

St. Luke's MESSENGER

The newsletter of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

REFLECTIONS: From the Pastor

Drawn to the Cross

Again the seasons turn. This month we move from Epiphany into Lent as once again we make our journey from the ashes of Ash Wednesday to the new fire of the Easter Vigil. Lent is a time of repentance and reconciliation, a time to be drawn to the cross of Christ where we find forgiveness, reconciliation, life and peace.

This Lent a new processional cross will be a focal point in our worship. This splendid work of art is a memorial gift from the Garcea family and is the creation of liturgical artist, John Buscemi. The cross was dedicated at our worship on Advent II + December 6. And I missed it because I was on sabbatical. Perhaps you missed it too?

Here's what the artist wrote about our new processional cross:

All the scriptures attest that the willing embrace of the cross by Jesus is the great work of reconciliation. This is making things right and whole again between men/women and God, one another and all creation.

St. Luke's new cross is a celebration of this redemptive love that continues into our own day. Any cross is really an intersection, a crossing, a point for deciding on a direction. The arms of this cross reach out equally in every direction seeking to reconcile all the opposites and opposing elements of our lives.

Spiritual writers tell us that in the mystery of God whenever there is reconciliation of opposites it creates an opening for new life – a resurrection. This is why the center of the cross is not filled in. It is open as the birth canal to new life. The center of the cross beckons us with the promise of rich, new possibilities whenever the grace of reconciliation is accepted.

As you see the cross pass by you in the entrance procession it is a chance to name the particular cross with which you struggle today, ask for the wisdom and courage to heal this situation, and celebrate the possibility of new beginnings.

As with the cross of Jesus we know that the cross is not our final state but is the transition into fuller life. That is when the shadows of the world will turn to light and like the glass in the cross will become prisms casting rainbows where they might. (John Buscemi, Advent 2009)

The metal, glass and wood frame an opening in this cross. How do you interpret that opening for yourself? An invitation to reconciliation with God, or with someone who awaits your forgiveness? Might it be an opening that calls you away from the realm of death and despair and toward God's reign of life and hope? Could it be a larger vision, calling us to turn from war toward peace, away from indifference and toward justice?

As this cross goes before us into our worshipful encounter with God, this cross will also precede us in being sent out into the world as disciples of Jesus, servants of Christ.

May this Lent be a time of repentance for us – a time to turn around (which is what the word "repentance" means) and move in a new direction. May this Lent be a time for us to be drawn to the cross of Jesus and find there forgiveness, reconciliation, life and peace.

Pastor Stephen Larson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---------|
| Birthdays and Anniversaries..... | Page 2 |
| In The Family..... | Page 3 |
| Many Thanks..... | Page 3 |
| Member Care News..... | Page 3 |
| Council Notes and Financial Report..... | Page 4 |
| Mark Your Calendar | Page 5 |
| Outreach and Community News..... | Page 6 |
| Education for All..... | Page 8 |
| Music and Worship..... | Page 12 |
| Sermon Previews | Page 13 |

Birthdays in FEBRUARY

- 1 Edward Grendahl, Mark Hendee, Joyce Robinson
- 2 Laurie Wit, Robert Larson, Don Williams
- 3 Paul Edison-Swift
- 4 Heather O'Reilly
- 5 Peter Burrows, Bonny Baker, Debra Sanger
- 6 Christie Brooks, Claranne English, LaVerne Messersmith, Leila Wooley, Katherine Kolz, Emma Luehr
- 7 Ken Schoy, Olivia Feldner
- 8 Scott Berg
- 9 Christopher Anderson, Elizabeth Clark, June Ehorn, Kimberly Delaney, Kristen Quitno, Tom Fisher
- 10 Dave Adams, Gary Clark, Michael Lynch, Kristina Pearson, Faith Spike, Jenna Zawojski
- 11 Alice Doose, Dorothy Niese, Olivia Post, Annie Raeder
- 12 Charles Crawford, Albert Ehorn, Audrey Walczak, Mike Luehr
- 13 Pam Boyce, Jenny Calahan, Anna Gartner, David MacArthur, Csilla Megyeri, Kristi Weber
- 15 Liam Farrell, Laura Smith
- 16 Kathryn Boyce, Michael Zajac, Kennedy Gallagher
- 17 Andrew DeVooght, Carly Fenili, John Lichner, Jennifer Wessel
- 18 Jim Buskirk, James Organ, Graham Hills
- 19 Beth Humbert, Betty Lundsberg, Gail Pearson, Betty Shoemaker
- 20 Ava Oyasu
- 22 Andrew Schafer
- 23 Grace Nilles, Katelyn Nilles, Jordan Rogowski
- 24 Mitch Celik, Jeff Greve, Dick Hayden, Samantha Schafer, Finn Quitno
- 26 Beverly Ahlbeck, Jo Ellen Krantz, Brittany Brooks, Phyllis Meyer
- 27 Jerry Gudukas, Tim McCurry
- 28 Sarah Bennett, Stephanie Richter

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 2 Brian and Meaghan Tait
- 3 John and Mary Rhoton
- 4 Arthur and Nancy Stahlberg
- 8 Jeff Wilson and Patricia Gross
- 10 John and Cindy Nommensen
- 13 Keith and Nancy Lodding
- 15 Matt and Angela Beattie
- 27 Chris and Julie Stinnett

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2010

Did you receive your 2010 Offering Envelopes? At the request of our financial folks, we ask that you no longer use your 2009 offering envelopes. Please use the 2010 envelopes only. Thank you.

