

# Open Arms CCDC February Newsletter



**T**he month of February is often associated with love. The barrage of hearts peppered throughout stores, the hallways of schools, and Valentine's Day cards quietly ring out an ode to the most essential emotion to human beings: love. In 1 John 4:8 it states, "God is Love." The measure of His love for us was demonstrated when He sent His beloved Son, Jesus, into a sin filled world to die on the cross, so we may have eternal life. There is nothing in this world that can compare to God's love. Because God loves us, we in turn reciprocate by showing compassion, affection, charity, and devotion to others, so that they see God's love through us. When we tell the children about God's love for us, we are sowing seeds that will grow and take root in their hearts.

## Food for the Spirit

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

## Church News

### Come Worship with Us!

You are cordially invited to worship at Our Savior Lutheran Church. We have three worship services on Sunday: **8:15 am**, **9:30 am** and **11:00 am** with our children's education program—Kingdom Quest—for children age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade from **9:30 am-10:45 am**.

### A Word from Pastor Peter

#### *The Application of Ashes*

Dear Parents of our loveable and lovely children, February is a month that brings all sorts of fun with Valentine's Day and often the blizzard that shuts us down for a week or so (now that I have written it, the umbrella principle means that we'll get ABSOLUTELY NO SNOW!). But it also begins a season of reflection on our tremendous need for Jesus Christ to be a part of our lives. The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. It is a forty day period of time as we prepare for our Easter Resurrection Day Celebration. Lent is an Old English word that draws upon the "lengthening" of days at this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere, with the new life of Easter being revealed around us with budding flowers and trees.

As we begin this season, we do so on what we and many other Christians call "Ash Wednesday." This title draws on the imagery of creation, where God created man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. After creation, when Adam and Eve sinned against God by disobeying His command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God's response was a curse on them and the ground: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words spell out what we know well in our mortal bodies, namely, that we will die.

Into the words of that curse steps the Savior of the world, who would willingly give up his life for us. Jesus, the sinless One, became sin for us. The author of life endured death in our place so that the ashes we place on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday speak of Christ's death as they point us to the cross. Just as Christ rose from the dead on the third day, we know that death has no dominion over us, but we are already alive in the power of Christ's resurrection right here and now.

It is a tradition of the Lutheran Church to observe Ash Wednesday by placing ashes on foreheads of those who desire them. During Wednesday chapel (4's and aftercare) on Feb 22nd we will be teaching the children about the meaning of the day and we will be imposing ashes on the children's foreheads.

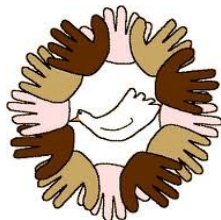
**If you DO NOT want your child to receive them** please let teacher know with a note. If you do not notify us, your children will receive ashes on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions about this practice please do not hesitate to talk to the Director, Miss Rachel Clark, Mrs. Tina McGuffey, Pastor Michael, or me. I can be reached at 301-776-7670 during the day or email, [pastordemik@oslclaurel.org](mailto:pastordemik@oslclaurel.org).

May God richly bless our February, as we celebrate His grace, live under Him, and serve Him with joy. Yours in God's Open Arms,

Pastor Peter

### Strengthening Skills taught in the Classroom at Home

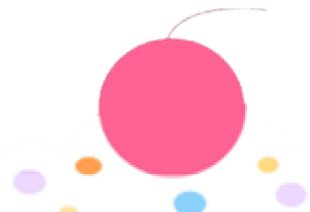
It is imperative to review the skills that are taught in the classroom at home. Your child's teachers should keep you abreast of what they are covering each week. It is also important to foster opportunities that encourage independence with children starting as young as 18 months.



This heart is a Kente Cloth Adinkra symbol meaning, *By God's grace, all will be well.*

### Cultural Diversity Day

In Psalm 139:14 (New Living Translation Version), it reads, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous - how well I know it." God's workmanship is indeed an artful tapestry of unique people of various hues with different cultures, customs, and traditions all woven together to make the human



Oh, bring us your cupcakes, your huddled masses of chocolate chip cookies, and confectionery creations! Your decadent desserts and healthier alternatives will be greatly appreciated at our **Open Arms Bake Sale. If you would like to donate a baked item please do so by 3:00 on Wed. Feb. 8. We accept monetary donations as well.**

**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012**

**3:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

**\* Proceeds will go toward the purchase of equipment for the playground and multipurpose room.**

\*Please indicate whether your food item contains: dairy, eggs, soy, wheat, or nuts on an index card.

### Progress Reports

Progress reports for the rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 will be issued on February 10, 2012. Parents are welcome to schedule a conference with your child's teacher on the following dates: Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, or 29<sup>th</sup>.

race. This month the teachers will discuss different cultures with their class. On Friday, February 24, the classes will do special art activities, listen to music, enjoy food from the culture they have been discussing and also give a short presentation about something they have learned.

### Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser

We would like to thank you for your support on our last fundraiser in November. We raised over \$500 dollars to use toward our purchase of new equipment for the playground/multipurpose room and materials for the classrooms (instruments, manipulative toys for fine motor development, musical instruments, etc...) in April. This fundraiser will begin February 15 and end on March 6. The target day for delivery will be Thursday, March 29, 2012. The top 3 sellers will receive gift cards.

### Media Outlets for School Closings or Delayed Openings Due to Inclement Weather

Please be advised that when weather conditions are unfavorable, we will do all we can to open on time and stay open. However, when inclement weather has produced hazardous road conditions, we will delay opening, close early, or close for the day. You will have access to the following media outlets or mediums to obtain information:

\*WTOP Radio (1500 AM or 107.7) and website – Open Arms will not be listed

under Public Schools, it will be listed under other.

\*Twitter (follow [openarmslaurel](#))

\*Open Arms website

**[openarms@oslclaurel.org](mailto:openarms@oslclaurel.org)**

\*Open Arms answering machine

\* Via Email

\*Channel 7 or 8 news broadcast

(channel depends on cable provider)

### Friendly Reminders

- Your child should be checked in/out at the front desk and in the classroom.
- Every child should be escorted to his or her classroom.
- **Tuition should be paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**
- If any of your contact information has changed, please update your emergency card at the front desk.

### Celebrating Black History Month



Black History Month was begun as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Woodson's goal was to educate the American people about African-American history, cultural backgrounds and reputable achievements.

Listed below are just a few Black History Facts:

- Scientist and mathematician Benjamin Banneker is credited with helping to design the blueprints for Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Charles Drew was a leading researcher in the field of blood plasma preservation, and led a massive blood donation drive to provide the British with much-needed blood supplies during World War II.
- Jefferson Franklin Long becomes first Black person to speak in the House of Representatives as a congressman in 1871.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

- Little did Rosa Parks know that one gesture would help spark the civil rights movement of the last century. In 1955, while riding a bus in Alabama, the driver told Parks to give up her seat to a white man. She refused, went to jail, and eventually won a case against the state, changing segregation laws forever.
- This civil-rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner organized large anti-violence demonstrations against discrimination including a march on Washington where he delivered his now-famous speech “I have a dream.” He was later assassinated.
- President Barack Obama won the 2008 Presidential Election and was sworn 44th President of the United States and the first African American President in our history!

## Surveys

Thank you so much for the feedback that we received from the surveys. Please feel free to share information about what we can better serve your childcare needs.

