



Cross Beams

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

We come to the Season of Lent... a forty day pilgrimage to Calvary.

It is a time for serious reflection; a time to consider the Cross and Christ crucified; a time when we can come to a fuller understanding and deeper appreciation of the suffering and death of our Lord.

The season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, at 7:00 p.m., with the imposition of ashes - a symbol of repentance, and a reminder of our mortality. We will receive Holy Communion. As we hear the words, "Given and shed for you", the fruits of our Lord's suffering and death are being realized once again in our lives - "The entire forgiveness of all your sins."

Each Wednesday evening thereafter, for six weeks, we will share a Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m. Then, at 6:30, we will gather for worship. Our theme for the mid-week services and meditations is "The Body of Christ."

On Wednesdays at noon, the Aransas County Ministerial Association will present a luncheon and brief meditation at one of the local churches. We will be hosts on March 3rd.

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

I invite each one of you, and all, to avail yourself of this opportunity to deepen your faith and your devotion, as well as your understanding and appreciation of our Lord's suffering and death.

Lectionary Helps for February

February 7, 2010-Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind in order to become apostles.

February 14, 2010-Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)-Transfiguration of Our Lord

The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes His mission with a demonstration of His power over evil. Continued on page 1

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Lectionary Helps for February

Continued

February 21, 2010-Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at His baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through His responses to the temptations of the devil He defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

February 28, 2010-Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod’s plotting nor Jerusalem’s resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from His sacrificial mission.

Preparing for Lent

First of all, let us address the Transfiguration of Our Lord which will occur this year on Sunday, February 14th. This story bridges the Time After Epiphany and the beginning of the Lenten season, and we hear the story annually. Only Luke, however, describes Jesus as taking the disciples up the mountain **to pray**. It seems appropriate, particularly in the Year of Luke, **to attend to prayer**, asking God’s presence in our lives as we transition from the joy and light of Epiphany to the reflective season of Lent.

The word “Lent” comes from an Old English word for Spring, and the purpose of repentance during this season is the **renewal** of our lives through the renewing of our baptismal identities--individually, but also as a community. Looking at the meaning of repentance as **turning around and starting anew**, gives a deeper and more positive perspective on God’s blessed visual aids of longer days, blooming flowers, and greening grass.

Celebrating Lent With Children

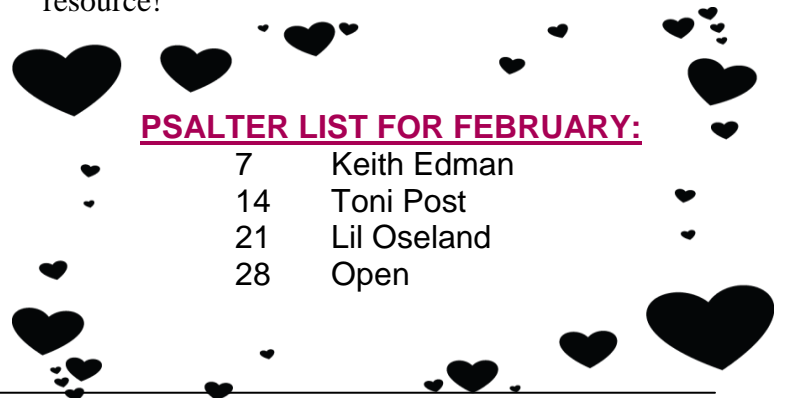
Participate as a family in the Ash Wednesday service to be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Before the service, discuss the Baptism section in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal with the children, pages 227-231. Especially point out the paragraph on page 231 which states “_____, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” Help the children make the connection between their own baptisms and being “marked with a cross” made of ashes on their foreheads.

Play the game of “Hide and Seek” as a family and then discuss how we are to “seek” God. You may want to read Psalm 27 together and point out the times you hear the words, “hide,” and “seek.”

Follow up with your children after they have attended Sunday School to talk about music they have heard or to hear them sing songs they have learned there. Joyful music accompanies our most exciting and thrilling events, such as hearing the Olympic theme played! There is also music that calms our spirits and leads us to places and thoughts where no words alone could take us. (One of the hostages from the Iran Crisis of 1979-1980 who is a Lutheran has said that the way she passed her 444 days of captivity was by reviewing in her mind the Bible stories she had learned in Sunday School and all the Christian songs she had ever learned to sing!) Every Sunday morning at 10AM, Rob and Deb Persons are teaching these types of songs to the children of our Sunday School classes. Take advantage of this great resource!

PSALTER LIST FOR FEBRUARY:

| | |
|----|-------------|
| 7 | Keith Edman |
| 14 | Toni Post |
| 21 | Lil Oseland |
| 28 | Open |



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Last month's featured church family members were Jerry and Nola Mathre.

This month we feature a church family member who has lived in Rockport for twelve years. He was born in San Antonio and lived there until the move to Rockport. For thirty years he was in education, both as a teacher and as an administrator.

This member served in the Air Force from 1958 to 1965. He flew out of Guam on B52s and was a bombardier.

Upon moving to Rockport this member and his wife opened a hobby and crafts shop, focusing mostly on trains. They ran the shop for the first five years after moving here.

Christmas is special to this member and his wife. This past Christmas they fed a Christmas dinner to 180 people and cooked eight turkeys to go along with all the other items on the menu. Wow, what an undertaking, and this was the third year to do this.

Travel is another special interest for this member. This past summer he and his wife traveled 5,000 miles and spent three weeks in the Angel Fire/ Taos, New Mexico area, as well as North and South Dakota and other states that were in their path.

Finally, while this member is not Michelangelo, he is very talented. He has left his "work" in our church to be enjoyed by all in the church family. In fact, there are twenty-one very special works of art spread throughout the building. Do you know what they are and where they are? Do you know who this church family member is? Bet you do, but if not I'll tell you in next month's newsletter.

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.

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

Michele Scherzer

FLOWERS for FEBRUARY

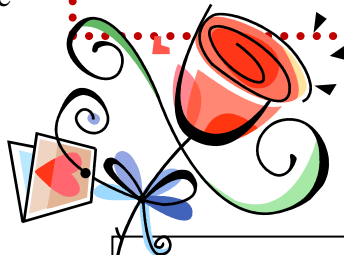
| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| FEBRUARY 7 | Ray & Mary Anne McBride |
| FEBRUARY 14 | Monica Morris |
| FEBRUARY 21 | Paul & Glenda Boehk |
| FEBRUARY 28 | OPEN |

USHERS for FEBRUARY

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|-------------|---|
| FEBRUARY 7 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Bob & Michele Scherzer |
| FEBRUARY 14 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Tom & Cris Staley |
| FEBRUARY 21 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Bob & Michele Scherzer |
| FEBRUARY 28 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Larry & Liz Schuetz |

LECTORS for FEBRUARY

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| FEBRUARY 7 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Carolyn Cauley |
| FEBRUARY 14 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Stan Post |
| FEBRUARY 21 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Linda Erwin |
| FEBRUARY 28 | 8:00 OPEN 10:30 Michele Scherzer |



Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Operating Fund spending for December YTD was \$217,945 against our budget of \$171,460.
 - NOTE: This includes a \$50,000 increase in the mortgage payment as approved by the church council.
- Operating fund giving for December YTD was \$204,441
- We had a month-end balance of \$51,598.40 for all funds.