

# THE CHURCH DOOR



## FROM THE PASTOR

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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 at  
newsletter@dmlc.org  
to insert articles for next  
month's newsletter.

As I write this we are preparing to celebrate Easter, the most holy day of the year for Christians and I am looking forward to our Easter worship. By the time you read this Easter Sunday will have passed but I want to say thank you to all those who participated in our Easter drama. The script was conceived and written by Lauren Stroh (with me acting as script consultant). Although the script is pretty much right out of the Gospel accounts the script was sort of customized for our abilities and resources at DML and Lauren has done a fine job in that regard.

This little drama which, will play out in only a few minutes, has taken hours of work to put together. The really neat thing, I think, is the number of people involved in its production, and especially the kids: Emily and Nathaniel Johnson, Ben and Becky Stroh, Mat-

thew and Andrew Kitchka and Andy Doane. They make up some of the actors but we have had to enlist adults to play some of the parts, too: Russ Tilden, Brad Johnson, Gene Broge, David Justian, and Tom Whitehead. There are also costume designers (Lauren Stroh and Theresa Zahrt) and set designers (the Men's Club). There are directors Lauren Johnson and Lauren Stroh and even an impresario, David Justian. Brian Doane will help out as stage hand to move our scenery around.

Thanks to all for helping us to present the Easter story in a unique way through drama. I have hopes of doing more drama's at DML, we certainly seem to have people who are willing to help out. Dramas have a unique way of communicating the Gospel.

This drama is just a microcosm of the church, a lot of people coming together and working together, sharing time and talents, resources

and enthusiasm to tell the gospel. Thank you to all who work behind the scenes to help make DML run smoothly so that the Gospel can be proclaimed.

We have a great message to share about Jesus Christ and may God bless our efforts as we share it within our community.

*Pastor Dennis*



## Spring Forward

2:00 am  
Sunday, April 3

## FROM THE PRESIDENT (Congregation, that is)

It takes more than just an hour on Sunday Morning. As Council President I have been attending the committee meetings the past few months and I have been amazed at the amount of loving work that goes into making our church work. I never realized the amount of effort that had to be put forth to keep us functioning as a working church.

The *Worship and Music Committee* puts in a tremendous amount of effort each month just to make an hour, sometimes more, sometimes a little less, of worship possible. The *Property Committee* puts in a lot of time every month working on the repairs and maintenance to the church in addition to their monthly meeting.

The *Evangelism Committee* struggles to find ways to spread God's Word without a whole lot of help from other church members. If every one would ask just one unchurched person each year it would give Evangelism a big boost. That's not much to ask is it?

The *Parish Education Committee* works very hard for the education of our children. The amount of labor that they have put into not only the education but also the plays that the children have put on, requires a great effort on the part of the committee.

The *Social Ministry Committee* sends cards to our shut-ins and flowers are sent to our ailing members in the hospital.

The *Stewardship Committee* is just being formed and this important committee will need the help of every one of us so that DML can continue functioning. Tithes in both time and money are badly needed. Could each of you help out a little here with a little time or perhaps a couple of extra dollars to keep us going?

There is also the *Finance Committee*, which diligently tries to help us be good stewards of our financial resources.

- Coffee has to be made each Sunday for Fellowship Hour.
- Communion has to be set up, and the communion bread has to be baked.
- The banners have to be changed.
- The flowers have to be ordered,
- the side walks have to be shoveled when it snows.
- In the summer the lawn has to be cut and the shrubs trimmed,
- the flowers in the church must be watered,
- tables need to be set up and taken down for special occasions.
- When meals are put on there are dishes to wash and clean-up to do on top of all the cooking.
- There is the weekly bulletin to be made and folded.
- The newsletter has to be made up, run off and then stapled.

A special thanks to the women of the *Dorcas* and *Eve Circles* and to the men of the *Men's Club* all of whom do so much for our church.

I sincerely hope that I haven't left any one out, as all tasks done for DML are important.

As I have been visiting the various committees I noticed that I keep running into the same ten to twelve people all the time and these same people seem to do a lot of the other work mentioned. These people must be weary from the load that they carry and they truly must have the love of Christ in them or they wouldn't be able to keep going. Their effort seems to have no end. Pastor Stroh is also involved in all of the above plus his sermons, teaching, counseling and visitations to our sick and shut-ins, plus the things he does to keep us current with Synod and ELCA

Just think, all of this is done by the few so that the many can come and worship for just one hour on Sunday. That is, if we don't have anything else to do or maybe we don't quite feel up to getting to church on Sunday as we have had a busy week or maybe a golf date or fishing trip planned.

