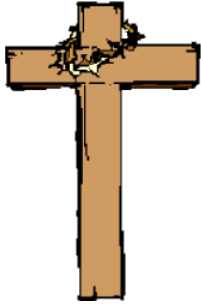


**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

April 2004



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Council Minutes	2
Lessons & Hymns	3
Worship Assistants	4
In Our Prayers	4
What's Happening at DML	5
From Our Members	6
About Easter	7
Word Search Puzzle	7
Annual Meeting Questions	8
Calendar	9

**The Church
Door**

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events. Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or cborreson@charter.net) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.

The Church Door

From the Pastor

Spring has officially arrived and with it Easter is just around the corner. Mel Gibson's film, The Passion of the Christ made it's debut on Ash Wednesday. As of March 24 it had grossed \$300 million, and is well in the running to become one of the all time box office champs, and is currently #18 on that list.

The word "passion" has come to mean a powerful emotion, such as love, joy, hatred, or anger. However, the word comes from Latin and originally meant physical sufferings or martyrdom. When it is used with a capital "P" it means the sufferings of Jesus in the period following the Last Supper and including the Crucifixion, hence, Mel Gibson's film deals with the those last hours of Jesus life on earth.

I have two concerns about the film. One is the extreme violence and the other is how does a non-believer view the film, the same questions I have heard others raise. For the unbeliever, there was little to tell why this is happening to Jesus or what is our relationship to him. The Bible teaches that it is because of the sins of each of us that

Jesus died, but the film does not go into that, nor did it intend to. Mel Gibson said you can read the Gospels if you want to know.

For me the violence got in the way of what was happening or why it was happening. Yet, there is no doubt that violence is a part of the story of Jesus salvation work. Someone has

risen Lord, and thereby placing us even farther from the crucifixion.

Yet within the Lutheran tradition, among others, we have a strong Lenten focus during the 40 days that lead to the cross and the resurrection with added Wednesday evening worship services. During Holy Week, the week before Easter, we intensify

our worship experience with a Maundy Thursday worship and a Good Friday workshops. Samuel Lutheran church for the past 40 years has hosted the traditional 3 hour afternoon worship to mark the hours that Jesus was on the cross. (I will be preaching there at 1:45 PM).

Sadly, these extra worship services are not well attended. I wonder if it is because we have lost touch with the Passion of the Christ.

Join us, won't you for these most holy days as we come together as followers of Jesus, to remember his sacrifice for us and for our sins.

Grace, mercy and peace to you this Lenten season, Pastor Dennis

Holy Week Services

- April 4, Sunday of the Passion 10:00 am
- April 9, Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
- April 10, Good Friday 12:00 - 3:00 pm (at Samuel Lutheran)
- April 10, Good Friday 7:00 pm (at DML)
- April 12 Easter Breakfast 9:00 am (sponsored by our youth)
- April 12, Easter Worship 10:00 AM

pointed out that Jesus was crucified not between two candle sticks on the altar of some pretty church, but between two criminals on an ugly hill. Over the years we have perhaps lost touch with the passion of Christ, his suffering and death. Artwork of the crucifixion often does not show the pain and horror of Jesus' death on the cross. Protestants often use the symbol of the cross without the body to emphasize the

Finance Information—March 24, 2004

Balances

Checkbook	\$580.66
LB Money Market	949.42
Savings – Designated	\$5,782.83
Savings – Memorial	\$7,324.64
Savings – Reserve	\$2,594.26
Savings – Social Security	\$1,551.36
Total	\$18,783.17

Designated Breakdown

Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$2,196.50
Kitchen Fund	\$1,320.20
Men's Club	\$314.31
Roof Loan	\$1,737.43
Youth Group	<u>\$145.39</u>
Total	\$5,782.83

Investments

LB Fund	\$35,468.90
LB Income Fund	\$43,802.56
Total	\$79,271.46

Church Loan Information

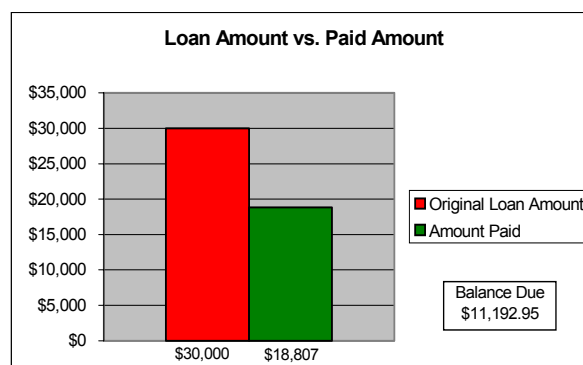
Original Loan Amount	\$30,000.00
Amount Paid (through March 2004)	\$18,807.05
Balance Due as of March 24, 2004	\$11,192.95

