



# THE CHURCH DOOR



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Holy Week Worship Schedule</i>	2
<i>Worship Assistants Hymns &amp; Lessons</i>	3
<i>What Do ELCA Lutherans Believe</i>	4
<i>Prayer &amp; Military Lists</i>	5
<i>Council Minutes</i>	6
<i>Financial Information</i>	7
<i>What's Happening at DML?</i>	9
<i>Prayer Ventures</i>	10
<i>Calendar Observances</i>	12
<i>From Our Members</i>	14
<i>Calendar</i>	15

## 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@dmllc.org](mailto:newsletter@dmllc.org) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is the most holy time of the year for many Christians, and especially for Lutherans. It is a time when we get in touch with the sacrifice Jesus the Christ made for us and ponder how we can respond. Many Lutheran churches, including DML, still have Lenten midweek services, but increasingly many members find other things that are more important in their lives. I suspect that Wednesday services during Lent will go the way of Wednesday Advent services and the dodo bird. I wonder if it was the environment or something about the dodo itself that made it extinct? The world seems to be getting along okay without the dodo, so perhaps it is only the dodo that was affected. I guess I am saying that if our Wednesday Lenten services become extinct, the world will likely not care nor be affected. Whether it is something in ourselves or the environment, I do not know, but I do know that we will

be affected and I think in not a good way. There are still several Wednesday services that you can attend before Easter on March 27. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran theologian who was executed by the Nazis, wrote of the *Cost of Discipleship* saying, "When Jesus bids a man come, he bids him come and die." Bonhoeffer warned of "cheap grace" that did not take seriously either the gravity of sin or the radical call to servanthood. We would do well to keep this perspective in mind as we experience the shadows and darkness of Holy Week, while making the journey to the cross and remembering that last week of Jesus' ministry. For, we must realize the horror of Jesus death on the cross before we can truly begin to understand the hope of Easter. Holy Week, is the most holy week in the year and there are usually several additional worship services. This year the Stony Lake Conference will be hosting joint Holy Week services at various

churches. We have decided to participate this year and therefore there will be no weekday Holy Week worship services at DML. The schedule is listed below and I will be participating at several of the services at our sister Lutheran churches. Nancy Gibson will be playing organ at Samuel and I will be preaching at Samuel on Good Friday at 1:45 PM. Schedule of the Stony Lake collaborative Holy Week services:

### **Maunder Thursday Service—Thursday, March 24, 7:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Creston.**

The term *Maunder* comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which is usually translated "commandment." According to John's gospel, as Jesus and his disciples were eating their final meal together, Jesus washed the disciples' feet to demonstrate humility and the meaning and spirit of servanthood. It was then that Jesus taught his disciples a NEW commandment.

Continued...

**Good Friday Service**  
**March 25, Noon—3:00 pm**  
**at Samuel Lutheran in**  
**Muskegon**

This service is broken into half-hour increments, each focusing on one of the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. Various ELCA churches will participate in this service, with clergy from each church leading half hour segments.

*Consider setting aside the time to worship with us as together we make this Holy Week journey.*

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm**  
**at First Lutheran in North Muskegon**

Choirs from various ELCA churches will join together in leading a Service of Tenebrae, a tradition dating back to the eighth century. From Latin, the word *Tenebrae* means "darkness" and commemorates the final hours of our Lord's life on earth, his suffering and death upon the cross. As candles are extinguished, they symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus and the growing darkness of Jesus' death.

**Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.**  
**at Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall**

ELCA churches will also participate in this service, another ancient tradition of the church. From the earliest days of the church, the Easter Vigil was primarily a means

of preparing new converts for baptism into the Christian Faith. Baptism was normally done on Easter Sunday as the focal point of the entire year. Although Easter baptism is rarely practiced today, the practice of renewing baptismal vows is held during and Easter Vigil.

You will also want to attend our **Palm/Passion Sunday on March 20 at 10:00 am**

worship service and participate in the dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative, this year according to Matthew's gospel.

Please plan to be with us for breakfast served by the B.I.B.L.E. Club at 9:00 am and for worship services on

**Easter Sunday**  
**March 27 at 10:00 am**

This year which includes a drama with actors from the B.I.B.L.E. Club with help from older youth and adults.

*God's Blessings,*

## Teen Challenge

On Sunday, February 13 we hosted Teen Challenge at our worship service. Their witnessing and songs were very inspirational to all who attended.

