

Becks Evangelical Lutheran Church
441 Becks Church Road
Lexington, NC 27292
(336) 249-2056

Pastors: Revs. Ray and Ruth Ann Sipe
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
E-mail: info@beckslutheranchurch.org
website: www.beckslutheranchurch.org

July 2009 Newsletter

Here we are, in the middle of the summer, the season after Pentecost – a time of green paraments and lush green, growing vegetation. Our flowers and our vegetable gardens are growing. Are we?

Yes, this is a time for travel, for vacations, for rest and relaxation. But this is also the time to build up our prayer life, study the scriptures, worship regularly, and grow in our faith.

Several of our youth will have wonderful opportunities to grow in their faith this summer as they attend camps at Kure Beach, Camp Agape, and Lutherock; and as they attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please lift them up in your prayers - that they may travel safely and find these times to be both fun and filled with opportunities to grow in faith.

As you vacation, remember that God is already at work in those places you visit. Be willing to attend worship in an unfamiliar place and discover the God you already know! Allow those experiences to enhance your faith – you may even bring back a new worship or study idea to share with others here at Becks.

Regular Sunday school program and midweek Bible studies continue here throughout the summer, and Studio GO! VBS is being planned for early August. Sunday worship, of course, will be held each Sunday, and a special Service of the Word for Healing is being planned for July 19.



Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has invited all of us to participate in 50 days of prayer and study prior to the Churchwide Assembly; and North Carolina Synod Bishop Leonard Bolick has invited our congregation to begin a time of healing and reconciliation based on the results of the listening posts. (More details on both of these are available in this newsletter.)

There are many opportunities for us to grow together in faith this season – won't you come and worship, pray, and study together? Won't you come and grow in faith, so that we may bear witness together to others so in need of God's love and power?

Pastor Ray

Pastor Ruth Ann

WELCA Joint Meeting --- A Fun Time and A Great Success!

The Women of the ELCA held their June meeting in the FEB with a covered dish dinner. Vickie Whitehead shared with us a report on the NC Women of the ELCA synodical Gathering at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Five women from Becks attended the gathering. Renee Dorton went as the Central Conference's Young Women's Representative.



Along with the usual business meetings, they were able to attend various "Awareness Sessions" which were very interesting. Two men and two women from Papua New Guinea spoke to the gathering and told us about the work of the church there. Our president, Cathy Sell, had met and worked with these Lutheran Christians on a trip to PNG last summer.

A highlight of our meeting was the auction of donated new and slightly used items. Jamie Everheart did a great job as our auctioneer as he helped us turn our "trash" into "treasures"! Thank you, Jamie!!! We raised \$415 for our over-all treasury from this auction. Next year you may want to join in our fun!

As we look to the coming months, we will have our regular meetings in August. We will again help with Homecoming in September AND we will begin to plan for the Central Conference Fall Gathering which we will be hosting. So be sure to attend your circle's meeting so you won't miss any of the "happenings"!

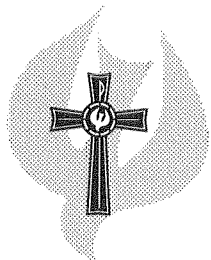
News from the Circle of Hope

The Circle of Hope met in May with Dell Frey at her home. We enjoyed a delightful covered dish meal and enjoyed packing two school kits to be delivered to the NC Women of the ELCA Gathering in Hickory the weekend of May 29-31. We continued our study of the book, Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers. We HOPE to complete the book at our meeting in July.

We will gather at the home of Jackie Helton on Monday, July 20 at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship, food, and study. We welcome anyone whose schedule might allow to join the HOPEFULs for an evening together. Contact Jackie Helton or Dell Frey for directions; you might even get to ride with someone!

Memorials & Honorariums

Given to the Budget in memory of Mina Swicegood by Bill & Earlene Swicegood



North Carolina Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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*Walking Together
Sharing Christ*

June 25, 2009

Dear Members of Becks Lutheran Church,

In May I was presented with a petition signed by a significant number of members stating "I, a member in good standing of Becks Lutheran Church, 441 Becks Church Road, Lexington, NC 27292, by my signature below request that the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA investigate the alleged inability of Pastors Rev. Ray Sipe and Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastors in accordance with Chapter 9, Section 5a of our constitution. I further request that after conducting his investigation, that the bishop shall decide a course of action to be recommended to the pastors and the congregation per Chapter 9, Section 5d of our constitution."

I met with the Congregation Council and we agreed to provide Listening Posts on five different days during June giving members an opportunity to stop by the church and answer three questions: 1) What is going well? 2) What needs attention? 3) What else would you like to share?

Over 100 people responded with some responding in person and others responding by mail or e-mail who could not attend a Listening Post.