The next time you pass by one of these people who keep us going, could you just take a moment to thank them for doing the Lord's work?

Yours in Christ,  
Gene Broge  
Council President

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS HYMNS & LESSONS

## April 3—2nd Sunday of Easter

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Cindy Borreson		
<i>Lector</i> Nancy Kitchka	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	#153 Welcome, Happy Morning
<i>Acolyte</i> Eric Burke	Psalm 16	#132 Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain
<i>Nursery</i> Donna Whitehead	1 Peter 1:3-9	#144 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing
<i>Ushers</i> Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden	John 20:19-31	#140 With High Delight Let Us Unite
<i>Tellers</i> Tom & Donna Whitehead Gordon Eggleton		

## April 10—3rd Sunday of Easter

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Laurie Tilden		
<i>Lector</i> Shane Garrow	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	#671 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks
<i>Acolyte</i> Andy Doane	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	#673 I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me
<i>Nursery</i> Alice Doane	1 Peter 1:17-23	#711 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
<i>Ushers</i> Bill & Emily Kitchka	Luke 24:13-35	#754 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**
<i>Tellers</i> Randy & Cindy Borreson Polly Eagle		

## April 17—4th Sunday of Easter

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Tom Whitehead		
<i>Lector</i> Jeff Ward	Acts 2:42-47	#352 I Know that My Redeemer Lives**
<i>Acolyte</i> Bethani Eggleton	Psalm 23	#456 The King of Love My Shepherd Is**
<i>Nursery</i> Polly Eagle	1 Peter 2:19-25	476 Have No Fear, Little Flock**
<i>Ushers</i> Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf	John 10:1-10	#543 Praise the Lord, the Almighty**
<i>Tellers</i> LaVern & Irene Borreson Bill Kitchka		

## April 24—5th Sunday of Easter

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Jan Wolf		
<i>Lector</i> Shelly Ward	Acts 7:55-60	#319 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise
<i>Acolyte</i> Emily Johnson	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	#464 You Are the Way
<i>Nursery</i> Lauren Johnson	1 Peter 2:2-10	#346 When Peace, Like a River**
<i>Ushers</i> John Moore & Tom Proksa	John 14:1-14	#347 Jerusalem the Golden**
<i>Tellers</i> Tom & Betty 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

# WHAT DO ELCA LUTHERANS BELIEVE CHRISTIANITY AND LUTHERANISM

## Why a Lutheran church?

Martin Luther (b. November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, d. February 18, 1546 in Eisleben) is known as the Father of Protestantism. He had studied to become a lawyer before becoming an Augustinian monk in 1505, and was ordained a priest in 1507. While continuing his studies in pursuit of a Doctor of Theology degree, he discovered significant differences between what he read in the Bible and the theology and practices of the church. On October 31, 1517, he posted a challenge on the church door at Wittenberg University to debate 95 theological issues. Luther's hope was that the church would reform its practice and preaching to be more consistent with the Word of God as contained in the Bible.

What started as an academic debate escalated to a religious war, fueled by fiery temperaments and violent language on both sides. As a result, there was not a reformation of the church but a separa-

tion. "Lutheran" was a name applied to Luther and his followers as an insult but adopted as a badge of honor by them instead.

Lutherans still celebrate the Reformation on October 31 and still hold to the basic principles of theology and practice espoused by Luther, such as ***Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura***:

We are saved by the **grace of God alone** -- not by anything we do;

Our salvation is through **faith alone** -- we only need to believe that our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who died to redeem us;

The **Bible is the only norm** of doctrine and life -- the only true standard by which teachings and doctrines are to be judged.

Another of Luther's principles was that Scriptures and worship need to be in the language of the people.

Many Lutherans still consider

themselves as a reforming movement within the Church catholic, rather than a separatist movement, and Lutherans have engaged in ecumenical dialogue with other church bodies for decades. In fact, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has entered into cooperative "full communion" agreements with several other Protestant denominations.

Luther's Small Catechism, which contains teachings on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession and Absolution, Holy Communion and Morning and Evening Prayers, is still used to introduce people to the Lutheran faith, as is the Augsburg Confession. These and other Lutheran confessional documents included in the Book of Concord may be ordered from the ELCA Publishing House at 800/328-4648 or [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).

