



Elias Communicator

Volume 13, No. 3

"All the News We Feel Like Printing"

June 2011

KENYA MISSION 2011

The ECC Mission to Kenya departs from Dulles Airport at 10:50 PM on Sunday, July 10. A special Sending of the Mission Team service at 9:00 AM will feature a special time of prayer and the naming of each of the twelve members of the Emmitsburg Council of Churches Kenya Mission Team: Elizabeth "Ibby" (Wilhide) Tanner, Jim and Jeanne Kuhn, Holly and Marie Hoffman, Bill and Clara Currie, Glenn Blanchard, Mark Walker, Michael Lokale, Viola Noffsinger, and Pastor Jon Greenstone. Please remember the mission team in your prayers for safety, accomplishing the mission goals and all logistics coming and going. May we do God's will according to Christ's command to "Go ye therefore and preach the Gospel unto all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We fly for some 13 hours to a city called Doha, located in Qatar – just off the east coast of Saudi Arabia. Once there we will have a hotel room for approximately 7 hours, and then catch our flight down to Nairobi, arriving there around 1:30 PM. Then at the airport in Nairobi, after collecting our almost one ton (!) of luggage, we board a DC-3 owned and operated by the Africa Inland Mission for a short flight to our mission site at Kitale, Kenya.

This is all very exciting and the Team is anxious to get going. All of the arrangements have been working out well in terms of the solar power project; it is already paid for now and the technicians are scheduled to arrive at the same time Team Kenya will be on site. So we will be involved with the installation and take lots of photos or movies of how the system is put together and then...when the switch gets turned on, what a great celebration that will be as Pathfinder Academy School has lighting and electric supplied by the sun!

We are already scheduled to conduct medical clinics in some very remote and poor areas, serving the poorest of the poor. One village where we will go is just a giant corn field where people live in rather primitive huts. We've been told that no doctors or clinics have ever been conducted there (where Joshua's mother lives).

The team is carrying Bibles and solar flashlights and school supplies for the children as well as many other medical and educational resources worth thousands of dollars. This would not have been possible if it were not for

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Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed

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Synod Assembly

“God’s Word. Our Hands. Caring for God’s Good Creation.”

Pastor Jon and Linda Littell represented Elias as voting members at this year’s Synod Assembly, held June 2-4 at The Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland. With almost 500 people attending, it was definitely a time to connect with old friends, and to meet new ones. We had absolutely wonderful presentations on stewardship from Mark Allen Powell, Keith Mundy, and Marty Stevens. We enjoyed powerful preaching and uplifting worship experiences ranging from a Jazz Vespers service to a youth-led service, and a more traditional service that included an ordination and the simply awesome choir from our Liberian congregation, People’s Community Lutheran Church, in Baltimore.

A special highlight was the official reception of two of our mission congregations who organized this spring: Joy Reigns, in Edgewater, Maryland, and Grace of God, in Millsboro, Delaware.

In business, the assembly struggled mightily with a significant reduction in resources that required painful cuts to beloved programs, but did so in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. It did preserve the 2009 plan to increase mission support to the ELCA from 53 to 53.5% next year, and also approved a significant shift to better support and resource congregations through deployed assistants to the bishop and increased funds for new/renewing congregational development. Funds to the social ministries, however, were cut from the budget.

The following Resolutions were passed by the assembly: A Resolution on Energy Stewardship, A Resolution for Disability Awareness, A Resolution to promote and/or add an African Descent Strategy to the DE-MD Synod, and a Resolution regarding Consecrations, Commissionings, and Ordinations.

Money and awareness were raised for ELCA World Hunger through the collection of hundreds and hundreds of canned goods from assembly goers and cheering on two bicyclists who rode a combined 250 miles to the assembly. Elias donated 30 food items to this effort (and a grateful thank you to all who contributed!)

With the theme of the assembly as stewardship, we were reminded of God’s Divine Economy – everything we have comes from God, and everything we have belongs to God. We are simply here as stewards of God’s creation, instructed to care for it as if it were our own. And “it” is pretty expansive – we are expected to care for ourselves, for others, for our churches and for all of creation. And, to us, this is all good news!! In exchange, God gives us all that we need to live. We are encouraged to “fall in love with God” and to give out of sheer delight! Several congregations throughout the Synod gave brief presentations on how they are effectively being good stewards in their churches, and in their communities.

The 2012 Synod Assembly will be May 31 – June 2, back in Ocean City, with the theme of Evangelism.

