

**LUTHERAN CHURCH of the PALMS**

2250 Nebraska Avenue, Palm Harbor,

Florida 34683 (727) 784-4119

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am-1pm

[www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org](http://www.lutheranchurchofthepalms.org)

Email: [lcop2006@verizon.net](mailto:lcop2006@verizon.net)



*HAPPENINGS at the PALMS*

**February 2016**

Greetings in the Love of Christ

St. Valentine seems to have captured the February spotlight on Love. Pink and white hearts greet us in stores and restaurants reminding us to remember the one we love with a Valentine gift. Unfortunately the greeting card companies have collaborated with the jewelry stores and it seems that buying expensive baubles has become an expectation in love relationships. So I'd like to refocus love back to the real originator of this amazing gift.

As people of God it is our confidence and our hope that God loves us unconditionally, no strings attached, purely in grace as gift. St Paul reminds us that love is patient, kind, not boastful, not arrogant not rude, it has endurance and belief. Love resides with faith and hope in order to guide us in our life journey. Love doesn't come burdened with purchasing diamonds in order to prove itself. Love was proved once and for all on a hill called Calvary.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave to us the ultimate gift of love --- his life. He told us that the greatest gift one can give someone is to lay down one's life for them. Of course that doesn't mean we need to go through the same actions as Jesus, but what it does mean is that we are to put the other first. We are called to be servants of love for our friends and for our enemies. Love goes beyond just those we like.

So I encourage you to focus on our mission as a Christian Congregation – "To Grow in God's Love and to Help God's Love Grow." I invite you in this month of Love to make that your personal mission in an even bigger way. Remember during this month of love that some people don't have a Valentine to receive gifts from or to give a card to, and Valentine's Day can be a very exclusive and lonely day for some too. Remember to reach out and love. And do it in the name of Jesus who loves us first so that we know how to love unconditionally too.

Thank you for the love you share and for the amazing ways you give that love away. Our church is an amazing gathering of love.

With much Love,

*Pastor Greg*

## "Do you know what we have here?"

"Do you know what we have here?" I asked that question in a sermon in November after sharing how special I feel this church is. On January 10th I realized even more that LCOP is a unique, open, loving family. We had our first New York multicultural style Epiphany celebration. The Greek word Epiphany means revelation or manifestation. At Epiphany we lift up the revelation that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, is not just our personal savior but he was born to save ALL nations, ALL races, ALL people. In this day of division and labeling of others it is a truth we need repeated.

Our worship began with a visit by three elaborately robed kings who passed out gifts to the worshipping family. Throughout the service we sang hymns that reminded us that the message of that babe born in Bethlehem spread throughout the world -- to Denmark, Africa (which is the fastest growing Lutheran and Christian area of the world!) England, Germany etc. The Gentile kings started that movement.

Then Pastor Greg preached a powerful sermon that debunked many of the romanticized notions we have held about the wise men and lifted up the uncontrollable surprising ways God works. The worship climaxed as we shared the family meal of Holy Communion. Then we went to eat the family meal of international foods offered by our enthusiastic members.

I have so many people to thank for helping me introduce this delicious informative gathering and lest I forget someone let me just express my gratitude to all who helped. Especially our thanks go to Thrivent for Lutherans that funded the purchases that made our time together as members and guests a success. AND a special thanks go out to everyone who attended and caught the spirit. You DID bring and labeled wonderful delicious food dishes from your heritage and what a heritage we have here. Sure we expected many Germans and Scandinavians but we were surprised by the number of people from Slavic and Irish descent. Couple that with people from Guyana and the Ukraine and we can see the message of Epiphany alive in Palm Harbor! Your enthusiastic thanks made others think that it might be fun to have a similar event just to discover what states we all hail from.

I again ask, "Do you know what we have here?" I can now answer more fully. We have a family that is adventurous, produces great international food and now knows a lot more about the meaning of Epiphany. Thank you all!

Pastor Lyn



Newsletter articles and announcements for the  
**MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES are due FEBRUARY 15th**  
**Email** your articles **as an attachment** to the church email address:  
**lcop2006@verizon.net**



## Parents Night Out

Valentine's Day is coming and we want you to celebrate with your sweetheart. Please feel free to bring your child(ren) on Saturday Feb 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm to the fellowship hall for activities, games, crafts and snacks. To be staffed by volunteers and youth. A donation of \$10 per family will be gifted to the church from this event.

Calling for volunteers: Are you a youth, maybe a grandma, someone who just loves to be with kids, or mom of older kids that would like to offer your time to maintain a clean, safe, and most importantly fun environment while parents enjoy their "night off"? If you are interested in helping with this event please email or text Heather Bailey at 727.744.8629 or heather\_1017@yahoo.com.

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### Business Directory

Remember the days of the Yellow Pages? You could look up any business or service that was needed especially if you wanted to give your business to local people. We have the opportunity to assemble a directory of business and services.

We are interested in all your different businesses. Perhaps you house sit, or dog walk, clean houses, work on computers, or even give computer lessons. Maybe you sell real-estate, or cars, or just want your business more visible. This is an opportunity for you to share with others.

There will be a box in the narthex for you to put a short description of your business in. If you have a business card include that. We will try to keep it as current as possible; it will be up to you to keep us informed. Contact Genie Anderson or Heidi Hager if any questions.

