

THE WITTENBERG



APRIL 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.

Mark 13:28

People of Wittenberg:

Nestled next to the garage at the parsonage is a stout and productive fig tree. Every afternoon, Elijah makes a visit to the fig tree, compiles a few growth statistics and then returns to the study to give “daddy” a report. For Elijah, the greening of the fig tree signifies the potential for flip-flops, water play and copious amounts of fruits and vegetables.

In Mark’s gospel, the Lesson of the Fig Tree is situated in the midst of a series of Jesus’ sayings focused on the apocalyptic. Jesus announces to the disciples – and us – that beyond seasons of cold suffering, God prepares a future of warmth, light and growth.

As we continue our Lenten journey together, we acknowledge that life may seem wintry as we confront our own sinfulness and the pains that are often hurled in our direction. Yet God continues to announce to us SUMMER IS NEAR!

May the introspection, self-denial and quiet of the Lenten fast prepare us for the rich feasts of Easter and Pentecost.

Peace be with you.

Michael

SERVING IN APRIL

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 4/3- Landis & Sheryl Price
4/10- Laura Rikard
4/17- Fowler & Sandy Cary
4/24- Paula Miller

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Julia Shealy

NURSERY— SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 4/3- Kayce Shealy
4/10- Linda Almgren
4/17- Rebecca Reed
4/24- Michael Reed

2-3 YR. OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 4/3- Catherine Oxner, Myra Cantrell
4/10- Myra Cantrell, Catherine Oxner
4/17- Crissie Kirby, Scarlett Summers
4/24- Scarlett Summers, Crissie Kirby

GREETERS

Narthex:

- Robert & Wendy Epting
Commons Area:
Linda Almgren, Kaye Wiley

WORSHIP ASSISTANT/ LAY READER

John Oxner

ALTAR GUILD

- Marti Burns, Wendy Epting,
Sue Ruff, Betsy McEwen,
Crissie Kirby

USHERS

- Melvin Swygert, Sonya Cary,
Ross Cary, Doris Antley

NURSERY

Scarlett Summers, Chair

- 4/3- Dawn & Tracy Bedenbaugh
4/10- Jennifer & Mike Patrick
4/17- Catherine & John Oxner
4/24- Barbie & Dean Rodgers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 4/3- Rebecca & Michael Reed
4/10- Kayce Shealy, Doris Antley,
Joan Caughman
4/17- Jennifer McInnis, Chip &
Jennifer Spradley
4/24- N/A

TELLERS

- 4/3- Billy Rauton, Betsy Shealy
4/10- Erin Thomas, Bob Wiley
4/17- Marti Burns, Bill Caughman
4/24- Ervin Caughman, Cher Davis

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Paula Miller, Advisor

- 4/3- Acolyte: Emily Miller
Almsbearer: Payton Quarles
Crucifer: Harlee Miller
- 4/6- Nevin Rodgers
- 4/10- Acolyte: Brayden Patrick
Almsbearer: Sydnee Patrick
Crucifer: Davey Taylor
- 4/13- Emma Bellflower
- 4/17- Acolyte: James Banks
Almsbearer: Haven Banks
Crucifer: Avery Finger

- 4/21- Maundy Thursday
Acolyte: Emily Davis
Almsbearer: Taylor Davis
Crucifer: Rachel Creech
- 4/23- Easter Vigil
Acolyte: Sydnee Patrick
Acolyte: Brayden Patrick
Banner Bearer: Rebecca Leaphart
Crucifer: Cambey Reep
- 4/23- Easter Sunday
Acolyte: Zane Bedenbaugh
Acolyte: Lane Bedenbaugh
Bible Bearer: Aubrey Rodgers
Banner Bearer: Jesse Rauton
Almsbearer: River Rauton
Crucifer: Nevin Rodgers

