



THE MESSENGER



March 2010

*The monthly newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

Wednesdays in Lent at Christ Church

March 3, 10, 17, and 24

12:00 noon – Lessons, Hymns and Responsive Prayer

6:30 PM – Soup Supper in the Parish Hall

(Sign up in the Information Center.)

7:30 PM – Evening Prayer –
an ancient liturgy of anticipatory prayer, praise and peace.

The Prophets of Lent

During the Lenten season, the Old Testament readings include the Word of the Lord as it came to five prophets: Samuel, Joel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Each of these remarkable servants of God has a specific message for the Hebrew people of their day that is just as timely for us, God's people who live in the 21st century.

Each week we will examine what the circumstances in which each prophet lived and the words they spoke as God commanded. Social, political, economic, and religious situations of their times were not so different from ours today as we might think - or want to think. Together let us travel back to the 11th through the 6th centuries before the birth of Christ to hear these prophets speak the Word of God to the people of God.

March 3: Joel – 9th c. BCE – Days of Gloom to Days of Glory

March 10: Isaiah – 8th c. BCE – Danger, Defeat, Deliverance, Delight

March 17: Jeremiah – 7th c. BCE – Weeping Prophet / God's Fire in His Bones

March 24: Ezekiel – 6th c. BCE – UFO's in the Sky and Dry Bones in the Valley

The Solemnities of Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion

March 28 - Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

with the Blessing of Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel

Maundy Thursday

April 1 - 12 noon - Holy Communion

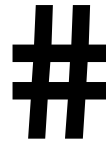
7:30 PM - Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

April 2 – 12 noon - Adoration of the Cross and Our Lord's Seven Last Words

7:30 PM - The Office of Tenebrae

Easter Sunday at Christ Church
^ 4 April 2010 ^
The Feast of
The Resurrection of Our
Lord



The lamb who was slain has begun his reign!
Alleluia!



6:30 AM The Great Vigil of Easter

*We gather in the darkness of the early morning to ponder the very center of our faith,
and to hear anew the history of our salvation: God's mighty acts and signs on our behalf,
fulfilled in the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Around the new fire of Easter, we celebrate his victory over death and the grave,
affirm our baptism and participate in the first Eucharist of the Resurrection.*

*How great the cost of our salvation! How much greater still is our joy
in the life we share in God's own Son, Jesus Christ!*



8:00-9:30 AM – Join us for a festive Easter Breakfast served in the Parish Hall!

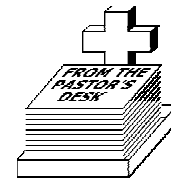
9:30 AM Flowering of the Cross and
Restoration of *Alleluia!*

Christ Church children of all ages! Bring your flowers!
We will decorate the cross on the porch steps and welcome back *Alleluia!*



10:00 AM Festival Choral Eucharist
on the
Feast of the Resurrection of Our
Lord

Pastor's Message



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

For many of us in Lent, the first thing to cross our minds isn't the Cross toward which we journey during this season, but rather it's the idea of "giving up something for Lent." Therefore, I have considered a few things we might "give up" that would help make this Lent a positive "Cross-walk" for us. There's no trick to trotting out the negative - we just turn our eyes inward on ourselves, and before you can say *Easter Egg*, we're up to our hot cross buns in negative. But, dear friends in Christ, Lent is a time of grace for us: a holy time to ponder the mystery of our redemption, and time to follow our Savior as he leads us to participate in his life and ministry, his Passion, his death on the cross, and his glorious resurrection early on that First Day.

Many of us fast from certain foods or practices or activities during Lent to help us focus on our Lord's giving up of his life for us, and that is fine. But there are other things, unhealthy habits, that we can give up in order to see and understand more clearly our Lord's sacrifice for us. Doing this could open wide the doors of our hearts and minds for the Spirit to blow some wonderfully fresh spiritual air through our faith, our habits, and our living. What if all of us were to "give up" some really different things? I make bold herewith to offer a few suggestions:

+ Give up complaining. Merely complaining solves nothing, but turns or ticks people off, and sets a dreadful example for our children. Instead, when you feel like complaining, think of the many things for which you are grateful. Then watch how petty and insignificant those complaints become in the face of the incredible deluge of blessings that our loving heavenly Father pours out upon us every day! St. Paul says that we are to *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thess. 5:18)

+ Give up being negative. Any time you feel the depressing cloud of the negative rolling over you, call to mind at least three positive things at that moment. This is a terrific way to remember that being Lutheran is *not* a spectator sport. Get up off your pewside and do something! Negative people sit around and wait for an invitation to get involved. Positive people offer their time and talents to do the Master's work (you can offer your treasure, too, but that's covered in another item). Cook for FACETS; pack and deliver food for Our Daily Bread, keep the nursery, participate in a committee - remember about being not just hearers but *doers* of the Word! The Apostle Paul teaches us: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, ...and with gratitude in your hearts.... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:16a, 17)