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

The congregation sends *THE LUTHERAN* (magazine of the ELCA) to members so that they may be informed about the work of the ELCA and have access to the thoughtful articles that are contained in the magazine. Members are encouraged to make a contribution that will help pay for the subscriptions that are sent. The 2010 offering envelope box contains a special envelope for your use in making such a contribution. The invoice for the subscriptions is paid in early February. You are encouraged to make your contribution in January. You may also use a PEW ENVELOPE and designate your gift for *THE LUTHERAN*.

CHRISTMAS GARLAND RESULTS

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone in the congregation who participated in the Christmas Garland event this year. It was another wonderful success. We raised over \$1,300.00 with an additional Thrivent Financial grant of \$1,000.00. The money was donated to both the Park Ridge Ministerial Association for the Sunday Night Suppers at St. Paul of the Cross and to LSSI for their school meals program.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

A big thank you to our e-mail Advent devotions writers: Janet Hoiberg, Kim Schaeffer, Sue Edison-Swift, Lynda Minnick, Anne Edison-Albright, Pastor Kristi Weber, Diane Barounis and Pastor Stephen Larson. We hope that everyone enjoyed the series. A printed copy of the Lent and Advent series will be available in the St. Luke's Library.

ST. LUKE'S MEMBER CARE

IN THE FAMILY...

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Millie Myers who died on January 8. Millie was a long time member of St. Luke's and she will be sorely missed....

MANY THANKS FROM.....

Will and Rene Rasmussen for the beautiful flowers Rene received during her stay at St. Matthew Center for Health.... Engna Falcinelli for the flowers and candy she and her family received recently.... Pastor Larson for the "gift of grace" that was his sabbatical leave.... Carol Teschky, MaineTownship Supervisor for the generous donations to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.... Twila Schock, Director of ELCA Global Mission Support for the gift of \$3,500 to Missionary Sponsorship.... Joan Leech, Director of Development and External Relations for Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries for the generous contribution.

BETHEL NEW LIFE

Thank you to all of the people of St Luke's who generously supported Bethel New Life's Christmas Family Sharing program this year! We provided Christmas for 32 Senior's and 38 Families representing a total of 195 people who would not have had Christmas without the wonderful support and kindness of St. Luke's members and friends. In addition we had monetary donations that supported an additional 15 families Bethel had not been able to place! Wonderful donations were shared with those much less fortunate than us. Bethel was very grateful for all of our support!

Thank you to the following families and groups who generously supported families and seniors this year: Argall, Barker, Barounis, Bork, Burrows, Cannon, Cartwright, Clark, Clarke, Elizabeth Circle, English, Figler, Franz, Gartner, Goll, Hendee, Henderson, Hoffer, Hoiberg, Hoiland, Ichen, Italia, Jaffe, Joanna Circle, Joesten, Johnson, Killean, Klaczek, Kohndorfer, Larson, Lichner, Lynch, Marquis, McCurry, McDonald, Meyer, Miller, Nelson, Nommensen, Olson, O'Reilly, O'Reilly Maine South Sophomores, Paxhia, Peterson, Raeder, Rhoton, Russell, Sanger, Schaeffer, Schwandt, Schwich, Spiegel, Stone, Thompson, Tice, Timmer J. & A, Trautman, Upton, Weber, Yee, and Zaug. (If we have missed someone we are very sorry!)

A special thanks to the Bork Family, Mark Hendee, Noah Ichen and the Upton's for all the help packing up clothing, loading the truck, and delivering the gifts. Your help was invaluable!

Thanks also to Mark Hendee and Bill May of R & M Trucking for providing the truck!

Barb Timmer and Kim Hendee

DIRECTORY UPDATE

St. Luke's Photo Directories have arrived! If you had your photo taken for the directory or you submitted a photo, there is a labeled directory for you. They are in boxes in alphabetical order at the rear of the sanctuary.

If you didn't have your photo taken but you would like a copy of the photo directory, please call or email Lara Miller (847-318-6447 or laramiller924@gmail.com), who will contact you if we have copies available.

We will also have an online version of the directory available to St. Luke's members. More information will be coming soon.

There are many people to thank for making this directory possible. We had callers to remind members about photo sessions, greeters for photography sessions, people who took and submitted family photos or pictures from St. Luke's events, Church Staff who accommodated Lifetouch for set up and break down, Pastors who supported the project and followed up with our ever changing roster and the directory committee.