Each Listening Post began with prayer and it was explained that the information gathered would be shared but we would not share the names of who said what.

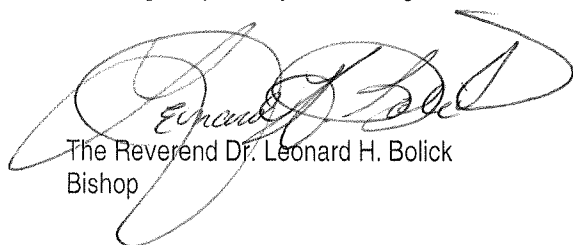
On Monday evening, June 22, Pastor Phil Tonnesen, a member of the Bishop's Staff and I met with the Congregation Council and shared with them what had been heard during the Listening Posts.

The responses were very mixed related to your pastors and at my recommendation the Congregation Council overwhelming voted to appoint a Reconciliation Team to work toward healing. The team will be appointed on Thursday evening, July 9 during the regular council meeting. The team, once appointed, will over the next six months, determine if healing can happen between pastors and members and among members themselves. A facilitator will be available to work with the Reconciliation Team.

The team must represent different view points and will report each month to the council and perhaps to the congregation and the team will decide how best to share the information gathered in the Listening Posts with the congregation and provide opportunities for healing. I have seen such a method work well in other congregations.

I make the above recommendation based on the facts that 1) there is a significant degree of brokenness within the congregation that goes well beyond the pastors 2) there is not a clear agreement as to what should happen 3) something must be done so that healing can happen 4) I believe that God works through us and can help in this challenging time at Becks Lutheran Church and 5) I am a person of hope.

Blessings to you as you work together toward resolution.



The Reverend Dr. Leonard H. Bolick
Bishop

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The youth groups met June 7, to prepare for the talent show. Thanks to Laura Aberg and Jason Jacob for our pizza lunch. Special thanks to both of them and Angie Semonco for their help with expanding the stage in the FEB!

We also talked about plans for an ice skating trip (possibly later in June) and a trip to the water park later in the summer. Our next meeting will be in September.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the BBQ Chicken Dinner and Talent Show, especially Bobby Fritts, Robbie Harrison, and Roscoe Walker for cooking the delicious chicken; Scott Semonco and Micky Beck for their tremendous help in the kitchen; Jeremy Lovell for his help with the sound system; members of the East Davidson High School Trombone Choir; and all those who came out on June 12 to support the youth group. We raised about \$300 which will help with camperships and the trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Please remember in prayer all those youth who plan to attend church camps and other programs this summer. Your support has made camperships available for each of them!

Brett Moore and Clay Gallimore
Hannah Frey
Emily Whitehead
Alexi Hines
Robert and Kristina Lamb

Beach Ball, Kure Beach, June 28-July 2
Confirmation Camp, Lutherock, July 12-17
Mountain Top Pioneer, Lutherock, July 19-25
Rocketry, Camp Agape, July 19-24
National Youth Gathering, New Orleans, July 22-26

Social Supper Club

It's time again to join the social supper club. We have such a great time sharing fellowship dinners together. Group size is only 6 people together at a time unless the host or hostess wants to add more. Twice a year we meet as a large group. July the large group will be meeting at Paul and Cornelia Briggs' home. *The date for this dinner is still to be determined.* If you are interested, please join us! Couples and singles are welcome. Each group gathers monthly. You could go out to eat or have dinner planned at your home. If at the home everyone brings something so your cost is minimal. We would love to have you to join by calling Holly Dorton @ 249-6135. Bon Appétit'!



I want to thank the members of Becks for the scholarship I received to continue my education. I am attending DCCC for cosmetology and will finish next spring.

I would also like to thank the women of Becks for the Study Bible that they gave me. I am sure I will use it a lot.

Thanks again for these gifts given to me. I appreciate the thoughtfulness and kindness.

Brittany Blankenship



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Presiding Bishop's Call to 50 Days of Prayer

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world." We are an evangelizing church, and this mission flows out of a life attentive to God's Word and rooted in unceasing prayer for the Spirit's life-giving work with the Word. In the seven weeks leading to the start of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 17, I invite you to join in 50 days of renewed and focused prayer around the Scriptures that will be used at the assembly, when your co-workers in the Gospel are daily gathered, centered and sent into mission.

The accompanying Scriptures, prayers and songs are a resource you can use in small groups, in individual devotions or as a congregation-wide initiative. As you gather around God's Word, I ask you to pray especially for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for those who will gather in Minneapolis, for decisions to be made, and for faithfulness in discerning those directions to which God is calling this evangelizing church in mission and service for the sake of the world.

