



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

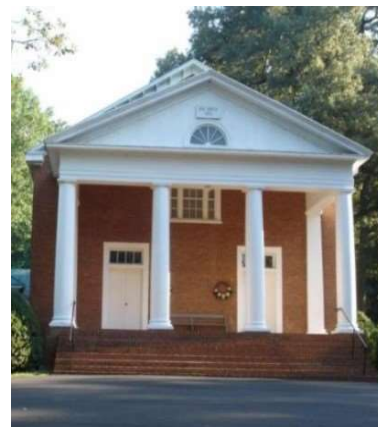
5916 Kentucky Springs Road

Mineral, VA 23117

540-967-8032

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

March 2024



The Greatest Day

The Resurrection of Jesus from the Grave is the greatest day in history. Jesus' victory over sin and death confirmed that He is indeed the Son of God whose forgiveness of sin provides eternal life. It is not a mere theory or a metaphor of hope. Jesus is the true and living Son of God and the faith confession of Jesus as the Resurrected Son of God provides salvation for all who believe. It is the truth, and it changes a person's eternity. Jesus' resurrection guarantees that believers will one day also be resurrected from the dead.

In the American culture, we celebrate Resurrection Day as Easter. Many enjoy it as a holiday without fully understanding what took place on that day. For the church, it is a Holy Day in which to give praise and glory to God! Jesus' birth without the resurrection would simply make him another man in history. The cross without the resurrection is simply an act of loving sacrifice, like many others.

The resurrection confirms that the babe of Bethlehem announced by angels and witnessed by shepherds is God's Son, the Savior who came to take away the sin of the world. The resurrection confirms that Jesus' death on the cross was an atoning sacrifice for our sin. When he said, "It is Finished," we can believe that Jesus did all that is necessary to provide, by grace, everlasting life to those who believe.



Join the Elk Creek congregation in our celebrations. Good Friday we remember the Cross and Jesus' seven declarations. Early Easter Sunday our lakeside Sunrise Service will start our day of celebration. A joint worship at 11:00 will unite us in hearing afresh the good news that we serve the living Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Gray

March Sermons - The Way of the Cross

03 Taking up Your Cross Daily	Luke 9:23
10 The Cleansing of the Cross	Colossians 2:14-15
17 The Power of the Cross	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
24 The Unity of the Cross	Ephesians 2:16
29 (Good Friday) Christ's Words on the Cross	John 19:30
31 (Sunrise) On the Third Day after the Cross	Luke 24:1-12
31 (11:00) The Victory beyond the Cross	1 Corinthians 15:50-58



30 Days of Praying through your Neighborhood

There is something deep and transformational that happens when you walk through your neighborhood and pray for the residents. It is a start toward "Loving your neighbor as yourself." Think of the changes that can happen if every Elk Creek congregant practiced getting to know and love their next-door neighbors. That is what Jesus told us to do in the Great Commandment. His plan is so simple that it is genius.

Pick up a copy of the 30 Day prayer guide at church or print out your own copy at navlink.org/neighborhood.

Goshen Missions Luncheon

Saturday, March 9 beginning at 11 a.m.

In the Family Life Center at Mineral Baptist Church

Cost: \$7 each Reservations required.

Deadline for reservations is February 29 at 1 p.m. Call 540.894.8440.

Come enjoy a meal, fellowship, and hear about Goshen Missions locally and abroad.

No matter your age or ability...

there is a way for you to be involved in Missions!

We can accomplish so much more for Christ when we work together!



Comings and Goings –



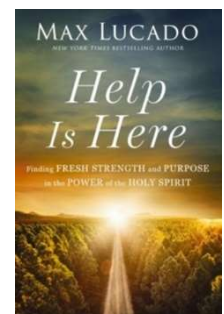
The **Caring Community and Card Ministry Team** meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:45 pm at the church. Come send a greeting to brighten someone's day and pray with us on Tuesday, March 5th.

Questions? Call Alana Frazier, 703-282-2393.

MEN!! Don't forget the **Bi-monthly Men's Breakfast** coming up on Tuesday, March 12th, 8:00 am at the church.

Wednesday Book Study began a new book the end of January. *Help Is Here*, a study on the Holy Spirit by Max Lucado, and is available on Amazon and Christian Bookstore. The study meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

For further details, contact Tony Wilson 540-748-1159,
wilsontony540@gmail.com.