Special thanks to the following members: Amy Burrows, Kyle Cartwright, Susan Greve, Joanne Griebler, Dorothy Hendee, Jim Henderson, Annette Kern, Pastor Larson, Phyllis Meyer, Nancy Olson, Brett Parker, Lisa Ramsey, Jeanne Rice, Julie Russell, Debbie Sanger, Cindy Spiegel, Ann Thompson, Michael Watson, Pastor Weber and the directory committee members- Sara Carolan, Candy Gustafson, Sue Laursen-Yee, Courtney Nashan and Sarah Post.

Many thanks,
Lara Miller



ST. LUKE'S STAFF
847-825-6659

Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Larson, Lead Pastor - ext. 11
Rev. Kristina C. Weber, Associate Pastor - ext. 12
Rev. Dr. Malcolm L. Minnick, Pastor Emeritus - ext. 29
Nancy Olson, Member Care Coordinator - ext. 19
Anne Krentz Organ, Director of Music Ministries - ext. 14
Melinda Hoiland, Director of Children's Choirs - ext. 15
Jeannine Oakes, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries - ext. 16
Jeanne Rice, Parish Coordinator - ext. 10
Annette Kern, Office Administrator - ext. 17

COUNCIL NOTES

January Council Summary

At a special council meeting on January 5

- Received, reviewed and approved recommendations from FMT related to 2010 Spending Plan pending financial year-end close activities.
- Approved recommendation from FMT to authorize Treasurer to distribute funds related to salaries and expenses in January based on 2010 Spending Plan until congregational approval at annual meeting
- Approved recommendation from pastors relating to membership status changes.

At its regular council meeting on January 12

- Approved December financial reports, subject to financial review, received from the Operating Fund Treasurer and Financial Secretary as well as from the Church Building Program Co-Treasurers.
- Approved recommendation from FMT for fund raising events for January and February 2010. Remainder of year will be presented for approval at February council meeting.
- Approved recommendation from FMT to designate allocations for \$30,444 2009 carry over balance for the 2010 Spending Plan.
- Commended 2010 Spending Plan of \$754,775 to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting on January 31.
- Heard verbal reports from Church Building Project, the Communications Plan Task Team, the Spiritual Health/Spiritual Practices Task Team and the Governance Documents Team.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Ruth Rusch from council.
- Approved request from Brian Scerba for special use of gym for We Martial Arts Social Club, Inc., pending legal review from ELCA legal group with regard to n-f-p requirements.
- Approved calling a special council meeting for January 31 following annual meeting for purpose of electing officers for 2009.
- Approved appointment of Gary Nesdahl as cabinet coordinator to Outreach and Community Service Cabinet, adding profound thanks to Heather O'Reilly who served in this capacity for nine years.
- Approved motion to authorize Executive Committee to prepare resolutions to the congregation for the annual meeting and to act as Nominating Committee for congregational officer positions.

Haiti Earthquake Relief

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting the capital, Port-au-Prince. Offices, hotels, houses and shops have collapsed. The presidential palace is in ruins and many churches have been destroyed. Hospitals are overflowing and the search for survivors is intense. The streets of Haiti are filled with people in shock and searching for loved ones among the rubble.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and continued hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. About 3 million lives, one-third of Haiti's population, are affected by this earthquake.

Already one of the poorest countries in the world (70 percent of Haiti's population lives in extreme poverty), this catastrophe will exacerbate the suffering felt by many already living with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Disaster Response is already working through long-standing partnerships on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Financial gifts are urgently needed. **Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, will be used entirely (100 percent) for immediate relief and ongoing recovery in Haiti.** Your prayers and generous gifts will make a life-saving difference. [Please give today at www.elca.org/haitiearthquake.](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FIRST TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next meeting will be on February 2 at 8:00 am beginning with our pancake and sausage breakfast prepared by our two chefs, Carl Blomgren and Art Johnson. Please join us at that time when our speaker will be Milton Nelson who will enlighten us with little known facts about Abraham Lincoln. If you need a ride call Howie at 847-698-0152 or Don at 847-825-3673

WOMEN'S COFFEE BREAKFAST

All St. Luke's women, are welcomed to join us for Coffee Breakfast on Tuesday, February 23 at 9:00 am in the conference room.

FLUTE CHOIR IS BACK

Flute Choir rehearsals will begin again on February 10 at 7:00 pm and continue on February 14 at 10:00 am and February 18 at 7:00 pm. For more information contact Melinda Hoiland at 847-825-6659 ext. 15.

ADULT CHILDREN OF AGING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

The Member Care Cabinet will present two sessions for **ADULT CHILDREN OF AGING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS**. The programs will take place in the gym at St. Luke's. The first session (**January 27, 2010, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**) will focus on **Caregiving** featuring **Maya Hennessey**. She is a national consultant, trainer and author of *If Only I'd Had This Caregiving Book* and Midwest Volunteer Coordinator for the National Family Caregivers Association. If you would like to attend the sessions and/or receive a copy of the book, please notify Nancy Olson at nolson@stlukespr.org or 847-825-6659 before January 20. The cost of the book is \$17.50. There is no charge for either session.

The second session will focus on legal and medical issues. **John English, Tim McCurry** and **Clint Moore** will be our featured speakers at this session (**Feb. 10, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**) in the St. Luke's gym. (Notice there is a week between these two sessions.) St. Luke's members attorney John English and physician Tim McCurry have been well received at previous presentations at St. Luke's. Clint Moore from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is an Episcopal priest holding a PhD in ethics from Loyola University of Chicago, was well received at one of our *Giving Sorrow Words* gatherings.



