



PASTOR'S POST

Advent 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

The word "Advent" means "coming". During this season we reflect upon Christ coming to us as the incarnate Son of God, His coming to us daily in Word and Sacrament, and His coming for us again one day (perhaps soon) when He returns.

As you prepare your homes for the Christmas season, may you be filled with inexpressible joy because of the many ways Jesus comes and delivers His hope and good news to you.

In January we will resume our Midweek LiFT program on Wednesday nights with weekly dinners, youth activities, and a Bible study for the adults. A number of years ago I presented a series on *Galatians* to a local mission organization and it was well received.

I will be delivering those messages again at LFC on Wednesday nights beginning January 11th. I hope you will make plans to attend.

May you enjoy the glad tidings of Our Lord's comfort and joy this Christmas season.

Pastor Pat



"The Best Christmas Present Ever"

The LFC Children's Christmas Program

will be presented on Sunday, December 18th during the Worship Service

Rehearsals will be on 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11 during Sunday LiFT (9:30am) AND Saturday, 12/17 at 10am.

PLEASE CALL *Caroline Bruggeman* at 567-277-1892 or *Karla Thurmer* at 239-691-1951 to confirm that your child will participate.

YOUTH TEAM COMMENTS

A lot of fun stuff has been happening with the youth of LFC this year! We started a high school girls' Bible study on Thursday evenings, then the boys felt left out so we now offer one for high school boys as well! The girls kicked off the study with Lies Young Women Believe and the Truth that Sets Them Free....it was interesting, challenging and fun. What was supposed to take a day often took weeks, but the discussion was good and we all learned a lot about the truth of our God, Satan, our world and ourselves.

We have recently started a 6 week study in Galatians and look forward to many great nights talking and learning! The boys are in the middle of a study in Philippians that I'm hearing often gets "derailed" by discussion about theology. It is fun and exciting to see our youth kids' passion for the truth and desire to have a grasp of Biblical theology!

We have continued having youth group every Wednesday night for grades 6-12. One exciting change has been the addition of Andrew Olsen to our Wednesday night festivities. Andrew has been hanging out, organizing and playing games, and teaching wildly interactive and informative "lessons" where the kids end up getting to act out scripture! It's been such a blessing having Andrew, and I know that Nick and I are learning just as much as the kids from Andrew's unique teaching style and contagious energy!

We look forward in February to taking 12 high school kids to the Liberate Conference in Fort Lauderdale where we plan on camping and having an awesome weekend! Many fundraisers are in the works so stay tuned and be ready to participate in everything these great kids will be doing this year!

Thank you for your prayers and support, and if you're even just a little bit interested in what the Youth Team does...Come to a meeting! Second Tuesday of every month!!!

OUTREACH TEAM COMMENTS

Well, another fall season is in the books here on the Outreach Team and we're already gearing up for the Holidays. After attempting to march in a rainy Columbus Day Parade, keeping our "Adopt a Road" route tidy and hosting another successful "Trunk or Treat," we are ready to tackle the New Year. Here is what's coming from your Outreach team in the next few months.

Faith, 5K and Feast!

February 4, 2012

Come join us at 9:00am on Saturday, February 4th for our first annual Faith, 5K and Feast. Whether you want to walk it, bike it, or run it, just come out for some exercise, a pancake breakfast, and fellowship. What better way to kick off the New Year, than to get back in shape and enjoy a beautiful Saturday morning.

For more information and to register for the race, you can visit the official website at www.faitk5k.com or contact Matt Griffith or TJ Turner. If you would like to submit an excuse as to why you will not be attending, we have left a trash can at the back of the church for collection!...See you there!



~Holy Humor~



Mission News

SO What language DO they speak in Kazakhstan? In what year did the Lutheran Brethren begin working in Japan? What percentage of Ecuadorians are Indigenous?

In October we realized that we can always learn new details about our world and especially about our missionaries...it was a fun interaction that led to Karla Thurmer winning a prize for her extensive knowledge.

As the Prayer Team and Mission Team unite in overlapping concerns and purposes, we invite you to enjoy special Events that will unite our Church Family in Mission. There will be educational opportunities, growth in prayer helps, times for the whole family to get connected to our Missionary Vision, and conversations that will enrich your life in Christ.

Whatever method helps you remember PUT Sunday, January 29th on your radar for the WHOLE Family! Kyle and Sarah and Andrew Maloney will bring to light needs in Africa and answer questions as well as touch your heart to get involved.

