

Becks Evangelical Lutheran Church
441 Becks Church Road
Lexington, NC 27292
(336) 249-2056
E-mail: info@beckslutheranchurch.org

Pastors: Revs. Ray and Ruth Ann Sipe
Organist & Choir Director: Stephen Gourley
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Pastors' Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
website: www.beckslutheranchurch.org



April 2009 Newsletter

Lent has been a busy time here at Becks Lutheran, filled with special programs and times of Bible study and worship. The next two weeks will be no less busy as we progress on our journey to the cross through the end of Lent into Holy Week. There will be many opportunities for worship, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship in these days to come. We encourage you to immerse yourself in this season, attending as many of these events as you are able.

We move now from a time of repentance and self-denial into a time of remembering what it means to be God's people, beginning with Palm/Passion Sunday. On that day, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the procession of palms and shouts of Hosanna! We also recall his suffering and death on the cross through the reading of the Passion narrative.

As the week continues, we will connect with the experience of the people of Israel through the celebration of a traditional Seder meal for the Passover on Wednesday. The following day, on Maundy Thursday, we will follow Jesus' mandate to "Do this in memory of me" as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. On this day, confess again our sins and receive the absolution that we have not heard in worship since before Lent began on Ash Wednesday.

On Good Friday, we will spend time in prayer and contemplation of the cross as we recall Jesus' suffering and death – suffering he freely endured for the sake of each of us. On Saturday, during a Prayer Vigil, there will be time to seek time with God through individual prayer, scripture reading, and meditation. Your pastors will also be available during this time, if you need time for conversation or for individual confession and absolution.

And on Easter Sunday, we will rejoice as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. There will be two opportunities to worship that day – the first begins "early on the first day of the week" in the cemetery. As we celebrate the empty tomb, we will move into the sanctuary for the remainder of the service. Later that morning, we will worship with a festival service of Holy Communion.

And what comes next? After Easter Sunday, a week of weeks – 49 days – remain in the season of Easter. During that time, we will contemplate together what it means to live as God's people, called and sent to proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection. We will continue our journey together, studying and proclaiming the word, celebrating the sacraments, and living out our faith in the Risen Lord.

Pastor Ray and Pastor Ruth Ann

Lenten Services

The Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association is hosting a brief worship service each Wednesday at 12:00 noon at First United Methodist Church. Lunch follows.

Midweek Lenten Suppers and worship services are held in the FEB. Supper is served at 6:00 p.m. Bible study and brief worship service begin at 6:45p.m. (Choir practice will follow).

The last service in each series will be held on Wednesday, April 1.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities and Special Events

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship on Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m.

This service of Holy Communion includes the procession with palms and the reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of Mark.

Seder Meal on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m.

This will be a traditional Passover meal prepared by members of our congregation. Join us as we remember the Exodus and celebrate God's care for his chosen people.

If you plan to attend, please turn in a reservation form by Sunday, April 5.

Suggested donation for this event is \$5.00

Maundy Thursday Worship services on

Thursday, April 9 at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Both services will include Holy Communion.

The evening service will include the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Cross Walk

This event, sponsored by the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association, will be held in downtown Lexington at noon on Good Friday, April 10.

Good Friday Worship service on Friday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

This service is a special time of prayer and contemplation of Christ's suffering on the cross.

Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The Middle and Senior Youth Groups are planning this event for children age 2 through grade 5.

There will be a variety of activities and a light lunch provided by the Circle of Love.

Prayer Vigil on Saturday, April 11 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This will be a time of individual prayer, Scripture reading and meditation,

You may come anytime during this vigil and remain as long as you choose.

You are invited to bring your Bibles.

A selection of scripture readings outlining salvation history will be available to guide your reading.

Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 12 at 7:00 a.m.

We will gather in the cemetery to begin this celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, then process into the sanctuary for the remainder of the worship service.

Easter Worship with Holy Communion

Our festival service of worship celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord.

Nursery Attendants Needed – April, June, July, August, September, October, and November are open. Please sign up at the bulletin board between the mailboxes if you can help.