The **Valentine's Day dinner** on February 10th included a meal catered by Vito's followed by a sing-along with the Elk Creek Band and and games emceed by Pastor Mike and Cathy Gray.



The monthly **Women's GRACE Fellowship** met for a Valentine-themed brunch on February 22nd at the home of Jean Brannon. Jean shared a devotional about fasting by giving up negative things and focusing on positive things. (You can read it for yourself below.) The next gathering will be lunch on Saturday, March 23rd at noon following the Spring Clean-up at the church. Stay tuned for more details.



Do you want to fast this Lent? This is what Pope Francis says:

Published on February 17, 2021

"What are you giving up for Lent?" It's a question a lot of people will get these next few days. If you want to change your body, perhaps alcohol, sweets and cigarettes is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. This narrow road is gritty, but it isn't sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free. So, if we're going to fast from anything this Lent, Pope Francis suggests that even more than sweets or alcohol, we fast from indifference towards others.

In his annual Lenten message, the Pope said: "Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience." These are the words of the Pope:

Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words, Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude, Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience, Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope, Fast from worries ... and have trust in God, Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity, Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful, Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy, Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others, Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled, Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen!



Game Night is Moving to a New Day and Time. The Bunco group met on February 21st and enjoyed a hilarious evening that ended with the question of whether a certain chair was lucky for whoever occupied it. Game night is moving to the third Monday; come join us on March 18th at 6:30 pm at the church.



The **Woodchuckers** have been busy splitting and delivering wood this past month. They have delivered 15 cords of wood delivered so far this winter. If you know of someone with downed trees or wood to donate, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743.



Volunteer Opportunities

- **Church Cleaning Teams.** We are in need of volunteers to help with the cleaning of our church. Contact Linda Bridges, lindasbridges@gmail.com, for more information.
- **Food providers for Sunday morning fellowship** after the 8:30 service. Sign up in kitchen, or call Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500, or Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954, for more information.
- **Wednesday Book Study Snack and Study Leader(s)** to facilitate discussion of the current book on specific Wednesdays. Contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, wilsontony540@gmail.com, for more details.
- **The ECBC Woodchuckers** who provide firewood to families in need can always use an extra pair of hands. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like to get involved, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743.
- **RuraLove Ministry**, an outreach of Goshen Association, welcomes volunteers. Contact the Ministry Center for more information, 540-894-8440. (Or Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500)
- **Young Life of Louisa can always use your help.** Contact Susan and Dane Swenson, 703-863-9972, susanswenson466@gmail.com.
- **LouisaClean** – Contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, Jody@Jodyshomes.com, to be notified when a road cleanup is scheduled. Remember to bring gloves, wear long pants, and boots, if available. Grabbers, security vests, and hats will be given out while supply lasts. Group photos are requested to share with Keep Virginia Green.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and hinder them not...." Matthew 19:14



DATES TO REMEMBER

March

Mission Project: RuraLove

Sun 3 rd	Communion
Tue 5 th	Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 7 th	Deacon's Meeting, 7:00 pm at the church
Sun 10 th	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
Sat 23 rd	Spring Clean-Up 9:00 am (Rain Date: Mar 30 th)
Sat 23 rd	Women's GRACE Fellowship Luncheon, noon at the church
Tue 12 th	Bi-monthly Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Wed 13 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Mon 18 th	Bunco, 6:30 pm at the church
Wed 20 th	Deadline for newsletter articles and photos
Sun 24 th	Palm Sunday
Wed 27 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Fri 29 th	Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
Sun 31 st	Easter Sunday - Sunrise Svc, 7:00 am, Potluck Breakfast, 11:00 am Svc

April

Mission Project: Annie Armstrong NAMB Offering

TBD	Women's GRACE Fellowship
Tue 2 nd	Caring Community Prayer and Card Ministry, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 4 th	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Sun 7 th	Communion
Wed 10 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 11 th	Women's GRACE Fellowship Tea, Time & Location TBD
Mon 15 th	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Sat 20 th	Deadline for newsletter articles and photos
Wed 24 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES

March

Cherry Hill	3
Andrew Kimball	4
Brian Burghardt	5
Coral Losinski	6
Donna Duerson	8
Bob Klingenberg	10
Jo Canova	12
Stan Polonsky	12
Kelly Pitcher	14
Eileen Perks	15
Clorese & Joey Vaughan	16
Karen Andrews	19
Barbara McKenny	23
Mindy & Doug Ward	26

April

Paula Brewer	1
Larry Edmonds	4
Noah Kimball	6
Gary Harkins	8
Kathy Tyler	9
Barbara Moore	9
Lee & Norman Stahl	13
Abi Bell	19
Cherry & Sonny Hill	20
Lesia Norwood	22
Brenda & Earl Eck	22
Sharon Anderson	25
Sandra Wilson	30
Rita Jones	30



Prayers for missionaries and doctors doing God's work abroad and at home. Debra Brown, Betsy Hurst, Kelsie Cullen Martin, Doug McFarlane, Tommy McGuire, Pat Welty, Grace Grecco, Jerry Talley, Kim Ridley, Linda Lacy, Alvin Wood, Terry Graham, Joey Vaughan, Lee Stahl, Sherri Martin, Rudy DeZorzi, John Fugett, Brenda Parsons, Holly Bush, Mya Thompson, Sarah & Robb Zolla, Janelle & Stephen Beckwith, Alan Harris, Frida Kim, Teri Kulakowski, Shannon Muller, Butch Weaver, Donna Duerson, Karen Andrews, Gary Harkins



Oh, God, our Father! How precious to us is the privilege of having your name linger on our lips, giving us new assurance of the fact that we are in the circle of your love and care. May this confidence drive away all fear and anxiety, and help to keep out of this day all other enemies of our souls. In the moment of our temptation, may we realize your promise and presence. When burdens become heavy, may we find the strength necessary in you. In the face of all difficulty and every problem, may we be brave because of our faith. For whatever these hours bring, may your Grace be sufficient. Whatever we do, may we do it all to Your glory. We leave our prayer where all prayers belong – in the shadow of the Cross. Amen.

POTLUCK!! This casserole was a hit at the last Women's Fellowship. Note that preparation is a day ahead which can be very advantageous with guests in the house.

Tater Tot Breakfast Casserole

(Courtesy of Ree Drummond, The Pioneer Woman and Food Network)

Ingredients:

One 16-ounce bag frozen Tater Tot®
Butter, for the baking dish
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound spicy bulk breakfast sausage
1 medium onion, very finely diced
1 cup milk
1/2 cup half-and-half
1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/4 teaspoon cayenne
4 large eggs
1 red bell pepper, very finely diced
1 green bell pepper, very finely diced
2 cups grated Cheddar cheese
1 cup grated pepper jack cheese
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

- 1 Line up the tater tots in a buttered 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
- 2 Add the olive oil to a large skillet over medium heat.
- 3 Add the sausage and onion and cook, breaking the sausage up with a wooden spoon, until browned and cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly, then sprinkle it over the tater tots.
- 4 In a large bowl, mix the milk, half-and-half, seasoned salt, cayenne, eggs, bell peppers, half of both cheeses and some salt and pepper. Pour over the tots and sausage mixture, then top with the rest of the cheese. **Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.**
- 5 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
- 6 Bake, covered, for about 25 minutes. Remove the foil and continue to bake until the cheese is brown and bubbly and the casserole is cooked through, another 20 to 35 minutes. Cut into squares and serve

STAY TUNED (IN)....

- **If your contact information changes**, please remember to notify the church. Send changes to your address, phone number and/or email address to Mindy Ward, dm3ward@gmail.com, 301-335-8315, so we can update our directory.
- **If you cannot attend in person**, tune into the 11:00 am service (and 8:30 am when indoors) on Mixlr app. Download the app on your mobile phone or computer, select "Listen" and search for ECBC-5916.
- **Visit our website** – elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org – and like us on Facebook.
- **Need access to our secure online directory?** Email the webmaster, web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org, for access to the secure directory.
- **Are you getting the GBA newsletter each month?** If not, email Larry Edmonds, lynnandlarrye@aol.com. There's lots of information and opportunities to put your talents to work locally, around the country and the world.



Together in Christ,

Mindy and Doug Ward, Beth Larson, Alana and Wayne Frazier

elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com