

First Edition



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Houston, Texas

February 2010
Volume 159, Number 2

TWO SERVICES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, two services of worship will be held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

12:15 p.m. Imposition of Ashes (10 minute service)

7:30 p.m. Sermon, Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes

The noonday service will include scripture, prayer, a hymn, and the imposition of ashes. The service will be preceded and followed by organ music, so that worshipers who wish to arrive before or remain afterward for prayer and meditation may do so.

The evening service will begin with a prayer of confession, followed by the imposition of ashes, scripture, sermon, and the sacrament of holy communion. The organist and choir will present music appropriate for the day, and the congregation will sing several contemplative and penitential hymns.

Preceding the evening service a light soup supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All worshipers are welcome.

On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, a small cross of ashes is imposed on the forehead of each worshiper as a symbol of human mortality and the need for repentance.

Everyone is invited to observe the beginning of Lent by attending worship on this very important day.





The Light of Christ.....McClanahan's Missive

During the season of Epiphany, we focus on the light of Jesus Christ in our lives. Perhaps in some ways, Christ has become hidden or tucked away from us. Perhaps the reality of Christ seems only vaguely familiar or totally unfamiliar. So we need to hear of the emergence of Christ at the wedding in Cana or when he preached in the synagogue. One thing we can be assured of is that the light of Christ is true, and it is a reality for those who seek him, and for those who are found by him.

For some, the light of Christ will invade their lives in unusual or supernatural ways. Basketball legend Pete Maravich claims this happened to him, and Saul had the same experience on the road to Damascus. For most of us, the light of Christ is a gift we receive from others, often the Church. That is why it is imperative that we, as a congregation, bring the light of Christ to the community.

One way we can do this is by expanding our education programming, specifically by adding a Sunday Church School class for children, ages 5-12. While too many churches focus only on children or young adults, we cannot ignore that the addition of young families to our congregation will probably not happen unless we offer education for them and their children. I still need one or two teachers to volunteer for this class. Please contact me if that might be you.

Another way we can offer the gifts we have to the community is by engaging the students and staff at Houston Community College (HCC). I have offered to give tours to HCC students in exchange for a limited use of our parking lot for one week at a time. My hope is that I'll meet at least five new people a week and introduce them to our glorious building and congregation. This limited program may yield large or small results, but I hope it shows a commitment on our part to reach out and invite our neighbors into our congregation.

With the end of Epiphany, however, comes Lent. Please note that we will have two Ash Wednesday services, one at 12:15 only for the imposition of ashes, and a full Eucharistic service that evening at 7:30.

Throughout Lent, we will have Wednesday evening services at 6:00. The service will last about 30 minutes and will feature music from the Taizé repertoire, which is repetitive and contemplative...and beautiful. Please consider this as a way to reflect on the season of Lent as we prepare for the great paschal feast of Easter Sunday. There will be short sermons during the services focused on Psalm 16.

YOUTH AND ADULTS IN FEBRUARY

On Sunday, February 7, the youth and adult Sunday Church School class will hear a presentation by Pastor McClanahan on the cantata *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* by Johann Sebastian Bach, in preparation for the Bach Vespers that evening at 6:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, when this cantata will be sung.

On the remaining Sundays in February Pastor McClanahan and Pastor Peterman will speak on the subject of Lutheran theology, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas (in formation).

The youth and adult class meets in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. All youth and adults are welcome to attend.

BACH VESPERS AT FIRST CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 7

On Sunday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m., a Bach Vespers will be held in the nave of First Evangelical Lutheran Church featuring the cantata *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* (BWV 54) by Johann Sebastian Bach; *Befiehl dem Engel, dass er komm* (BUXWV 10) by Dieterich Buxtehude; and *Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz* (op. 29 no.2) by Johannes Brahms. The Vespers is sponsored cooperatively by the Bach Society of Christ the King Lutheran Church and the Society for Early Music of the Church of First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

This event is offered as a gift to the community without admission charge. However, an offering will be received at the event to support the work of the societies.

FINANCE DIRECTOR SOUGHT

The Christian Community Service Center is seeking a part-time Finance Director. Responsibilities include oversight of financial records, budget preparation, coordination of the annual audit, preparation of documentation for the annual 990, monthly sales tax filing, and payroll.

Candidates must be extremely well-organized, have good communication skills, and have an interest in the mission of Christian Community Service Center. Being a CPA is a definite plus. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to the CCSC Executive Director at mshonbeck@ccschouston.com.

*Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.*

FROM THE PARISH RECORD

Add to the Member Roll

Linnea Elisabeth Madrid, by Baptism

Evan and Amanda McClanahan, and Adalyn, by Transfer from
Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas

Edwin and Jane Peterman, by Transfer from Christ the King
Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas

Emmeline Marie Walton, by Baptism

Add to the Associate Member Roll

Ed and Kathy Segner

Baptisms

Linnea Elisabeth Madrid, baptized at Advent Lutheran Church,
Madison, Wisconsin, on behalf of First Evangelical Lutheran
Church, December 27, 2009

Emmeline Marie Walton, January 17, 2010

CONGREGATION OFFICERS FOR 2010

At its meeting on January 17, the Congregation Council elected the
following to serve as officers for the coming year:

President	Dean Huffman
Vice President	Bill Bammel
Secretary	Jim Castro
Financial Secretary	Frances Allen
Treasurer	David Hokanson

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Altar Guild has posted a sign-up chart for those who wish to
provide floral arrangements in the chancel this coming year. Flowers
may be designated in honor or in memory of someone or some special
event.

The cost per Sunday is \$60. The Altar Guild will purchase and
arrange the flowers on each occasion. The name of the donor and the
designation will be included in the worship bulletin.

After the service, the flowers may be taken home by the donor or
delivered to a member or friend who is ill or homebound.

Donors are asked to submit a check payable to First Evangelical
Lutheran Church at least one week in advance. Write "flowers" in the
memo space on the check.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer work opportunities in the church office. Tasks include shredding paper, stuffing envelopes, and preparing newsletters. Special help will be needed in early February to assemble the Annual Report packets. Anyone who is interested in helping or who wants more information should call the church secretary, Sabrina Smitherman, at 713-529-3589.

NURSERY SHOWER FEBRUARY 21

The Fellowship Committee will host a shower for the church nursery on Sunday, February 21, in the Beutel Room immediately after the service. The nursery has recently been painted, and a plan to expand it has been approved. Now we need furnishings, so it will be equipped for the increased number of pre-schoolers in our church.

We have recently acquired three new cribs. A wish list of additional items is on the "Wish List" at Target under First Evangelical Lutheran Church (the one undated). We also need toys for children up to age six, people to help set up the nursery, and volunteers to sew linens.

Plan now to attend the nursery shower on February 21. Persons who would like to help but cannot attend are asked to contact the church office at 713-529-3589.

LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fellowship Committee is serving lunch at 12:30 p.m. on February 28 before the continuation of the annual meeting of the congregation at 1:00 p.m. On the menu is chili (both mild and spicy) and rice. Anyone who can help is asked to contact Carolyn Hokanson at 713-668-2973.

TRUE CONTENTMENT

Being happy with God means:

Loving as God loves,

Helping as God helps,

Giving as God gives,

Serving as God serves,

Rescuing as God rescues,

Being with God twenty-four hours,

Touching God in his distressing disguise.

- Mother Teresa

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

March 2	7:00 p.m. <i>Saengerbund</i>
March 3	6:00 p.m. Taizé Midweek Lenten worship
March 7	12:30 p.m. Property Committee meeting Service and Care Committee meeting
March 8	7:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting
March 9	7:00 p.m. <i>Saengerbund</i>
March 10	6:00 p.m. Taizé Lenten worship
March 14	12:30 p.m. Congregation Council meeting
March 15	6:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting

ANNUAL MEETING RESUMES FEBRUARY 28

On Sunday, January 31, the Annual Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church convened in the Parish Hall to adopt a budget for 2010 and then postpone the remainder of the agenda until February 28. The congregation constitution requires that the Annual Meeting of the congregation be held in January each year. However, annual reports from the previous year cannot be prepared in time for a meeting so early in the year.

Therefore, on Sunday, February 28, 2010, the Annual Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church will resume at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall to receive the annual reports and consider any other business that is necessary. (This is the only congregational meeting each year at which items for consideration may be introduced without prior notice.)

Copies of the annual reports for 2009, along with a new membership directory, will be available for members and associate members to pick up on Sunday, February 21. All that are not picked up will be mailed the following day.

A luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

From Children's Science Test Questions and Answers

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized?

A: The body is consisted into three parts -- the brainium, the borax, and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, and U.

