

Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

January 2004

Happy New Year!!!

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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

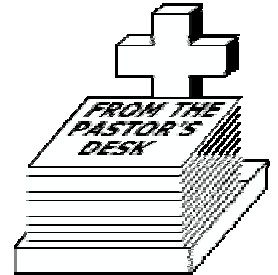
The Stroh family thanks all of those at DML who sent Christmas greetings and gifts to us during the Christmas season. We cherish the love and warmth of all the DML members expressed in many and various ways.

It's hard to believe that another year has rolled by! At our New Year's day brunch I asked Ben if he had made any New Year's resolutions but he didn't know what a "resolution" was. I asked Becky and she said she didn't know she was supposed to make a resolution. We aren't big on resolutions in our household.

There is nothing wrong with making changes, but I believe that one should not wait until once a year to make necessary changes in one's life. For the Christian, we tend to use the word "repent" with the word "resolve" and we do it daily. Daily we repent of our sins against God,

against our neighbor, against ourselves and we resolve to make changes in our life so that we do not continue to sin.

Many New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside within a few weeks. It is true that many of us seem to need help in remembering to do the things we said we were going to do. If you need some help remembering your New Year's resolution, there is a free Internet service that will send you a monthly e-mail reminder throughout the year. But for those free reminders you need to have a computer and an Internet connection. For the Christian we find that the Holy Spirit reminds us. The reminders from the Holy Spirit are also free, and you also need a connection, but it is free, too. The connection is made through prayer, reading the Bible and receiving the Sacraments. Just as many check their Internet e-



mail daily, so the Christian checks in daily with the Spirit through prayer and the reading of Scripture.

May God, our Father, richly bless you and your loved ones in the coming year.

God's grace, mercy and peace to you,
Pastor Dennis

Looking Ahead

Transfiguration Dinner

Sponsored by
Dorcas Circle

Sunday,
February 22, 2004

Immediately Following
Worship

More details to follow



Church Dinner

Church Council Minutes—December 8, 2003

CALLED TO ORDER at 6:34 pm by President Jan Wolf.

DEVOTIONS from Luke, Chapter 3.

IN ATTENDANCE: C Borreson, R Borreson, G Broge, G Eggleton, S Hellman, B Justian, B Proksa, Pastor Stroh, J Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the November 11, 2003 Council Meeting presented in written form.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Financial reports for November were presented in written form.

Checkbook Balance	\$2,021.79
LB Money Market	\$2,334.04
Savings – Designated	\$7,255.38
Savings – Memorial:	\$10,257.74
Savings – Reserve:	\$3,979.54
Savings – Social Security:	\$1,140.47
Cash Account:	\$1,964.00
Total:	\$28,952.96

Designated Breakdown

Dinners	\$317.00
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$2,326.50
Kitchen Fund	\$1,320.20
Men's Club	\$258.31
Roof Loan	\$3,146.13
Youth Group	\$145.39
TOTAL	\$7,582.53

PASTOR'S REPORT: *Sick & Shut-In Calls:* F Nickisch and A Hulka. *Pastoral Activities:* Pre-marriage (Sellon-Pastoor); Attended Open House for Pastor Julie at Immanuel; Flu Shot; Committees – Worship & Music, Mutual Ministry, Evangelism, Finance, Parish Ed; Stony Lake Conference Meeting, Advent Dinner; Dorcas Circle, Men's Club Breakfast, Prayer Team. *Personal Activities:* Mediations, Thrivent Board Meeting, Jury Duty. *Informational Items:* 1) Vacation 12/27 – 1/3 (Lay Service with Worship & Music selecting person(s) to lead service), 2) Pick council installation date (12/14), 3) Can we do something for our service personnel. (B Proksa will send cards), 4) Pump seized due to not being lubricated once a year. Need procedure to make sure this happens, 5) Louvers in Fellowship Hall

should not be closed, 6) Constitutional requirement to look at membership list (will look into qualifications and review the current list. Cindy will provide contribution list of members – 3 communions and 1 contribution within 2-years.) 7) Bethlehem is closing January 18th.