## Is Lutheranism the Only True Religion?

Do Lutherans believe theirs is the only true religion?" This question was once put to the late Dr. Elson Ruff, editor of *The Lutheran*. His answer was, "Yes, but Lutherans don't believe they are the only ones who have it. There are true Christian believers in a vast majority of the churches, perhaps in all." The [ELCA Confession of Faith](#) says "This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe ..."

## How Do Lutherans Look upon the Bible?

To borrow a phrase from Luther, the Bible is "the manger in which the Word of God is laid." While Lutherans recognize differences in the way the Bible should be studied and interpreted, it is accepted as the primary and authoritative witness to the church's faith. Written and transcribed by many authors over a period of many centuries, the Bible bears remarkable testimony to the mighty acts of God in the lives of people and nations. In the Old Testament is found the vivid account of God's covenant relationship to Israel. In the New Testament is found

the story of God's new covenant with all of creation in Jesus.

The New Testament is the first-hand proclamation of those who lived through the events of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. As such, it is the authority for Christian faith and practice. The Bible is thus not a definitive record of history or science. Rather, it is the record of the drama of God's saving care for creation throughout the course of history.



# prayer

## 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 synagogue, 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 cannot pray on your bed, meditate in your heart."

## Those in need of healing:

Robert Carey (*Kristina's grandfather*)

Brett Cavanaugh (*Clif Hellman's nephew*)

Beryl Connelly

Millie Fredrick

Stephen Hellman

Ann Hulka

Vicki Peterson

Nancy Rizzo (*Ann Markgraf's daughter*)

Jeannette Roach

Paul Suchovsky

Lowell Tambling

Judy Slezak, past DML member and Irene Borreson's sister, passed away Saturday, March 5th from complications of Diabetes. Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Rest eternal, grant her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

## Remember our friends and family members in the Military

**SSgt. Kevin William Sellon** (*Mike & Carol Sellon's son*)

United States Army—Stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

**Sgt. Kenneth W. Hawkins** (*Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew*)

United States Army—Iraq

**AJ-3 Lisa Pepera** (*Virginia Kolarik's granddaughter*)

United States Navy—Serving on the USS Kitty Hawk

**E1 Lynzie Heiss** (*Ron Heiss's Daughter*)

United States Army—Fort Leonardwood, Missouri

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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.

## *Financial Information—February 28, 2005*

### ASSETS

#### Cash & Bank Accounts

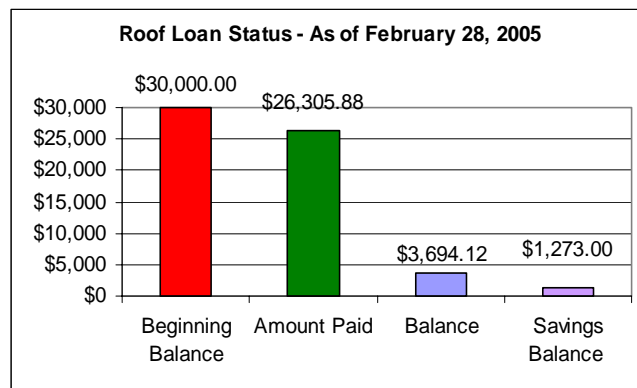
Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$411.83
Savings – Reserve	<u>\$4,844.19</u>
Total Funds for General Operations	\$5,256.02
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Roof Fund (Loan)	\$1,273.00
Church Repairs	\$3,069.88
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$1,522.77
Kitchen Fund	\$350.20
Men's Club	\$390.91
Youth Group	<u>\$149.39</u>
Total Savings—Designated	\$6,825.15
Savings – Memorial	\$6,278.41
Savings – Social Security	<u>\$777.40</u>
Total Funds for Special Purposes	<u>\$13,880.96</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$19,136.98
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance	
LB Money Market—Cash	\$810.85
LB Fund	\$32,322.07
LB Income Fund	<u>\$40,650.65</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$73,783.57</u>
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$92,920.55</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$3,694.12
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,629.05
WH—State Tax Liability	<u>\$185.85</u>
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,509.02</u></b>

### Breakdown of Giving for Loan (Loan payment \$456.48)

March 2004 .....	\$419.00
April 2004.....	\$1,218.00
May 2004 .....	\$717.00
June 2004.....	\$505.00
July 2004 .....	\$764.00
August 2004.....	\$722.00
September 2004 .....	\$438.50
October 2004.....	\$924.50
November 2004 .....	\$298.50
December 2004.....	\$529.00
January 2005 .....	\$559.50
February 2005 .....	\$438.50



### **Summary Information for February**

Average Attendance = 58

Offering Needed to meet 2005 Budget  
\$7,008.65

Amount Received toward Budget  
\$5,604.00

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DML???

