsay Holbig at Lpodobnik@yahoo.com, or contact the church office at (410) 795-6333, or leave your printed copy in Ami O'Hara's church office mailbox.

Updates are due the 15th of each month.

Thank You from Matt Zemanick

I would like to take the time and space to say thank you to the Holy Spirit community for your support of my call to ordained ministry. The sub sale on Friday, March 9th was a huge success and I am now able to pay for my Psychological Evaluation and move on to the next steps in the candidacy process.

Holy Spirit truly embodies its namesake, always finding creative ways to proclaim the radical grace of God. As my semester draws to a close, I look forward to spending my summer working close to home; I look forward to working closely with my community, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

**HAPPY
EASTER**