



Cross Beams

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

*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

The last of the stained glass windows has been completed and installed. A special Order of Blessing and Dedication was used, during worship services, to “officially” bless and dedicate them. How much beauty and symbolism the stained glass windows add to our church building.

We are very thankful for all those persons who spent many, many hours devoted to that meticulous work.

Out of that project has evolved a very unique and special ministry - crosses of stained glass, and lap quilts, taken to persons in the hospital as a reminder that the thoughts and prayers of the congregation are with them.

I am impressed with the many thoughtful ways in which our people respond to both members and non-members during times of special need. Visits are made to hospitals and homes, meals are provided, errands run, transportation provided for treatments. There are just a whole host of loving acts through which people provide care for one another.

One of the latest developments available to us is the Caring Bridge; a way you can communicate personally and directly with those to whom you wish to give support and encouragement.

More specifically, for those who wish to be in touch with Nola Mathre, you simply go to the site CaringBridge.org/visit.nolamathre. You leave your message. It also puts you on the list of those who receive news and updates from Nola.

On the bulletin board at the church is the latest communication from Nola, together with her greetings to us. You are welcome and encouraged to read it.

Lectionary Helps for March

March 7, 2010-Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

March 14, 2010-Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

Continued on page 1

Lectionary Helps *Continued*

March 21, 2010-John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of His burial.

March 28, 2010-Luke 22:14-23:56-Passion/Palm Sunday

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves, the empty disciples are able to fill others, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus---the innocent bringer of life---is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.



EASTER LILIES

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for Easter lilies to adorn our altar area on Easter Sunday. If you would like to participate, please put your name on the sheet, as well as the dedication you would like to have printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Please take it upon yourself to purchase your own lily and bring it into the church preferably before the 8:00 service on Easter Sunday morning. After the 10:30 service, feel free to come up to the altar and claim your lily again to be used for your Easter pleasure.

Remember to be careful of that sticky yellow substance on the stamens and use tape to get it off your clothes if you find some on you. Don't brush it off or you will smear your new Easter clothes!

Preparing For Palm Sunday

As we process into the church building on Palm Sunday morning with our palm fronds in hand, it would be good to keep in mind the event which we are symbolically recreating.

Jesus was in control of the events of the last week of His life, even though those events led to His death. The first event is appropriately called "The Triumphal Entry." Luke tells us that Jesus sent two of His disciples on ahead to find a colt for Him to ride into the city of Jerusalem. He was entering Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, festivals that commemorated the great act of God's deliverance of the nation. Such feasts were often celebrated at this time with the hope that God's decisive deliverance would come. Zechariah had prophesied that the coming King would ride into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey.

So Jesus' disciples set Him on the donkey, and we are told that "a great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road." Prior to this time, the Lord Jesus had steadfastly avoided such a display. Now He was publicly presenting Himself to Israel as the nation's Messiah and King.

"Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' We, too, will be saying "Hosanna" as part of the Palm Sunday procession. "Hosanna" literally means "save now." Hosanna!

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.

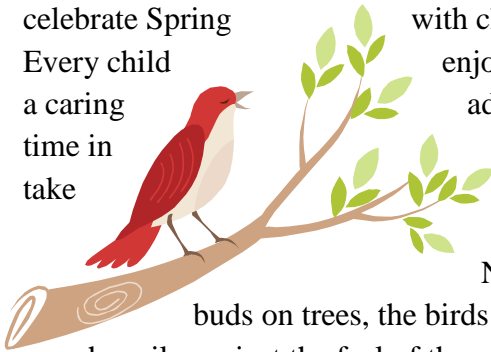


Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

Spring is upon us! Have you noticed the signs of Spring? It's time for all of us to delight in nature's newness. It's also a perfect time to celebrate Spring with children.

Every child enjoys time with a caring adult, so make time in your day to take a little walk.



Notice the buds on trees, the birds singing happily, or just the feel of the warm Spring breeze! You could also pick up different signs of nature to create a wonderful work of art - a nature collage!

“Living the Good News” is the name of our Sunday School curriculum. It uses the visual arts to help children connect with God. The article, “Learning Through the Visual Arts,” says, “artists help us to see more clearly the objects we may take for granted - the minor miracles we pass unthinkingly every day.” The arts in our Sunday School program provides the children with other ways to see, feel, and hear God. The children are able to use posters portraying famous works of art to enhance their learning. Also, they are able to use real art products to express themselves creatively.

If you have an artistic flair that you'd like to share with the children, please come into our classroom to visit. (Please contact Susan at 790-8727.)

May you have time to celebrate the beauty of Spring

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Last month's featured church family member was Fred Huddleston.

Now for this month. Well, if you are going to have even half the energy of this lady you'll need a lot. She is a busy bee. In addition to taking care of her family, she is a Teacher's Aide at Live Oak Learning Center, coordinates Youth Sunday School for Holy Cross and teaches a class, helps her husband with completely remodeling a house they bought here in Rockport ... and the list could go on and on.

This member is a native of Willmar, Minnesota and has only lived in Rockport a short while. It was a desire to live close to her parents and sister who initiated the move. She, and her family, joined Holy Cross just over a year ago and immediately became active members of the church.

In high school, this member was active in drama and loved being part of the speech team. After high school, she attended St. Cloud State University and got a degree in Public Relations. Following this was time spent working in a variety of Marketing Director jobs. And, did I mention, that at one point she had her own in-home Day Care Center taking care of twelve children.

Finally, you'll be interested in knowing she likes race cars. In fact, after college she actually raced one on the Powder Puff circuit, on a dirt track, wearing a helmet and fire suit. Can you imagine!

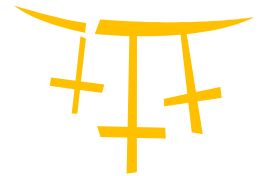
Do you know who this church family member is? If not, look for someone busy and who always has a smile on her face. If you don't figure out the answer, I'll tell you who it is next month.

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Operating Fund spending for January was \$15,372 against our budget of \$15,113.
 - Operating Fund giving for January was \$18,182. Operating Fund giving for January 2009 was \$17,934.
 - We had a total month-end balance of \$54,927 for all funds.
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COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Murphy Baldwin

FLOWERS for MARCH

MARCH 7 Stan & Toni Post
 MARCH 14 Marsha Ingram
 MARCH 21 Win & Gudrun Neubert
 MARCH 28 Harold & JoAnn Hees

USHERS for MARCH

MARCH 7 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Bob & Michele Scherzer
 MARCH 14 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Murphy & Dee Baldwin / Al & Carol Larson
 MARCH 21 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 OPEN
 MARCH 28 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Murphy & Dee Baldwin/Milo & Barb Gjerde

LECTORS for MARCH

MARCH 7 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Pat Reiner
 MARCH 14 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Linda Erwin
 MARCH 21 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 OPEN
 MARCH 28 8:00 OPEN
 10:30 Stan Post

PSALTERS FOR MARCH

MARCH 7 _____
 MARCH 14 _____
 MARCH 21 _____
 MARCH 28 _____