Designated Building Fund March 24, 2004 \$1,737.43

Breakdown of Giving for Loan

October 2003	\$474.00
November 2003	\$1,645.50
December 2003	\$911.00
January 2004	\$302.00
February 2004	\$373.00
March 2004 (less March 28)	\$419.00

Loan Payment \$465.48



LESSONS & HYMNS



April 4 Palm Sunday

Lessons

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

Hymns

Ent: 108—All Glory, Laud and Honor
HD: 104—In the Cross of Christ I
Glory
Comm: 98—Alas and Did My Savior
Bleed
Close: 121—Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



April 11 Easter

Lessons

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

Hymns

Ent: 151—Jesus Christ is Risen Today!
HD: 138—He is Arisen! Glorious
Word!
Comm: 135—The Strife is O'er, the
Battle Done
Close: 143—Now All the Vault of
Heaven Resounds



April 18 1st Sunday of Easter

Blue Book Service

Lessons

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Hymns

Ent: 671—Alleluia, Alleluia, Give
Thanks to the Risen Lord
HD: 741—Thy Holy Wings
Comm: 699—Blessed Assurance
740—Jesus Remember Me
Close: 721—Go My Children with My
Blessing

April 25 2nd Sunday of Easter

Lessons

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Hymns

Ent: 153—Welcome, Happy Morning
HD: 457—Jesus, Priceless Treasure
Comm: 385—What Wondrous Love is
This?
Close: 530—Jesus Shall Reign



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- To Marcia Kitchka and Nancy Gibson for volunteering their time and sharing their talent by providing music during the Wednesday evening Lenten services
- To everyone who provided soup for the Soup Suppers; Tom Proksa, Rose Justian, Chelsea Eggleton, and Lauren Stroh.
- To our Fellowship Hour Hostesses in March; Jeff & Michelle Ward, Jan Ward, and Marcia Kitchka.
- Eve Circle would like to thank everyone who so graciously gave for the Missions Easter Baskets. We were able to purchase a children's bible for each basket this year, besides the other goodies. They will be well received as usual.
- Thank you's from Tom & Betty Proksa—"My nephew -- Ken Hawkins is home in Washington, from Korea. Thank you for all your prayers. We are so thankful he is home -stateside- safe with his family."
- Thank you's also from Virginia Kolarik for the prayers while her granddaughter, Lisa Pepera was in Iraq. Lisa will now be stationed in Hong Kong.

Worship Assistants

April 4

Deacon Rose Justian
Lector Laurie Tilden
Crucifer Andrew Kitchka
Bookbearer Matthew Kitchka
Torchbearer Jeffrey Stuthard
Torchbearer Jonathan Stuthard
Nursery Lauren Stroh
Ushers Mike Sellon
 Russ Tilden
Tellers Donna Whitehead
 Tom Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

April 11

Deacon Andrew Kitchka
Lector Nancy Hulka
Crucifer Eric Burke
Bookbearer Bethani Eggleton
Torchbearer Emily Johnson
Torchbearer Jacob Ward
Nursery Jan Ward
Ushers Emily Kitchka
 Bill Kitchka
Tellers Cindy Borreson
 Randy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

April 18

Deacon Bill Kitchka
Lector Michelle Ward
Acolyte Andrew Kitchka
Nursery Donna Whitehead
Ushers Emogene Cotal
 Jan Wolf
Tellers Irene Borreson
 LaVern Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

April 25

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Lector Jeff Ward
Acolyte Matthew Kitchka
Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
 John Moore
Nursery Alice Doan
Ushers John Moore
 Tom Proksa

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
If you are unable to fulfill your
responsibility, please contact:

Deacons, Acolytes, & Tellers contact:
Cindy Borreson—616-846-2477

Lectors & Ushers contact:
Janet Wolf—(231) 739-7328

Nursery contact:
Jan Ward—(231) 739-7328

*How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking
 about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a
 day your thoughts turn towards me.*

Psalm 139:17

Gene Broge
 Bea Eggleton
 Millie Fredrick
 Ann Hulka
 Margaret Hulka
 Mille Lussy
 Patti McRoberts
 (Paul & Ada Filka's daughter &
 Previous member)
 Floyd Nickisch

Mary Panozzo
 Jeannette Roach
 Judy Slezak
 (Irene Borreson's sister &
 previous member)
 Evelyn Stroh
 (Pastor's Mother)
 Paul Suchovsky
 Lowell Tambling
 Charley Thomas
 (Beulah Justian's friend)

IN OUR

 prayers

Please contact
 Cindy Borreson at
 616-846-2477 or by email
 at cborreson@charter.net or
 Pastor Dennis to add a name
 to the Prayer List.

