



THE COMMONS



Lutheran Church of the Incarnation
Rev. Jerry Reynolds, Pastor
February 2012

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View from the Pulpit...

Every year I hear this same question repeated many times over, “Pastor, what are you giving up for Lent?” My response, as all of you should know after my nine years at LCI, is: “I try to take something on during Lent instead of giving a token something up.”

The Christian church has long celebrated three distinct disciplines for the Lenten season: almsgiving for the poor, prayer and fasting. *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, offers that almsgiving and prayer are so important that they are considered potential sacraments—nearly as important as Baptism and Holy Communion or the Lord’s Supper.

Almsgiving to the poor is so much more than the often-remembered images in *Oliver Twist*. Almsgiving is not just handing out money to beggars (our modern-day equivalent to the homeless and displaced). Almsgiving is providing the necessities of food, clothing and shelter to those who cannot provide for themselves. We have two powerful ministries that we serve with our almsgiving: M.U.S.T. and Lutheran Services of Georgia. Although almsgiving is much wider and deeper than simply collecting food, we focus on our ability to give food to others by collecting food in our M.U.S.T. barrel located in the lobby. We are also collecting rice and household items for Lutheran Services of Georgia by becoming more involved in their immigrant relief program.

There is also a powerful and radical relationship between providing food to the needy and Holy Communion. We give to God’s people the food they need to survive in life. Our Lord Jesus gives us his body and blood that we may enjoy eternal life. As God’s children Christ feeds us and we feed others, as we are able. Please consider donating foodstuff items (listed in the Bulletin Insert) to M.U.S.T. and Lutheran Services of Georgia. To those whom much is given, much is expected.

Prayer, according to our Lutheran Confessions, has “the command of God, and it has many promises.” Consider making more intentional the use of

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prayer in your daily life. Luther tells us to begin each day by making the sign of the cross, and praying thanks that we are a baptized child of God. You may want to practice that behavior during the upcoming Lenten season, and hopefully maintain it each day as a part of your prayerful discipline. Praying the thoughts of your heart each day when you awake, will impact the rest of your day in all that you do.

Anyone who has gone through Confirmation should recall Luther's words in the Small Catechism on Holy Communion: "**Fasting** and bodily preparation are in fact a fine external discipline...But a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared." Luther would not have written that fasting was a fine external discipline unless he meant it. Lutherans are called to fast. We know as I mentioned earlier above, that we could give up something for Lent. Many give up chocolate, coffee, or some other treat. But I would encourage you to give up something worthy, a lunch meal or evening out (if you are physically able) and then give that as a contribution to those who don't have the privilege to give up some trivial treat and call it a fast. Yes you may give up, but the calling is also to give to others.

So, what are you giving up for Lent? My prayer is that you give up some of your worldly busyness and excess to take on some of these worthy Lenten disciplines.

My love to you in Christ,

Pastor Jerry

Council President
Bobby Bullock
president@lclutheran.org
770-993-7191

While we continue to put most of our efforts on the financial need at LCI, we also need your Time and Talents! We would like for you to prayerfully consider how you can help. The key areas are:

Assistant Ministers ♦ Choir ♦ Communion Assistant
Altar Guild ♦ Ushers ♦ Property/Cleaning

If the area of your interest is not listed, just stop by the office and let Sally know what your interests are. Thanks for your help.

Upcoming Dates and Events



- Feb. 5 Souper Bowl Sunday and Chili Cook-off
- Feb. 8 Men's Prayer Breakfast every Wednesday, 7 a.m. at IHOP, 3130 Johnson Ferry Road.
- Feb. 18 Property Clean-Up Day, 8 a.m.-noon
- Feb. 19 Lunch Bunch at Hong Kong Star after service
- Feb. 21 Church Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday service, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 29 Lenten Wednesday dinner, 6 p.m. and service, 7 p.m.