We held a Dinner immediately following worship where we again hosted Teen Challenge.

It was sponsored by the Dorcas Circle.

A total of \$385.00 was raised and given to Teen Challenge to use for their ministry.

Thank you to everyone who attended, participated in any way, or helped prepare food or clean-up. By working together, we show that we can accomplish great things in the name of our Lord.

## Worship Schedule

**Palm/Passion Sunday Service—Sunday, March 20, 10:00 am**  
 DML—Gospel Narrative

**Maundy Thursday Service—Thursday, March 24, 7:00 pm**  
 Immanuel Lutheran on Creston in Muskegon

**Good Friday Service—March 25, Noon—3:00 pm**  
 Samuel Lutheran in Muskegon

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service—March 25, 7:00 pm**  
 First Lutheran in North Muskegon

**Easter Vigil—Saturday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Lebanon Lutheran in Whitehall

**Easter Sunday—Sunday, March 27**  
 Breakfast at 9:00 am—Worship at 10:00 am  
 DML

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS HYMNS & LESSONS

## March 6—4th Sunday in Lent

<i>Deacon</i> Bill Kitchka	<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Hymns</b>
<i>Lector</i> Marcia Kitchka		#469—Lord of All Hopefulness
<i>Acolyte</i> Bethani Eggleton	1 Samuel 16:1-13	#248—Dearest Jesus, at Your Word
<i>Nursery</i> Rose Justian	Psalm 23	#316—Jesus, the Very Thought of You
<i>Ushers</i> Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden	Ephesians 5:8-14	#294—My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**
<i>Tellers</i> Tom & Donna Whitehead Gordon Eggleton	John 9:1-41	

## March 13—5th Sunday in Lent

<i>Deacon</i> Jan Wolf	<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Hymns</b>
<i>Lector</i> Ron Heiss		#690—Shall We Gather at the River**
<i>Acolyte</i> Emily Johnson	Ezekiel 37:1-14	#741—Thy Holy Wings**
<i>Nursery</i> Betty Proksa	Psalm 130	#738—Healer of Our Every Ill**
<i>Ushers</i> Bill & Emily Kitchka	Romans 8:6-11	#740—Jesus, Remember Me
<i>Tellers</i> Randy & Cindy Borreson Polly Eagle	John 11:1-45	#780—What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

## March 20—Palm Sunday

<i>Deacon</i> Rose Justian	<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Hymns</b>
<i>Lector</i> Dave Justian		#108—All Glory, Laud and Honor
<i>Acolyte</i> Andrew Kitchka	Isaiah 50:4-9a	#104—In the Cross of Christ I Glory**
<i>Nursery</i> Lauren Stroh	Psalm 31:9-16	#92—Were you There
<i>Ushers</i> Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf	Philippians 2:5-11	#98—Alas! Any Did My Savior Bleed
<i>Tellers</i> LaVern & Irene Borreson Bill Kitchka	Matthew 26:14--27:66	#121—Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

## March 27—The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Sunday

<i>Deacon</i> Andrew Kitchka	<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Hymns</b>
<i>Lector</i> Emily Kitchka		#151—Jesus Christ is Risen Today**
<i>Acolyte</i> Matthew Kitchka	Acts 10:34-43	#145—Thine is the Glory
<i>Nursery</i> Jan Ward	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	#138—He is Arisen! Glorious World
<i>Ushers</i> John Moore & Tom Proksa	Colossians 3:1-4	#148—Now the Green Blade Rises
<i>Tellers</i> Tom & Betty Proksa John Moore	John 20:1-18	#141—The Day of Resurrection
		#140—With High Delight Let Us Unite
		#143—Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

**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

### Who is Jesus Christ

Jesus is God's son, sent by God to become human like us. In his life and being he broke through the prison of sinfulness and thus restored the relationship of love and trust that God intended to exist between himself and his children. Though he is eternal, with God at the beginning of time, he was born on earth of a virgin, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was at once truly God and truly human.

The man, Jesus of Nazareth, lived and died in Palestine during the governorship of the Roman administrator Pontius Pilate; we believe him to be the Messiah chosen by God to show his love for the world. He is God, yet with all the limitations of being human. His relationship to God, however, was not one of sin but rather of perfect obedience to the Father's will. For the sake of a sinful world, Jesus was condemned to death on the cross.