+ Give up worrying about making ends meet. (Are you kidding me? Whose ends *really* meet these days?) Give up the awful burden of worry and fear, and trust God to care for you and for our congregation. Be bold: add a tiny amount to your tithe or offering each week or month, and trust God to give the promised increase. Be secure in Paul's words: *Rejoice in the Lord always.... Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ JESUS.* Philippians 4:4, 6-7

***The Lord restores my soul. ...my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life....*** Psalm 23: 3, 4b, 6

Lenten blessings,

From the Learning Committee



PowerXpress Sunday School

During this month of Lent, the Sunday School children will be studying about "The Garden of Gethsemane." They will see how Jesus struggled with the best way to be faithful to God and received strength from trusting God. The children will relate this to their lives and will realize that it's not always easy for them to be faithful to God but they, too, can be strengthened when they trust God. During this unit the students will be experience music, storytelling, cooking and game activities.

Preschool Prepares for Easter

During March, the preschoolers will be discovering the rebirth of spring and Easter and celebrate that "Jesus is Alive!" Not only will the children color eggs, but they will be looking for the return of birds, discovering the flowers emerging from the ground, and see the beautiful buds on the trees. In addition, our annual Donuts for Dads event will be a special activity for the children and their fathers. The preschoolers will share songs, food and a special treat with their dads.



Vacation Bible School Day Camp - August 2-6

Once again, we are reminding you to save the date for a great VBS camp experience. The registration forms will be available after Easter. Adults, we'll need some helpers for the camp, so please check your calendars, too, and plan to join us by helping the children who are participating in this exciting week of VBS. Those volunteer sheets will be ready after Easter, too. Stay tuned!!

CELC Book Club

We have chosen *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett as its February book. It takes place in Jackson, MS in 1962. It is narrated by Minny and Aibileen, two black maids and Miss Skeeter a young, white woman recently graduated from college who returns to her parents cotton farm. The Civil Rights movement lends a historical background for this poignant story. Please join us at 4:00PM, Sunday, March 7th in the conference room. Any questions please call Kathy Putnam 703-385-1926



Church Retreat/Work Weekend - April 23-25

What is fun, energizing, fun, service oriented, fun, relaxing, fun, uplifting, fun and totally amazing? The Church Retreat/Work Weekend!!!! Each year, our congregation sponsors a retreat/work weekend when we help to prepare a camp for the summer season. Again this year, we will be going to Mar-Lu-Ridge. All who are willing and able to get some good exercise and to do some hard work are welcome to join us! We will gather the first night for fellowship then wake up the next morning and receive our work assignments. After our jobs are completed (could take 4- 8 hours depending on the work!), we'll have free time to explore and relax. We always include a campfire, games and worship time. (Oh yes, and cooking too!) The time getting to know each other and the awesome surroundings are memorable! Wait until you see the view from the top of the mountain!

Only 25 people can be accommodated in Lodge 3, so please sign up as soon as possible in the Information Center and be prepared for a great weekend!



Have You Received a Message from Us?

Christ Lutheran Church uses a service called OneCallNow to send automated messages. If you receive a message and want to listen to it again, here are the directions:

1. Dial 1- 877-698-3261, 1-866-321-4255, or 1-614-384-2335 from any touch-tone telephone.
2. At the greeting press 1, and then enter your phone number. OneCallNow will replay the most recent message.

Donations Needed Year Round!

Katherine Hanley Family Shelter

A basket will remain in the Information Center, along with an updated list. The shelter generally needs the following items:

Diapers - all sizes; needed immediately!
Shampoo/conditioner
Female hygiene products (pads)
Winter coats—NEW coats, please
Lysol spray/antibacterial wipes

Baby shampoo
Baby wipes
Deodorant
Toothbrushes/tooth paste



If you have any questions, please call Dorothy Sorrell at 703-591-2236. There is also complete in-kind donation wish list online at www.shelterhouse.org under the "Get Involved" section.



Mar-Lu-Ridge Capital Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to the Mar-Lu-Ridge Capital Campaign. This campaign is for dining hall improvements. If you have not already done so, please pick up a commitment card on the table in the narthex, fill it out, and return it to the church office. Our church's goal is \$10,000 over the next three years. To date we have received over \$6,000 in pledges.



Women of the ELCA

Ruth Circle will meet at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, in the Conference Room. All women of Christ Church are welcome to attend.

The Lydia Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. at Panera Bread on the fourth Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to attend for learning, sharing, and fellowship. Call or email Laura Albert for more information or to receive a

Lamb Center Needs

The Lamb Center, a day-time drop-in shelter located in Fairfax Circle, is in need of volunteers to provide assistance to guests at the center. Volunteers serve about 10 hours on Friday mornings or afternoons. Volunteers help in many ways, including mentoring, laundry services, food preparation, and participating in Bible study with the guests. If you are interested in volunteering at the Lamb Center, please call Ted Ralph or



New Fax Number

Our new fax number is 1-206-337-8229





Notes and Letters

Dear Christ Church Family,

The flowers from the congregation were so very beautiful, a lovely sign of your presence in prayer and comfort. Thank you for helping me celebrate my sweet mother's life.

In Christ's love,