PRAYER LIST (December 16—January 17)

Members and Associate Members

Bill Bammel	Monika Mitby	Allison Silk
James Cone	Lorine Nichols	Carl W. Sontag
Minnie Lou Gaeckler	Emilie Ratcliffe	Eric Speck
Lois Good	Kenneth Rogers	Deborah Speeg
Minnie Johnson	Dolph Schlachter	Betty Wade

Friends and Relatives

Meg Flowers	Jerry Huffman	Ed Story
Doris Gorman	Lindsay Lum	Anna Taylor
Zach & Valerie Graves, Cody and Luke	Ron Springer	Mary Ruth White

Other Concerns

Those serving in the U. S. military, especially Robert Edgar Becker
Dr. Jon Fielder and his family, medical missionaries in Malawi
The victims of the earthquake in Haiti, January 12
Death of Sophie Wilks, January 13
Death of James Hill, January 15

The 230 Pound Psalm

(Author unknown)

Strict is my diet;

I must not want.

It maketh me to lie down at night hungry.

It trieth my will power.

It leadeth me past Baskin-Robbins.

It leadeth me in the paths of starvation

for my figure's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the aisles of the pastry department,

I will buy no sweet rolls,

for they are fattening.

The cakes and the pies, they tempt me.

Before me is a table of celery and lettuce;

My day's quota runneth over.

Surely calories and weight charts shall follow me

all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in fear of the scales forever.

CHURCH CHOIR SINGERS WELCOME

The Church Choir rehearses at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday and sings at the 11:00 a.m. service. The music of the Renaissance and the Early Baroque is emphasized, along with worthy church music from other eras. All singers are welcome to participate without audition.

Further information can be obtained from the choir director, Carroll Shaddock, at 713-524-8744 or css@shaddocktexas.com.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Our church constitution provides for associate membership in First Evangelical Lutheran Church. An associate member is someone who is a member of another church, but wishes to be more formally associated with our church as well.

Theologically, all other Christians throughout the world are, by definition, associate members of our congregation. However, formally becoming an associate member is a way of adding one's name to the list of those who wish to see themselves as directly supporting the life and work of First Church.

Anyone interested in becoming an Associate Member should call Pastor McClanahan at 713-529-3589. Associate membership is open to adults and children alike.

BOOKS OF SERMONS AVAILABLE

Three volumes of sermons by Pastor Edwin D. Peterman, STS, published under the title of Practically Preaching, are available for purchase from the church office. Each book contains a sermon for every Sunday and major festival in the church year.

The three volumes correspond to the three year cycle of readings for the church year, in which the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are predominant. Currently, the church is in the year of Luke, which began on November 29, 2009, the first Sunday in Advent.

The cost of each book is \$15. A set of all three books is \$40. If requested, the books can be autographed.

*Things are more like they are today
than they have ever been before.
-Anonymous*

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	<u>December 20</u>	<u>January 18</u>	<u>One year ago</u>
Child members	12	15	13
Confirmed members	149	153	145
Total members	161	168	158
Associate members	39	41	43

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CHANGES

(changes or additions underlined)

Members

GOOD, LOIS 713-660-4830
4141 South Braeswood, Apt. 418
Houston, Texas 77025-3357

MADRID, RICHARD & SARAH 713-861-2629
1116 Nicholson
Houston, Texas 77008
Linnea Elisabeth

McCLANAHAN, EVAN & AMANDA 217-621-7836
1311 Holman Avenue
Houston, Texas 77004
Adalyn Rose

PETERMAN, EDWIN & JANE 713-667-0046
2214 MacArthur Drive
Houston, Texas 77030-2012

SPECK, N. KIRK & (PAULA) 281-660-2692
327 West 16th Street
Houston, Texas 77008-3915

WALTON, MICHAEL & TRACY 281-395-7049
24619 Queensfield Court
Katy, Texas 77494
Emmeline Marie

Associate Members

SEGNER, ED & KATHY 713-669-1531
2704 Pemberton
Houston, Texas 77005

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Historic First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Founded in 1851, it played a vital role in the history of Lutheranism in Texas. Located at Holman and Caroline, across from Houston Community College, three blocks east of the 3400 block of South Main, it is convenient to the Ensemble/HCC stop of MetroRail.

Telephone 713-529-3589
Fax 713-529-0816

Dorothy Shaddock, Organist
Carroll Shaddock, Director of Worship and Music
Sabrina Smitherman, Secretary
Janice McLennan, Nursery Attendant

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The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan, STS, Pastor
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman, STS, Consulting Pastor