



Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. February 2011

*The purpose of
Holy Cross
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
is to know, and
joyfully share, the love
of God
in Christ.*

—

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

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The Pastor's Pulse

I yield my space to astronaut Buzz Aldrin:

Forty two years ago, on July 20, two men made history by walking on the moon. That feat was amazing, in and of itself. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neal Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because very few people know about it and many have forgotten. The fact is Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon on that memorable day.

As a bit of background, it so happened that Aldrin was an elder at the Presbyterian Church he attended in Houston, and knowing that he would soon be doing something that is unprecedented in human history, he felt that he should mark the occasion in a very special way. Aldrin asked his pastor to consecrate communion elements that he would take with him to the moon. Aldrin and Armstrong had only been on the surface of the moon a few minutes when Aldrin made the following announcement: "This is the Lunar Module pilot. I would like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the surface of the moon, 250,000 miles above the surface of the earth, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion. Here is his account of what happened.

"In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic package which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. Then I read the scripture, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and in them bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth but at the last minute (they) had requested that I not do this. NASA was embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I reluctantly agreed and ate the tiny host and swallowed the wine. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first foods eaten were communion elements. It's interesting that some of the first words on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the earth and the moon and who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the sun and other stars."

In the midst of all the violence and terror and economical disasters, the account of the first communion on the moon is one that we might pay attention to. It is a story of faith in action.

Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

Think of the word kindness. I am sure every one of us can conjure up images of kindness in our minds. I was amazed at the images of kindness just from typing the word on "Google." There has been an important focus lately on the need for kindness to rekindle itself in our society.

George Elliston is quoted as saying, "How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it." This simple quote makes me realize how a simple smile given to someone can lift spirits or change a mood. Children can be told to be kind to others but it is in doing they can learn the true gift of kindness.

Random acts of kindness can benefit the giver and the receiver tremendously in happiness and in health. The book "Kids Random Acts of Kindness" by Conari Press suggests that children can make kindness a regular part of their lives. This book was written by children from all over the world. One child included the random act of kindness of giving her brother gumballs! Can you imagine his happiness factor? Sometimes the most simple of acts can make a difference in how a person feels, acts, or thinks.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another..." We can easily show children how to perform random acts of kindness. Some ideas include, letting someone go ahead of you in the checkout line, bake cookies and take them to someone special, or pray for someone you love. For more ideas on random acts of kindness see helpothers.org.

I truly believe in the magic of kindness! The challenge for February - rekindle kindness!



LECTIONARY AIDS FOR FEBRUARY

February 6, 2011-Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages His followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

February 13, 2011-Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts His followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

February 20, 2011-Matthew 5:38-48

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

February 27, 2011-Matthew 6:24-34

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages His followers to trust in God rather than material wealth.

Psalters for February

February

6	Toni Post
13	Marilyn Larsen
20	Lil Oseland
27	Ladies of the Choir

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Operating Fund spending for December was \$13,197 against our budget of \$15,113.
- Operating Fund spending YTD was \$174,493 against our budget of \$181,356.
- Operating Fund giving for December was \$14,948 and \$169,574 YTD.
- Operating Fund giving for December 2009 YTD was \$179,441 excluding a \$25,000 special gift.
- We had a total month-end balance of \$47,913 for all funds.

A Minute with Marilyn –

Whew! Looking over the calendar, I see that February is going to be a busy month!

First, the Holy Cross Women of the ELCA are planning their first-ever Thankoffering service. This will be a worship service led by the ladies on February 27, 2011. That is the fourth Sunday in February, which coincidentally is Bold Women's Day. Martin Luther tells us to be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Christ Jesus. And that's what the Women of the ELCA celebrate on Bold Women's Day: women who are bold, women who take risks on account of the gospel, and women who believe more boldly still in Jesus Christ. On that day, we will give thanks for the witness of all bold women, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. May their boldness flourish in our own hearts as we live out our baptismal call to serve God and neighbor. So...ladies, please prayerfully consider your own unique spiritual gifts and then sign up to usher, lector, or psalter on February 27. We will also need 3 to 4 ladies for special readings about bold women of the Bible (in lieu of a sermon that day). The "noisy offering" for Bold Women's Day will be contributed to The Port of the Rock, a local outreach mission in Rockport.

Second, during the month of February, the Brown Bag Lectionary Lunch Bunch study group will begin meeting. This will be a study of the gospel readings for those Sundays when I will be preaching. Anyone interested in digging a little deeper into the texts and having lunch with this fledgling intern preacher is invited to bring your own lunch (brown bag or otherwise) and meet at noon in the fellowship area on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. We will probably meet for about an hour.