What's Happening at Dr. Martin Luther?

DORCAS CIRCLE

Meetings continue on the 1st
Monday of each month at
10:00 am.

See Irene Borreson or Ann
Hamil for information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle meets on the
2nd Tuesday of each
month.

They will be making up
Easter baskets during the
April 6th meeting at 7:00.
Anyone that would like to
join is more than welcome.

Contact Betty Proksa if
you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meetings the 1st
Saturday of each month.

Contact Russ Tilden or Tom
Whitehead with
questions.

The Holy Tridium

Maundy Thursday

The Holy Eucharist—7:00 pm

Good Friday—7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

The Holy Eucharist—10:00 am

New Member Classes

If you are interested in at-
tending, please see
Pastor Dennis.
Be watching for meeting
information on
New Member (and Old
Member) classes.

Bible Quiz: The Ten Commandments

- In What book of the Bible will you find the Ten Commandments?
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
- Where was the Law given to Moses?
 - Mount Ararat
 - Mount Everest
 - Mount Sinai
 - Mount Carmel
- What did God use to write on the stone tables?
 - A finger
 - A rock
 - The wind
 - Flowing water
- How long was Moses gone from the people as He talked to God on the mountain and received the ten commandments?
 - 7 days
 - 40 days
 - 3 months
 - 7 months
- What caused Moses to break the tablets on which the ten commandments were written?
 - God told him to as the people were full of sin
 - His people were worshipping an idol
 - Aaron lied to him
 - Joshua sinned against God
- In what were the ten commandments kept?
 - Altar
 - Stone
 - Ark
 - Pillar

See page 8 for answers

From our Members...

After a hardy West Virginia rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic. "Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she says as she shook the older boy in anger. "We're just playing 'church' mommy" he said. "I was baptizing him in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes.

Submitted by Betty Proksa

Even if you're not a grandparent you will enjoy this:

A teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their vacation.

One child wrote the following: We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big, brick-house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida and now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people.

They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all right now.

They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they

don't know how to swim.

At their gate there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts. My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night: Early Birds.

Some of the people can't get past the man in the dollhouse to go out, so the ones who get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it pot luck.

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded one day, too. When I earn my retardment I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let the people out so they can visit their grandchildren.

21 Wise Sayings

1. The best way to get even is to forget.
2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
3. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
4. Some folks wear their halos much too tight.
5. Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth.
6. Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 5 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea.
7. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.
8. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.
9. Words are windows to the heart.

10. A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
11. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.
12. A successful marriage isn't finding the right person-it's being the right person.
13. The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.
14. Too many people offer God prayers with claw marks all over them.
15. The tongue must be heavy indeed, because so few people can't hold it.
16. To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you.
17. You have to wonder about humans, they think God is dead and Elvis is alive.
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.
21. And last but not least -- God gave the angels Wings, and He gave humans CHOCOLATE!!!!

Keep smiling, and ...if you see someone's missing one....give them one of yours!!

~Author Unknown~

Submitted by Darlene Boucher

About Easter

Jesus Christ died on a cross on a Friday almost two thousand years ago. Christians believe that on the following Sunday, Christ rose from the dead and, in doing so, proved that He is the Son of God. The day Jesus died and was buried is known as Good Friday. The following Sunday is Easter.

Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God each year between March 22nd and April 25th (the first Sunday after the vernal equinox).

Religious celebrations include family gatherings and special Easter church services.

So where do the Bunnies come in?

In olden times, Christian monks were very good at explaining their religion to those who hadn't heard of God or Jesus. They almost always took symbols of significance of the people they were teaching and used those symbols to teach about God.

The timing of Easter was such that it coincided with the spring festivals of

many pagan religions. (In northern Europe, the goddess of spring was Eostre -- some people say that Easter may have even gotten its name from this goddess).

These spring festivals celebrated the wakening of the world after spring. Luckily, this "awakening" went very well with the monks teaching of Jesus' resurrection! The ideas of the rebirth of spring were merged with the Christian teachings of Jesus resurrection to form the Easter holiday most of us know today.

Easter Traditions

Easter traditions differ around the world. Here are just a few of them.

Children in the United States and Canada say the Easter bunny or rabbit brings eggs at Easter. In Germany and England, they say the hare brings them. The hare looks like a rabbit, but it's larger, with longer ears and legs.

In Australia, rabbits are quite a nuisance as they are not native to the land. For this reason, there is an attempt being made to dub the Bilby as the the chief egg bringer of the

land. For lack of a better description, the Bilby looks a bit like a cross between a mouse and a rabbit.