Brittany Lohman is overseeing a great Program for the younger children (4-12) and we will have a nursery too. Hey, Real LIVE missionaries, a short movie, and children singing...can't ask for much more (without making your evening longer than practical for the family). Invite a friend and make an effort to be part of this unique event for our Living Faith Church family.

By the way...if you want to know the answers to the questions you'll have to ask Bill Miller or Karla.

Midweek



Begins a new 6 Week Series on Wednesday, January 11

6:00-6:45 pm – *Family Supper* for Everyone

6:30-8:00 pm – CITA/FUEL (Middle and High School)

7:00-8:00 pm – Kids for Christ

7:00-8:00 pm – Study of St. Paul's *Letter to the Galatians*

(with Pastor Pat)

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy fellowship and explore God's Word!

Mission Team

By Bill Miller

“Christmas: Our Season of Light- is Heavenly, is Personal, is Transforming, is Global”

May we encourage each other to sing carols such as “Emmanuel”, “Joy to the World”, and even “O Little Town of Bethlehem” with **gusto** as we celebrate the Advent of the Christ as the promised Redeemer,

Indeed, celestial angelic choirs, Jesus’ miraculous ministry to the multitudes, and alarming annunciations of God’s unmerited favor to obviously prodigal sons and daughters is HEAVENLY as no such depth of love is known in our own ego musings.

Thanks be to God that this heavenly invasion of “love’s pure light” brought about redemption that is then announced to us personally when the Spirit of God awakens and enlivens us that we might see the light of the Gospel in Jesus, hear His words of forgiveness and rejoice in God’s Grace. This Heavenly Light becomes overwhelmingly PERSONAL.

Because of this Incarnation, representative life, death, and resurrection we are declared righteous and even given a taste of our inheritance in the Holy Spirit who now exhorts us and equips us in giftings for Mission. As we come to faith we become part of a long line of disciples Jesus urges, “Be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8) even going as far as to uniting His promise, “Lo, I am with you always” (Matt. 28:20) to His commissioning words, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” He in fact uses a Greek tense that should be translated, “In your going, by all means make disciples...” It is assumed that this life TRANSFORMING word of forgiveness will impulse you to go and “declare the works of He who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Luther, Melancthon, and a host of reformers called it the “Confessional Principle”: It is impossible to be a believer, indwelt by the Holy Ghost and not also be moved to confess the Gospel in testimony, in life, and in fellowship. (Brother Martin paraphrased).

The Advent of our Savior is not only transforming, but it connects us to the Body of Christ around the world and moves our heart in the fruit of the Spirit (love) to be concerned for the salvation of peoples beyond our continent. He moves us to be involved by various means in the strengthening of His Body as an imperative far more vital than American patriotism since we are now citizens of heaven as well as citizens of the good ole USA and as people of God we ultimately desire the petition we join in weekly, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. While I do not find mention of a Democratic or Republican government in Scripture I find the Mission of the Incarnation to be the healing of all peoples and the representation of an awesome variety of cultures and tribes among the worshipping throngs before the Throne.

So, if you join the Christmas celebration you have the privilege of joining the heavenly, the personal, transforming, and global mission purposes of God. **Can you say, WOW!?!?**



Japan: Pray for those ministering to those who still struggle with PTSD and guilt issues in their lives after horrific experiences.



Cameroon: Pray for the National LB Church in Cameroon as they seek to reach their nation for Christ.



Ecuador: Pray for many peoples in the Andes with no Gospel presence in their communities.



MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY 27, 2012

Please put this night on your calendar, as the movie “*COURAGEOUS*” will be shown in the activity center at 7:00. If you have not had the chance to see this yet, you are encouraged to come. This movie is aimed at the men but it is very impactful for both men and women. This movie is not recommended for ages under 12, so child care will be provided.

This movie will entertain you, but more importantly it has the potential to change lives of dads, grandpas (and even moms and grandmas), so please come on out for an enjoyable night of ‘dinner and a movie’. Hot dogs, chips & lemonade will be served.



BIRTHS

Congratulations to Ronn & Jaime Van Deventer!