Church Leadership

Pastor:

Rev. Jon Greenstone
(301-447-6239)

Officers:

Linda Littell – president
Nita Shank – secretary

Staff:

Cheryl Carney – choir director
Cheryl Crum – custodian
Meg Garnett - organist
Bonnie Hahn - treasurer
Bob Hampson – sexton
Polly Kittinger – administrative secretary

Council:

Roger Adams, Jr.
Allie Brotherton
Harry Hahn, Jr.
Eric Himes
Polly Kittinger
Linda Littell
Frank Schmearsal
Nita Shank
Linda Shriver
Sam Valentine
Pat Zimmerman

Committees:

Audit
Communications & Archives
Evangelism
Finance
Memorials
Mutual Ministry
Nominating
Parish Education & Youth Property
Special Events
Stewardship
Worship & Music

From the PASTOR

Welcome to our Summer Edition of the Elias Communicator, and thanks to everyone whose efforts and inspiration make our Church a place of caring, teaching, and encouragement as we seek to live our lives – called by Jesus Christ who is the Author and Perfector of our faith.

Perhaps there is no better time than summer time to turn our thoughts to thinking about “maturation” and “perfection” of our faith. Because summer time gets us involved with planting, growing and harvest of summer produce, we can learn to develop our spiritual life and trust that the time of ripening will come as a natural course of events pass in and through our lives. Certainly summer’s bounty of the first ripe tomato off the vine or a tree-ripened peach cannot be surpassed when one is considering maturation to the point of perfection! Consider with me for a few moments how Christ, by the Holy Spirit is authoring, giving rise to, and perfecting our faith.



First of all, we must recognize that God was at work, “In the beginning,” to bring us into being. This can include our physical being, our soul and/or our spirit being. From birth, we are a work in progress. One might say, there is a type of law at work in us that enables us to grow and mature in mind, body and spirit. This is a kind of innate happening – we are programmed from birth to *eat to live* and our minds develop as a matter of course as we respond to stimuli and outside forces or influences around us. But in the larger picture, we don’t do anything in and of ourselves, but it is God who will see us through this life to perfection. Bear in mind, with the thoughts of God’s over-arching sovereignty over all things, we can move from ideas generated by our scientific mind to thoughts or ideas that stem from our spiritual mind.

“God is going to make my life perfect in the end, not by what I do or do not do, but because God is holy, I will become holy.”

Both of these realms of human thought can co-exist for the Christian without any threat to our faith in God or the truths contained in the Holy Bible. What I mean here is that, as persons of faith, we can think in both realms, human wisdom and godly or Biblical revelation, because we know that our God is bigger than any idea or concept we can even imagine. By the way, a very helpful Lutheran idea is to remember that, because “God Is” and, it is what God does “alone,” as Creator of all things... this is what enables us to grow in any area of our life or what gives us our ability to reason.

Secondly, we also bear in mind that it is by “Christ alone” who along with the person of the Holy Spirit, is at work in us to perfect us in the sight of the Father... have I lost you yet? Let us agree at this point, that this is no “small” nor “insignificant” idea, but to view our lives as a work in progress

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Head Deacons

July: Frank Schmearsal
Linda Shriver

Aug.: Harry Hahn, Jr.
Pat Zimmerman

Altar Committees

July: various

Aug.: Bob Hampson
Nita Shank

Acolytes

July 3: Arielle Mumm
Gretal Shank

July 10: Eric Himes
Taylor Wiles

July 17: Eric Himes
Gretal Shank

July 24: Arielle Mumm
Taylor Wiles

July 31: Bob Hampson
Bryant Hoffman

Aug. 7: Eric Himes
Arielle Mumm

Aug. 14: Gretal Shanks
Taylor Wiles

Aug. 21: Bob Hampson
Bryant Hoffman

Aug. 28: Arielle Mumm
Taylor Wiles

Sept. 4: Eric Himes
Gretal Shank



**Servants of
Christ**

Council Corner

In October 2010, clergy and leadership members from Elias, St John Lutheran in Fairfield, and St John's Lutheran in Thurmont began meeting in a grass roots effort to begin a discussion of the challenges facing our churches, and how we could work together effectively, and cooperatively, to make opportunities out of those challenges. We call ourselves the Catoctin Mission Cooperative.

In June, we developed an online survey for the council members of the three churches. Five questions were asked:

- What are the current challenges we face that limit our ability to do what God is calling us to do?
- What would be the experience of the first time visitor at a Sunday service at our church?
- Looking forward 10 years, what would we like our church to be like – imagining that our greatest desires for the church have been fulfilled.
- What gifts do our church members have now that could help make that dream a reality?
- How might our congregation be of service to our neighbors?