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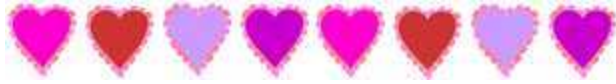
### Email

#### Current Email List

It has now been a year and a half since we started sending out the Newsletter and other information by email. While this is a wonder way to stay caught up on the doings and happenings here at LCOP,

it is only as effective as the accuracy of our email list. Has your email address changed in the past year? Have you notified the church office of the change?

Or if you are NOT on the list, and would like to receive information, (visitors or members) there will be clip boards back by the ushers, in the narthex, and in the fellowship hall. PLEASE add your name and address to the list. Please call the office if you have any questions.



## Sharing Valentine Love

Valentine's Day is often thought of as a day for romance, roses and candy. For many, receiving a card is the best. There is a Valentine Bowl, in the narthex with names and addresses of members and friends of LCOP who would love to receive a card saying they are being thought of and prayed for.

So take a name or 2, and send a valentine card to the name on the index card. You will have the opportunity to brighten the day for them. Happy Valentine's Day to you too.



### The Mystery of the Missing Forks



Calling all investigators and everyone who ever wanted to be one. Your help is needed to solve a very strange mystery.

In November the kitchen was gifted about 100 forks. The drawer was full and there were many happy people as we were anticipating many good meals coming from the kitchen, Using metal forks is so much better than plastic ones, which just add to the land fill. By Christmas time, it was discovered that the drawer was almost empty and again we needed to use plastic for the Epiphany pot luck. Where could they be????

If anyone knows anything about these forks, and can help solve this mystery, PLEASE contact the church office. You can do it anonymously or just tell us where to find the forks. If they aren't found, we will just have to go buy more.



### Quilts, Quilts and more Quilts



It is hard to believe it has been a year since the church was warmed by the quilts that the Sewing Group made to give warmth and love to the many people who need to know they are loved and thought of. This year we are thrilled to put 132 large quilts and 4 baby quilts on the pews to be blessed and then sent to various shelters and emergency areas here in FL and the rest to go to Lutheran World Relief.

In addition to the quilts, we also will be sending 42 Baby Care Kits and 35 School Kits to LWR. On Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> they will be packed up and taken to Good Sheppard Church in Tampa where they will be picked up and taken to the warehouse in MD to be sent to their final owners. For all of us who have worked on the quilts, collected items for the kits, and boxed them up, it is a great feeling of love and accomplishment to send them off.

Then we get to start over again. Even if you don't sew, we have things you can do to help with this mission. The best part is gathering together each Tues. morning where we never seem to run out of things to talk about and share in many good laughs. Come and check it out.

## THE HAVEN OF RCS

### WISH LIST

The Haven has a container in the Narthex for any items that are donated. Their needs are numerous so anything that you can give would be greatly appreciated. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Joan Tack at (727) 938-5221.

- Emergency Safe House Needs: Twin-size bed linens, towels & wash clothes (all sizes), plastic dinnerware/tumblers, cooking/baking pans, toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, laundry & dish detergent, shampoo & hair products, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Alarm clocks, sleep shirts.

Strollers, car seats, diapers, baby formula.

Coffee, peanut butter & jelly.

Outreach Needs: Grocery gift certificates, gas cards, gift certificates for shoes.

- RCS Thrift Store Needs: Gently used clothing and household items in good clean condition. Pick-up for furniture is available. Call the RCS Thrift Store Manager (727) 531-6266.

- Used Cell Phones: Even without service, cellular phones may be used to make 911 calls. These are given to our participants so they can get help when they need it.



## VA DONATION WISH LIST

If anyone is able to donate any of these items, please put them in the blue plastic container located in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Len Fruehwald.

- Disposable razors
- Body wash
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- XL white stretchy socks (in sealed bags only)
- Hair brush
- Bed throws (3½' x 5½')
- Caps with ear flaps
- Wheelchair gloves (no fringe)
- Small zippered wallets
- Cell phones
- Telephone calling cards
- Small folder to keep appointments
- Small notebooks/pad (various sizes)
- Pocket calendars
- Pens
- Magnifying glasses
- Greeting cards
- Large print magazines
- Sports recreational magazines
- Books (soft & hard cover)
- Crossword puzzles (large print)
- Picture frames (11"x14" or 12"x18")
- CD player
- CD's from the 60's, 70's & 80's
- Tickets to any local community events (baseball, shows, concerts)





## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

02-04	Scott Sims	02-15	Darlene Tuggle
02-04	Tony Tambone	02-22	Greg Hager
02-09	Rebecca Newell	02-25	Scott Bauch
02-11	Barbara LaPoma	02-25	Keith Reiter
02-12	Carol Finch	02-26	Tim Proper
02-14	Mike Nilsson	02-27	Dorothy Stanek
02-15	Joan Tack		



## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Judy & Kevin Egan 02-09

Brie & Michael Jones 02-29

# FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Parables of Jesus	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Children Sunday School 10am Worship Service 11am Fellowship 6:30pm Confirmation Class	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30am Sewing Group	<b>10</b>  ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7pm	<b>11</b> 9am Morning Prayer 7:15pm Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Children Sunday School 10am Worship Service 11am Fellowship 6:30pm Confirmation Class	<b>15</b> MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TODAY	<b>16</b> 9:30am Sewing Group 1pm FROGS 6pm Council Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Dinner 7:00pm Worship	<b>18</b> 9am Morning Prayer 7:15pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Children Sunday School 10am Worship Service 11am Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30am Sewing Group	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Mid-Week Dinner 7:00pm Worship	<b>25</b> 9am Morning Prayer 7:15pm Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Children Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	<b>29</b>					

**6PM Al-Anon (Every Sunday)**