Worship and Music
Rob Maza
worship@lclutheran.org

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Denita Yeomans has accepted the position of LCI's Music Director, after playing for us on several Sundays. Denita recently relocated to Kennesaw from Watertown, Conn. She lived in Connecticut for the past 39 years. Denita is the daughter of retired Congregational minister Rev. Waldo Landquist. She began her musical journey at six years of age learning piano. She then learned the organ at age 11. Denita began her first job at Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown where she played for weekly services and accompanied the adult choir. Throughout her young teen years, Denita had opportunities to work for various denominations. In 1997 Denita began her Director of Music position at South Britain Congregational Church where she conducted an adult choir, a teen choir, a children's choir, and a handbell choir, staying in this position for 12 years.

Denita also has taught private piano, organ, and voice lessons since the age of 15, owning her own music studio where she taught more than 30 students a week. Denita was an assistant music teacher at the Taft School in Watertown, a private prep school where she taught for eight years. Denita has traveled on tour all over the U.S. from New York City (Cathedral of St. John the Divine) to San Francisco to New Orleans as well as Ottawa and Montreal, Canada. She has also toured most of Italy and Spain.

Denita earned her Associate Degree from Naugatuck Valley Community College and is currently finishing her Bachelor's degree. Denita has been involved with many community choirs from singing to conducting, and has served as music director for many musicals. Denita lives with her fiance Eric and their dog Lily. Denita is happy to be part of this family and is looking forward to getting to know, and work with us.

Thanks to Rob Maza who headed the search committee, as well as committee members Bobby Bullock, Judy Flint, Lindey Maza, Margaret Rhodes, Cathy Shuman, Heather Vincenty, and Pastor Jerry.

Social Ministry
Jim Powell
socialministry@lclutheran.org
678-594-0508

**Thank you for your ongoing donations to help the needy
in our community. Current needs include:**



MUST: canned meats (tuna, salmon, etc.), jelly, boxed meals, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauces, all breakfast foods (cereal, pancake mix, powdered milk, grits, oatmeal, etc.), canned fruit, canned meals (spaghetti-os, ravioli, etc.), disposable razors, deodorants.

Lutheran Services of Georgia: Large bags of rice, pots and pans, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, soap, wash cloths, skin lotion, lip balm, shaving cream, razors, socks, feminine products.





On Sunday, February 5, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

During our service on February 5, LCI's elementary and pre-school kids will be collecting money which will go directly to MUST Ministries. Bring your change to contribute to the "Noisy Offering." Please note that nice quiet folding money and checks will be accepted as well! Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Another way to support the Souper Bowl will be at our fellowship lunch chili cook-off following the February 5 service. Please bring a small batch of your favorite chili (4-8 servings) or sides and condiments (such as shredded cheese, sour cream, chopped onion, cornbread, pasta, corn chips, drinks). You can sample each chili entry, then vote for your favorite by dropping a donation in its box. Can't decide on your top choice? You can donate to more than one box. The chili with the most donations wins a special prize!



Lunch Bunch, February 19: Hong Kong Star, 4719 Lower Roswell Road

Join other LCI members for a festive and social lunch outing. Not just another Chinese restaurant, Hong Kong Star Chinese Cuisine offers exciting dishes with Asian flair that are both delicious and satisfying. All are welcome, including families with children. If you want to join us, please talk to Margaret or Jeff Rhodes or e-mail rhodes92@bellsouth.net so that we can reserve enough seats.

Please sign up to provide Sunday fellowship

See the schedule on the board to the left of the Fellowship Hall entry. Several dates are available. After the service, you prepare coffee and juice, provide fresh fruit and simple breakfast items (bagels, muffins, perhaps a hot casserole) or snacks.



Please join us for our Wednesday evening Lenten Series: ***You shall love the Lord Your God.***

In Mark 12, a scribe comes to ask Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answers, "The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:28-30). Jesus responds to the scribe's question with words from the Shema, the passage from Deuteronomy 6 that is recited daily by many of the Jewish faith. These words form a covenant between God and God's people and show us a way to respond to this God who so extravagantly loves us through the cross.