In God's grace,

Mark S. Hanson

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TIME OF INTENTIONAL BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER!

How does it work?

For seven weeks leading up to the assembly, this church will be invited into prayer for the ELCA, especially for the voting members who will gather in Minneapolis and for wisdom in discernment. The guide includes suggestions for:

1. **Daily prayer** starting June 29.
2. **Weekly prayer** with scripture readings taken from the daily lectionary of the assembly with reflection questions, a prayer and a reflection hymn.
3. **Sunday prayers** with a petition for the Prayers of Intercession for the Sundays from June 28 - Aug. 6 and one for each Aug. 16 and Aug. 23.

These prayer and study resources are available available online at <http://www.ELCA.org/50days> and we will have copies available here at Becks Lutheran for individual use. We will be including the prayers each Sunday, and will also be using these prayers during our midweek Bible studies from June 30 through August 20.

ELCA to Engage in 50 Days of Prayer Leading to Churchwide Assembly

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has asked the church's 4.7 million members to pray and study Scripture for 50 days starting June 29, in preparation for the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The assembly is the ELCA's highest legislative authority and meets every two years. The 2009 assembly is in Minneapolis Aug. 17-23.

The assembly will act on a proposed social statement on human sexuality, a recommendation on ministry policies and various churchwide program proposals. It will conduct elections and consider memorials (proposed at synod assemblies) and resolutions (proposed by voting members at the churchwide assembly). The proposed social statement and recommendation on ministry policies are sources of significant discussion within the church.

Members are being asked to pray daily; meet in weekly groups, use daily Scripture readings for reflection, hymn and prayer, and use suggested petitions for prayers during worship. Resources are at on the Web.

"The resources are provided in a way that allows them to be used by individuals, in congregational groups such as Bible studies, youth groups or meetings, or even in larger gatherings," said the Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, executive for ELCA Worship and Liturgical Services.

In an April 27 message to associates in ministry, deaconesses, diaconal ministers and ordained clergy, Hanson said the idea for 50 Days of Prayer came from his own experiences and from people in the church.

Hanson also met this spring with pastors who will preach during worship at the churchwide assembly. "The richness of the conversation reminded me how much I have missed the weekly text groups that have been so formative in my ministry," he said.

Hanson said that the call to study and prayer comes "from the church's most fundamental and enduring practices of faith." The 2003 Churchwide Assembly overwhelmingly adopted an evangelism strategy that called the ELCA to pray for renewal grounded in Scripture. The 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago endorsed the "Book of Faith Initiative" calling the ELCA to study and learn Scripture, he noted.

"Even when we are not of one mind about all the matters to be decided by the assembly, we have a marvelous opportunity as a church body to witness to the common source of our hope. In fact, an appropriate prayer may be that God use the diversity of our opinions to witness to one Lord, one faith and one Baptism," Hanson said.

Hanson said that he looks forward "with confident hope" to the assembly. "The source of my confidence is ...God's faithfulness to God's promises and the Holy Spirit's power," he said. "This church has an opportunity to give public witness that we are a church united in evangelical mission for the sake of the world. I invite your prayers for the sake of that mission and the work of the churchwide assembly."

The 50 Days of Prayer is also an opportunity for church members who are unable to attend the churchwide assembly to participate, Schaefer said. "We all can't be in Minneapolis this summer, but all can be together as one in prayer as part of this one expression of the Body of Christ."

Congratulations to:

- + **Cat Hines**, who recently received the "Outstanding Leader" award for adult Girl Scouts.
- + **Micky Beck**, on his retirement June 30 from the Lexington Fire Department.
- + **Robert Lamb**, who made the honor roll at East Davidson High. He was also a Junior Marshall for this year's graduation ceremonies.
- + **Kristina Lamb**, who made the honor roll at Brown Middle. She received a Perfect Attendance award. She also received a special award for maintaining all "A's" throughout her 3 years at middle school.



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.

HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR KIDS TO WAIT FOR MARRIAGE? ARE YOU SHOWING THEM SOMETHING WORTH WAITING FOR?

Take a weekend to make your marriage the best it can be! The next opportunity to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is September 4 - 6, 2009 in Black Mountain, NC. The registration deadline is August 14, 2009.

Visit our website at www.godlovesmarriage.org to register on-line or see more weekend dates. You may also contact Bill & Mitzie Edwards, by phone at 828-452-3885 or by e-mail - billandmitzie@wmconnect.com for more information.

Via de Cristo fall retreats

Via de Cristo means "the Way of Christ." It is a name used by Lutherans for a movement of personal Christian renewal within the church. This instrument of renewal originated in Spain under the name of "Cursillo." It has been in North Carolina since September 1976, and is a highly structured, well-thought-out method for renewing the faith of individuals, the congregations from which they come and the environments in which they live and work.

