

The Swan Newsletter-February 2012

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

2966 Ebenezer Road, Rincon, GA 31326

Phone:912-754-3915

Women of the ELCA

Next Meeting:
February 13th at 7:00 p.m.
At the Parsonage
Hosts: Julie and Shari

This month we will put together "Pack-A-Purses". We are in need of gently used purses and wallets, new makeup, brushes, small packs of tissues and monetary donations to help fill our purses. These purses will be given to the Victims and Witness Program in Springfield.

Men's Luncheon

February 14th at 12:00 p.m.
Jerusalem Social Hall
Guest Speaker to be Announced!

Ronald McDonald House Meal-A-Month February 27th

Please sign up or let Pastor John know you will be helping.

Can't make the drive...we gladly except monetary donations to help with the food costs. They also greatly appreciate donations of canned goods and laundry soap.

Friends and Family Night February 15th at 6:15 p.m.

Spend an evening enjoying fellowship, friendship and food. All are welcome, bring a friend!

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd
7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Service with Ashes

February 29th
March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
Soup and Sandwiches at 6:15 p.m.
Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.

Birthday/Breakfast Sunday

is the first Sunday of every month and ALL are welcome to join in. Come out and celebrate with those having a

Birthday in February:

2nd Wesley Ward
3rd Sherry Hearn
5th Carlyn Waldhour
6th T.J. Ackerman
8th Mary Mock
9th Wanda Beasley
12th Mindy Gentry
13th Bowers Gnann
15th Marie Mancini
19th Marty Hendrix
21st Margaret Alexander
22nd Angie Gnann, Dick Hearn
23rd Virginia Spano
24th Becky Grovenstein
25th Terry Lennox
26th Carolyn Arnsdorff
28th Kay Kessler



Wishy Washy Sunday Third Sunday of Each Month

Our tub has been filling up nicely each month but I'm sure we can make those suds overflow. Bring your bars of soap and drop them in the wash tub. Even unopened bars of soap from hotels may be donated.



*We pray for the family of
Pauline Seckinger
Grant her eternal rest and let the light
perpetually shine upon her.*

Youth Group News

Lock-in February 17th thru
18th

The youth will head over to the base for bowling. Each Youth will need to bring \$10 to help offset the cost of bowling and meals. Drop off on Friday is 6:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, February 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Youth are in charge of setting up, serving and cleaning up. Please plan to arrive at 5:30 and stay for clean up!

Youth will meet the 12th and 26th after worship. Parents please be on the lookout for a signup sheet to help with lunch.

Youth Committee Meeting February 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Want to learn about the bible?
This is the group for you!



Help Needed for Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Experienced or Inexperienced!
February 14th at 10:30 a.m.
Social Hall Conference Room

January Anniversaries

9th Norman and Mary Turner
16th Chris and Kelinda Cobb
25th Russell and Cindy Howell



Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping to make Christmas so very special for a child in Lutheran Services of Georgia's Specialized Foster Care program. Your generous gift of a bicycle and helmet made this deserving child very happy at Christmas. This was a gift that will bring joy for many days and months to come.

Lutheran Services of Georgia strives to bring hope, healing and strength to people in need, and giving these gifts you help in achieving that mission.

Sincerely,
Linda Larson
Resource Development Coordinator

Dear MedShare partner,

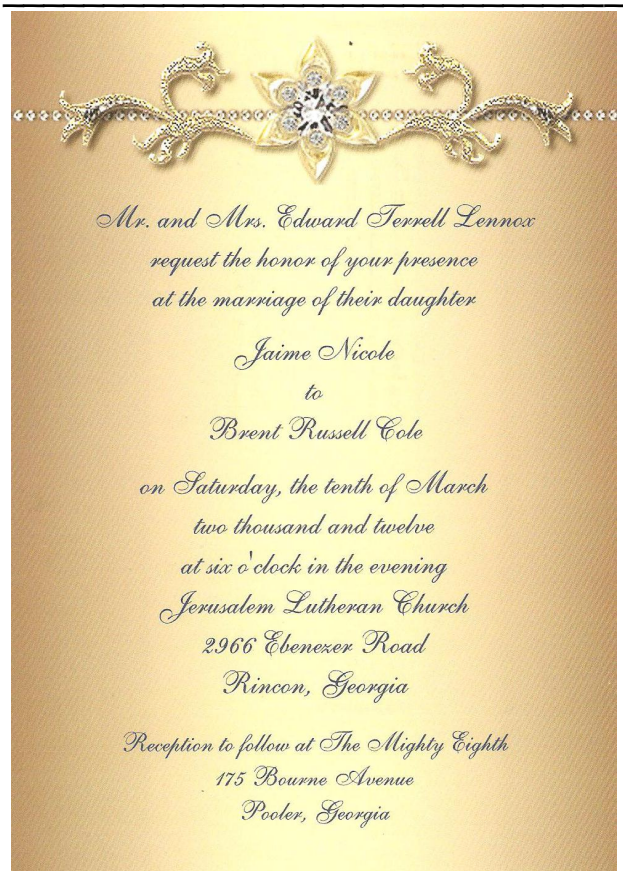
Your generosity will make an immediate impact in the lives of those in need in medically underserved countries and we thank you for your gift. Each year, with the help of people like you, MedShare continues to advance its mission of bridging the gap between surplus and need to improve healthcare and the environment. Your donation, in addition to an Average of 10 tons of donated products each week, will be carefully sorted by over 375 volunteers. Each year, MedShare volunteers sort over 400,000 lbs of valuable medical supplies, and contribute approximately 27,000 volunteer hours to MedShare's mission.