But death could not contain

him. On the third day after his execution, the day Christians observe as Easter, Jesus appeared among his followers as the risen, living Lord. By this great victory God has declared the Good News of reconciliation. The gap between all that separates us from our Creator has been bridged. Thus, Christ lives today wherever there are people who faithfully believe in him and wherever the Good News of reconciliation is preached and the Sacraments administered.

### What is the Church

The Christian church is made up of those who have been baptized and thus have received Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world. Sometimes it is referred to as "the Body of Christ." Lutherans believe that they are a part of a community of faith that began with the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence with his people, on the day of Pentecost. The church, regardless of the external form it

takes, is the fellowship of those who have been restored to God by Christ. Indeed, to be called into fellowship with Christ is also to be called into community with other believers.

The church is essential to Christian life and growth. Its members are all sinners in need of God's grace. It has no claim on human perfection. The church exists solely for the hearing and doing of God's Word. It can jus-

tify its existence only when it proclaims the living Word of Christ, administers the Sacraments and gives itself to the world in deeds of service and love. Most Lutherans recognize a wider fellowship of churches and are eager to work alongside them in ecumenical ministries and projects.

*You can read the complete article on "What ELCA Lutherans Believe" on the ELCA website at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). Over the next couple of months, we will complete the full article in *The Church Door*.*



# 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  
 Judy Slezak  
 (Irene Borreson's sister & previous member)  
 Paul Suchovsky  
 Lowell Tambling

Floyd Nickisch, long-time DML member and friend, passed away Saturday, February 12th after a lengthy stay in an area nursing home. Please keep his family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

## 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 Leonard Wood, Missouri

If you'd like to add a name to this list, please contact Cindy Borreson.

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.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2005

President Gene Broge called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

PRESENT: Cindy Borreson, Randy Borreson, Gene Broge, Emogene Cotal, Brian Doane, Pastor Stroh, Russ Tilden EXCUSED: Gordon Eggleton, Tom Whitehead

DEVOTIONS: Pastor led devotions with a reading from Ephesians Chapter 6.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Tom had asked Cindy to bring the minutes from the January meeting but she forgot to bring them. They will be presented at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2005 was presented in printed form. Gene asked that Cindy add a note when money is transferred from Reserve to Checking.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor presented a written report and talked about some of the key points:

- Fundraiser for the Hellman Family. We will apply for matching funds from Thrivent. Pastor is heading this project and different ideas are being discussed.
- Stony Lake Conference is holding joint Holy Week services. Discussed whether to hold our own or participate in the Conference. Since the Conference is just getting started, it was decided that, although we would very much like to have our own services, we would participate in the joint services. The schedule will be placed in the bulletin and newsletter for March.
- Discussion on Organist and Janitor pay for funerals. Men's Club has agreed to set-up and takedown tables, relieving the Janitor from having to do this. In the event the Men's Club cannot set-up or takedown, the Janitor will be asked to take care of it and will be paid.

- We are waiting to hear information on the Slovak Intern for this summer.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Property:

- The committee met on Wednesday, 2/9. Brian presented a report of what was discussed (an e-mail dated 2/9/05).
- Randy moved that we remove the fountain in the Fellowship Hall and place decorative caps over the pipes. Russ seconded. Approved.
- Randy will talk to Mary Panozzo about the large round table that is warped and see if it will be ok to dispose of. The table was originally a memorial from her family.
- A discussion on replacing the water heater for the kitchen. It was decided that we will replace it when it quits working and at that time will look into replacing it with an electric one. The current water heater will be turned down. If hot water is needed, a member of the Property Committee should be notified to turn it up. A notice will be placed in the newsletter indicating this. This was a process that was previously in place (before Creative Child Preschool).

Evangelism: Committee met and determined they would like training on evangelism "Net results".

Finance: Discussed investments and last month's discussion on withdrawing from Reserve before withdrawing from the investments.

Parish Education: Plans in place for Easter drama.

- 2/20 determining parts
- 3/5 – Men's Club to make Tomb
- 3/6 – Men's Club and BIBLE Club painting the Tomb – Pizza Party sponsored by Men's Club.
- Will be sending letter reminding the kids to bring old clothing for painting.

Social Ministry: Donna Vandersteldt sends cards, Irene Borreson orders flowers for those members hospitalized.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: Have ordered and received Blue Books. Met in January to plan February services. Will be planning Easter services.