Committee Reports

CHURCH PROPERTY: Parking lot lights replaced. Louie's last day will be the 14th. Pastor has contacted Pastor Anderson (Samuel Lutheran) and he said his Sexton would be willing to work for \$8.50 per hour until we find someone permanently. Randy to contact him.

EVANGELISM: Flu shot clinic to be move up to an earlier date for next year for better attendance, only 34 people attended this year. Planning Friendship Sunday for 2004.

FINANCE: Checking balance - \$3,894.48. Received check for \$901 from Diane Irwin. Will evaluate the cost having the preschool in our facility and discuss with Diane.

PARISH EDUCATION: St. Nicholas Tree gifts will be delivered on Sunday, December 21, 2003. Christmas Program during worship on December 21.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Christmas Baskets for the needy will be delivered. Donna Vanderstelt will send Christmas cards. Sent flowers to shut-ins.

STEWARDSHIP: No report.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Services planned for December; readers needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

MUTUAL MINISTRY: Met on November 22; next meeting is January 24, 2004.

Special Committee Reports

Dorcas Circle – No report

Eve Circle – Card making is going well. Will be starting on Easter Cards soon.

Men's Club – Met on December 6 at Nino's; discussed Siding Project.

Petitions & Communications

None

Unfinished Business

Janet suggested we draw up a contract with Diane Irwin, which should include cleaning, divider movement and timing, and other expectations (ours and hers). Finance will work on this.

New Business

Beulah asked to be excused January, February, and March. Approved.

Stephen Hellman suggested a Spanish language and cooking classes to be taught by his wife. Will follow-up in 2004 and invite members and general public.

Election of Officers:

President – Jan Wolf
Vice President – Gene Broge
Secretary – Tom Whitehead
Treasurer – Cindy Borreson

Committees:

Church Property
Stephen Hellman
Gordon Eggleton

Evangelism
Gene Broge

Finance
Tom Whitehead
Stephen Hellman

Parish Education
Betty Proksa

Social Ministry
Beulah Justian

Stewardship
Emogene Cotal

Worship & Music
Cindy Borreson

Mutual Ministry
Executive Board

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Borreson
Council Secretary

Lessons & Hymns

January 4

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Lessons

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1: [1-9] 10-18

Hymns

55 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
56 The First Noel
60 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
39 Joy to the World

January 11

The Baptism of Our LORD

Lessons

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Hymns

36 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
693 Baptized in Water (Blue Book)
486 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
557 Let All Things Now Living

January 18

The Confession of St. Peter

Blue Book Service

Lessons

Acts 4:8-13
Psalm 18:1-7, 16-19
1 Corinthians 10:1-5
Matthew 16:13-19

Hymns

696 I've Just Come from the Fountain
684 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
766 We Come to the Hungry Feast
721 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul

Lessons

Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 67
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 21:10-19

Hymns

559 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
755 We All Are One in Mission
403 Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak
55 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- To Jeff Ward for delivering the Sermon on December 28th.
- To John Moore for leading the hymns on December 28th.
- To Randy Borreson for "stepping in to help" while we are looking for a new Sexton.
- To everyone for picking up after themselves while we are without a Sexton.
- To the Kitchka family for donating the Christmas Tree.
- To the Eve Circle for decorating the Christmas Tree.
- The Kitchka, Stroh, Borreson, and Johnson families for participating in the Advent Candle lighting at the beginning of the Advent Sunday services.
- To Sue Christensen for providing bulletin covers. Sue is the daughter of Andrew & Millie Lussky and she volunteered to provide us with covers (along with the ones provided by the B.I.B.L.E. Club covers).