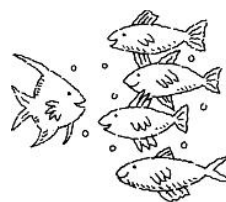
FEBRUARY 17

Worship 11:00 am with Holy Communion

Worship 5:00 pm especially for Families

Worship 7:30 pm with Holy Communion

All services with imposition of ashes.



**New
Member
Classes**

February 21 and 28, March 7 at 12:15-2:15pm

Please plan to attend all three sessions.

New members will be received at worship on March 14.

Contact a pastor for information.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO PICK UP YOUR
2009
ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET
IN THE BACK OF THE
SANCTUARY**

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



TORTILLAS AND TRADE: People of Faith Explore Hunger, Spirituality and Economic Globalization

St. Luke's members Dee Dee KohIndorfer and Sue Weber have been invited to join Bishop Miller and other hunger leaders for "Tortillas and Trade," a 10-day immersion experience in Mexico City and Cuernavaca, Mexico (they're hoping to cross paths with Katie Nelson while there), occurring the first week in February.

Sponsored by ELCA World Hunger and Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, the goal of the trip is to look at the role people of faith play in contemporary issues affecting Mexico and the United States. Participants will see and hear a cross-section of community organizations and faith-based projects working with peasant farmers, indigenous women, children and youth. They'll explore questions such as "What is economic globalization and how is it affecting the everyday lives of peasant farmers in Mexico? What is the relationship between trade policies, crop subsidies, and hunger? Why should it matter to us?" Keep watch for an upcoming Adult Forum when Dee Dee and Sue share their experiences with us. In the meantime, don't hesitate to ask either one of them about their trip.

What Difference Does It Make?

In 2009, St. Luke's members gave \$25,000+ to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Where do these funds go?

To Mauritania for irrigation systems, wells, seedlings for reforestation, and small loans and job training for women; **to Uganda** for malaria prevention education and bed nets, food and shelter for internally displaced families; **to Central African Republic** for a water resource management program to improve access to clean drinking water; **to Liberia** for assistance in comprehensive health-care ministries and two hospitals, one of which never closed during 15 years of civil war; **to Namibia** for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing sites, parish AIDS committees, home-based care programs; and **to Tanzania** for health care to rural villages, care for orphans, and community-based hospice care. These are not ELCA programs, but assistance for programs of our companion churches in Africa and in other parts of the world.

Did you know that some of the hunger funds provide grants to programs in the Chicago area? Take a look at the ELCA website, Church in Society unit, domestic hunger grant recipients. Click on any state on the U.S. map and you'll note small grants to church and community social service programs. In the metro Chicago area, there are 12 recipients, among them a Des Plaines food pantry, a PADS shelter, after school programs, a warming/cooling center, a domestic abuse prevention program, Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries.

We are blessed to be a part of a national church body whose congregations, acting together, make a difference at home and around the world!



**Thanks be to God for our generous giving
To the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!**

St. Luke's Bread Basket Overflows!



It's amazing! In a difficult economic year, St. Luke's members' generous giving matched our ELCA World Hunger Appeal gifts exactly to our goal for 2009 of **\$25,000!** Your generous gifts will enable villages to receive hand water pumps, allow women to receive microloans for small businesses, provide AIDS orphans with vocational training, allow families to sell goat's milk for increased income, and source many other projects to provide justice in our world. We begin 2010 with thanksgiving for these gifts and anticipation of our continued support for those beyond our walls.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2009 – GROWTH IN THE MIDST OF RECESSION

In 2009, we received offerings for the Spending Plan totaling \$734,002.32. This provides financial support for St. Luke's mission and ministry. We had "carry over funds" totaling \$30,000 and "other income" of \$6,100 so that the total available funds were in excess of \$770,102.32. We spent \$735,874.16. We under spent the 2009 budget by \$30,325.84. The carry over balance to use in 2010 is \$34,228.16.

Record of Giving:

- 114 households gave, but were in the arrears by \$56,449.
- 105 households gave more than pledged providing an additional \$44,057.
- 49 households gave exactly what they promised.
- 184 individuals who did not make a commitment of intent contributed \$79,001.90.
- 452 households and individuals contributed offerings to support the ministry.

Contributions were also received for the BUILDING FUND (BF) and BEYOND OUR WALLS.

The Financial Secretary, Don Nelson, reports:

- \$299,514 offerings given for the BF
- \$5,502 for Mount of Olives
- \$4,474 for Concordia scholarships.

Our total giving for 2009 was \$1,043,492.30 including the items already listed plus World Hunger (\$25,000), local benevolence including the Christmas Garland project (\$1,307), major repair fund (\$9,597) and Memorials/Special Gifts (\$14,811).

We truly thank God for the generous support of so many members.