KICS EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 23
10 a.m.**

**A light snack
will be provided.**



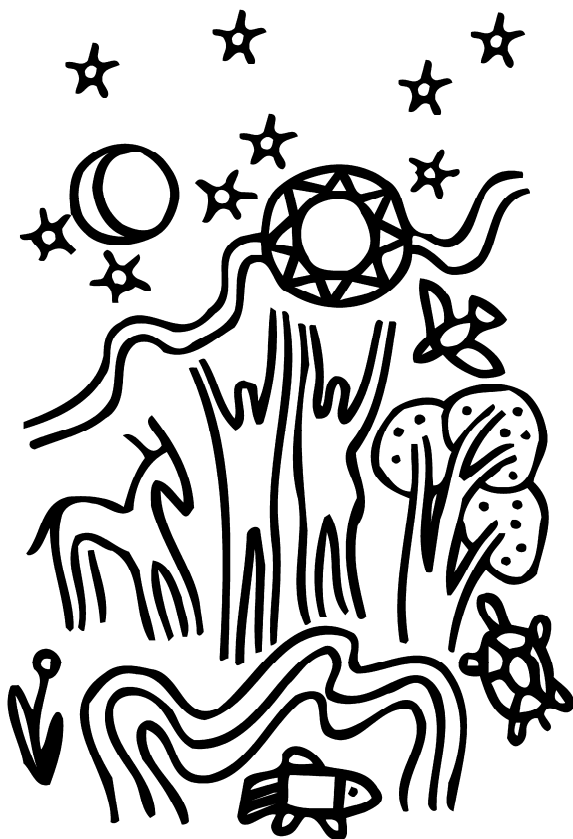
EASTER VIGIL

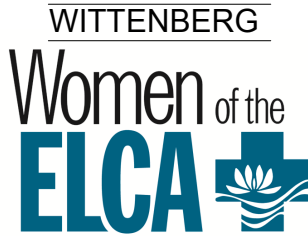
In the complete ranking of all seasons and feasts in the church year, the Triduum occupies the top spot. The Triduum, which begins with Maundy Thursday and concludes on Easter, reaches its climax with the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil celebrates the resurrection of Christ and the commitment of believers. It has four parts. It begins with a service of light. The community gathers in darkness to hear that Christ is our light, shattering the darkness of sin. The next part of the Vigil is the Liturgy of the Word. We hear from five to nine Scripture passages that tell the story of salvation, ending with the Gospel of the resurrection.

The third part is the liturgy of baptism. The entire community renews its baptismal promises. Together we pledge our faith in the resurrection and promise to follow Christ more closely.

The Vigil culminates in the fourth part, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The length of the celebration has sharpened our hunger for communion. At the Easter Vigil we recommit ourselves to our faith and rejoice in the promises of baptism. Wittenberg celebrates the Easter Vigil on April 23 at 8:30 p.m.





Circle Meetings:

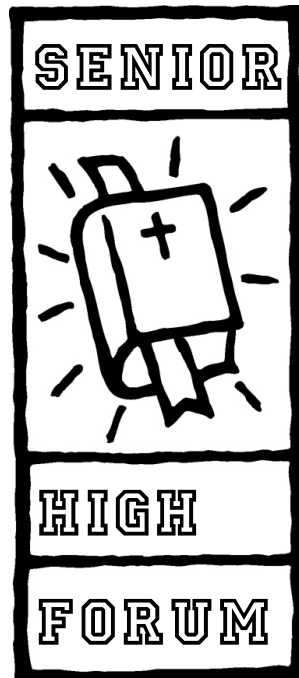
- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets at 10 a.m. March 5. Mary Shealy is leader.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets at 1 p.m. March 5. Earlene Swygert is leader.
- ◆ **Circle IV** meets at 10:30 a.m. April 4 at the church. Violet Watson is leader. Freida Banks is hostess.
- ◆ **Circle L** meets at 7 p.m. April 4. Leader and hostess is Kaye Wiley.
- ◆ **The Hannah Circle** meets at 10 a.m. April 9. Catherine Oxner is leader and hostess.

MARCH STATISTICS

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
3/6.....	83	146
3/13.....	73	146
3/20.....	92	165
3/27.....	70	151
YTD Regular Offering.....		\$51,526.56
Needed		66,546.96
Difference		(15,020.40)
YTD B.F. Offering		18,076.00



Pastor Mike
now offers a
Senior High Bible Study
& Discussion Forum
on Thursdays
from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.
at the parsonage.
Coffee and desert
are provided.
Please join us!



Do You Contribute to Social Security?

Plan to Receive Benefits?

This month's JOY Luncheon

IS FOR YOU!

Jim Caulder will be our presenter at the JOY Luncheon on April 27, at noon in the fellowship hall. Jim will share information concerning Social Security, a topic which is important to all—young and older!