In Italy, Belgium and France, children say Easter eggs are brought by the church bells. There, church bells do not ring from Good Friday until Easter Sunday. Because of this, people say that the bells have flown off to Rome. As the bells fly back home for Easter, they drop colored eggs for boys and girls to find.

But there are more foods than eggs to enjoy on Easter!

People in Russia eat an Easter bread that is full of plump white raisins and tastes like cake. In some countries of Eastern Europe, people enjoy an Easter Cake called *babka*. It's shaped like a skirt -- *babka* means "little old woman". Easter cakes in Italy are shaped like a rabbit, which is a symbol of birth and new life and many other countries make cookies and cakes shaped like a lamb, a symbol of Jesus. Hot cross buns are another traditional Easter bread with icing in the shape of a cross.

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/easter/about.htm>

Easter Word Search

D B B X R T R H Y B Q M S W K
 J O F E S S Q W W A K P H K R
 D R P A T E G S A V I O R U R
 B O I S Y N A J N J X X N C Y
 H M Y O T W P S U F S O R R Y
 S I F N D Z Z G J A I G V K T
 A R D O H E M H C T F K S F C
 O A S F I D S R A Q W E P S J
 G C O G O X I V B B E W Z F K
 T L L O S F L J M P C W Z K U
 Q E O D I A N H A E D Q U I X
 H S V C S F M F L A L J U N J
 U N E L C K Q U K C R E Z G Z
 W F H S R T V A U E J O J V M
 B P J E W Z X R I V K S B C W

Word List

HOPE
 KING
 LAMB
 LOVE
 MIRACLE
 PEACE
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SAVIOR
 SONOFGOD



Red is for the blood He gave.
 Green is for the grass He made.
 Yellow is for the sun so bright.
 Orange is for the edge of night.
 Black is for the sins we made.
 White is for the grace He gave.
 Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
 Pink is for our new tomorrow.

An egg full of jelly beans, Colorful and Sweet
 Is a prayer, a promise, A loved one's treat!!

written by Charlene Dickerson

Festivals & Commemorations for April

April 4—Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

April 6—Albrecht Durer, painter, died 1528; Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, died 1564

Durer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Michelangelo was tremendously gifted and is remembered, among other works, for his carving of the Pieta, painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and as chief architect for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

April 9—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher, died 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the second World War, he became a leader of the confessing church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

April 10—Mikael Agricola, bishop of Turku, died 1557

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

April 19—Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, archbishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

April 21—Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, died 1109

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

April 22—Day of the Creation (Dia de la Creacion)

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

April 23—Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among those who were poor, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

April 25—St. Mark, evangelist

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

April 29—Catherine of Siena, teacher, died 1380

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Answers to Bible Quiz—Ten Commandments

1) Genesis, 2) Mount Sinai, 3) A finger, 4) 40 days, 5) His people were worshipping an idol, 6) Ark

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 28 Lent 6 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am	March 29	March 30	March 31 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:15 pm	1 NO Bible Study	2	3 Men's Club 9 am
4 Palm Sunday Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	5 Dorcas Circle 10 am	6 Finance Com. 7 pm <i>Albrecht Durer, painter, 1528; Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, 1564</i>	7	8 Maundy Thursday NO Bible Study The Holy Eucharist 7 pm	9 Good Friday Worship 7 pm <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher, 1945</i>	10 <i>Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557</i>
11 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am	12 Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	13 Parish Ed 6:30 pm Eve Circle 7 pm	14	15 Bible Study 2 pm	16	17 W & M Com. 10 am
18 Easter 2 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am	19 Evangelism Com. 6:30 pm <i>Olavus Petri, priest, 1552; Laurentius Petri, Archbishop of Uppsala, 1573; renewers of the Church</i>	20	21 <i>Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109</i>	22 Bible Study 2 pm <i>Day of the Creation</i>	23 <i>Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960</i>	24 Mutual Ministry 9 am
25 Easter 3 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am St. Mark, Evangelist	26	27	28	29 Bible Study 2 pm <i>Catherine of Siena, teacher, 1380</i>	30	May 1 Men's Club 9 am

**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

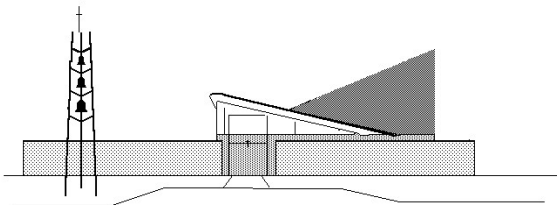
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2004

THE SEASON'S
of
Lent & Easter



Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church
1860 E. Hile Rd.
Muskegon, MI 49444

THE CHURCH DOOR
April 2004
The Season's of Lent & Easter