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: Met in January and worked on a survey. Will be completing the survey at February meeting and will present it to Council at March's meeting.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Dorcas Circle: Had January meeting and planned Friendship Sunday lunch and tried to figure out Pastor's age.

Eve Circle: Making Easter Baskets for Rescue Mission.

Men's Club: Breakfast scheduled for 3/5 at Mickey's Restaurant at 9:00 then will be working on the Tomb for the Easter Drama.

Youth Group: No report.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
We are still looking to appoint someone for Stephen Hellman's vacant place on Council. Cindy will talk with Nancy Kitchka to see if she is willing to assume his responsibilities. If not, then Pastor will try to contact someone else.

## NEW BUSINESS:

None  
The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Borreson, Treasurer

## *Financial Information—January 31, 2005*

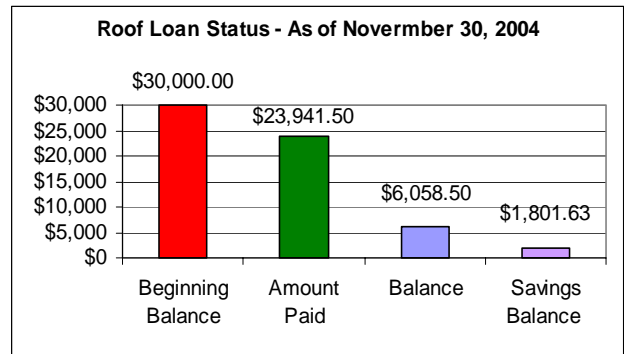
### ASSETS

#### Cash & Bank Accounts

Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$1,027.15
Cash Account	\$0.00
Savings – Reserve	<u>\$5,588.53</u>
<b>Total Funds for General Operations</b>	<b>\$6,615.68</b>
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Roof Fund (Loan)	\$1,517.35
Church Repairs	\$3,069.88
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$1,097.89
Kitchen Fund	\$350.20
Men's Club	\$390.91
Youth Group	<u>\$149.39</u>
<b>Total Savings—Designated</b>	<b>\$6,644.62</b>
Savings – Memorial	\$5,704.66
Savings – Social Security	<u>\$149.39</u>
<b>Total Funds for Special Purposes</b>	<b><u>\$12,605.87</u></b>
<b>Total Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$19,227.38</b>
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance	
LB Money Market—Cash	\$810.85
LB Fund	\$32,322.07
LB Income Fund	<u>\$40,650.65</u>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b><u>\$73,783.57</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$93,010.95</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



### LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$4,343.33
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,234.60
WH—State Tax Liability	<u>\$61.39</u>
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,639.32</u></b>

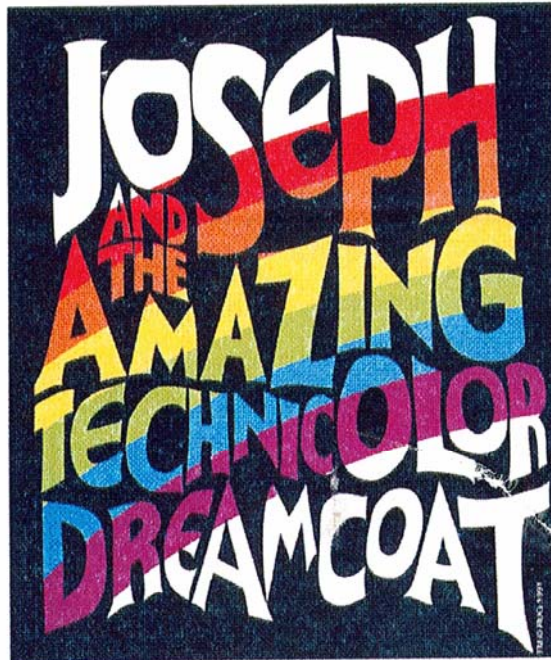
#### **Summary Information for January**

Average Attendance = **58**

Offering Needed to meet Budget **\$7,008.65**

Amount Received toward Budget **\$5,604.00**

# First Lutheran Players present



Lyrics by Tim Rice  
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

## Dinner Theater

Friday, March 11, 2005 6:00 pm  
Proceeds to Support  
Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia

\$8.00 Adults  
\$4.00 Children 12 and under

## Performances

Friday, March 11, 2005 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 12, 2005 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, March 13, 2005 3:00 p.m.