## EVE Circle

Eve Circle meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is invited to join them.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

We would like to thank the congregation for the donations of money for the Easter Baskets for the Children at the Muskegon Rescue Mission. We received \$50.00 to help with the cost. It was deeply appreciated. There are pictures posted on the bulletin board, of our finished baskets. We also presented a basket to the Hellman children.

At our next meeting, we will be talking about the Mother-Child banquet. Any in-put would be greatly appreciated.

## DORCAS CIRCLE

Meetings are held the 1st Monday of each month at 10:00 am.

Please see Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information.

## MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meetings the 1st Saturday of each month.

April Meeting: Mickey's Restaurant (the old Denny's)

Saturday, April 2nd at 9:00 am.

Contact Russ Tilden at 231-798-1032 with questions.



Sometimes life's most special moments take us by surprise...  
A phone call from an old friend  
A rainbow after a thunderstorm  
The first rose of spring  
All we need to do is savor the JOY!



## PRAYER VENTURES

**1** Offer thanks and praise for the continued work of Pastor Scott Cigich who, with the support of Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, is starting Joyful Life Church (The Woodlands, Texas). Regular worship services at Joyful Life begin this month.

**2** Give thanks for the growing companion relationships between several dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and ELCA synods: Cape Orange Diocese and Montana Synod, Northern Diocese and Northeastern Ohio Synod, Eastern Diocese and Caribbean Synod.

**3** Easter 2—God of wisdom, we lift up to you the leaders and people of Sudan and Uganda. May recent peace accords help conflicts cease, and reconciliation bring restoration to the hearts and lives of those who have suffered so long.

**4** Thank God for the relationship between the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church and the ELCA Allegheny Synod. Pray that they may find mutual support as they accompany one another in mission.

**5** Praise God for the deepening sense of mission between the Mbulu Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and the ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod, and between the ELCT Northeast Diocese and the ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

**6** Give thanks for the ongoing success of the Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM) program of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, and pray for guidance and leadership as the SAM program is incorporated into the Lay Academy for Mission structure.

**7** On this World Health Day, ask God to give courage and strength to the thousands of nursing assistants in Lutheran nursing homes and hospitals as they work hard each day to minister with those who are sick, frail, and need help to meet the challenges of daily life.

**8** Pray for the ELCA Church Council as they meet at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, that all their deliberations be infused with the Holy Spirit and that God's presence be experienced among them.

**9** Pray for Pastor David and Karla Grafton, who serve at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. He is director of graduate studies and she is head librarian at the largest Arab-language theological institution in the world, which trains pastors for the Evangelical Synod of the Nile and other churches in the Middle East.

**10** Easter 3—Living God, we praise you for the witness and joy the churches of Kenya and Tanzania bring to the world. "Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia." (WOV678)

**11** Remember in prayer the members and staff of Lutheran Services in America as they gather in conference this month in Washington, D.C., around the theme "Fight, Work and Pray for Justice."

**12** Pray for Pastor Sam and Cindy Wolff, who serve at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Trinity is an international congregation, jointly supported by the ELCA and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, that ministers to English-speaking Christians in the area and provides resources to Lutherans serving on military bases in Europe.

**13** Pray for Anki and Pastor Dean Apel as they train future pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Dean teaches New Testament at Matongo Lutheran Theological College and Anki teaches at Ogango Lutheran Deaconess College.

**14** Offer thanksgiving for Pastor Greg Gaskamp and his work leading to the organization of Living Water Lutheran Church in Leander, Texas, a small town that has become a rapidly growing suburb northwest of Austin. This new ministry has been generously supported by the Austin-area ELCA congregations.

**15** Praise God for the young people who have given a year of their lives to serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Kenya. Pray particularly for Alexis Confer, Jennifer Peck, and Dorothy Powers. Thank God for the wide interest and participation in the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**16** Pray for Jennifer James, Johannes Wietzke, and Marjorie Graetz, volunteer teachers at Gymnazium JA Komenskeho in Kosice, Slovakia. The Gymnazium is one of several church-related schools to which the ELCA sends teachers.