GRIEF SUPPORT

Grief Support is now offered at 5 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesdays in the pastor's office.

Worry Less:

Save for Emergencies Today

If you own a home or a car, you'll eventually need to make an emergency repair. Avoid running up costly credit card debt by creating an emergency fund.

Most financial professionals recommend you set aside approximately 10% of your pay before spending it on anything else, but you need to decide what amount is right for you. Saving – even if only a few dollars a month – is important.

Saving takes discipline and is about making intentional choices to *not* spend today so you can take care of yourself and family tomorrow. Plus, when an emergency occurs, you'll be prepared.

For help creating a budget that includes saving, contact your Lexington Financial Associates of Thrivent at 957-3073.



Dear Pastor & each member of Wittenberg Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank each of you belatedly for the cards, prayers, and concerns. It is good to know someone cares.

Eleanor and Jane Hare

People of Wittenberg:

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and acts of kindness during this transitional time for the Sherman family.

Michael, Elijah, Abigail & Mimi



WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY

April Birthdays

- 1- Deborah Sawyer
- 2- Kaye Wiley, Chris Miller
- 5- Brayden Patrick
- 7- Ricky Long
- 8- Sarah Hendrix,
Grace Hendrix
- 10- Ervin Caughman,
Johnny Powell
- 11- Debbie W. Black
- 13- Debra McDonald
- 15- Justin Howard
- 16- Zane Bedenbaugh
- 17- Hazel Cooper
- 18- Sandy Cary, Mike Almgren
- 19- Leila Hoover,
Eddie Leaphart
- 21- Deborah Black
(237 Schumpert St., Leesville)
- 22- Wendy Epting,
Ernestine Sharpe
- 23- Sheryl Price, Peggy Buzhardt
- 24- Callie Jane Britt
- 27- Alicia Powell, Gerald Long Jr.
- 29- Chancie Frick
- 30- Chip Spradley

Let Us Pray

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Bucky Johnson, Dannie Kaiser, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Jeff Long, Brady Nichols, Debbie Reynolds, Ralph Riley (husband of Pat Crickenberger Riley), The Family of Dot Ruff, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Bobbie Smith, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson, Benjy Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 3 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), Peggy Buzhardt, Ruby Caughman, The Family of Jane Speaks Cochet, The Family of Taylor Cox, Pastor Mitch Evans, Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), Ann Lewis, Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Eileen & Jimmy Mitchell, Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), Melanie Sharpe (friend of Sam & Crissie Kirby), Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), The Family of Elsie Speaks, Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), The Family of L.G. Whitman, and members of our Armed Forces.

Wittenberg Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 13, 2011

Members Present: Bob Wiley (Pres.), Robert Epting, Bill Caughman, Rebecca Reed, Betsy Shealy, Billy Rauton, Ervin Caughman, Dean Rogers, Torry Dickey, Cher Davis, Marti Burns, Erin Thomas, Pastor Sherman, Furman Cantrell (Sec.), Brent Shealy (Tres.), Connie Kramer (Fin. Sec.)

Members Absent: none

The meeting was **called to order** by President Bob Wiley at 7:03 p.m.

Pastor Sherman gave a brief devotion.

The Minutes of the January 2011 Council meeting were approved. M: Bill C.; 2: Cher D.

Pastor Sherman gave his monthly **Pastor's Report:**

March Events: March 8: Fat Tuesday pancake supper

March 9: Ash Wednesday

President's Report:

Bob W. reported that the teller training sessions (1/12 @ 6:30 p.m. and 1/16 @ 5 p.m.) were productive. He commented that the S&F Committee is attempting to improve/streamline the telling process in an effort to reduce the amount of time required to count offerings.

Bob announced the Congregational Meeting that will be held the second Sunday in March and asked all Committee Liaison persons to be prepared to give brief oral reports, as needed.

Bob also reported on the Synod Meeting with the Bishop during the afternoon (2/13) and the major topics of discussion:

1. A capital campaign is planned to provide funds to assist congregations with mission projects including public education, hunger, poverty and expanding discipleship in the Synod.

Treasurer's Report: Brent S. reviewed the February Financial Report and commented on several items:

1. Balance Sheet: The HVAC replacement fund was increased by \$4,800.00 (the total budgeted 2011 amount) since the Treasury Funds were available.
2. The checking acct. balance includes \$6,740.00 of Pre-School funds and approximately \$1,900.00 of Food Pantry funds. There is a balance of \$1,735.35 in Food Pantry acct.
3. The Thrivent Annuity acct. has a balance of \$100,583.06. This is a "rainy day" fund.