\$7.00 Adults  
\$5.00 Children 12 and under

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1206 Whitehall Road  
Muskegon, MI  
(231) 744-1522

*A group from DML are making plans to attend this production together on Sunday, March 13. If you would like to join them, please contact either Nancy Gibson or Lauren Stroh for details.*

# 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.

## **DORCAS CIRCLE**

Meetings are held the 1st Monday of each month at 10:00 am. With the help of many people, the Friendship Dinner was a success.

Please see Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information.

## **Easter Drama**

Sunday, March 27

The B.I.B.L.E. Club is featured with a dramatization of the Easter event along with several DML members.

Costumes are being made by Lauren Stroh and Theresa Zahrt (Shelly Ward's mother).

The Men's Club is building the set.

Please plan to join us for this most important worship service.

## **MEN'S CLUB**

Breakfast Meetings the 1st Saturday of each month.

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

Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 am.

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

## **Habitat for Humanity**

*Diane Miller of  
Habitat for Humanity  
will be at DML on  
March 13  
for a temple talk*



**1** Thank God for Claudia Bergmann and Scott Moore, who serve the congregation of St. Andreas-Nicolai-Petri, in Lutherstadt Eisleben, Germany. Their congregation worships where Martin Luther was baptized and where he preached his last sermons. May Claudia and Scott's ministry help strengthen the church as it seeks to engage Germany's secular culture.

**2** Give thanks for the support of Advent Lutheran Church for Good News Lutheran Mission and Pastor Doris Mars. Pray for guidance and development of this intentionally multicultural ministry in Toledo, Ohio, as it faces critical issues of leadership, organization, and financial support.

**3** Pray for Elizabeth Koerner and Lindsay Martinez, young adults who are volunteering in a unique program, "Soccer for Life," sponsored by the Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO) of Costa Rica. Through the discipline of sports, children and youth learn Christian values and life skills. Pray that ILCO finds the means to replicate this successful program in other communities.

**4** Give thanks for the continued work of Marissa and Pastor Viking Dietrich in Senegal. We give thanks for Marissa's witness as a teacher and for Viking's work as general secretary for the Joint Christian Ministry of West Africa (JCMWA), a network of churches and mission organizations working among the nomadic, largely Muslim Fulbe people.

**5** Praise God for the work of Cheryl Walenta and Tina Mills as they finish their service with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) in Tokyo. We pray for all teachers who participate in the J-3 program, teaching English at a JELC school or program and actively sharing the life of a local congregation.

**6** **Lent 4**  
**Merciful God, we give you thanks for the diversity of ministry among the churches in Ireland and the United Kingdom. As the social fabric changes in these countries, give wisdom and understanding to the churches to continue to meet the needs of the people. We pray also for the continued companion relationship between the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the ELCA Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod.**

**7** Pray for Pastor Corey Fuhrman and Living Waters Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota. Give thanks for the support of this new start from First Lutheran Church, also in Fargo.

**8** On this United Nations Day for Women's Rights, we rejoice in the ministry of Edna Johnson, a nurse in Liberia. Her work with women and children includes visits to villages, with the Curran Hospital Mobile Team, to vaccinate children and provide prenatal care. Praise God for the medical team that seeks to revitalize Curran's desperately needed health services to the war-affected in Lofa County.

**9** Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. On this day we remember David DeBlock, Kari Fling, Colin Grandgaard, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

**10** Give thanks for the members of the boards of the ELCA Divisions for Church in Society, Outreach, and Ministry and pray that the Holy Spirit guides them in their decision-making this weekend.

**11** Give thanks for Heather Roth and Scott Johnson who are engaged in evangelism and teaching ministries through Betela Regional Seminary in northern Madagascar.

**12** Give thanks to God for those social workers and case managers in the 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations who serve each day enabling individuals and families to cope with their cares and concerns for basic physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

**13** **Lent 5**  
**God in heaven, bless all who strive for peace and human welfare in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Take away any anxiety about the future and give them a sense of responsibility for where you have placed them.**

**14** Give thanks for Ascension Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church, (Garland and College Station, Texas, respectively) and their support of Lutheran Church of the Way. Offer praise for Pastor Timothy Fong and this new ministry among Asian immigrants, students, and residents in the suburban area of northeast and north central Dallas, Texas.