# 17

Easter 4

**A**lmighty God, as the churches of Malawi and Zambia tremble, wonder, and are perplexed by the creeping materialism, atheism, and gnawing corruption found in their nations, give them strength and wisdom to announce the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

**18** Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through the voting members at the annual assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA). This ministry coordinates ELCA ministries that promote justice and new life in Appalachian communities.

**19** Praise God for the growing companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi and the ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Congregations are being connected in ways that focus on sharing the joy of ministry and witness in the respective communities.

**20** Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the discernment process of the Metro East Shore Lutheran Congregations (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) and their planning team as this group of 18 congregations considers and plans for a cooperative response to mission and outreach needs in the inner city and adjacent suburban areas.

**21** Thank God for Lisa Jaeger, Anja Moessner, Lindsey Nelson, and Margaret Ruddy, who teach at the Gymnazium Juraja Tranovskeho in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia.

**22** Pray for long-term volunteers Don and Eunice Fultz, who work in the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania coordinating visits of ELCA Saint Paul Area Synod congregations.

**23** Pray that all those involved in a transforming ministry process will have the courage to lead their congregations in renewal for the sake of the gospel. Pray especially for the leadership teams in the Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Lower and Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Western Maryland Synods.

**24** Easter 5—Good and gracious God, we thank you for the signs of hope in Brazil today. Continue to enliven the churches in their witness to the hope in Christ that is brought within reach of men, women, and children in their everyday lives.

**25** Give thanks for Janet Wenk, who is concluding service with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia. She has assisted the ELCRN in a restructuring process that is strengthening its ability to reach out to its neighbors. Pray also for the companion synods to the ELCRN—the ELCA Northeastern Iowa and New Jersey Synods—that they may be strengthened in their witness and relationship-building.

**26** Thank God for generous hearts of people all across the ELCA who contribute faithfully to enable Lutheran Disaster Response staff and coordinators to reach out with

care and concrete assistance to communities and individuals who experience natural or human-caused disasters.

**27** Thank God for Pastor Jillian Ross and the Yakima Valley Hispanic Outreach Mission in Wapato, Washington. Wapato is a town of about 4,000 on the Yakama Indian Nation whose population is 65 percent Latino. This outreach ministry serves both monolingual Spanish speakers as well as adults who don't read or write in Spanish or English.

**28** Pray for Kevin Axton as he directs the Global Education Center at Kyushu Lutheran College in Kumamoto, Japan. This college of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church seeks to offer opportunities in cross-cultural and international settings for its students.

**29** Pray for Roger Rogahn, who teaches historical theology and English at Lutheran University, founded by the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod. Pray that this university in El Salvador recuperates from a brutal incident in January in which its security guard was murdered and its IT equipment and agro-ecological laboratory instruments were stolen. The beginning of the school year was delayed as a result.

**30** Praise God for the companion synod relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia and ELCA North-western Pennsylvania Synod, one which brings an appreciation for the German roots of American Lutheranism.

# CALENDAR OBSERVANCES

## APRIL

### Daylight Savings Time

*Spring Forward!*



2:00 am—Sunday, April 3,

#### Monday, April 4 Benedict the African, confessor, 1589

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict first lived as a hermit and labored as a plowman after he was freed. When the bishop of Rome ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a religious community, Benedict joined the Franciscans, where he served as a cook. Although he was illiterate, his fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook, and he was eventually named superior of the community. A patron saint of blacks in the United States, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice and taunts.

Use the story of Benedict's ministry as a confessor to revisit Martin Luther's advocacy of mutual consolation and conversation among the community.

#### Wednesday, April 6 Albrecht Dürer, painter, 1528; Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, 1564

These two great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected

the apocalyptic spirit of his time, when famine, plague, and social and religious upheaval were common. He was sympathetic to the reform work of Luther but remained Roman Catholic. At his death, Luther wrote to a friend, "Affection bids us mourn for one who was the best." Michelangelo was a sculptor, painter, poet, and architect. His works such as the carving of the Pietà and the statue of David reveal both the tenderness and the grandeur of humanity.

Consider the ways in which the art of these two people might highlight the church's celebration of the Christ's resurrection.

#### Saturday, April 9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher, 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who, at the age of twenty-five, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler's rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the confessing church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler's life and sent to Buchenwald, then later to Schoenberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schoenberg, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, "This is the end, but for me the beginning of life."