Worship Assistants

January 4

Deacon Bill Kitchka
Lector _____
Acolyte Jacob Ward
Nursery Rose Justian
Ushers Mike Sellon
 Russ Tilden
Tellers Donna Whitehead
 Tom Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

January 11

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Lector _____
Acolyte Jonathan Stuthard
Nursery Betty Proksa
Ushers Emily Kitchka
 Bill Kitchka
Tellers Cindy Borreson
 Randy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

January 18

Deacon Cindy Borreson
Lector _____
Acolyte Eric Burke
Nursery Janeen Sellon
Ushers Emogene Cotal
 Jan Wolf
Tellers Irene Borreson
 LaVern Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

January 25

Deacon Rose Justian
Lector _____
Acolyte Bethani Eggleton
Nursery Lauren Stroh
Ushers John Moore
 Tom Proksa
Tellers Betty Proksa
 Tom Proksa
 John Moore

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

Deacons, Acolytes, Tellers	Cindy Borreson	(616) 846-2477
Lectors, Ushers	Janet Wolf	(231) 739-7328
Nursery	Jan Ward	(231) 799-0424

About Prayer

Said the Holy One to Israel,
 "I have told you that when
 you pray, you should do so in
 the synagogue in your city. If
 you cannot pray in the syna-
 gogue, pray in your field. If
 you cannot pray in your field,
 pray in your house. If you
 cannot pray in your house,
 pray on your bed. If you can-
 not pray on your bed, medi-
 tate in your heart."
 — Midrash Psalms 4:9



Those in need of healing:

Bea Eggleton

Ann Hulka

Patti McRoberts

(Paul & Ada Filka's daughter &
 Previous member)

Floyd Nickisch

Jeannette Roach

Judy Slezak

(Irene Borreson's sister &
 previous member)

Evelyn Stroh

(Pastor's Mother)



Do you have a loved one you
 would like included in the
 prayers or added to our
 prayer list? Please contact
 Cindy Borreson at
 616-846-2477 or by email
 at cborreson@charter.net
 and she will see they are
 included.

What's Happening at Dr. Martin Luther?

Dorcias Circle

The Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on December 1st at Red Lobster; 12 women attended and were joined by Pastor Dennis. Thirty-six dollars (\$36) was collected towards the Missionary gift.

Gifts were given to Pastor Stroh, Pastor Michnay, and the Loan.

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 will be meeting 2nd Tuesday of January (13th). The plan is to take the Christmas Tree down. They are in need of some **strong** men to carry the tree out. Any volunteers?

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meetings the 1st Saturday of each month.

Next meeting:

Nino's Restaurant

Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00 am.

Contact Russ Tilden at 616-844-0883 with questions.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 18 Following worship

The purpose of this meeting to:

- Accept Committee Report
- Receive Financial Reports

As a member of DML it is your privilege and responsibility to attend this meeting. Please plan to be there.

BIBLE Club

The B.I.B.L.E. Club presented their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21. The Congregation very much enjoyed the program which was narrated by Jeff and Michelle Ward. B.I.B.L.E. Club participants in the program were, Shelby Archer, Andy Doan, Emily Johnson, Nathaniel Johnson, Jack Proksa, Becky Stroh, and Ben Stroh.

Thank you to Lauren Johnson who wrote the program.

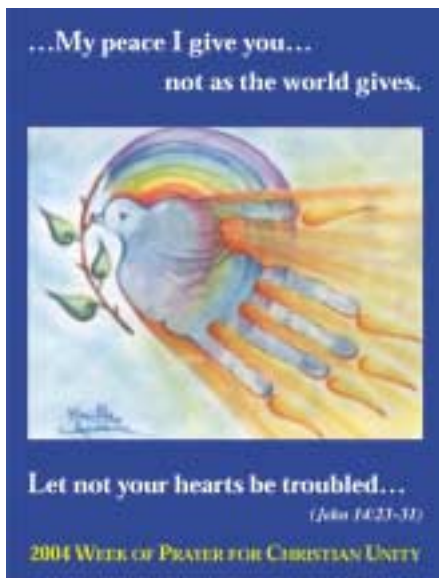
The B I B L E club will resume on Sunday January 11th.