Below is the schedule for the Brown Bag Lectionary Lunch Bunch and the readings we will discuss, although we will allow for flexibility as we progress through the readings. As I often say, the best way to make God laugh is to tell Him your plans!

February 8, 2011	Matthew 5: 13-20
February 22, 2011	Readings for Bold Women's Day
March 8, 2011	Matthew 4:1-11
March 22, 2011	John 4: 5-42
April 12, 2011	Matthew 26: 14-27:66; Matthew 27: 11-54
April 26, 2011	John 20:19-31
May 10, 2011	John 10: 1-10
May 24, 2011	John 14: 15-21

That's all for this month! God bless you all.

*Peace,
Intern Marilyn*

Church Directory

Need to change your address, phone number or need a new photo? Please see Lil Oseland to update your Holy Cross Lutheran Church Directory Information.

Thank you

NEW CHORAL STANZAS TO BE USED WITH SOME HYMNS

In 2010, Augsburg Fortress published a new music resource entitled “Choral Stanzas for Hymns, Volume I.” This volume of music aligns with our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal in numerical order and offers variations with which to sing some of the hymns. When a hymn is sung, one of the stanzas will be sung entirely by the choir, and **all the congregation has to do is listen!**

The addition of a choral stanza can bring diversity, understanding, and delight to the singing of a familiar hymn. When the assembly has a moment to listen and simply read the text, often new meaning is found. This volume and the second one (which is still being prepared) include a

diversity of settings, some a cappella, some accompanied by piano, organ, or keyboard, a few with additional optional instruments. Voicings are varied and are often adaptable to choirs of adults, children, youth, women, or men. We will not use one every Sunday but will include them whenever possible. Our first will be on February 6th, when we will sing #307, “Light Shone in Darkness.” The congregation will not sing Stanza 2 but will listen as the choir sings with a special soprano part, and then the congregation will join in again for Stanza 3.


Our hope is that these choral stanzas will be an inspiration in worship planning and a wonderful enhancement to hymn singing in worship and festivals.

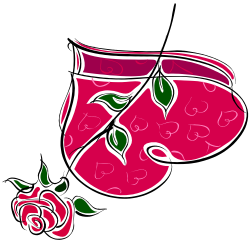
FEBRUARY MINISTRIES

Council Person of the Month: Michele Scherzer

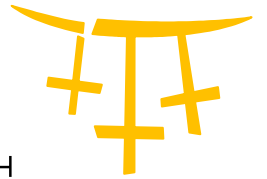
	Usher	Lector	Psalter	Cookies	Flowers
6	8:00 Michele Scherzer 10:30 Michele & Bob Scherzer	8:00 Bea Stoddard 10:30 Stan Post	10:30 Toni Post	8:00 Eileen 10:30 Judith H.	OPEN
13	8:00 OPEN 10:30 Greg & Darlene Hatch	8:00 Bea Stoddard 10:30 Carol Westwent	10:30 Marilyn Larsen	8:00 OPEN 10:30 OPEN	OPEN
20	8:00 Linda Erwin 10:30 OPEN	8:00 Bea Stoddard 10:30 Greg Hatch	10:30 Lil Olsen	8:00 Linda E 10:30 OPEN	Glenda & Paul Boehk
27	8:00 OPEN 10:30 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service	8:00 Bea Stoddard 10:30 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service	10:30 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service	8:00 OPEN 10:30 Thankoffering Service	Edward & Monica Morris

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 am Bible Study	3 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	4	5
6 8:00 Worship with Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study – 10:30 Worship with Communion	7 4:00 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Intern Committee Mtg	8	9 9:00 am Bible Study	10 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	11	12
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study – 10:30 Worship	14 4:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Council Mtg 	15 11:00 am Health & Healing Service	16 9:00 am Bible Study	17 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	18	19
20 8:00 Worship with Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship with Communion	21 4:00 pm Choir Practice 6:30 Altar Guild	22	23 9:00 am Bible Study	24 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	25	26
27 Thankoffering Services 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	28 4:00 pm Choir Practice					



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Your Help is needed

Blessed Members and Winter Texans,

To better serve our congregation we need your help in providing Sunday ministries. With two services your support is greatly needed.

We need ushers, readers, cookies and flowers for February and March. If willing, please sign up to serve on Sundays. See the flower chart and the ministry sign up sheets on the bulletin board.

Peace and Blessings with many Thanks.