4. The Long term Liability balance is \$432,000.00 vs \$533,000.00 at this time last year.

The report was approved. M: Bill C.; 2: Ervin C.

Financial Secretary Report: Connie had distributed a written report but did not give an oral report.

The written report was approved. M: Robert E.; 2: Billy R.

Committee Reports:

Dean R., Parish Life Committee: He presented a schedule and two events planned for the Fellowship hall were approved. M: Rebecca R.; 2: Bill C.

Brent S. stated that the Balance Due amounts will not be re-stated in the Financial Report in the future, but rather noted in minutes. This was approved. M: Betsy S. (on behalf of S&F Comm); 2: Rebecca R.

Christian Education: Torry reported that vacation Bible School will be June 12-17. There is some concern that the Church Library is underused and some shelves of books are being placed in the Fellowship Hall. The Confirmation Class graduates May 29 and Confirmation is June 12.

Pre-School: Erin T. The Bank of America has requested a copy of council minutes that designate the persons with signature authority for the Pre-School Account. The Council approved the following persons: Eric Dickey, President, and Barbara Rodgers, Treasurer.

This was approved. M: Erin T.; 2: Bill C.

Erin announced that the Pre-School Committee will begin interviews soon for the Director position. Erin also inquired about the possibility of the church purchasing equipment for defibrillation as a first aid tool. This will receive further study.

Youth: Cher D. Cher announced the following:

1. A ski trip on March 3-6.
2. The Fat Tuesday Pancake supper on March 8 at 5-7 p.m.
3. Confirmation Camp: June 19-25 at Lutherock.
4. National Lutheran Youth gathering in Summer 2012 in New Orleans.
5. The Youth Committee would like to have a church bus for outings. This was discussed and questions were referred back to Cher regarding costs, insurance, size of the bus, driver qualifications, etc.

Social Ministry: Robert E. Robert reported that the Highway clean-up will be scheduled soon.

Continued on next page

Minutes Continued

Christian Care: Marti B. Valentines will be delivered to the elderly. Ginger C. and Myra C. made baskets for the elderly also.

Strategic Planning: Bill C. He reported that the congregational surveys have been reviewed and were favorable. There was positive feedback for the music, Food Pantry and facilities. Some suggestions will be presented to Council soon.

Other Business:

Connie stated that Thrivent has changed the manner of distribution of funds to church. This is open to any group in the church. The group can do fund raising, but must have a team of 6 members. Connie is on the Board for this and funds are on a first come-first served basis.

Pastor Sherman will send a letter to the members of the congregation regarding his personal situation.

Bill C. and Ervin C. are working on the coat rack request for the entrance way in the gathering space.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. M: Robert E.; 2: Rebecca R.

Respectfully submitted,
Furman Cantrell,
Secretary

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND VBS

Come join us as PandaMania breaks loose at Wittenberg on June 12-17 in the evenings. Our excursion through the bamboo will provide fun, memorable Bible learning activities for all ages. Bamboo Blast Games and Crazy Crafts are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith grow into real life.



Contact Torry Dickey at edickey001@sc.rr.com if you would like to help out or if you have any questions.

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES TODAY

Help us grace the chancel of our church for the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord this Easter Sunday, April 24.

Place an order for Easter lilies **today** by completing this form, detaching and placing it in the offering plate or bringing it by the church office during the week.

1. To the Glory of God In honor of: In memory of:

Name of Donor(s): _____

2. To the Glory of God In honor of: In memory of:

Name of Donor(s): _____

3. To the Glory of God In honor of: In memory of:

Name of Donor(s): _____

4. To the Glory of God In honor of: In memory of:

Name of Donor(s): _____

5. To the Glory of God In honor of: In memory of:

Name of Donor(s): _____

The lilies cost \$14.00 each and will be ordered for you from Worthy's. Each lily will be wrapped with green foil and a white satin ribbon. Tax is included in the price. Please enclose your payment with this form. Checks should be made payable to Wittenberg Lutheran Church, noting that it is for "Easter Lily."

Number of lilies ordered _____ x \$14.00 = _____
(amount enclosed)