The first week of this series sets the stage with the Shema from Deuteronomy and the encounter between Jesus and the scribe in Mark 12. The following weeks center on how we can love the Lord our God with all our hearts, our souls, our minds, and our strength. Our Wednesday evening worship series begins at 7 p.m.:

Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday--Sermon on the Mount. *In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21) Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

Feb. 29, Lent 1--Hear, O Israel. *In Genesis 9, God establishes a covenant with Noah and all of creation after the flood. The Shema in Deuteronomy 6 reflects this fundamental covenant between God and God's people.*

March 7, Lent 2--You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All Your Heart. *In Genesis 17, God establishes a covenant with Abraham and Sarah. They place their faith, hope and love in God, trusting with all their hearts.*

March 14, Lent 3--You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All Your Soul. *In Exodus 20, God establishes the "Ten Commandments", as guideposts for our lives to serve God with all our hearts and souls.*

March 21, Lent 4--You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All Your Mind. *In Numbers 21, the Israelites in the desert set their minds not on the deliverance from slavery in Egypt but on the hardships of their journey. God rescued them with a bronze serpent, and rescues us by lifting up Christ on the cross.*

March 28, Lent 5--You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All Your Strength. *In Jeremiah 31, God longs to establish a new covenant, written on our hearts and in our lives. We are God's people, redeemed through the blood of Christ.*

Please plan to attend these wonderful mid-week Lenten worship opportunities. It is a refreshing spiritual break to the hectic world around us. We begin at 6 p.m. with a soup and salad fellowship meal. Worship with Communion begins at 7 p.m. "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Deut. 6:4-6)

Property
Paul Johnson
property@lciutheran.org
770-912-4667

MEMBER WORK SATURDAY AT THE CHURCH

Saturday, February 18th is our monthly Member Work-Day at LCI and *we need your help* whether it be for one hour or four hours. Whatever time you can give to help maintain your church will be appreciated. As you know, like most congregations, our budget is tight and anything that we, as the members can do, will help us to be able to cover the cost of the essentials, like salary, utilities, insurance, pension, etc. But a *few* people cannot maintain our church building and the surrounding grounds on their own. Many of you have commented how nice our building looks on Sunday mornings when you come to worship. Our building is not self-cleaning; it looks that way because of those of you have faithfully supported our work Saturdays and also the Saturdays in between to make sure everything looks good for Sunday Worship. But we need more of you to participate on that one Saturday a month to help take care of some of the extra things that need to be done, such as:

- * *-thoroughly cleaning and reorganizing the kitchen;*
- * *-cleaning out the storage shed;*
- * *-cleaning and reorganizing the supply closet by the fellowship hall;*
- * *-cleaning up around the outside of the building;*
- * *-additional trimming of outside shrubs and trees before Spring;*
- * *-monthly cleaning of bathrooms, SS rooms, fellowship hall, Worship area, etc.*

A few of us cannot do everything that needs to be done to maintain a clean, organized, healthy and welcoming church for members and visitors. It takes a congregation! Your help is needed.

See you on Saturday, February 18th, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. for whatever time you can give. Arrive when you can and stay as long as you are able. Thanks! Paul

Website
Ashlee Harris
lciwebsite@yahoo.com

www.lcilutheran.org

Ashlee Maynard has set up an email for interested folks to send things they'd like posted on the website, at the request of council. The e-mail is: lciwebsite@yahoo.com Please send your articles, announcements, pics, etc. to Ashlee for posting. We encourage anyone with relevant church info to forward their requests to Ashlee.

LCI reserves the right to determine what is appropriate for the website, so some or all of what you send may or may not be posted. Usually this is more due to space constraints, redundancy, etc., than content.