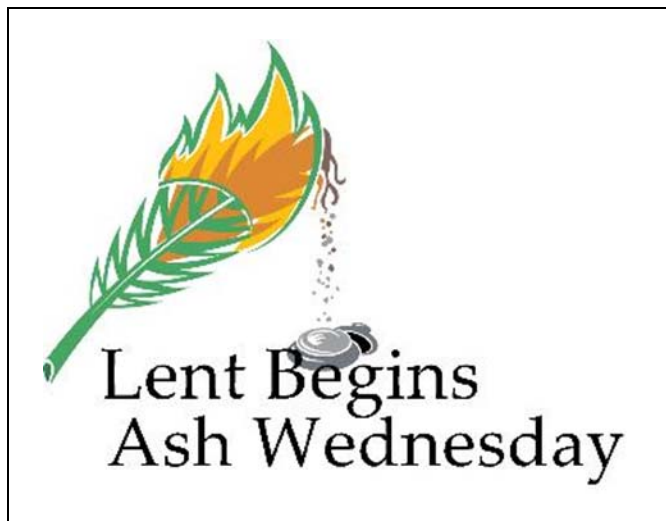
10.1 lbs! Born at 8:03 AM 11/8/11

God bless you Brynn!!!

December 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	2 9:15am Women's Bible Study 5pm Christmas Decorating	3 8am MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 5:30pm LFC CHRISTMAS PARTY
4 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	5	6	7 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm CITA/FUEL	8 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	9 9:15am Women's Bible Study	10 6pm Choir
11 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	12	13 5:30pm Elder Board 7pm Ministry Teams Meeting	14 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm CITA/FUEL	15 6:30pm Women's Bible Study Christmas Party 6:30pm High School Bible Study	16	17 10am Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 6pm Choir
18 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship, Children's Christmas Program & Communion	19 6pm AHBNS Christmas Program	20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE  6:30pm Candlelight Service
25 CHRISTMAS  10:30am Worship & Communion	26	27	28	29	30	31 

January 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
1 10:30am Worship & Communion	2	3	4 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm CITA/FUEL	5 6:30pm High School Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	9	10 5:30pm Elder Board 6:30pm CPT & MINISTRY TEAMS MEETING	11 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LiFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	12 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	13 9:15am Women's Bible Study	14
15 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion 12 noon ANNUAL MEETING	16	17	18 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LiFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	19 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	20 9:15am Women's Bible Study	21
22 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	23	24 5:30pm Elder Board	25 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LiFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	26 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	27 9:15am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm "Courageous" Movie Night	28 8am MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
29 9:30am Sunday LiFT 10:30am Worship & Communion 8:30pm FAMILY MISSION NIGHT	30	31				

February 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LIFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	2 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	3 9:15am Women's Bible Study	4
5 9:30am Sunday LIFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	6	7 5:30pm Elder Board 7pm Ministry Teams Meeting	8 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LIFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	9 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	10 9:15am Women's Bible Study	11
12 9:30am Sunday LIFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	13	14 	15 6pm Confirmation 6pm Midweek LIFT Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm Adult Study-Galatians	16 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study	17 9:15am Women's Bible Study	18
19 9:30am Sunday LIFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	20 	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6pm Confirmation 6pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm LENTEN SERIES	23 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm High School Bible Study LIBERATE	24 9:15am Women's Bible Study CONFERENCE	25 8am MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST Ft Lauderdale, FL
26 9:30am Sunday LIFT 10:30am Worship & Communion	27	28 5:30pm Elder Board	29 6pm Confirmation 6pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm CITA/FUEL 7pm Kids for Christ 7pm LENTEN SERIES			



**6 pm
Lenten Soup Supper**

**7 pm
Lenten Devotional Series**

**For 6 weeks starting
February 22**

Fellowship Fun

We hope you all had a great time at the Thanksgiving Lunch
.....looked like lots of good food!
Now we're on to our Late Fall & Winter activities!!



The Annual Christmas Party will be held
December 3rd at 5:30. A ham dinner will begin our evening.
The congregation is asked to provide the goodies such as
cookies and desserts.

And then.....the famous gift exchange.....everyone is to bring
a WRAPPED \$10 gift to be placed in the pile. Then the fun
begins!!! As we laugh, "steal" gifts & laugh some more.....the best
is seeing who comes out with what at the end of the evening!!!!
This is a DON'T MISS affair!! The gift exchange is only for the
adults 18 and up. Childcare will be provided.

Midweek LiFT Family Dinners will resume on
Wednesday, January 11. The dates are: 1/11, 1/18,
1/25, 2/1, 2/8, & 2/15.
All dinners are at 6:00.



HOW DO YOU WORK IT OUT?

“... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12b-13 (ESV)

Theologians throughout the centuries have struggled with these verses in trying to solve the paradox of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and our own works.

Some have focused on the first phrase to the exclusion of the rest of the verse and become moralists – good works are necessary for us to be accepted by God.