Epiphany Service

Celebrate the awe and wonder of the light of Christ at an Epiphany Service, Tuesday, January 6, 2004, 7 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 930 Creston, Muskegon.

Daily Scripture & Prayer Guide

2004 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



DAY 1

The Love of God, the Foundation of Peace: Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them (John 14:23).

Scripture

Deuteronomy 7:7-11, *He is the faithful God who maintains his love for a thousand generations.*

Psalms 25:2-10, *Be mindful of your mercy and of your love for they are eternal.*

1 John 4:7-12, *God is love.*
 Luke 15:1-2, 11-32, *He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.*

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the love with which you have loved us. Grant us the grace to welcome this love in confidence that it may become a source of peace for the church and for the world, and may be recognized by all humanity. Amen.

DAY 2

Inner peace, calm and serenity: We will come to them and make our home with them (John 14:23).

Scripture

Song of Songs 3:3-5, *Do not awaken love until it is ready.*

Psalms 3:3-7, *I wake again for the Lord sustains me.*

Ephesians 4:1-6, *One God and Father ...who is above all and through all.*

Mark 6:45-51, *He got into the boat with them.*

Prayer

Lord, shore up my trembling spirit on the rock of your commandments and, in the same way that you calmed the storm through the power of your presence, calm the waves of my agitated life, leading me into the vessel which is your church. Give me that faith which reminds me that you are present with us even now and until the end of time. Amen.

DAY 3

Christ, Word of the Father: The word that you hear... (John 14:24).

Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:11-14, *The Word is very near to you...*

Psalms 85 (84):2-14, *(The Lord says) "Peace for his people and his faithful".*

2 Corinthians 1:18-22, *Every one of God's promises has found a*

'Yes' in his person.

Luke 10:38-42, *She listened to what he was saying.*

Prayer

O Lord our God, in Jesus Christ Your only Word
 You have put hatred to death.
 Through his death, in the silence of the cross
 You have reconciled human beings to one other and to yourself.
 Transform our words of violence into words of peace
 And give us the grace not to refuse the cost of this universal reconciliation. Amen.

DAY 4

Peace, Fruit of the Spirit: The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of all I have said to you (John 14:26).

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34, *I will put my law within them.*

Psalms 51 (50):10-17, *Sustain in me a willing spirit.*

Galatians 5:22-25, *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.*

John 20:19-23, *Peace be with you ... Receive the Holy Spirit.*

Prayer

O Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit One God,
 God of truth, peace and justice
 Open our minds
 Enlighten our spirits
 Lead us to welcome the spirit of truth in our churches
 That it may guide us towards true peace. Amen.

Daily Scripture & Prayer Guide 2004 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (continued)

DAY 5

Peace and Violence: God's Peace and the World's Peace: I do not give to you (my peace) as the world gives it (John 14:27).

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-17, They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain
Psalms 119:161-165, Great peace have those who love your law
Romans 12:18-21, Overcome evil with good
John 12:12-19, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Prayer

Lord God of peace, Source of all consolation, grant us the gift of your Holy Spirit in our lives. In a world which seeks security through violence and war, make us messengers of your peace. As members of your church, the body of Christ, forgive us the sin of our divisions and give us the courage to seek that unity which is your gift and your will and in which lies our peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

DAY 6

Do not be Afraid: Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid (John 14:27).

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7, Do not fear, for I am with you.
Psalms 23:1-6, I fear no evil; for you are with me
1 John 4:16-21, There is no fear in love
Matthew 8:23-27, Why are you

afraid, you of little faith?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, on the lake one word from you was sufficient to soothe the fear of the apostles and appease the fury of the waves; in the middle of the storms of this world, grant to your church and to the men and women of the whole world the grace to hear your word, "Be not afraid", and let it become an encouragement that we may act in peace where there is hate and bring reconciliation where division prevails. Amen.

