



St. Mark's Messenger
The Newsletter of St. Mark Lutheran Church
April 2011

A Message from our Shepherd

I've got an empty feeling ...and I am so excited!

The season of Lent provides the Church with a special 40 day journey of repentance and prayer. Throughout the season of Lent we contemplate the sufferings and death of our Lord; we are led to a renewed sorrow for our sins that caused his suffering and death; and we are led to a renewed appreciation for his wondrous love for us individually.

In order to help our meditation during this season our worship services are muted and quieter than normal. We omit our most jubilant songs and we choose not to sing "Alleluia" until Easter.

All of these preparations are simply a diligent effort on our part to prepare our hearts for the indescribable joy of Easter morning. I invite you to attend any of our 3 midweek Lenten worship services remaining, either at 4 or 7 pm on March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th.

And then, please, arrange your plans now to be present for our Holy Week worship services. We begin with Palm Sunday worship on April 17th at 9:30am. We will continue then with a Maundy Thursday worship service on April 21 at 7 pm. We will celebrate with Holy Communion and the choir is preparing a special song. And from the bottom of my heart, I pray you will join us for our special Good Friday services at either 4 or 7 pm on April 22. I will be leading us once again through a special "Tenebrae" service, a service that provides a powerful opportunity to ponder our Savior's passion.

And then, please prepare now, already, to join me and many other hope-filled Christians on Easter morning, April 24th to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! We will begin with a sunrise service at 7 am, a great pot-luck style breakfast that follows at about 8, and then an additional and entirely different worship service at 9:30. My heart is getting excited already as I am looking forward to running to the tomb - to look in, and find it...yes!...empty!

Rejoice! Easter is coming! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Let's gather in his house to rejoice and gladly sing his praise!

In the love of our living Lord,

Pastor David Rosenau

Road To Emmaus DVD's

Great news! In our sincere desire to share the life changing Easter message we have purchased more "Road to Emmaus" DVD's for you to give away to someone who might not know - or who can use a reminder right about now in their life - of how much Jesus loves them. Please, stay after worship on Sunday April 3rd. We will watch this great, 30 minute movie together. We will make the DVD's available for handout then. The movie is a high quality gift with a life-changing message. Can you start to think now about who you might give one to?

Congratulations!

To Amanda for top job in the Math Team at Leesburg High School and to Luke for a top rating at a recent band competition.

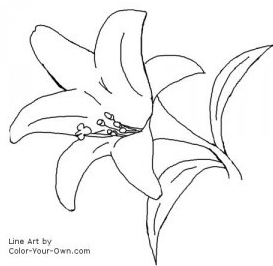
Mu Alpha Theta News

Mu Alpha Theta competed in a district meet on Saturday at Fleming Island High School. LHS took 5th place in Statistics. Please congratulate our Stats team: Amanda Blankenship, Felicia Costa, Leah Harvey, and Amanda Rosenau. Our top LHS scorers were:
Geometry - Steven Oliver
Algebra II - Akeem Sankey
Pre-Calculus - Graham Sligh
Statistics - Amanda Rosenau
Calculus - Vanessa Holt
Good job, mathletes!!!

Leesburg High School Band

Superior Rating:
Terry Wood – Trumpet Trio
Howard Lin – Trumpet Trio
Luke Rosenau – Trumpet Trio

Easter Celebrations!



Line Art by
ColorYourOwn.com

Yes! We will be purchasing Easter Lilies to add to the celebration of Easter morning. Please watch for an announcement in the bulletin just as soon as we choose our lily provider and learn the cost.



Yes! We will be celebrating with an Easter breakfast in between our morning worship services. Please watch for a sign up sheet on the table in the back of church (the narthex) for you to indicate how many will be attending and what food you would like to bring.

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The Messenger is published monthly for members, winter members and friends of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Deadline for submissions for the May newsletter is Friday April 15



Chili Supper
Wednesday April 6th
5 - 6 pm
(Lenten services 4 & 7pm)



You are invited to a chili supper in between worship services on Wednesday April 6th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of church to see what additional food items are needed, and to indicate if you are planning to come (so we will make sure to have enough food for everyone.) Stay after the 4pm service, or come early and eat before the 7 pm service!

Mary Martha Guild Activities



GRADUATION DAY
is rapidly approaching for Josh Bodden. On April 10th, Mary Martha Guild will sponsor a freewill collection for his benefit. Josh and his family will be facing many new expenses this summer so we look forward to helping them one last time. Thank you, everyone, for all your support of this ongoing project!



**Mary Martha Guild
Meeting
Wednesday
April 13th
9:30 AM**
Following our meeting, we'll go to PEAR Park for a BYO brown bag picnic lunch & nature walk.