A hymn written by Bonhoeffer shortly before his death includes the line, "By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet

us each new day" (WOV 736). Bonhoeffer's courage is a bold witness to the paschal mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

#### Sunday, April 10 Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557

Agricola was consecrated as the bishop of Turku in 1554 without papal approval. As a result, he began a reform of the Finnish church along Lutheran lines. He translated the New Testament, the prayerbook, hymns, and the mass into Finnish and through this work set the rules of orthography that are the basis of modern Finnish spelling. His thoroughgoing work is particularly remarkable in that he accomplished it in only three years. He died suddenly on a return trip after negotiating a treaty with the Russians.

The Finnish hymn "Lord, as a pilgrim" (LBW 485) might be sung in worship today. Its final stanza, beginning "Lord, let your presence brighten the night," ties in well with the Emmaus story.

#### Tuesday, April 19 Olavus Petri, priest, 1552; Laurentius Petri, Archbishop of Uppsala, 1573; renewers of the church

These two brothers are commemorated for their introduction of the Lutheran movement to the Church of Sweden after studying at the University of Wittenberg. They returned home and, through the support of King Gustavus Vasa, began their work. Olavus published a catechism, hymnal, and a Swedish version of the mass. He resisted attempts by the king to gain royal control of the church. Laurentius was a professor at the university in Uppsala. When the king wanted to abolish the ministry of bishops, Laurentius persuaded him otherwise, and the historic episcopate continues in Sweden to

this day. Together the brothers published a complete Bible in Swedish and a revised liturgy in 1541.

This week the Church of Sweden can be remembered in prayer. The Easter hymn "Praise the Savior, now and ever" (LBW 155) uses a Swedish folk tune and can be sung to commemorate the contributions of the Petris and the Swedish church to our worship life.

#### Thursday, April 21

**Anselm,**

**Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109**

This eleventh-century Benedictine monk stands out as one of the greatest theologians between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. He is counted among the medieval mystics who emphasized the maternal aspects of God. Of Jesus Anselm says, "In sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us." He is perhaps best known for his theory of atonement, the "satisfaction" theory. In this theory he argued that human rebellion against God demands a payment, but because humanity is fallen, it is incapable of making that satisfaction. Therefore, God takes on human nature in Jesus Christ in order to make the perfect

# EARTH



Friday, April 22, 2005

payment for sin.

#### Friday, April 22

**Day of the Creation (Earth Day)**

This day calls us to attend to the glories of creation that surround us. Especially in the Northern Hemisphere, creation springs green again after the death of winter, and we are mindful of our stewardship of the earth as our God-given home. The great hymn of Francis of Assisi, "Canticle of the Sun" (see LBW 527 or RW1 8), might be sung today both for its Easter alleluias and its rejoicing in the gift of creation.

#### Saturday, April 23

**Toyohiko Kagawa,**

**renewer of society, 1960**

Toyohiko Kagawa was born in 1888 in Kobe, Japan. Orphaned early, he was disowned by his remaining extended family when he became a Christian. Kagawa wrote, spoke, and worked at length on ways to employ Christian principles in the ordering of society. His vocation to help the poor led him to live among them. He established schools, hospitals, and churches. He also worked for peace and established the Anti-War League. He was arrested for his efforts to reconcile Japan and China after the Japanese attack of 1940.

In celebration of his witness, recognize those people in your parish who work on behalf of the poor and oppressed and who, through their work, reveal the peace of Christ that is a gift of the resurrection.

#### Monday, April 25

**St. Mark, Evangelist**

Though Mark himself was not an apostle, it is likely that he was a member of one of the early Christian communities. The gospel attributed to him is brief and direct. It is considered by many to be the

earliest gospel. Tradition has it that Mark went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, where he was martyred.

Mark's story of the resurrection ends with women at the tomb, who say nothing to anyone because of their fear. Though their witness faltered, the good news of the resurrection, the good news of these fifty days, has reached out to include us.

#### Friday, April 29

**Catherine of Siena, teacher, 1380**

Catherine of Siena was a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and among Roman Catholics she was the first woman to receive the title Doctor of the Church. She was a contemplative and is known for her mystical visions of Jesus. Catherine was a humanitarian who worked to alleviate the suffering of the poor and imprisoned. She was also a renewer of church and society and advised both popes and any uncertain persons who told her their problems.