This renewal movement is presented as a united effort of laypersons and clergy to aid congregations in the development of Christian leaders. In the NC Synod there are two Via de Cristo organizations - Eastern & Western. Each has fall retreats planned for 2009. Visit <http://www.encvdc.org/> for more information on Eastern NC Via de Cristo fall retreats. For more information on the Western NC Via de Cristo fall retreats, visit <http://www.wncvdc.org/> To learn more about Via de Cristo, talk with Pastors Ray and Ruth Ann.

Sibling Rivalry

Cain and Abel. Jacob and Esau. Joseph and his brothers. The prodigal son. These are Biblical stories of sibling rivalry and sibling conflict. If you have siblings or have more than one child you are probably personally familiar with these struggles.

Conflict among siblings is common. Most brothers and sisters experience some degree of jealousy and competition that can lead to conflict. In fact, sibling rivalry can be useful in the long run as children learn to cope with disagreements, value another person's perspective, compromise and negotiate and learn to control aggressive impulses.

Research suggests that sibling rivalry is least likely to occur in families in which:

- Parents model how to find solutions to daily problems and disagreements in ways that are respectful, productive and not aggressive.
- There's an overall family rule that physical aggression and name calling are unacceptable.
- Members have fun and frequently enjoy activities as a family.

Some tips for parents trying to address sibling rivalry include:

- Don't react at all. Only get involved if there's a danger of physical harm. If you intervene, try to resolve problems with them, not for them.
- Separate children until they are calm. Have them return with one idea to resolve the conflict.
- Don't try to assign blame. It takes two to fight and if they're involved they are partly responsible.
- If fights involve the same item, such as TV or video game, post a schedule showing who plays when.
- Review family guidelines about fighting and name calling on a regular basis.

Families should consider professional help if sibling conflict: is affecting your marriage, there's a real physical danger, may be related to depression or substance abuse, or is damaging the self esteem of a family member.

-- By Shelley Mobley, Ed.S., Director of Lutheran Counseling Center at Charlotte

Please consider volunteering to assist with this year's Vacation Bible School. The lists below outline the roles that need to be filled.



Beck's Lutheran VBS 2009

Studio GO!

GO LEAD! GO RISK! GO TELL! GO OBEY! GO SERVE!

August 2-6, 6:00-8:30

Behind the Scenes/Stage Hands

Registration Coordinator-register participants, create name tags, groups

Decorating Coordinator-Turn FEB into Studio GO!

Backstage Food Leader

Supply Coordinator

Light meal each night for participants and staff (6-6:30).

Classes/Circles/Groups wishing to sponsor/provide a meal please let one of us know ASAP.

Out-in-Front

Wade Winalot-host of Studio Go!

Full of charm, warmth & sparkling personality

Coach Armstrong-Teammate

Has a mind of steel and a heart of gold

Cooper-Lovable sidekick

All-around good dog

Professor Wordsmart-Librarian

Dedicated to helping others, learning to serve with her heart rather than her head

Other acting roles, characters change nightly.

Group Leaders

Backstage Fun Leader

Crew Guides

Preschool

Elementary

Pre-Teen

Teen

Studio Go! Music Leader

Please contact Donna Myers or Angie Semonco if you can help out. There are plenty of jobs available even if you cannot attend the nightly VBS sessions.

Thank you!

	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 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry NO CHOIR PRACTICE	2	3	4
	5 5th Sunday after Pentecost Buford Blankenship Team	6	7 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer	8 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study NO CHOIR PRACTICE	9 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Council Supper 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg	10
12 6th Sunday after Pentecost Terry Hedrick Team	13	14 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer Confirmation	15 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice Camp at Lutherock	16 6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men's supper (all week)	17	18 10:00 a.m. WELCA Executive Board Mtg. Joint Supper Club Dinner Time TBD
19 7th Sunday after Pentecost Robbie Harrison Team 4:00 p.m. Service of the Word for Healing Men host the shelter	20	21 NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK July Newsletter Information Due	22 NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice National	23 Youth Gathering	24 in New Orleans	25 (thru Sunday)
26 8th Sunday after Pentecost Alan Myers Team	27	28 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer	29 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Worship Board Mtg 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	30	31	

Acolyte: Caitlin Aberg

Crucifer: Taylor Beck

Communion Assistants: Linda Aldridge &

Lectors: 7/5 Jamie Everhart

7/12 Al Hoppensteadt

7/19 Becky Hoppensteadt

7/26

Prayers:

Greeters: Dell Frey & Christine England

Nursery: Laura Aberg