God has blessed us in our ministries during 2009 and we strive to be a blessing to others. As we move into 2010 – please continue to be faithful in your participation in worship, learning, ministry service and in your support through offerings, time given and abilities shared.

Stewardship Team and the Financial Management Team.

THE NEW PROCESSIONAL CROSS



A word from the artist about the new processional cross...

All the scriptures attest that the willing embrace of the cross by Jesus is the great work of reconciliation. This is making things right and whole again between men/women and God, one another and all creation.

The new cross for St. Luke's is a celebration of this redemptive love that continues into our own day. Any cross is really an intersection, a crossing, a point for deciding on a direction. The arms of this cross reach out equally in every direction seeking to reconcile all the opposites and opposing elements of our lives.

Spiritual writers tell us that in the mystery of God whenever there is reconciliation of opposites it creates an opening for new life – a resurrection. This is why the center of the cross is not filled in. It is open as the birth canal to new life. The center of the cross beckons us with the promise of rich, new possibilities whenever the grace of reconciliation is accepted.

As you see the cross pass by you in the entrance procession it is a chance to name the particular cross with which you struggle today, ask for the wisdom and courage to heal this situation, and celebrate the possibility of new beginnings. As with the cross of Jesus we know that the cross is not our final state but is the transition into fuller life. That is when the shadows of the world will turn to light and like the glass in the cross will become prisms casting rainbows where they might.

A word about the artist and the people who helped design the new processional cross...

The artist who designed this cross is John Buscemi. He worked with the Liturgical Arts Team from St. Luke's to create this design unique to us. For the last thirty years John has used his art to express the possibilities of reconciliation, the spiritual journey to wholeness and the wonder of a God who continues to give us new beginnings.

St. Luke's Liturgical Arts Team has worked for over a year considering the needs for a new processional cross, interviewing artists and viewing examples of their previous work, and working with John Buscemi to create this unique design. Members of the Liturgical Arts Team are Gary Cartwright, Clare English, Kathy Figler, Lila Italia,Carolynn Joesten, Anne Krentz Organ, and Pastor Stephen Larson.

Thank you to the Garcea Family who provided the memorial and special gifts that allowed the processional cross to be commissioned. The gifts were given in memory of St. Luke's member, Robert Garcea, who died in 2008. Members of the Garcea family met with the Liturgical Arts Team and the artist on several occasions during the design process.

EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Adult Forum- Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 am

February 7- Safety First- Worried about crimes you've heard of or read about in the newspaper? A Park Ridge Police Officer will discuss ways to stay safe in our homes and community. Bring your questions!



February 14 - Sing Me a Love Song- Join us for the Adult Forum on Valentine's Day, February 14, as we sing hymns of love...."Love Has Come", "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling", "Jesus Loves Me", and more! Director of Music, Anne Krentz Organ, will provide background information on how some of these "love songs" came to be. This forum will take place in the sanctuary.

February 21 - I Was Thirsty and You Gave Me Something to Drink: Water Issues and World Hunger- David Creech, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Director of Hunger Education, will help us look at contemporary water issues and their relationship to hunger worldwide. Together we will explore how we as a people born by water and Spirit are called to work with and on behalf of those who are poorest and most vulnerable to ensure that all have access to the most basic of necessities, clean water.

February 28 - The Role of Religion in Environmental Stewardship- Frank Avila, Commissioner at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, will be exploring the important role environmental stewardship and awareness plays within different religions and how faith can provide a platform for collaboration throughout the world. Take advantage of this opportunity to expand your perspective and learn about environmental issues near and far.

All are welcome!

Adult Education - Wednesday evenings 7-8 pm

February 3 - Topic to be announced!

February 10 - Plan to attend, "The Care of Aging Parents", 7-8:30pm

February 17 - Plan to attend an Ash Wednesday Service (times to be announced)

February 24th - Topic to be announced!

All are welcome!



Library Notes

Those of you who have read Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson, will want to continue the author's adventures and challenges in his second book Stones into Schools: Promoting peace with books, not bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Our library is the lucky recipient of two donated copies. The author continues with a promise to build a school, and so moves into a new country - Afghanistan - believing that the best way to peace is through education.

Other recent bookclub favorites we've acquired are The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty-Year Friendship, by Jeffrey Zaslow, and The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. We've also added some paperbacks from Allie Pleiter, a popular writer of Christian fiction: Marked by Moonlight, The Perfect Blend, and My So-called Love Life.

Jonathon Kozol has written Ordinary Resurrections, with deeply moving and powerful stories of poor inner-city children. The author sees the children who became a part of his life, not as potential entry-level workers, or even as people who will bring future economic benefits to our society, but as children who deserve to be seen and celebrated as complete and good in what they are already. The stories are about the little miracles of innocence in children who are still unsoiled by the world, without cynicism or despair, but with laughter, sadness, playfulness, sensitivity and insight.

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES



MLK Day of Service

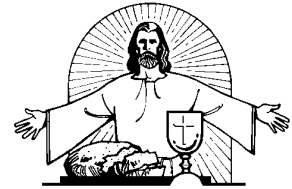
Thanks to all who participated in St. Luke's first MLK Day of Service. Thanks to everyone who packed bags of hygiene products and cookies for the Night Ministry. And thanks to everyone who baked cookies for the Night Ministry. A special thanks to those who willingly turned their kitchens into cookie baking factories for St. Luke's youth! You are saints!