There are also some open slots on the volunteer charts for Communion Assistants, Lectors, Prayer Leaders, and Greeters. Please sign up if you would be willing to help in these ways.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive – Anyone interested in donating blood is asked to sign up on a Pledge Sheet at either entrance. A date for a blood drive here at Becks can be scheduled after we have at least forty donors.



**The EOG's are coming!
The EOG's are coming!
Can you help?!?**

NC End of Grade Testing is coming to Davidson County Schools May 13, 14, and 15, 2009. Typically the elementary schools have plenty of proctors - people who help monitor the testing in classrooms - since they have teacher assistants and middle schools do not.

In the past, Becks Lutheran has had folks to volunteer to serve as proctors at Central Middle School. Again, we are asking that if any of you would be interested, please let Patti Lovell know or call Greg Collins, Testing Coordinator, at 357-0278. You can ask Roscoe, Ophelia, or Wanda what the job/experience is like; they've helped before.

Thanks for any and all help you can give to the students and teachers in our community!

New Office Hours – Kimberly Hedrick recently resigned as Office Administrator. For now, our pastors will staff the office Tuesday through Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

If you need assistance outside those office hours:
Please call Pastor Ray (425-9682) or Pastor Ruth Ann (225-7723) on their cell phones.



The Circle of Hope

The Circle of HOPE met on March 16th with Angie Hall as our hostess. We enjoyed many versions of chicken while conducting our business meeting. We will be joining the Happy Ladies Sunday School class in preparing and serving the Lenten Supper on March 25th. Volunteers signed up to provide cookies for the ASK program on Sunday, March 22. We plan to remember our shut-ins at Easter and will finalize those plans at our April meeting.

The HOPEfuls continued our study of the book, Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers through reading and reflection. We are all enjoying the **KWL**: what we KNOW, what we WANT to know, and what we have LEARNED!

Our next meeting will be April 27th at the home of Rebecca Garrett. Don't forget your potluck dish and your book! Please come and join us, because, generally, a good time is had by all!



Congratulations to Will Jones who recently received the Boy Scout God and Family Award. Will is a Webelo. He is the son of Lisa Jones and grandson of Deborah Morris.

Please share with us celebrations, recognitions, accomplishments for the newsletter. These might include such things as honor roll, county or district band, scholarships, sports recognition, milestone birthdays or anniversaries, birth or baptism of grandchildren, or other special events that you would like to share with your faith community. Please have these to the church office by noon on the 20th of each month.

Touching Davidson County with Love



A prayer service for Touching Davidson County with Love will be held at First United Methodist Church in Lexington on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00. All are invited!

Everyone who has volunteered to participate on Saturday, April 25 is asked to meet for breakfast at First United Methodist Church at 8:00 a.m. that morning. Assignments for the day will be distributed at that time.

Scholarship Application

The Scholarship Committee wants to remind all students continuing their post-high school education to submit their application for the Becks Lutheran Scholarship to the church office as soon as possible. The application deadline is April 30.

To be considered eligible, you must submit the application along with documentation of acceptance, cost of tuition, estimated cost of books and lab expenses for college level training. The scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to eligible candidates. You must be a member of Becks Lutheran Church at least one year prior to attending college and remain a member to maintain eligibility. The one time award will be made prior to the applicant's freshman year of college.

If you have any questions, or to obtain an application form, please contact the church office or a Scholarship Committee member.

Brenda S. Hedrick and David Aldridge

PORTALS OF PRAYER

These daily devotional resources for April through June are in your mailboxes now. Additional copies are available at both entrances. If you - or a friend or family member - needs a large print edition of this resource, please notify one of the pastors.

Girl Scout News



All the women of Becks are invited to dress up and wear their favorite hats and join members of Brownie Troop #862 for a Tea Party on Thursday evening, April 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now! The Girl Scout troops will hold their annual yard sale here at Becks on Saturday, May 16. Donations for the sale will be accepted beginning in May.



More details on both events will follow!