**15** Pray for Amy Layman, who is serving in a ministry among the Roma people in the Ukraine. Give thanks for all other young adults who are reaching out to the world in the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**16** Pray for people who are tired and worn down by devastation from disaster. Their homes have been destroyed, their relationships are strained, their challenges loom, and their mourning is raw and tender. Ask God to guide them all with love, grace, and strength.

**17** Pray for Ann and Pastor Tim Reynolds, who are based in Garoua Boulai, Cameroon. Tim teaches at a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon, and Ann is engaged in community-based development efforts with women in the area.

**18** Pray for guidance for leaders of three newly affiliated Lutheran social ministry organizations: Open Door Ministries and Community Lunch on Capitol Hill, in Seattle, Washington; and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, based in Washington, D.C.

**19** Pray for the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru and the ELCA LaCrosse Area and Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synods. Pray that their ties create a sense of mission together.

**20** **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**  
**O God, you who stand in the midst of the silent ones, bless the churches of France, Portugal, and Spain and their ministry among children, workers, the sick, and the elderly. We give thanks also for the renewal and inspiration flowing from Taizé and many other religious communities in France.**

**21** Pray for the Spirit's guidance for Pastor Bob Ierien and Faith Lutheran Church in Chisholm, Minnesota. This congregation, located in the heart of the Mesabe Iron Range in northeastern Minnesota, faces changes and hopes for a

renewed sense of their part in God's mission.

**22** On this World Day for Water, thank God for the work of Dennis and Meredith Murnyak in Tanzania. Dennis works with Heifer International, training development workers in fish farming and sustainable agriculture while consulting on other Heifer projects. As a program assistant, Meredith produces Heifer Tanzania newsletters and calendars.

**23** Pray for Big Spring Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, seven rural ELCA congregations surrounding Newville, Pennsylvania, considering reorganization into a new entity or entities. Pray especially for patience, wisdom, insight, understanding, and the presence of the Holy Spirit during this process.

**24** Pray for Katherine Douglass, who serves the parish of Mont-Vaudois, in Couthenans, France. Pray that through the mutual blessings of cross-cultural ministry, she and her congregation might learn from one another and strengthen relationships between the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of France.

**25** Pray that people take advantage of the continuing education opportunities offered through the Lay Academy for Mission (LAM) sponsored by the Northwestern Ohio Synod. LAM uses various learning experiences to equip, empower, and train lay people to better serve their congregations and communities, and thus make Christ known.

**26** Pray for Richard and Lisa Hensey as they come to the end of their work with Iringa University College (IUCO) of Tumaini University, Tanzania. Richard has assisted with the financial

administration of the college and Lisa developed curriculum to improve teacher training in Tanzania.

**27** **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**God of mercy, send the gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of their constant living with drought and hunger.**

**28** Give thanks for those who volunteer their time and gifts to teach in church-related schools in Slovakia. Today we remember teachers in Bratislava: Gail Cordes and Alan Stevo at the Evangelickej Lyceum, and Andrea Oslíkova, at St. Martin's Elementary School.

**29** Pray for Pastor Philip and René Johnson in their final months of teaching at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Give thanks for the continued growth in the church and pray that faithful leaders will continue to be trained.

**30** Pray for God to bless the ministries of Bob Brandt, Tom Cover, and Gene Luidhardt, three synodically authorized ministers, who serve, respectively, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Graytown; Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Point; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Galion—all in Ohio.

**31** Give thanks for the continued witness offered by members of St. Andrew's United Church in Cairo, Egypt. Pray for Pastor Mark Nelson and Marci Horner, who serve this congregation that also ministers to hundreds of refugees from Africa.

**Prayer Ventures is available electronically. Visit us at [www.elca.org/prayerventures](http://www.elca.org/prayerventures)**

CALENDAR  
OBSERVANCES — MARCH

**Tuesday, March 1**  
**George Herbert, priest, 1633**

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. He went to college with the intention of becoming a priest, but his scholarship attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in parliament for two years. After the death of King James and under the influence of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the little parish of St. Andrew Bremerton until his death. He was noted for unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need.

Herbert was also a poet and hymnwriter. One of his hymns, "Come, my way, my truth, my life" (LBW 513), invites an intimate encounter with Christ through a feast that "mends in length."