ReNew: the Green VBS

This year's VBS will have a green focus as the kids learn about the Parable of the Sower. VBS will be from June 28 – July 2. Yup, 5 days this year. We are adding a fifth day in order to take a field trip to the Nature Museum in Chicago. Registration packets will be mailed toward the end of the month. Sign up early!

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

4th and 5th graders will be receiving a letter in February inviting them to participate in First Communion class with their parents. The class is two sessions long. The first sessions are Thursday, February 25 at 4:30 pm or Saturday, February 27 at 8:30 am. For the second sessions plan to attend either Thursday, March 11 at 4:30 pm or Saturday, March 13 at 8:30 am.



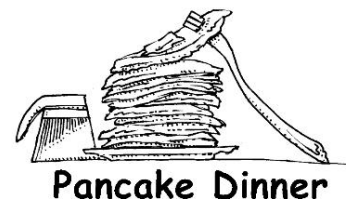
Children will receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday evening worship service on April 1 at 7:00 pm. Questions? Contact Pastor Weber at 847-825-6659.

Youth Drama Troupe

St. Luke's is in the process of organizing it's first Youth Drama Troupe! A group of 6th grade girls have been meeting each week before choir rehearsals to practice skits that they will perform for the 5pm Ash Wednesday Service and the Seder Meal. We hope to expand the troupe next year by inviting older youth to participate as well. We hope you can attend both the Ash Wednesday Service and the Seder Meal to see our incredible actresses! Their skits will enhance Scriptural interpretations and the telling of Biblical narratives!

Pancake Dinner

A Pancake Dinner will be held on Saturday February 6 at the Original Pancake House in Park Ridge from 4:30pm – 7pm. This dinner is a fundraiser for the 2012 National Youth Gathering. Menu includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage links, and milk or coffee. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Buy them in advance from Jeannine Oakes or the church office because at the door tickets are \$1 more! There will be a raffle for a limited number of baskets and a quilt. Please come out and support our youth in their efforts to raise funds for the next Youth Gathering.



EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

February Notes For Youth!



Laser Tag Lock-In at eSkape for Junior and Senior High

All 6th – 12th graders are invited to a lock-in at eSkape on February 12. For only \$40 you will get unlimited amounts of laser tag, bowling, video games set on free play, pizza and pop. Meet at St. Luke's at 8:30pm to carpool to Our Savior Lutheran in Arlington Heights where we will meet up with several local ELCA youth groups for a few hours before the lock-in at eSkape begins at midnight. The lock-in ends at 5am and we will carpool back to St. Luke's for you to get picked up at 5:30am. This is one lock-in you won't want to miss! Friends are welcome!



Souper Bowl Sunday ~ February 7, 2010

On Sunday February 7, high school youth will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for the Maine Township Food Pantry. As the Super Bowl approaches, please consider not just who you hope will win the football game but the many people who depend on support from the Food Pantry. Thanks in advance!

Lenten Youth and Parent Book Club

Please consider joining a book group led by Jeannine Oakes specifically for high school students and a parent! We will read Marcus Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. The book focuses on Jesus' radical nature and work toward changing the injustices of his time. It's a short, but incredibly powerful book that will make you re-consider what you thought you knew about Christ. The book club will meet from 8pm-9pm on Wednesdays: February 10, February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, and March 31. If a substantial portion of the group is being inducted into the National Honor Society on March 17 we will reschedule for that week. Sign up with Jeannine by February 7, then purchase the book and come on February 10 ready to discuss the first chapter. Hope you can join us on this Lenten journey!



Spring Break Mission Trip:

Because Iowa Means More than Corn



Miss the info session on January 26? No problem, you can still sign up to go on the Spring Break Mission Trip to Iowa. We will learn about sustainable farming and help some farmers in rural Iowa about 30 miles south of Des Moines. Contact Jeannine Oakes for an info packet.

BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Two questions that arise from time to time are “Will our new building be a ‘green’ one?” and “Will our new building be LEED certified?” The answers are “yes” and “no”, but both need further explanation.

“Green” buildings are built with an eye to environmental concerns and are designed for environmentally friendly operation. There are a variety of factors involved in the creation of a green building. The most significant ones involve the materials used in construction and the finished building’s use of energy and water. There are varying levels of “green”, so the U. S. Green Building Council has devised a rating system for buildings, known as LEED scores. (The four letters in this acronym stand for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.”)

Our architects and our general contractor are both LEED certified firms and they have calculated that our building should be able to qualify for a LEED “Silver” rating. But they have advised us not to seek certification, due to the cost of the process. In order to achieve certification, we would need to undergo an extensive application process involving outside consultants and a cost of several tens of thousands of dollars. And LEED certification itself does not bestow any monetary benefits upon a church as it does for a commercial building owner. Thus we are taking their advice.