Memorials & Honorariums

Given to the Budget in memory of Jerry Leonard by

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Allred

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Phelps

Sylvia Beck

Karen Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rierson

Given to the Building Fund in memory of Jerry Leonard by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass

Bob Leonard

Given to the Youth in memory of Jerry Leonard by

Peggy Varner

Given to the Congregational Assistance Fund in memory of Jerry Leonard by

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Turlington

Given to the Budget in memory of Robert Jenkins by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass

Given to the Building Fund in memory of Robert Jenkins by

Kimberly Hedrick

Given to the Budget in memory of Vernell Bailey by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass

Given to the Budget in memory of Paul A. Briggs by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass

Given to the Building Fund in memory of Arlin Briggs by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass

Kimberly Hedrick

Given to the Building Fund in memory of Junior Byerly by

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klass



Answering the Call

“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”

Psalm 55:22

Thousands of children in the Carolinas have experienced abuse, neglect or other traumas that have stripped their lives of all security. Removing them from unhealthy environments and finding the right family to help them move forward is the ultimate goal but takes careful screening and consideration. Often children develop special emotional and physical needs, making the right foster care placement more complex to find.

Knowing this, Lisa and Eliot Swiger put a lot of thought into fostering a child. By the time their oldest son was away at college and their youngest was in high school, they knew they were ready to open their home and heart to a child in need. Through LFS Carolinas, they began taking the necessary steps to obtain their license and eagerly awaited the chance to answer their call to serve as foster parents.

In February 2005 the Swiger family was introduced to Jack. At 21 months old, he was a victim of shaken baby syndrome, had suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and had a number of strokes leaving him unable to talk or walk.

“Seeing him for the first time was heartbreaking,” said Lisa as she recalled their first meeting in the hospital. “He had a large three part scar on his head and had just been taken off of a feeding tube.”

Jack had lost almost half of his brain functioning and the ability to control the right side of his body. Despite that, Lisa and Eliot took to him instantly; and although he would require extra care, they welcomed him as their foster child on March 23, 2005.

When it became clear that reunification with his birth mother was no longer an option, the Swiger family decided to give Jack a permanent home.

Under their care, Jack began showing improvement in both his motor skills and speech. He attends regular therapies and visits specialists to help him gain more independence. Around his third birthday, Jack was faced with a new problem. He began having frequent seizures that have progressively gotten worse.

Although Jack’s life revolves around therapy and doctors appointments it hasn’t slowed him down one bit. Today Jack can walk with the support of his cane and attends mainstream kindergarten. To put it simply “Jack is rock star,” said Lisa. “Everyone knows when Jack is there because he engages everyone.”

Mentally he is like any other five-year-old and in many ways he's mature for his age, talking easily with adults.

The Swigers have given a lot to Jack but they say what they have received in return has been well worth it.

"I'm always encouraging people to consider fostering or adopting," said Lisa. "There are blessings that come from it in ways you can't imagine. You truly do not love them any less, just in a special way."

Taking on the responsibility of caring for a special needs child is not an easy task and many people openly ask "How do you do it?" Lisa's response, "If you're called to do this then you can handle it."

The Swigers also credit their support system of friends, family and professionals with being able to handle Jack's care. "God has always put people in our life that help us."

They have stayed close with their original LFS Carolinas Foster Care Case Manager, Patty Etheridge as well as gained the friendships of Jack's medical care team members, all of whom have grown quite attached to the energetic child.

They also receive a lot of support from their church, Advent Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. "[Advent Lutheran] is a wonderful and nurturing place. They had a surprise baby shower when we first brought him home and have been there for us ever since," said Lisa.

In her search for ways to help Jack grow more independent, Lisa was introduced to the paws4people program. She knew it was something that could greatly help Jack, as he had always been positively affected by the therapy dogs in the hospital. A service dog's main purpose would be to help his mobility, assisting him as he went up and down stairs.

Jack was selected by the program to receive a service dog and they have already found the perfect match: Caylie. When first introduced, Caylie sat right on top of Jack and the two immediately bonded. While they were playing, Jack began to have a seizure. Although service dogs can't learn to recognize a seizure she knew something was wrong. She placed her face against his and her paw on his leg until his seizure ended.

Currently the Swigers are working on a fundraising and public awareness campaign in return for receiving Caylie, who will finish with her training later this year.

At only 5 years old, Jack has touched the lives of thousands of people looking to find healing and wholeness through services provided by LFS Carolinas. On the cover of every general brochure passed out by the organization, Jack's smiling face is there to show how far a child can come when placed with the right family.

