

The Light

The "Relaying Lutherans" are walking once again!



Why not join OUR TEAM for the 2010 Relay for Life of Oxford?

Join us at Relay for Life of Oxford on June 25th & 26th for a Summer fun-filled event with Activities, Games, Theme Laps, and MUCH MORE!!!

The Relay for Life brings together more than 3.5 million people to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, to remember loved ones who lost the battle and to empower individuals and communities around the world to fight back against this disease.

Doing the Relay is easy...we take turns walking "relay style" around the Oxford Stadium track starting Friday afternoon through Saturday morning. During this time, there will be events like the Survivor Celebration, Caregiver Lap, Luminary Ceremony and Fight Back Ceremony. The Relay is family-oriented and will include activities for folks of all ages to participate in during the course of the event.

Please consider signing up to participate on our team this year. More information will be available shortly, or you can visit the ACS website (cancer.org) or you can get more information from your team captain, Tom Plystak. See Tom at church or feel free to call (610) 932-8273. If you can't be part of the team, but you would like to help, please see Tom or any of our Relay Team Members if you would like to make a contribution or volunteer in other ways.

REGISTRATION for team members will begin soon. Be on the lookout!

Upcoming Important Dates

Christian Education Meeting	April 11
Roller Skating Event	April 17
Lighthouse Youth Center Banquet	April 22

April 2010

Sharing
God's
Abundant
Love

Pastor's Perspective

A New Presence

"A new presence was felt by those, who, just a few days before saw their master crucified. A new presence, mysterious but real, that pressed in upon their souls with joy and a disturbing peace." ---Robert, Morneau, *Ashes to Easter*, The Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, 1996, pg. 114.

Do you feel a "new presence" on Easter morning, or is it more like the movie *Groundhog Day* in which the same day happens over and over again? I feel there are two opposite but both troubling approaches to this high holiday. In the first case, we pump the day full of extravagant images and practices to the point where the crucial message of Easter is all but missed. Easter is a big deal and a special celebration is in order. However, we must remain alert to the central message of the Easter gospel and everything else that we bring to our celebration should point to that message.

The second troubling approach to this special day is the "It's just another Easter" syndrome. This is most often found in mature Christians who have been a part of many Easter Day celebrations. Anything seen as different is either discarded or viewed as a mere variation on a common theme. With this group the "new presence" is completely missed.

So how do we avoid these two troublesome approaches to Easter. Well unfortunately, this article is coming to you after the big day so there is no preventative path for this year. But don't be discouraged because it's not too late to recapture the essence of Easter. First and foremost we should be seeing each Sunday throughout the year as a "Little Easter." Every Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Every Sunday you have the opportunity to encounter a "New Presence."

The second avenue that is open to you is your own Bible study of the different resurrection stories to be found in the gospels. How are they similar? How are they different? What is the central message of each one?

To either or both of these approaches I would add a crucial ingredient. I would invite you to enter the mystery. Put yourself in the shoes of the followers of Jesus who are filled with sorrow, filled with questions, filled with fear. Then with trembling in your bones approach the tomb of the Master. Don't be in a hurry. Quietly and slowly approach and then let the Easter miracle bathe you in light and wonder. Hear the Easter proclamation anew. Let the good news dance in your heart.

May the miracle and the mystery of Easter fill you with wonder and joy.

Pastor Dan

Council Corner

Council would like to welcome Joyce Vasquez and give a great big thank you to Trish Hill for serving on council.

The \$5000.00 plus \$50.00 interest was paid back to the Endowment Fund.

COL will be hosting World Day of Prayer in May.

We are moving forward with the company that is interested in our land.

There will be another dinner out May 1st at the Milleys' home.

Dan Lohr came and spoke to us about the church's front steps. For safety reasons they need to be replaced and he is getting estimates to have this done.

Council continues to watch the budget as close as possible.

Council meetings are open to everyone. Council meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 in the church office.

Women of Worship Update

Due to my father's open heart surgery, the March meeting was cancelled. My family and I want to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone for their support and understanding during this difficult time.

Because we didn't have the March meeting, the April meeting is going to be very important. It would be great to have a large turn out, so I would like to ask the ladies of COL what day of the week is best for them to hold the meeting this month. Please contact me at 484-643-0432 or at afratarola367@comcast.net.

Thank you, Aniela Frattarola

March Winds and April Showers... Need SOAP!

April is soap month here at COL. This month we will be collecting new 4.5 oz (bath size) bars of soap in their original wrappers for Lutheran World Relief. Once received, Lutheran World Relief headquarters will distribute them world-wide to promote cleanliness and health in those areas overcoming disasters.

Please help us reach out and touch our world with love. Drop off your donations in the soap basket near the church entrance. Thanks!

THANKS FOR THE HAPPY MEMORIES

Thank you for all of the wonderful donations for our Bingo Tea Party at Luther House on March 27. Both the food and prizes were enjoyed by all. Those who volunteered to help out at this event were truly blessed in seeing the joy you helped to provide. Thank you for sharing the abundance of God's love with others!

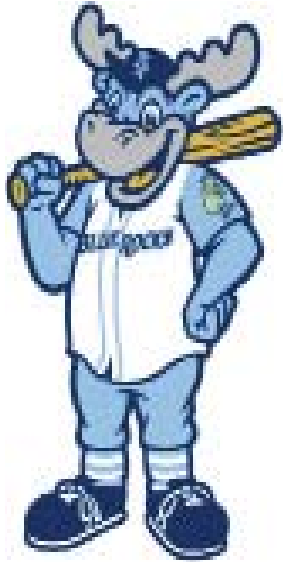


*Bingo at
Luther
House*

Thanks

Thank you to the members of COL for your support and love shown to me and my family at the passing of my sister, Marie Eiserman. It meant so much to us. COL is a very warm and loving church.

Nancy Kelly



Batter Up!

Save the Date: Our 2010 Blue Rocks Baseball Night is Coming!

Yes, baseball fans, our 2010 Blue Rocks game date is set! Join your fellow congregation members and friends for a night of family fun. I have reserved 50 tickets for the Wilmington Blue Rocks vs. the Frederick Keys (Baltimore Orioles affiliate) for Saturday evening, July 17th. Game time is 6:05 and yes, there are FIREWORKS after the game. Our seats are reserved in Section G, which is behind home plate. Tickets are \$10.00 each and include admission to the game and the fireworks display. Parking is free.

Ticket order forms will be available in May, but in the meantime, MARK THE DATE for an evening of baseball fun!

Questions...contact Tom Plystak (610) 932-8273.



Special graphic for Tina Sauk, Mr. Celery's biggest fan.

April & May Birthdays

Roland Pattinson	04/03	Chris Plystak	05/06
Melanie Lohr	04/05	Mike Cordivano	05/06
Zelda Abernathy	04/18	Gary Luckhardt	05/07
Derek Lohr	04/21	Tom Troyan	05/11
Susan Repetz	04/21	Aniela Frattarola	05/12
Joyce Sherick	04/23	Faith Lipford	05/13
Pat Bodine	04/23	Cathy DuBosque	05/15
Noah Hill	04/24	Steven Luke	05/16
Shjona McHugh	04/24	Diana Frederick	05/17
Don Hostetler	04/25	Dan Bodine	05/18
Joan Murphy	04/25	Savannah Craven	05/19
		Don van Krieken Jr	05/20
		Paul Sauk	05/27
		Roman Seaman	05/30