Even though we are not pursuing certification, our building will contain many green features and will be far greener than the building that it replaces. The 1971 building did not have any insulation in its exterior walls, had only a very thin layer of insulation under the roof and had single-pane plate glass windows. The new building will have insulated exterior walls, a thick layer of roof insulation and double-pane insulated windows. All of the new rooftop heating and air conditioning units will be much more efficient than the old ones and they will use the latest, most environmentally friendly refrigerant. The light fixtures in the new building will be much more efficient than the ones in the old building and some new rooms will use motion detector switches to assure that the lights will only be on when the room is in use. All of the plumbing fixtures in the new building will be designed to minimize water use and the faucets will have an automatic shutoff feature to assure that no one can leave them running. Also we are reusing some materials from the old building, the most visible item being the carpet from the 1971 building that you will be seeing in the new offices and some classrooms.

If there is a “green” feature that is of particular interest to you, ask us about it. We may be using it, but just haven’t listed it in these notes.

Growing in Faith

Growing in Faith is the name St. Luke’s chose for our 2008-2011 capital campaign to raise money for our building construction and renovations and for two projects beyond our walls. At the end of December 2009, we reached the halfway mark in that capital campaign. Financial information is provided on page 7 of the Messenger, but this is the place to say thank you. The ongoing financial support has been remarkable. Because of initial one-time gifts and ongoing pledges, we have received over 50% of the funds pledged for the three year campaign even though we are just entering the second half of the time period. Thank you.



Growing in Faith is more than just a capital campaign. It is also an opportunity for the congregation to continue to grow in our faith. Remember the devotion booklet that accompanied the initial Growing in Faith materials in the spring of 2008? A daily email version of those member-written devotions was St. Luke’s first venture into electronic distribution of devotional material. Since then, our member care cabinet has sponsored weekly email devotions during the seasons of Lent and Advent. The effort has been well received and has encouraged us to grow in our faith lives. To sign up to receive these email devotions, go to www.stlukespr.org and enter your email address in the box that says “join our email list”. Then click the box that says “Lenten Devotions” and enter your name as requested. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, so watch your inbox for the weekly devotions and join this opportunity to pray and reflect on the saving

presence of Jesus Christ as we enter this Lenten season growing in faith.

WORSHIP and MUSIC

Choir schedule for February 2010:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Sun. Feb. 7 | 5th Sunday after Epiphany | 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary | 11:00 a.m. Chancel |
| Sun. Feb. 14 | Transfiguration | Youth | Chancel |
| Wed. Feb. 17 | Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. Cantor | 5:00 p.m. Cherub, Junior, Orff Ensemble | 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary, Chancel |
| Sun. Feb. 21 | First Sunday in Lent | Sanctuary Flute Choir | Chancel Flute Choir |
| Sun. Feb. 28 | Second Sunday in Lent | Chancel Celebration Ringers | Youth Celebration Ringers |

Children's Choir Schedule for Ash Wednesday

4:15 p.m. Orff Ensemble

4:30 p.m. Cherub and Junior Choirs

5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Family Service led by the Children's Choirs

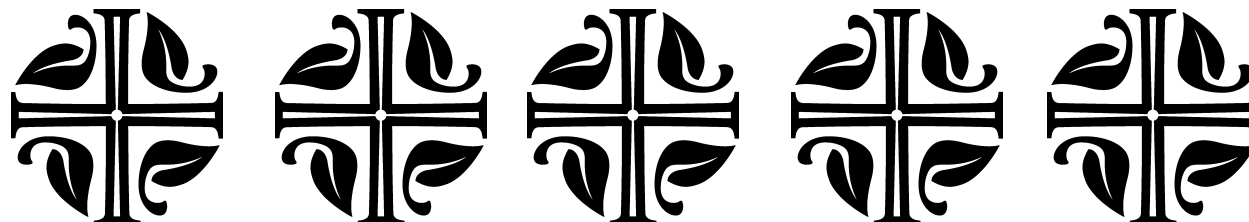
All are welcome!

The choirs are always ready to welcome new musicians. Please join us!

| <u>Group</u> | <u>Rehearsal time</u> | <u>Contact</u> | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cherub Choir | 4:30-5:10 p.m. Wed. | Melinda Hoiland | |
| Junior Choir | 5:15-6:00 p.m. Wed. | Melinda Hoiland | |
| Orff Ensemble | 6:00-6:40 p.m. Wed. | Melinda Hoiland | |
| Youth Choir | 7:00-8:00 p.m. Wed. | Anne Krentz Organ | |
| Celebration Ringers | 8:00-9:00 p.m. Wed. | Anne Krentz Organ | |
| Chancel Choir | 7:45-9:15 p.m. Thurs. | Anne Krentz Organ | |
| Sanctuary Choir | 9:45-10:30 a.m. Sun. | Anne Krentz Organ | (twice per month) |

Mid-week Lenten Noon-time Worship

Please join us for Lenten worship at noon-time on Wednesdays (12:10-12:40 p.m.) in the sanctuary. The services will begin with an extended prelude so that as people arrive they may take time to sit, slow down, calm themselves, listen to music, and prepare for worship. The service will include singing, scripture readings, and prayer. Consider adding this spiritual, prayerful component to your routine during the Lenten season. All are welcome. Services will be held on February 24, and March 3, 10, 17, and 24.