These are some tough questions to answer!! Over the next several months, our Congregational Council will be evaluating the results of the survey, and engaging in further discussions surrounding these topics. On September 17, we plan to have a joint council retreat for all three churches to carry on the discussion, and continuing discerning where God might be calling us to go. These are exciting times!!

Linda Littell



Elias Men's Outing

A 70+-year tradition of Elias men gathering for Good Food, Socializing and a friendly game of horse shoes continues on August 25, beginning about 5:00 PM. All men of the church are invited! Bring your sons, grandsons and a neighbor or two.

Also, men, please consider if God is calling you to be a leader of our Elias Men. We ought to plan to get together more than once per year and to have a short devotional time included in such meetings, whether for breakfast or a dinner gathering at Mountain Gate or elsewhere. If you feel God calling you to be a leader in this...please speak with Pastor Jon. In the meantime, uphold one another in prayers, consider what we can do for Christ with our skills, connections and caring, and God shall raise us up and grow our faith and raise up the church.



Deadline for the next issue of the **Elias Communicator** is August 7

Welcomers

July 3: Dolly & Charles Long
July 10: Pam Kemenyas
July 17: Erma & Neil Bechtol
July 24: Linda & Steve Wantz
July 31: Julia & Sandy Hartle
Aug. 7: Joan & Phil Jeffcoat
Aug. 14: Deirdra & Eric Hims
Aug. 21: Carrie & Bill Boyd
Aug. 28: Marta Hillis
Sept. 4: Nita Shank

Assisting Ministers

July 3: Linda Littell
July 10: Frank Schmearsal
July 17: Bonnie Hahn
July 24: Frank Schmearsal
July 31: Linda Littell
Aug. 7: Bonnie Hahn
Aug. 14: Frank Schmearsal
Aug. 21: Linda Littell
Aug. 28: Bonnie Hahn
Sept. 4: Frank Schmearsal

A Moment with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

A beginning of the Preface of Luther's Large Catechism

(The reader is strongly encouraged to read this aloud, as you will experience the "true Luther," much to your surprise, delight or shock (?) at his use of "colorful language." One just has to marvel at his brevity of words!)

"It is not for trivial reasons that we constantly treat the Catechism and strongly urge others to do the same. For we see to our sorrow that many pastors and preachers¹ are very negligent in this respect and despise both their office and this teaching itself. Some because of their great and lofty learning, others because of sheer laziness and gluttony, behave in this matter as if they were pastors or preachers for their bellies' sake and had nothing to do but live off the fat of the land all their days, as they used to do under the papacy. Everything that they are to teach and preach is now available to them in clear and simple form in the many excellent books which are in reality what the old manuals claimed in their titles to be: 'Sermons That Preach Themselves,' 'Sleep Soundly,' 'Prepared!' and 'Treasury.' However, they are not so upright and honest as to buy these books, or if they have them, to examine and read them. Such shameful gluttons and servants of their bellies would make better swineherds or dogkeepers than spiritual guides or pastors.



Now that they are free from the useless, bothersome babbling of the Seven Hours,² it would be fine if every morning, noon, and evening they would read, instead, at least a page or two from the Catechism, the Prayer Book,³ the New Testament, or something else from the Bible and would pray the Lord's Prayer for themselves and their parishioners. In this way they might show honor and gratitude to the Gospel, through which they have been delivered from so many burdens and troubles, and they might feel a little shame because, like pigs and dogs, they remember no more of the Gospel than this rotten, pernicious, shameful, carnal liberty. As it is, the common people take the Gospel altogether too lightly, and even our utmost exertions accomplish but little. What, then, can we expect if we are sluggish and lazy, as we used to be under the papacy?³

Besides, a shameful and insidious plague of security and boredom has overtaken us. Many regard the Catechism as a simple, silly teaching which they can absorb and master at one reading. After reading it once they toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again. Indeed, even

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¹ Preachers (*Prediger*) were limited to preaching; pastors (*Pfarrherren*) exercised the full ministerial office.

² The seven canonical hours, daily prayers prescribed by the medieval Breviary.

³ Luther published the "Little Prayer Book" (*Betbüchlein*) in 1522 to replace Roman Catholic devotional books.

Here 'n' There

Wednesday 9:30 AM services will continue while Pastor Jon is away on Mission – with the Rev. Christopher Frye from St John's Fairfield presiding ... the group gathers for coffee and fellowship afterward; it's always a nice time.