We are especially interested in pictures of our church activities that we may use in a collage or inserts. If you have any digital pictures please send them to us.

We are excited about our website and Ashlee is working to keep it timely and updated. You are the best ones to help her. Please send your info today!

Sunday Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Asst. Minister	Margaret Rhodes	Molly Golladay	Rob Maza	Lindey Maza
Lector	Lindey Maza	Heather Vincenty	Steve Henke	John Nuttall
Acolyte	Asst. Minister	Asst. Minister	Asst. Minister	Asst. Minister
Crucifer	Ted Nuttall	Madeline Hughes	Ted Nuttall	Darbey Maza
Greeters	LCI Members	Linda Hughes	Reba Nyen	Terre Smith
Communion Assistants	TBD	Pat Bullock & Reba Nyen	Ashlee & Robert Harris	TBD
Ushers	Nelson Family	Nate McDonald & Bob Sauer	Ethel King-McKenzie	Linda & Madeline Hughes
Prayer of Day	Sara Nelson	Erin McNeal	Asst. Minister	Darbey Maza
Children's Msg.	Anne Cardenas	Nichole Begerow	Cathy Shuman	Lauren Simerly
Sunday School	Ann Reynolds	Lindey Maza	Cathy Shuman	Kimberly Greer
Altar Guild	Pat Bullock	Linda Hughes	Linda McNeal & Leslie Wright	Linda McNeal & Leslie Wright
Fellowship	Chili Cook-Off	Reynolds	Open	Open
Tellers	Leslie Wright & Gerry McDonald	Leslie Wright & Gerry McDonald	Leslie Wright & Gerry McDonald	Leslie Wright & Gerry McDonald

Doers and Doings

Pastor	Rev. Jerry Reynolds	770.242.7886	pastor@lclutheran.org
Music Director	Denita Yeomans		organist@lclutheran.org
Parish Secretary	Sally LeFevre/Margaret Rhodes	770.971.2738	office@lclutheran.org
Church Council			
President	Bobby Bullock	770-993-7191	president@lclutheran.org
Vice President	Rob Maza	770-640-9571	vicepresident@lclutheran.org
Secretary	Cynthia Wright	770-565-9974	secretary@lclutheran.org
Treasurer	Daniel Greer	706-614-7714	treasurer@lclutheran.org
Communication Chair	TBD		communications@lclutheran.org
Evangelical Outreach	Paul Johnson	770-912-4667	evangelism@lclutheran.org
Fellowship	Kimberly Greer	706-614-7714	fellowship@lclutheran.org
Property	Paul Johnson	770-912-4667	property@lclutheran.org
Stewardship	TBD		stewardship@lclutheran.org
Worship & Music	Rob Maza	770-640-9571	Worship@lclutheran.org
Mutual Ministry	Rob Maza	770-640-9571	vicepresident@lclutheran.org
Non-Council Positions			
Christian Education	Anne Cardenas	770-722-9559	christianed@lclutheran.org
Social Ministry	Jim Powell	678-594-0508	socialministry@lclutheran.org



- Feb. 5** Given by the Reeve family
In honor of Colin's eighth birthday
- Feb. 12:** Available
- Feb. 19** Given by the Gordon family
In honor of Michael's birthday
- Feb. 26** Given by the Hughes family
In honor of Madelines 17th birthday

*The 2012 flower chart is posted
in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Please sign up to mark special occasions or honor your loved
ones. Altar flowers with dedications are \$45.*

February

February Schedule

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|--|
| Sunday | 10 a.m. | Sunday School -- Children
begin with music in the sanctuary |
| | 10 a.m. | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11 a.m. | Worship/Holy Communion |
| | 12 p.m. | Fellowship |
| Tuesday | 7:15 p.m. | Adult Handbells |



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Lutheran Church of the Incarnation
1200 Indian Hills Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30068-2552

Where We Do God's Work with Our Hands

Return Service Requested