For more information on paws4people visit www.paws4people.org.

Visit Jack's fundraising page at www.jack.paws4people.org.

For more information on foster care or adoption, please contact LFS Carolinas at 1-800-HELPING or visit our web site www.lfscarolinas.org.

Thrivent Financial Advice Center

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers direct access to professional financial guidance, no matter where you are, from the Thrivent Financial Advice Center. The center is staffed with financial service representatives who will answer your questions and help you find the best financial strategy based on your individual situation, goals and values.

Tailored for You

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or want hands-on help, we'll work with you, on your terms, to help you develop a customized financial strategy. You decide when and how you work with us:

- Call the Thrivent Financial Advice Center at 888-834-7428 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon-Thurs, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday (Central time).
- Have a financial service representative call you once or twice a year to discuss your progress, update your action plan and give guidance.
- Use our secure online tool, [Living in Balance](#), to begin mapping out your current financial situation. We'll follow up with you and provide the level of advice you want.

How You Work with Us

You can work with the Financial Advice Center in a variety of ways. You pick the approach that works best for you:

- Product-based – You know your goals and have a strategy to reach them—we can help you get there*.
- Issue-based – You know your goals but want help developing and implementing a strategy.
- Personal – You have concerns about several areas of your finances and how they interact. We'll offer guidance and solutions based on your situation.

How We Work with You

We begin by understanding your current financial situation. Simply use the Living in Balance tool or speak with a financial service representative to figure out where you're spending your money and where you want to spend it. This will help us determine which of the following categories your goals and concerns fall under:

- Retirement savings
- Emergency savings
- Education funding
- Getting debt under control
- Lifestyle protection

Next, we'll help you devise a strategy that will help you meet those goals. A financial service representative will partner with you—either on a one-time or an ongoing basis—to help you find the best solutions.

Get Started


Ready to take the first step? Call us at 888-834-7428 or use the [Living in Balance](#) tool to begin.

- If the Thrivent Financial Advice Center is not able to meet your needs for a suitable solution, you will be transferred to a qualified Thrivent Financial representative who can assist you.



Acolyte: Hannah Frey
 Lector: Brenda Sanders
 Greeters: Vickie Whitehead
 Communion Assistants: Rhonda Gallimore and Patti Lovell
 Nursery: **Volunteer(s) still needed!**

Crucifer:
 Prayers: Rhonda Gallimore

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship			1 10:30 a.m. Young at Heart meeting 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl ministry 6:00 p.m. Lenten meal 6:45 Lenten worship service Choir practice will follow service	2 6:30 p.m. Finance committee meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Supper 7:30 p.m. Council meeting	3	4 LMM Workday Begin at 8:00 a.m.
5 Palm Sunday Terry Hedrick Team Youth Group Lunch & Meeting after worship 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Circle of Faith meeting	6	7 7:00 p.m. Circle of Love meeting	8 6:30 p.m. Seder Meal Choir practice will follow meal	9 12:00 noon Maundy Thursday worship service 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service Buford Blankenship Team	10 7:00 p.m. Good Friday worship service Robbie Harrison Team	11 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Feed the shelter
12 Easter  Sunrise Service Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. Kent Beck Team David Aldridge Team @ 10:30 a.m.	13 ←	14 Pastors	15 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl ministry 7:00 p.m. Choir practice on vacation	16 6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men's supper this week.	17 —————	18 9:30 a.m. WELCA Exec. Bd. Mtg Complex ————— →
19 2 nd Sunday of Easter Gary Fletcher Team Men host the shelter FEB reserved 3:30-8:00	20 May Newsletter Information Due	21 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	22 Bible Study 12:00 noon 4:00 p.m. Worship Board meeting 6:00 p.m. Education Board meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir practice	23 Girl Scout Tea Party 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service for Touching Davidson County with Love 7:00 p.m. 1st UMC	24	25 Touching Davidson County with Love Begins at 8:00 a.m. at 1st UMC
26 3 rd Sunday of Easter Jerry Lovell Team Confirmation Class 2:00 p.m.	27 Circle of Hope 6:00 p.m.	28 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	29 Bible Study 12:00 noon	30 Spring Mtg. Northwestern Conference 7:00 p.m.		