On Sunday, July 17, our guest Pastor will be the **Rev. Jerry Strek**, who resides at Lake Meade, up near East Berlin, PA.

On Sunday, July 24, a Service of the Word will be led by our Elias Council President, **Linda Littell**, who will preach and preside.

Elias gave \$175 toward the **ELCA Domestic Disaster Fund**, that will aid and assist persons who have suffered from Tornados here in the U.S.A.

The **Emmitsburg Council of Churches** meets at 7:00 PM on July 12 at Incarnation UCC.

The Emmitsburg Food Bank has **Food Drops** scheduled on Wednesday, July 13 and August 17. These are opportunities for anyone to get free food as needed – just “drop in” from 4-8 PM. Also, volunteers are needed to help with this activity-you may just drop in to help too.

Catoctin Lutheran Cooperative

Council members and pastors of St. John's Fairfield, St John's Thurmont, and Elias have been meeting as the Catoctin Lutheran Cooperative. There have been interesting discussions, and the group is working on a survey for our churches, possibly to include other neighboring parishes of similar size and geographical/demographical makeup.

The Spirit is leading this new group toward renewal of our common and unique mission in the region and to look for areas of ministry and mission where we can work together or compliment one another.



✚HE BASEMEN✚

✚HE BASEMEN✚, Elias' Coffee House Ministry for July 8 features the Catoctin Promise Band, Rick Hill, and the Silver Lining Band. The festivities begin at 7:00 PM.

There will be no Coffee House Ministry in August. We'll see you on September 9 for another season of ✚HE BASEMEN✚, Where Christ is our Foundation and You Will be Lifted Up in the Spirit!



A Moment with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther (continued)

among the nobility there are some louts and skinflints who declare that we can do without pastors and preachers from now on because they have everything in books and can learn it all by ourselves. So they blithely let parishes fall into decay, and brazenly allow both pastors and preachers to suffer distress and hunger. This is what one can expect of crazy Germans. We Germans have such disgraceful people among us and must put up with them.

Seems to me that Dr. Luther has stated his case. We must never cease in being diligent to hear and learn the Gospel and the tenets of our faith. He offers the Catechisms, large and small to assist us in knowing the fundamentals of the faith. Thank you Rev. Dr. Luther for “encouraging us to not become complacent. P.J.

Deadline for the next issue of the **Elias Communicator** is August 7

Here 'n' There

Congratulations to the Catotctic High School softball team and their coach, **Jessica Valentine**, on winning the Class 1-A state championship.

Health Ministry

The Importance of Water

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God.” Psalm 42:1 NLT

How much water did you drink today? Yesterday? When the heat index gets above 100 degrees, you should increase the amount of water you are drinking. Normally you should drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water every day. A survey by Rockefeller University discovered that about a third of those who responded drank the recommended amount and nearly 10% drank none at all. This is cause for concern because water is essential to your good health. Your body is made up of 96% water and to keep all systems functioning optimally, it is important to maintain that percentage. For example, drinking water prevents symptoms such as fatigue, dry skin, headaches and constipation. Severe dehydration can affect blood pressure, circulation, digestion, kidney function and even your joints.



In hot weather, you can lose fluids at a rate of a quart or more per hour so drinking water is important to replace what is lost through perspiration, urination, breathing, and other body processes. If you must be in the heat, drinking water will prevent cramping, nausea, and heat exhaustion. If you exercise, drink a glass of water about 20 minutes before the activity and at least a half a glass every 15-20 minutes during the activity. Since many fruits are 80-95% water, they are another source of fluid replacement.

There are many designer waters on the market but are they worth the money? Some are fruit-flavored and packed with sugar which you don't need in your diet. Some claim to have vitamins or electrolyte supplements but most are negligible. If concerned about getting the proper vitamins and supplements, you would be better off eating fruits and vegetables. Bottled water has its place if the local water tastes bad or if you are uncertain of its quality but it's best to save your money and stick to natural water and a healthy diet.

Dehydration is often signaled first by hunger or fatigue rather than by thirst, so don't wait to take your fill. In the same way, don't forget to thirst after God. The verse above shows that our physical need is equal to our spiritual need. God satisfies our physical thirst with water and our spiritual thirst with His Word.

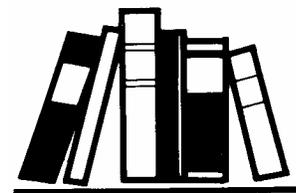
(Source: www.mayoclinic.com Used with permission from “Seasons of Wholeness, Volume VI” from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, 2009.)