**Wednesday, March 2**  
**John Wesley, 1791; Charles Wesley, 1788; renewers of the church**

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline of frequent communion, fasting, and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience while reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, John was perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth-century revival. Their desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal in the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed a separate status.

Charles wrote more than six hun-

dred hymns, twelve of which are in Lutheran Book of Worship and one of which is in *With One Voice*.

Three of Charles's hymns are especially appropriate for Lent: "Christ, whose glory fills the skies" (LBW 265), "Love divine, all loves excelling" (LBW 315), and "Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go" (LBW 505).

**Monday, March 7**  
**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202**

In the year 202 the emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversions to Christianity. Perpetua, a noblewoman, Felicity, a slave, and other companions were all catechumens at Carthage in North Africa. They were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Perpetua's father, who was not a Christian, visited her in prison and begged her to lay aside her Christian convictions in order to spare her life and spare the family from scorn. Perpetua responded and told her father, "We know that we are not placed in our own power but in that of God."

During the weeks of Lent, congregations that do not have catechumens can pray for those who do as they approach their own death and rebirth in the waters of baptism at the Easter Vigil and are clothed with the new life of Christ.

**Monday, March 7**  
**Thomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274**

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Some students of Aristotle's philosophy found in it an alternative to Christianity. But Aquinas immersed himself in the thought of Aristotle and worked to explain Chris-

tian beliefs in the philosophical culture of the day. The contemporary worship cultural studies done by the Lutheran World Federation resonate with Aquinas's method.

Aquinas was also a hymnwriter. His hymn "Thee we adore, O hidden Savior" (LBW 199) is traditionally sung on Maundy Thursday and might also be sung this Sunday as a communion hymn.

**Saturday, March 12**  
**Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604**

Gregory was born into a politically influential family. At one time he held political office, and at another time he lived as a monk, all before he was elected to the papacy. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians, and Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxons who had invaded England. And at one time he organized distribution of grain during a shortage of food in Rome.

Gregory's life serves as an example of the link between liturgy and social justice. His Lenten hymn, "O Christ, our king, creator, Lord" (LBW 101), sings of God's grace flowing out from the cross to all creation.

**Thursday, March 17**  
**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461**

At sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. He himself admitted that up to this point he cared little for God. He escaped after six years, returned to his fam-

ily in southwest Britain, and began to prepare for ordained ministry. He later returned to Ireland, this time to serve as a bishop and missionary. He made his base in the north of Ireland and from there made many missionary journeys with much success. In his autobiography he denounced the slave trade, perhaps from his own experience as a slave.

Patrick's famous baptismal hymn to the Trinity, "I bind unto myself today" (LBW 188), can be used as a meditation on Lent's call to return to our baptism.

### **Saturday, March 19**

#### **Joseph, guardian of our Lord**

The gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life. We know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. The gospel of Luke shows him acting in accordance with both civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting the child Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. The gospel of Matthew tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Because Joseph is not mentioned after the story of a young Jesus teaching in the temple, it is assumed that he died before Jesus reached adulthood.

Congregations might consider a Sicilian tradition to commemorate Joseph that combines the three Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. The poor are invited to a festive buffet called "St. Joseph's Table." Lenten prayers and songs interrupt the course of the meal. What other ways can a congregation's almsgiving and charity be increased during Lent?

### **Tuesday, March 22**

#### **Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to the American Indians, 1758**

Edwards was a minister in Connecticut and has been described as the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. One of Edwards's

most notable sermons has found its way into contemporary anthologies of literature. In this sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," he spoke at length about hell. Throughout the rest of his works and his preaching, however, he had more to say about God's love than God's wrath. His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God's majesty and grandeur rather than a fear of hell. Edwards served a Puritan congregation. He believed that only those who had been fully converted ought to receive communion; his congregation thought otherwise. Edwards left that congregation and carried out mission work among the Housatonic Indians of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, later to be known as Princeton.

### **Monday, March 28**

#### **The Annunciation of Our Lord (transferred)**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, though this year it is delayed a few days because its date coincides with Good Friday. In Luke we hear how the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God and she responded, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." Ancient scholars believed that March 25, the normal date for this celebration, was also the day on which creation began and the date of Jesus' death on the cross. Thus from the sixth to eighth centuries, March 25 was observed as New Year's Day in much of Christian Europe.