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 7 ~ The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands*

Narrative Eucharist: Sending

Through the haze of temple smoke God asks who shall be sent and Isaiah responds, "Here am I. Send me." In our sacramental encounter with God in worship, we too are sent forth into the world in witness and service. How is Christ revealed in our sending? Where do we encounter Jesus as our liturgy concludes and we are sent to *Go in Peace and Serve the Lord*? As the Season of Epiphany nears its conclusion, we will learn about what Orthodox Christians call "the liturgy after the liturgy".

February 14 ~ The Last Sunday after the Epiphany + The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta*

Narrative Eucharist: Worship

The Season of Epiphany concludes as it began with God's voice summoning us to recognize the transfigured, glorified Jesus as God's beloved son. From prelude to postlude, from invocation to benediction we listen to Jesus. For over 2,000 years God's people have encountered the Christ in gathering, word, meal and sending. Again today as we worship we are surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses.

February 17 ~ Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday Marks Us

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent even as the ashen cross marks us for the Lenten journey ahead. The traditional acts of giving, praying, and fasting may not be as visible a mark as the cross of ashes, but they shape our lives of faith throughout the forty days of Lent and beyond.

February 21 ~ The First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Germany, France*

You Will Be Saved

Paul proclaims to the Romans that if they call on the name of the Lord, they will be saved. Jesus, fresh from his baptismal waters is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. How does he call on the name of the Lord? By quoting Scripture. And you and me? How shall we call on the name of the Lord?

February 28 ~ The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17 – 4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino*

Transformation without Understanding

A warning from the Pharisees, a prophetic mission, and a parental lament are all part of the gospel reading for today. As Jesus sets his way toward Jerusalem, those around him neither understand nor appreciate the meaning of his actions. Even so, we are transformed by Jesus, the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord.

FEBRUARY 2010

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----------------|---|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday Confirmation Schedule: 1 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Confirmation Dinner 7:00 Fellowship | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| | 7:30 HR Meeting | 8:00 Tues. Men's Breakfast | 12:00 Afternoon Bridge | 9:30 Bible Study | | |
| Wednesday Choir Schedule: 4:30 Cherub Choir 5:15 Junior Choir 6:00 Orff Ensemble 7:00 Youth Choir | | 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Confirmation Dinner 7:00 Confirmation Fellowship 7:00 OMC | 4:30 Youth Drama Troupe 4:30 Children's Choirs | 7:45 Chancel Choir | | |
| | | 8:00 NA | 8:00 Celebration Ringers 8:00 AI-Anon | 8:00 AA | 8:00 AA 8:00 AI-Anon | |
| 7 Epiphany 5 Elijah Pantry Souper Bowl 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education Hour 9:45 Sanctuary Choir 11:00 Worship | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | | 9:30 WELCA/Elizabeth 12:30 WELCA/Eunice 1:00 WELCA/Joanna | 4:30 Youth Drama Troupe 4:30 Children's Choirs 7:00 Adult Children of Aging Parents/Caregivers | 9:30 Bible Study 12:30 WELCA/Rachel | MESSENGER DEADLINE | 8:30 Men's Bible Study |
| | | 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Confirmation Dinner 7:00 Confirmation Fellowship 7:30 Church Council 8:00 NA | 7:00 Flute Choir 7:30 WELCA/Sarah 8:00 Celebration Ringers 8:00 HS Book Club 8:00 AI-Anon | 7:45 Chancel Choir | 8:00 AA 8:00 AI-Anon | |
| 14 Transfiguration 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education Hour 10:00 Flute Choir 11:00 Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 Ash Wednesday | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Confirmation Dinner 7:00 Confirmation Fellowship | 11:00 Worship | 9:30 Bible Study | | |
| | | 7:00 Prayer Shawl 7:15 Property Task Team 7:30 Global Links 8:00 NA | 5:00 Worship 7:30 Worship | 7:00 Flute Choir 7:45 Chancel Choir | | |
| | | | 8:00 AI-Anon | 8:00 AA | 8:00 AA 8:00 AI-Anon | |
| 21 Lent 1 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education Hour 9:45 Teacher Training 9:45 Intergrade Event 11:00 Worship 12:15 New Member Class | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | 9:00 Ladies Coffee Breakfast | 4:30 Youth Drama Troupe 4:30 Children's Choirs | 9:30 Bible Study | 4:30 1st Communion Class | 8:30 Men's Bible Study |
| | | 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Confirmation Dinner 7:00 Confirmation Fellowship | | | | 8:30 1st Communion Class |
| | | 7:00 Member Care 7:00 Outreach | | 7:30 WELCA/Naomi 7:45 Chancel Choir | | 10:00 Quilting Group |
| 28 Lent 2 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education Hour 11:00 Worship 12:15 New Member Class | | 8:00 NA | 8:00 HS Book Club 8:00 Celebration Ringers 8:00 AI-Anon | 8:00 AA | 8:00 AA 8:00 AI-Anon | |