Library Shelf

Reading at Your Fingertips

We have discussed opportunities for finding inspirational readings – in this library and others. In this extremely warm weather, you may ask what’s available without going out to a library, church, or otherwise.

What is even closer and more convenient than the library? Have you considered picking up the pocket-sized publication from Augsburg Fortress entitled **The Word in Season**? This booklet of daily devotions waits on the church’s back window sills. Each reading covers one page for each day, with theme reference by chapter, verses, and a key verse. At the bottom of the page is a prayer one sentence in length, and additional biblical passages are listed. (Issues begin in January, April, July, and October.) The booklet ends with prayers for morning, evening, and each day of the weeks



Until a few years ago I thought **Christ in Our Home** was just a large-print edition of **The Word in Season** with the same contents. Not so; this Augsburg Fortress 8½” x 11” quarterly has more than large print. Although it has the same format as **The Word in Season**, there are different messages for each day’s devotion on different biblical references.

A second compact booklet, **Our Daily Bread**, contains readings of a few paragraphs for each day. Each reading concludes with a prayer or verse and a statement of the theme. There are suggested readings to cover “The Bible in One Year” and exact biblical references for the particular day. Although issues begin in different months, **Our Daily Bread** is also published quarterly. The booklet concludes with writers’ biographies and a topical index.

All of these booklets have ordering information, if you prefer to have issues mailed to you. If by chance you are not familiar with these publications, you may want to consider using these convenient devotions and sharing with family members. Usage of their contents may become a good family tradition.

- Linda Knox



KENYA MISSION 2011 (continued)

connections and the many churches (not less than 5 Lutheran 3-4 Catholic, 3 Methodist, our neighbors at Incarnation and Presbyterian and students at The Mount) who all have worked together, exercising amazing generosity to make this possible. I’m here to say that this is nothing short of miraculous!

Thanks be to God, and please pray for our safety and success. We return on July 27. God bless!

PJ and Team Kenya 2011

W/ELCA

The Women of the ELCA held their annual dinner in June at the Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont

There will be no meetings during July and August. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 PM. Please note the time change for the meeting.



From the Pastor (*continued*)

involving our faith in Jesus Christ or that the Holy Spirit is at work in and through the circumstances of life – not all of which are predictable nor pleasant...this requires a far reaching and all inclusive concept of God and Faith.

We might summarize with the thought: **“God is going to make my life perfect in the end, not by what I do or do not do, but because God is holy, I will become holy.”** As Lutheran Christians, we constantly remind ourselves, that it is not our works that justify us before Almighty God, but that we rely on Christ and depend completely on his love, mercy and grace – this is what was given us at the Cross of Calvary. This is where we place our hope and trust for salvation – and that “we” or “our lives” may be looked upon, by our Heavenly Father, “as though we had no sin.”

A good verse to bear in mind and to place ourselves in comes from Hebrews 12:3 where it is written: “Consider Christ, who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.” This verse tells us that Jesus Christ our Lord underwent the punishment that we ourselves had deserved, because of our imperfections, and therefore, that we need not worry nor strive for what we cannot achieve by our own fleshly accomplishments or growth in righteousness, but instead, we rely, believe and trust fully in Christ – who already has secured our salvation, and who will not abandon us in the mean time of our lives.

Another idea for the Christian to remember is that we are going somewhere with our faith. We are not to be stagnant witnesses of the resurrection, but we are to be maturing and ripening. We are to be actively growing, or like runners in a race, not spectators merely watching on the sidelines. Paul reminds us of this when he says: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and *let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...*” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Take heart dear friends, yes, we’re in the race, but don’t sweat the outcome, because Christ has already made it to the finish line and has won the race for us. But persevere, keep moving ahead and help others to do the same. Herein we shall become as ripe fruit, a fragrant, sweet offering unto the Lord. May your life shine brightly in the darkness. Amen.

Pastor Jon

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Elias has been blessed as a recipient of “choice dollars” from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans outreach charitable funds. The “choice dollars” are deposited into our account monthly. Each month will vary in amount.

There are two ways the “choice dollars” are designated to Elias, the Thrivent members’ choice organization. One way the amount of “choice dollars” is determined is monthly by the premium payments a member makes in the prior month. A second way is the “choice dollars” are designated on a quarterly basis. One fourth of the total amount of “choice dollars” that is determined by the contract value at the end of the quarter. Those deposits will be made in April, July, October and January. Therefore we will see greater deposits made four times a year. As of the end of May we have received \$3350.00.