Others have focused on the second phrase to the exclusion of the first phrase and become antinomian – perverting the freedom of the Gospel into license to live as we please.

Still others have fashioned a theology using both phrases and become synergists – we do our part and God does His part.

The Good News is that Paul himself offers the solution to the paradox within the very words themselves as we take them in the context of Scripture. The meaning of Paul's words is **not** “Man **must act even though** God acts,” or “**Since God acts** man **does not have to act**,” or “God and Man **each do their part**,” **but** that “Man **can and does** act **because God acts** and **God keeps acting through us**” as our *old will* or *old Adam* is daily put to death and the *new will* or *new Adam* received from God operates in love and devotion to its Redeemer. God's action makes man's action possible.

Here is a quick visual representation of this idea from *Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess* by Steven P. Mueller:

Which of the following numbers is larger?

000,000,000,000 OR 1,000

Obviously the number with the “1” in front of the zeros is larger since zero is zero no matter how many times it is repeated. The works that a person does in his own strength are like the zeros. No matter how many there are, without the Number One (Jesus) they are valueless. But when zeros are added behind the One, the result is exponential!

The word Paul uses for the gospel is **dynamis**, power. He speaks about knowing the “power of the resurrection” whose source is the same One who created the universe by His Word and who now is at work within us to accomplish His good pleasure. Here is indeed the secret of our *good works* and *faithful stewardship*.

The gospel of justifying grace gives stewardship not only its starting point but also the **power** which enables it and keeps it going. In the third chapter of *Ephesians* Paul describes the great things that Christ does in our lives: the joy, the strength, the peace, the steadiness which result from faith in Him. All this, he says, happens “by the action of **His power** within us.”

From the point of view of life in Christ, we are not reservoirs with a limited amount of resources. Using this faulty analogy, we will try to economize our small supply so that we don't use it up too soon. But a believer is a channel, not a reservoir; an electrical conductor, not a receptacle. Our strength and power does not come from our struggling and straining. It does **not** depend on our **hoarding what little we have** but on the **limitless abundance of God Himself**.

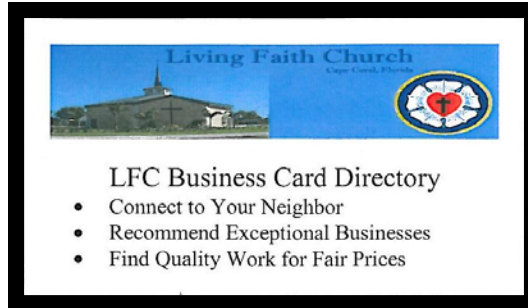
The center of Christian Stewardship is that the Gospel is an “*engrafted word*” containing the gift of a new life which changes the human heart from within. Luther expressed our life of service to God as “*hilari et libera voluntate*,” with a hilarious and free will. Instead of groaning under the burden of coercive obligations, we rise with Christ into the joy, the peace, and the strength of the new life.

The power by which Christian stewardship operates is the same power which created the universe and which exploded through the rock-hewn tomb in Joseph's garden to conquer death. It is the same power by which, someday, a new heaven and a new earth will be created.

It is the power of a loving and Almighty God.

--Roy Hegglund

Free Classifieds



Would you like to get to know your neighbor better?

Do you own or work for a great business?

Can you recommend an exceptional business?

Let's share what we do and where we shop with others at LFC

How it works:

Drop your business card or one from a business that you would recommend at the Welcome Station
The Outreach Team will put it in our Business Card Directory

The purpose:

We can get to know each other better by sharing what we do for a living as well as sharing the great places we do business with!

Here's some examples:

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Lynn Schoendorf
Manager

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Cape Coral FL 33990
Del Prado Mall, Near CiCi's!

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cuppalife@havealifeinchrist.com
www.havealifeinchrist.com

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239-849-0956

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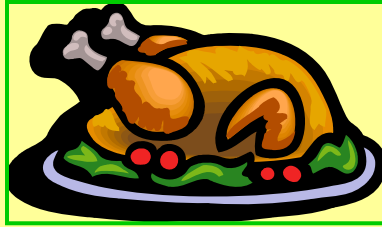
j.kennedy26@hotmail.com