DAY 7

Waiting for the Glorification of Christ: I am going away and I am coming to you (John 14:28).

Scripture

Habakkuk 2:1-4, I will stand at my watch-post
Psalms 130:1-8, My soul waits for the Lord
Romans 8:18-27, For the creation waits with eager longing
Matthew 25:1-12, Keep awake therefore

Prayer

God, you reveal your glory in the life and in the power of your risen Son. We pray together, that your kingdom will come. We long for the glorious day of Christ's revelation when the kingdom of death and tears will end and your kingdom of peace, justice and love will be established forever. Amen.

DAY 8

Going Forward in the Peace of Christ: Rise, let us be on our way (John 14:31).

Scripture

Amos 5:10-15, Hate evil and love good, and establish justice
Psalms 16:8-9, I keep the Lord always before me...
Ephesians 5:8-21, Live as children of light
Matthew 25:31-40, Just as you did it to one of the least...you did it to me

Prayer

Triune God, you have revealed to us that the works of darkness and injustice have to be conquered by the dying and rising of Jesus. Jesus' offer of peace encourages us to imitate him in breaking the bonds of inhumanity, of injustice, of hatred, of disunity. Strengthen us with your Spirit of peace that we may always hate evil, love good and establish justice. Do not allow us to cry "Peace" when we are comfortable but declare war against those who go hungry and live in precarity. Enable us to find your peace in humble and courageous service of the least of these who are members of your family. Amen.

If you would like to view the complete document, including Meditations, it can be found at the following website:

http://www/geii.org/2004WPCU/prayer_worship/daily_scripture_prayer.html

7-Reasons not to mess with a Child

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a command-

ment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

"Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, She's dead. "

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she

said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples.

Submitted by Darlene Boucher

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28 Christmas 1 NO Choir Practice Service of Word 10 am NO BIBLE Club <i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31 New Year's Eve NO Confirmation Class	1 New Year's Day NO Bible Study <i>The Name of Jesus</i>	2 <i>Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, pastor, 1872</i>	3 Men's Club 9 am
4 Christmas 2 NO Choir Practice Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am Prayer Team 4 pm	5 Dorcas Circle 10 am <i>Kaj Munk, martyr, 1944</i>	6 Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Ed 6:30 pm Eve Circle 7 pm Epiphany Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church 7 pm	7 Confirmation Class 4 pm	8 Bible Study 2 pm Finance Com. 7 pm (Tentative)	9	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am	12 Council Mtg 6:30 pm	13 <i>George Fox, renewer of society, 1691</i>	14 Confirmation Class 4 pm <i>Eivind Josef Berggrav, Bishop of Oslo, 1959</i>	15 Bible Study 2 pm <i>Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968</i>	16	17
18 Confession of St. Paul Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Annual Cong Mtg BIBLE Club 11 am <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins</i>	19 W & M Com. 7 pm <i>Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, missionary to Finland, martyr, 1156</i>	20	21 Confirmation Class 4 pm	22 Bible Study 2 pm	23	24
25 Conversion of St. Paul Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends</i>	26 Evangelism Comm 7 pm <i>Timothy, Titus, and Silas</i>	27 <i>Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe</i>	28 Confirmation Class 4 pm	29 Bible Study 2 pm	30	31

**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

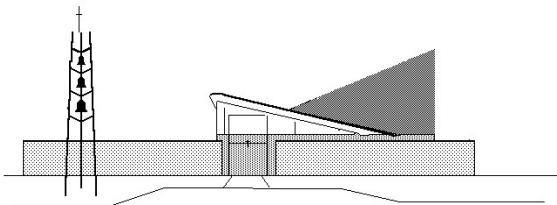
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2004

THE SEASONS OF
CHRISTMAS and
EPIPHANY



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

THE CHURCH DOOR
January 2004
The Seasons of Christmas & Epiphany