I would like to stress the importance of our Thrivent members to be sure to set up a recurring direction for your “choice dollars”, which will automatically direct your designated “choice dollars” to the same organization, Elias.

On behalf of Elias, I want to thank our Thrivent members for choosing Elias as their choice organization!!

Bonnie Hahn
Treasurer

Bluegrass Service

On Sunday, July 3, Elias will celebrate God’s faithfulness with a Bluegrass Worship Service, featuring the Home Comfort Band. As we have established a new tradition at Elias of hosting local bluegrass players near the times of Independence Day and Veterans Day – get ready for another “down-home” worship service at Elias!

Please make a special point to be in worship and invite a friend or a guest to enjoy the pickin’, fiddlin’, strummin’, and singing! It is summer, so don’t worry about what you don’t have to wear, but come as you and bring a friend to worship the Lord. Catch the Grace!

Just for Fun . . .

A man in Topeka , Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco, and started working east from there. Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and making notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign, which read "Calls: \$10,000 a minute.." Seeking out the pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to heaven and if he pays the price he can talk directly to GOD.

The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, and many cities and towns all around the United States, he found more phones, with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrived in North Carolina. Upon entering a church in the beautiful coastal plains region of North Carolina, behold - he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read "Calls: 35 cents." Fascinated, he asked to talk to the pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to GOD, but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads only 35 cents a call. Why?" The pastor, smiling broadly, replied, "Son, you're in North Carolina now . . . Y'all are in God's Country. It's a local call!"

* * * * *

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally fed up, God said, 'THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job.'

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known to man. Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan, well, let's just say Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming: "It's gone! It's all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait!" he screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?"

God just shrugged and said, "JESUS SAVES...."

Elias Communicator
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Coming Events at and around Elias:

Bluegrass Service, July 3, 9:00 AM

†HE BASEMENT† Coffee House, July 8, 7:00 PM

Sending Service for Kenya Mission, July 10, 9:00 AM

Emmitsburg Council of Churches, July 12, 7:00 PM

Food Drop, July 13, 4-8 PM

Pastor Jerry Strek preaches, July 17, 9:00 AM

Linda Littell preaches, July 24, 9:00 AM

Linda Littell preaches, July 24, 9:00 AM

Food Drop, August 17, 4-8 PM

Men's Outing, August 25, 5:00 PM

July 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Head Deacons:</i> Frank Schmursal Linda Shriver <i>Altar Committee:</i> (various)					1	2
3 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Audrey Baumgardner 10:15AM Sunday School	4 Independence Day	5 Cong. Council 7:00PM	6 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	7	8 ☩ THE BASEMENT ☩ 7:00PM AA 8:00PM	9 AA 8:00PM
10 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Cheryl Carney 10:15AM Sunday School	11	12 Council of Churches, 7:00PM	13 Holy Communion 9:30AM Food Drop, 4-8 PM AA 8:00PM	14	15 AA 8:00PM	16 AA 8:00PM
17 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Deb Zimmerman 10:15AM Sunday School	18	19	20 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	21 Bible Study, 10:30AM	22 AA 8:00PM	23 AA 8:00PM
24 9:00AM Service of the Word Lector: Myra Derbyshire 10:15AM Sunday School	25	26	27 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	28	29 AA 8:00PM	30 AA 8:00PM
31 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Frank Schmursal 10:15AM Sunday School						

August 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Head Deacons:</i> Harry Hahn, Jr. Pat Zimmerman <i>Altar Committee:</i> Bob Hampson Nita Shank	1	2 Cong. Council 7:00PM	3 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	4	5 AA 8:00PM	6 AA 8:00PM
7 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Sharon Adams 10:15AM Sunday School	8	9	10 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	11 Bible Study, 10:30AM	12 AA 8:00PM	13 AA 8:00PM
14 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Linda Knox 10:15AM Sunday School	15	16	17 Holy Communion 9:30AM Food Drop, 4-8 PM AA 8:00PM	18	19 AA 8:00PM	20 AA 8:00PM
21 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Betty Valentine 10:15AM Sunday School	22	23	24 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM	25 Men's Outing 5:00PM	26 AA 8:00PM	27 AA 8:00PM
28 9:00AM Holy Communion Lector: Bonnie Hahn 10:15AM Sunday School	29	30	31 Holy Communion 9:30AM AA 8:00PM			