



Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. April 2010

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

The Pastor's Pulse

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

That is incredible news - and incredibly **good** news!

It is the promise of our Lord, "*Because I Live, you shall live, also.*" Death no longer has any power over us! We no longer have anything to fear as we face death. That old enemy, which held us in its grasp and under its power, has now become nothing more than a door through which we enter into the fullness of the presence of God.

Right alongside that, as a kind of preface, is this solid assurance from God's own word that **nothing** -tribulation, trial, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword - **nothing** can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The living Christ is with us, walks beside us, accompanies us through whatever, with power to sustain us, protect us, deliver us, save us. We are never alone. We are always in the company of the living Lord.

So, not only is it true that we have nothing to fear in our dying; we just as surely have nothing to fear in our living. If Christ has conquered sin and death and hell, and all the power of evil, Christ can most assuredly conquer whatever we might face in our day-to-day life in this world.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

LECTIONARY AIDS FOR APRIL

April 4, 2010-Easter Sunday-Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of His women followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

April 11, 2010-John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to His fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

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Lectionary Helps Continued

April 18, 2010-John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to His disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, He gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

April 25, 2010-John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about His identity with the remarkable claim that He and the Father are One. Those who understand this are His sheep; they hear His voice, follow, and will never be snatched from His hand.

PLANTING SEEDS

It's Spring and here are some ideas for your garden:

Plant Three Rows of Peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another

No Garden without Turnips!

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip for one another

To Conclude Our Garden we must have Thyme:

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends
Thyme for worship

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Anonymous

PREPARING FOR EASTER

By Toni Post

Longer days, warmer weather, and flowers can nudge us toward a too simple, happily-ever-after tone in the Easter message: "God raised Jesus from the tomb, which is a really good thing for the rest of us. Cue the trumpets." So why does the preacher keep preaching Easter 2 through Easter 7, and why do we need the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? Why come back to church at all?

Look again at the Easter Sunday texts. Who heard the resurrection announcement? Who are the main characters in the story line? A **community** discovers that Jesus has been raised, and a **community** tries to come to grips with what this new, confusing fact means to them. The Easter story is about the **community** that gathered about Jesus, and it is about relationships. We know that the risen Christ is present and publicly visible *now* when the **community** gathers. A **community** formed in the image of the risen one and inspired by His spirit is one of the goals of the continuing Easter lectionary readings. Come be a part of the **community**.

Good Samaritans

Please remember others in our

Community who need our help through your support of Good Samaritans. You can help by donating canned goods and nonperishable foods or giving a monetary donation.

More information is available in the Narthex.

God bless you for your generosity.

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Operating Fund spending for February was \$17,612 against our budget of \$15,113.
A number of insurance premiums for the church and parsonage were paid in February.
- Operating Fund spending YTD was \$32,983 against our budget of \$30,226.
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- Operating Fund giving for February was \$17,047 and \$35,229 YTD.
- We had a total month-end balance of \$54,533 for all funds.

Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

Close your eyes and imagine being a child once again...how did you view God as a child? That was the question of the month asked to children on a website recently visited. There were some humorous answers but the one that resonated was "you should always go to church on Sunday, because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!"

In an article included with our curriculum entitled, "Images of God," it indicates that as children grow we should encourage them to see that God is able to be a variety of images that he chooses to reveal to us when we are most in need. Many of these images can be found in the Bible. For example, an eagle (Deuteronomy 32:11-12), a shield (Psalm 3:3), a rock and fortress (Psalm 18:2), or a mother hen (Matthew 23:37).

This month invite a child to share with you their views of God. You can have them fill in the sentence, "God is like..." A simple conversation might offer you a bit of humor amongst honesty! Look up one of these images or one of your favorites in the Bible, have them draw their image of God, and help them to develop their image of God further. For example, John 8:12 states, "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." If light relates as your child's image of God, you can encourage them to deepen their recognition of God by simply singing "This Little Light of Mine," or by purchasing glow-in-the-dark stars to paste all over their ceiling, or by creating homemade candles! This activity may provide you a chance to reinforce your own childhood image of God as well.

If you would like to read more about how children view God, a book called, "Kids' View of God" by Candice Dunn and Rebecca Mann can be found at murdochbooks.com. The book is said to have lighthearted unedited quotes from children with beautiful photography.

May you enjoy finding a moment to delight in the image of God!

ALL IN THE FAMILY

By Stan Post

Last month's featured church family member was Susan Schneider.

Now for this month. Well, they come to church in either a BIG pickup or a van. Good thing. In addition to mom and dad there are four youngsters, a wonderful family.

As for Dad, he loves to surf. He's done it for years and while now his most frequent spot is in the Port A area, he has also surfed in Hawaii, Mexico, Florida, California and, of course, all along the Gulf Coast.

He's a graduate of Texas A&M and also of UT Medical in Galveston. Before practicing medicine in Rockport, he and the family lived in Llano and Shiner.

As for Mom, in addition to taking care of the four kids, she likes to RUN. I mean really run. For example, as I write this, she is in Fredricksburg participating in a competition. It involves running five miles, then bicycling fifteen miles, and then concluding by running two miles up to the top of Enchanted Rock. Sounds like fun, huh! Some of you have seen her, I'm sure, on one of her daily "runs" around parts of Rockport. And, oh yes, did I mention that at one time she trained Dolphins in Galveston at Sea-A-Rama.

The kids are all active in school and sport activities. They have also been part of our Christmas programs here at church and one has shared his musical talent by playing his trumpet for us.

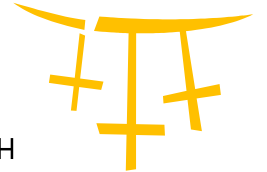
Do you know who this church family is? If not, I'll tell you next month.

PSALTERS FOR APRIL

April 4	Rob Persons
April 11	Lil Oseland
April 18	Keith Edman
April 25	Donna Marshall



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**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH FOR
APRIL**

Lloyd Jahnke

FLOWERS for APRIL

APRIL 4 Earl & Pauline Genskow
APRIL 11 Marsha Ingram
APRIL 18 OPEN
APRIL 25 OPEN

USHERS for APRIL

APRIL 4 Hal & Bonnie Lutz
APRIL 11 Linda Erwin & Monica Morris
APRIL 18 Bob & Michele Scherzer
APRIL 25 Tom & Lil Oseland

LECTORS for APRIL

APRIL 4 Linda Erwin
APRIL 11 Greg Hatch
APRIL 18 Sterling Frank
APRIL 25 OPEN