Mary's openness to the will of God is an example of faithful discipleship and leads us to the work of God in our own lives. In Easter Monday gatherings today, a Marian-related song such as "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

(WOV 632) or the Magnificat could provide an interesting perspective on the Christian life after Easter.

### **Tuesday, March 29**

#### **Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, 1824**

Hans Nielsen Hauge was a layperson who began preaching about "the living faith" in Norway and Denmark after a mystical experience that he believed called him to share the assurance of salvation with others. At the time itinerant preaching and religious gatherings held without the supervision of a pastor were illegal, and Hauge was arrested several times. He also faced great personal suffering: his first wife died, and three of his four children died in infancy.

Some might remember Hauge by singing the Norwegian hymn "My heart is longing" (LBW 326), with its devotional response to the death of Christ: "My winter's gone, and spring is mine again."

### **Thursday, March 31**

#### **John Donne, priest, 1631**

This priest of the Church of England is commemorated for his poetry and spiritual writing. Most of his poetry was written before his ordination and is sacred and secular, intellectual and sensuous. He saw in his wife, Anne--a marriage that resulted in his imprisonment--glimpses of the glory of God and a human revelation of divine love. In 1615 he was ordained, and seven years later he was named dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. By that time his reputation as a preacher was firmly in place.

In his poem "Hymn to God, my God, in my Sickness," he contemplates his approaching death with confidence in the power of Christ: "As west and east in all flat maps (and I am one) are one, so death doth touch the resurrection."

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### SO MANY REASONS TO LOVE THE LORD

Thank you, God, for the little things  
 That come unexpectedly  
 To brighten up a dreary day  
 That dawned so dismally.  
 Thank You, God, for brushing  
 The dark clouds from my mind,  
 And leaving only sunshine  
 And joy of heart behind.  
 Oh God, the list is endless  
 Of things to thank you for,  
 But I take them all for granted  
 And unconsciously ignore  
 That everything I think or don,  
 Each movement that I make,  
 Each measured, rhythmic heartbeat,  
 Each breath of life I take  
 Is something You have given me  
 For which there is no way  
 For me in all my smallness to in any  
 way repay.

Helen Steiner Rich

### Mom's 10 Commandments for A Happy Household

1. If you take it out, put it away
2. If you eat on it, wash it
3. If you turn it on, turn it off
4. If you mess it up, clean it up
5. If you drop it, pick it up
6. If it rings, answer it
7. If it barks, walk it
8. If you open it, close it
9. If I cook it, eat it
10. If I say do it, don't ask why

*Submitted by Mary Panozzo*

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven.

You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was.

When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart." "That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth

three points!" "Three points?" he says.

"Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service." "Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point?!!"

"I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points?!!" Exasperated, the man cries. "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the **Grace of God.**" "Bingo, 100 points! Come on in!"

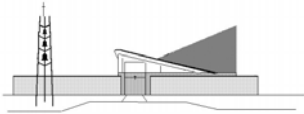
*Submitted by Darlene Boucher*

# February 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>7 pm Finance Committee</b>	2 <b>7 pm Property Committee</b> <i>The Presentation of Our Lord</i>	3 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study <i>Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865</i>	4	5 <b>9 am Men's Club Breakfast @ Mickey's</b> <i>The Martyrs of Japan, 1597</i>
6 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	7 <b>10 am Dorcas Circle</b> <b>6:30 pm Parish Education Committee</b>	8 <b>6:30 Eve Circle</b>	9 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7:00 Ash Wednesday Service</b>	10 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study	11	12
13 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Friendship Sunday 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club 12 pm Friendship Dinner	14 <b>6:30 pm Congregation Council</b> <i>Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs</i>	15	16	17 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study	18 <i>Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546</i>	19 <b>10 am Worship &amp; Music Committee</b>
20 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club <i>Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, 1620</i>	21	22	23 <i>Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156 Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, missionary to India, 1719</i>	24 2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study <i>ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</i>	25 <i>Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921</i>	26 <b>9 am Mutual Ministry Committee @ Nino's</b>
27 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	28 <b>6:30 pm Evangelism Committee</b>					

Dr. Martin Luther  
Evangelical Lutheran

1480 E. Hile Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49444  
Phone: 231-733-0603



*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.dmlc.org](http://www.dmlc.org)

# The Church Door

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

*Slovak Zion Synod*

*ELCA*

*March 2005*

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

1860 E. Hile Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49444

THE CHURCH DOOR  
The Seasons of Lent & Easter