Meridith Rentz
CEO & President

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

February 21st at 6:30 pm

The Youth have a great evening planned for everyone! Come out and enjoy some yummy pancakes and fun!



February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 PM Junior Choir Practice 6:30 PM Worship and Music Mtg. 6:30 PM Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:30 PM Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	6 1:00 pm –First Call Opening Worship at Jerusalem ←-----	7 9:30 AM Bible Study Region 9-First Call Retreat at New Ebenezer/Jerusalem	8 5:30 PM Junior Choir Practice 6:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice -----→	9	10	11
12 Wishy Washy Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Council Meeting Youth Group	13 7:00 PM WELCA-at the Parsonage	14 Valentine's Day 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Men's Luncheon	15 5:30 PM Junior Choir Practice 6:15 PM Friends and Family Night Supper 7:30 PM Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	20	21 Shrove Tuesday 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 AM – Service with Ashes 5:30 PM Junior Choir Practice 7:00 PM – Service with Ashes 7:30 PM Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group	27	28 9:30 AM Bible Study	29 5:30 PM Junior Choir Practice 6:15 PM Soup and Sandwiches 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice			

Opportunities to Serve Jerusalem in February

FLOWERS:

5 Fletcher & Lynette Waldhour
12 Parker & Linda Rahn
19 (Open)
26 Carson Carrigg & Trelene Metzger

CRUCIFER:

5 Joanna Sellman
12 Jordan Becker
19 Macie Milbrandt
26 Justin Lennox

ACOLYTES:

5 Morgan Milbrandt
12 Trevor Cole
19 Nicholes Milbrandt
26 Hunter Kessler

Altar Care:

(Volunteer Needed)

Communion Prep:

Mary Turner & Virginia Spano

Worship Assistant:

(Volunteer Needed)

Greeter:

Helen Gnann

Lector:

Candice Kohl

Council Person:

Woody Seckinger

Counters (3):

Mary Turner & Virginia Spano

The ELCA Region 9 First Call Retreat is being held at New Ebenezer Retreat Center and Jerusalem Lutheran Church, February 6th – 8th. Please come and join us for the Opening Worship Service on Monday, Feb. 6th at 1:00 p.m. Also, please welcome our guests during their stay. This is a retreat for first call pastors who are in their first 3 years of ministry. We will be welcoming over 60 guests and their families!

From the desk of the Pastor...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month we begin our Lenten Journey with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is a day of feasting, masks, and celebrating. Ash Wednesday, in contrast, is a somber, sobering day in which we put away our masks and face God.

The scripture readings for the day confronts us with some cold, hard facts about what it means to be human beings. As ashes are applied to our foreheads, we remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Instead of a colorful party mask, we wear a black smudge of a cross, a stark reminder of our mortality.

This is the prophet Joel's message: now is the time to unmask: "Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." Joel realized that our outward expressions of returning to God in worship might themselves mask a very different internal reality: so "rend your hearts and not your clothing," he cautioned. Worship, too, can become a sham, a bit of play-acting.

Jesus addresses the same issue in gospel. Both Joel and Jesus challenge us to move beyond the behaviors of fasting, weeping and mourning. They call us to shift our focus from what we are doing so we can see what God does and who God is. We are invited to stand without masks, without defenses in God's presence because God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." This affirmation about God's friendly attitude toward us occurs throughout scripture. God's love reaches out to the real you and the real me, inviting us to shed the masks we all wear.

Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Rev. John A. Barichivich, Pastor

The Swan Newsletter

For February 2012

Mission Statement

Jerusalem is a community in Christ whose mission and challenge as disciples is to:

+Welcome all people

+Worship by celebrating the word and Sacraments

+Witness the Gospel through our sharing, loving, and service

With God's grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, may we be strengthened for this mission.

While Joel talks about fasting, weeping, and mourning, Jesus speaks of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. These three traditional Jewish spiritual practices were adopted by the early Christian Church. If you look up the word hypocrite in a dictionary, you'll discover that it originally meant an actor. The purpose of giving, prayer and fasting is not to show off our faith or piety, but to deepen our relationship with God.

Our words person and personality, like the word hypocrite, derive from a term that originated in Greek theater: the masks the actors wore were called personas. The actors often played multiple roles in a play, so they wore different masks, different personas, depending on the part they were playing.

The work of Lent is to seek to become more open to God's presence and action within us. We invite God to remove our masks, our personas, the persons we pretend to be, so that we can become more real and authentic, so that God's image can become more deeply imprinted upon us.

God knows what we've got, the baggage each and every one of us carries, and the guilt and shame we try to hide. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that God is not out to get us, but is compassionate and merciful. Even if it was possible, there is no need for us to hide from God. We are free to deepen our friendship, trusting that God accepts, forgives and covers every sinner with the image of God's own Son, Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John
