

Becks Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
website: www.beckslutheranchurch.org

June 2009 Newsletter



Throughout the great fifty days of Easter, we have heard gospel lessons from the Gospel of John and readings from 1 John during worship. Those scripture texts have focused on Jesus as both human and divine; on our belief in Jesus Christ as the Risen – and ascended – Lord; and especially on living together in love as a community of faith.

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost, the day when the whole church recalls that the promise Jesus made to send the Holy Spirit to remain with us as our Advocate was powerfully fulfilled!

Now we enter the time after Pentecost, beginning next week with Holy Trinity Sunday. As we pause before beginning the seemingly endless 'green Sundays' of ordinary time, we are reminded again that Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is the very model for our life together in the church. We are intended to live our lives closely bound together in community, knit together by our faith in God and in love toward one another. Our faith is uplifted by our worship and study and work together – our ministry and service in God's holy name as the beloved children of God.

During the weeks to come, we will hear many passages from the Gospel of Mark. Passages which tell stories about the growth of tiny seeds; stories about the calming of storms; and miraculous stories of healing. God is here – active in the all of creation. Nothing is outside of God's power – not the tiniest of plants or creatures, nor powerful and dangerous storms, nor the suffering of human beings.

God has called us all here to worship and serve him in this place. God remains in control here. We need not fear, but simply trust that the Almighty One - the creator, redeemer, and sanctifier of all – the Alpha and the Omega – the one who has first loved us - has indeed put his Spirit within us, and we shall live!

Pastor Ray

Pastor Ruth Ann

Volunteers are Still Needed

There are open slots on the volunteer charts for Communion Assistants, Lectors, Prayer Leaders, Greeters, and Nursery. Please sign up if you would be willing to help in these ways. The volunteer charts are located on the bulletin board between the mailboxes.



**American
RedCross**

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.

Young at Heart

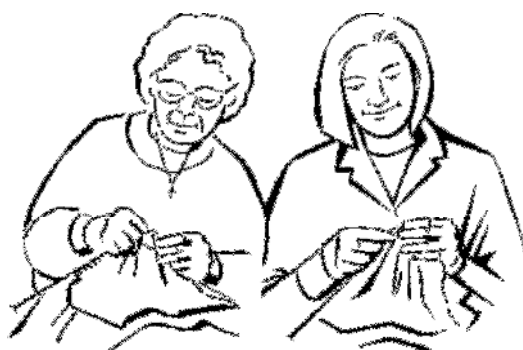
The Young at Heart met at Lexington Style Trimmings on May 6. Sixteen members were present. Ophelia Walker had our devotions - "File Room."

Our trip to Virginia will be August 19. The cost will be \$55 which includes travel and the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre. We have approximately 21 going at this time. We will leave at 9:30 a.m. and return around 6:30 p.m.

Birthdays this month – Wilma Byerly, Pearlie Mae Tysinger, and Velna Vawter

Sick/recovering – Velna Vawter (still in hospital), Mary Ann Rachels (improving at home), and Bessie Young (at home).

We enjoyed desserts made by Janice Warner and Betty Jean Disher. Next month, dessert will be provided by Pearlie Mae Tysinger and Ophelia Walker.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have recently completed two more prayer shawls that will be given to members and friends of the congregation with special prayer concerns at this time.

If you knit or crochet – or would like to learn – please join us in the Complex on the first and third Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. We have added an additional meeting time in June: Tuesday, June 16 at 3:00 p.m. If you cannot meet during the workday, but would like to participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Cornelia Briggs or Pastor Ruth Ann.

Special meeting for the Women of the ELCA and friends!

There will be no regular circle meetings in June. Instead all the Women of the ELCA will join in a special meeting on Sunday, June 7 at 4:30 pm in the FEB.

A report on the convention by our delegate, Vickie Whitehead, will highlight our meeting. We will have a great time of fellowship during our "Trash and Treasure Auction." conducted by Becks very own auctioneer, Jamie Everhart.



Be prepared to bid on some great things---proceeds will go to our over-all treasury. This will be topped off by a wonderful covered-dish meal prepared by each of us!

This is what you need to bring---

- 1. a dish to share**
- 2. a few items to be auctioned** (these can be new, gently used or "re-gifted")
- 3. an item for our DCCC Baby Shower to be given to the new mothers program**
(diapers, baby wipes, blankets, diaper bags etc)

So plan to join us for an evening of fun, good food, and fellowship. Invite a friend and come on!

Memorials & Honorariums

Given to the Budget in honor of Lena Beck by Jamie Whitten

Given to the Budget in memory of Jerry Leonard by the Vance Yount Family

Given to the Building Fund in Memory of Jerry Leonard by:

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Yount

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hildebran

Given to the Budget in memory of Mina Swicegood by:

John & Sarah Grice

Don & Evelyn Kepley

Fred & Leona Sink

Lonnie & Janice Warner

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The combined Junior, Middle, and Senior Youth groups met after worship on May 3rd. Thanks to Micky and Tammie Beck for a great hot dog lunch! After lunch, we discussed plans for the summer, including a dinner and talent show on June 12.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, June 7 following worship. This will be our only rehearsal for the talent show, so please come! We will also talk again about our other plans for the summer.