Catherine's life is a reminder that prayer and activism belong together, an emphasis that fits in well with the gospel for this week.

## Planning Ahead!!!

**Mother—Child  
Dinner**

**Monday, May 2nd**

**6:30 pm**

Dinner and entertainment

See a member of the  
Eve Circle

or

Dorcas Circle

for information

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Thank God For the Promise of Springtime!

Tho' the skies be grey above me;  
 And I cannot see the light of day.  
 There's a ray breaking thru the shadows;  
 And a smile can't be far away.

Thank God for the promise of Springtime;  
 Once again, my heart will sing,  
 There's a brand new day a dawnin'  
 Thank God for the promise of Spring.

Tho' thee earth seems bleak and barren;  
 And the seeds lay brown and dead.  
 Oh, the promise of life throbs within them;  
 And I know Spring is just ahead.

Thank God for the promise of Springtime;  
 Once again my heart will sing.  
 There's a brand new day a dawnin'  
 Thank God for the promise of Spring.

### LISTEN TO THE LITTLE VOICE

We were just about finished with costumes for the Easter drama. Enough is enough, I thought. One costume was pretty shabby, though. An old robe Pastor Dennis had worn out and replaced. It had two large holes in back, frayed sleeves, some stains on it. Russ Tilden had worn it for Christmas, and he could wear it again for Easter, I thought. Russ is a good sport, he won't mind.

The new costumes were beautiful, by contrast. It didn't seem fair.

On a quick stop at a store, we saw some material (cheap) that looked like it would make a good robe. On closer inspection, we found that it was small tablecloths. I decided I didn't want to piece something together and moved on.

The next day my husband walked in from the store with these table-

cloths. "Don't you think these would make a good robe?" he asked. "No! They're too small!" I said. I didn't want to be bothered.

They sat around the house a while, and I thought about them. I looked again. Two of the tablecloths were "L" shaped; they could be sewn together to form a "T" and one side would be done. I hauled out my sewing machine and got to work. A few hours later, the robe was done.

So often, it's like that for me when God's little voice tells me to do something. No thanks God, I say. I'm too busy, I say. I don't want to, I say. But then sometimes, I come around, and I thank God for being patient with me.

*Lauren Stroh*

Footnote: Theresa Zahrt made the fancy, beautiful costumes. I made the easy ones.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE A STROKE

This might be a lifesaver if you can remember the following advice, sent by a nurse, whose husband is a medical doctor.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. A stroke victim may suffer permanent brain damage when people fail to recognize what's happening. Now, doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke,

simply by asking three questions:

- **ask the individual to smile.**
- **ask him or her to raise both arms.**
- **ask the person to speak a simple sentence.**

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately, and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. Research-

ers are urging the general public to learn to ask these three questions quickly, to someone they suspect of having a stroke. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of a stroke, and prevent permanent brain damage.

You may want to pass this along.

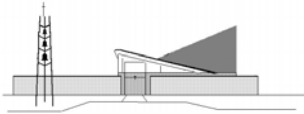
*Submitted by Darlene Boucher*

# April 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 <b>9 am Men's Club Breakfast @ Mickey's</b>
3 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	4 <b>10 am Dorcas Circle</b> <b>6:30 pm Parish Education Committee</b> <i>Benedict the African, confessor, 1589</i>	5 <b>7 pm Finance Committee</b>	6 <b>5:30 pm Property Committee</b> <i>Albrecht Dürer, painter, 1528; Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, 1564</i>	7 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study	8	9 <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher, 1945</i>
10 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club  <i>Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557</i>	11 <b>6:30 pm Congregation Council</b>	12 <b>6:30 Eve Circle</b>	13	14 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study	15	16 <b>10 am Worship &amp; Music Committee</b>
17 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	18	19 <i>Olavus Petri, priest, 1552; Laurentius Petri, Archbishop of Uppsala, 1573; renewers of the church</i>	20	21 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study  <i>Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109</i>	22 <i>Day of the Creation (Earth Day)</i>	23 <b>9 am Mutual Ministry Committee @ Mickey's</b> <i>Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960</i>
24 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	25 <b>6:30 pm Evangelism Committee</b>  <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i>	26	27	28 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study	29 <i>Catherine of Siena, teacher, 1380</i>	30

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# The Church Door

*The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Slovak Zion Synod*

ELCA

*April 2005*

**Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church**

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THE CHURCH DOOR

April 2005

The Season of Easter