Catering **IRAGAZZI** Take-Out

PIZZA

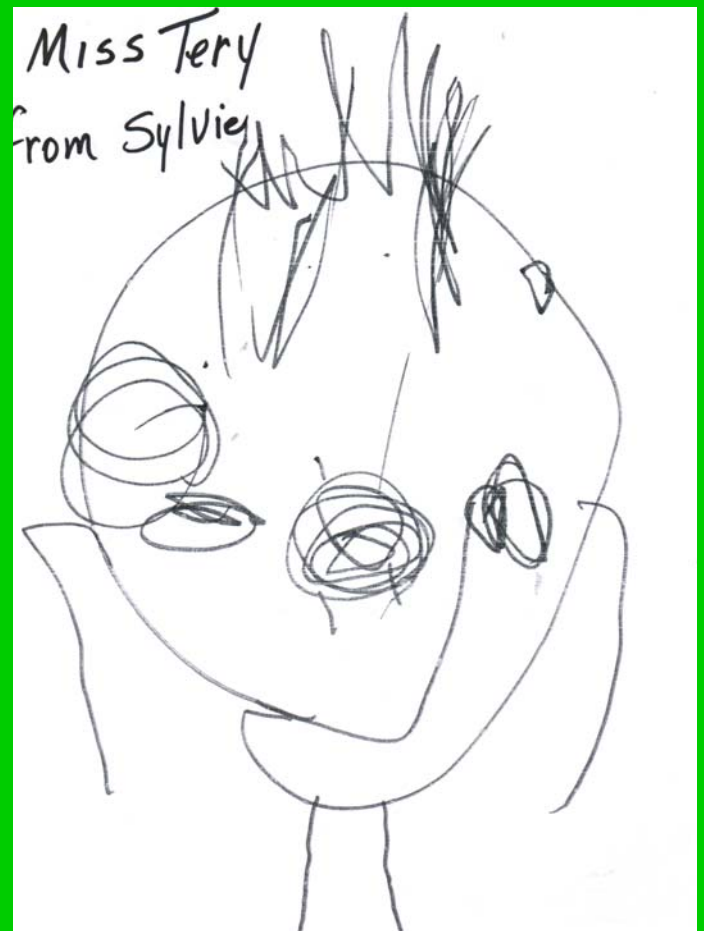
159 HANCOCK BRIDGE PKWY.
www.IRAGAZZIPIZZA.com
Delivery (239) 772-9005 Open 7 Days

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Holiday Recipes

From "A Happy Beginning Nursery School"
Classes of Miss Patricia & Miss Tery





Kesia Gonzales

Pumpkin Pie

- Cut up a pumpkin, put it in a pan. Put a top on it and put it in the oven. Let it cook for 20 minutes then take it out. Let it cool down then eat it.

Turkey

- The turkey needs not to be alive. Make it really flat, like play-doh. Put it on the stove to cook it. It has to get really hot. Then it has to cool down and then we can eat it.

Genesis Gomez

Pumpkin Pie

Sugar, & more sugar and something in there like mashed potatoes.

Mix, mix, mix by hand in a bowl

Put it in the oven on warm, not too hot it will burn your mouth. Bake it for 20 hour.

Turkey

Syrup and ham, mix and mix

Do what we want if we are by ourselves, mix, mix, mix.

Bake in an oven on warm for 20 minutes



Chloe Jackson

Pumpkin Pie

Milk, smash pumpkins at the farm. Take home pumpkin.

Cinnamon, sugar, salt (a little bit)

Cook in the oven A DD Grease

Turkey

Grease it, sugar, salt and stuffing.

Cook it a little bit. Put it on the stove and cook till it's warm.

Troy Combs

Pumpkin Pie

Milk, egg, pumpkin mix it in a bowl.

Put bowl in oven. Cook it at 3 degrees for 5 minutes. Then eat it.

Turkey

The turkey's at home. Put the turkey in the pumpkin pie, add a coke and put it inside. Cook it in the house. Cook all night in the oven. Hot so it will burn.

Then eat it.

Brandon Arango

Pumpkin Pie

Ms. Patricia can make it!

Smash 2 pumpkins, 5 cups salt, 2 cups pepper and cinnamon.

Cook 2 hours till HOT. A lot of whip cream

Turkey

Find bird. Stuff it, use salt, pepper, cinnamon and peanut butter.

Cook for 2 days on HOT

Lawrence Force III

Pumpkin Pie (cook the pie first)

Sprinkles of cheese, stir and put into the pumpkin. Spread it and then burn it with fire. Then stick it in our pockets:

Bake in oven on cold for a couple of seconds.

Turkey

Make a turkey, with sprinkles and a pie crust and spicy.

Bake in the oven on hot for 4 days.