The Chicken BBQ Dinner and Talent Show will be Friday evening, June 12. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:00 p.m. Youth will perform a variety of acts and help prepare and serve dinner. Talk with our stage manager, Hannah Frey, if you have an idea for act for the show! Parents are needed to help prepare and serve dinner, too - please talk with Pastor Ray or Pastor Ruth Ann.

We will take dinner reservations on May 31 and June 7. Mark your calendars now - more details will be in the June newsletter. A free-will offering will be taken to pay for the dinner and support the activities of the youth.

Congratulations to:

- + Brittany Blankenship, who will be graduating from Central Davidson High School on June 13. Brittany plans to attend DCCC and has received \$500 from the Becks Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund.
- + Stephen Gourley, who graduated from University of North Carolina School of the Arts on May 30.



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.

LISTENING POSTS

Each household should have already received a letter from Bishop Leonard Bolick announcing **Listening Posts** to be held at Becks on June 11-14, and June 20. This is an important opportunity to express your views about congregational life here at Becks. Please talk with Paul Briggs, Tom Garrett, Pastor Ray, or Pastor Ruth Ann if you have any questions about the process. To make an appointment, please contact Chris Voncannon or Laurie Stevens.

EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND ONE OF THE LISTENING POSTS, YOU CAN STILL PARTICIPATE BY SUBMITTING YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1) What is going well at Becks?

2) What is not going well?

3) What else would you like to share?

PLEASE SEND YOUR ANSWERS DIRECTLY TO THE SYNOD OFFICE BY JUNE 15TH:

By mail:

Bishop Leonard Bolick
North Carolina Synod ELCA
1988 Lutheran Synod Drive
Salisbury NC 28144

By e-mail:

lbolick@nclutheran.org

U.S. Economy Affects Marriages!

It takes much effort just to make ends meet in our world today. Do you wish you could talk about something besides all the stresses in your life? A **Marriage Encounter Weekend** gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next 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. To view information on the Western NC Via de Cristo fall retreats, visit <http://www.wncvdc.org/>

Keeping Hope

*“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

-Romans 12:11-12

Often times, the faces of those who are considered refugees are those of families – mothers and fathers in search of a place where their children can grow up happy and safe. Unfortunately, unbearably long separations are not unusual for refugee families seeking to be reunited with children and spouses who have been separated by war. For Kenneth Waiswa it took more than a decade to reunite with his family.

Originally from Uganda, Kenneth* fled to Ethiopia to escape persecution in his home country. It was there he met his wife, Aamina, and began to raise a family. Unfortunately, conflict broke out in Ethiopia as well, forcing him and his family to flee once again. To truly be safe, the family decided to come to the United States.

Kenneth and Aamina traveled to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to obtain the proper paperwork to be brought to the United States but they faced a dilemma; one of their children was not with them. Amidst the conflict they had been separated from their 4-year-old daughter who was with relatives in a village roughly 400 miles away.

Getting back to her was nearly impossible. The village was so remote that a motorized vehicle only traveled to it once a year. There were no roads and the land between them and their daughter was filled with dangers – wild animals, bandits and rough terrain.

There was no way to reach her and the authorities refused to issue her a visa unless she was present with her parents. The family had to make the difficult decision of leaving while the application for her visa was processed. They hoped she would be able to follow soon after but more unexpected barriers drove a wedge between them. Authorities suspected she was lying about her age and denied the visa.

After arriving in the United States, Kenneth and his family tried for years to reunite with their daughter. Finally, they came to LFS Carolinas for help. In addition to finding the family an apartment and helping with Kenneth's job search, the agency assisted the family with their federal immigration benefits application and coordinated their efforts with the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa.

A private laboratory conducted a DNA test using a sample sent from their daughter in Ethiopia and one provided by Aamina. The test finally resulted in confirmation of their biological relationship. In October 2008, after more than a decade of separation, the family was reunited.

LFS Carolinas works every day with families like the Waiswas to bring them hope in the midst of despair.

*Names have been changed for confidentiality.

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	2 NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK	3 10:30 a.m. Young at Heart NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m. Choir practice	4 North Lenoir	5 Carolina Synod Rhyne University	6 Assembly Hickory <i>Shelter reserved 12 noon – 6 p.m.</i>
7 Gary Fletcher Team Combined Youth Group Mtg after worship 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service 4:30 p.m. WELCA Joint Meeting 	8	9 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer	10 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir practice	11 LISTENING POSTS	12 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner and Talent Show LISTENING POSTS	13 Feed the shelter LISTENING POSTS
14 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Ted Dorton Team Farewell Reception after Worship LISTENING POSTS	15	16 3:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer	17 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl ministry 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m. Worship Board Mtg 7:00 p.m. Choir practice	18 6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men's supper	19 2:00 p.m. Education Board Mtg	20 July Newsletter Information Due LISTENING POSTS
21 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Jerry Lovell Team Men host the shelter 	22 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.	23 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer	24 12:00 p.m. Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Choir practice	25	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Pentecost David Aldridge Team	29	30 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Night Prayer				
Acolyte: Sam Voncannon Crucifer: Connor Gallimore Lector: Prayers: Chris Voncannon Greeters: Chris & Douglas Voncannon Nursery: 6/14 & 6/21 Laura Aberg Communion Assistants: Scott Semonco & Chris Voncannon						