

The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

ALMOST TIME FOR LENT

It's February and almost time for Lent. Lent officially starts on Ash Wednesday which this year is February 17th. By the way, there will be two services at St. John's that day, one at 1:00 PM and the other at 7:00PM. Both services will include Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Traditionally, the purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The commemoration recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is described as being forty days long, although the Sundays during Lent are not counted so it actually spans 46 days. The forty days represent the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry, where he endured temptation by Satan.

Whatever your custom or tradition in observing Lent, let me make the following suggestion. This year take one of the booklets that will be available in the Narthex at the rear of the church entitled "From the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary." The booklet offers a daily devotional "walk with Christ" as He follows the path of the final days of his ministry that will eventually take Him to the Cross. Follow the booklet daily. I think you'll find that it will help make Lent a much more meaningful experience than it might be otherwise.

If you can't pick up one of the booklets at church, you can find it on the Internet at the Lutheran Hour Ministries website, www.lentendevotions.net. They are free for downloading once you provide some descriptive information for administrative purposes.

Try adding something this year to your Lenten experience by following the devotional booklet. I'm sure you'll be glad you did.

Don Roegge

THE GIFT OF FRIENDS

Earthly friends are God's gifts to me.
 I need them. I appreciate them.
 How often God loves me through them!
 He uses their arms to hug me, their hands to help me.
 He encourages me with their strength and support,
 Gives me advice and ideas through their minds and mouths.
 How blessed am I to have friends who faithfully serve the Lord
 In such practical, everyday ways?
 Thank you, Lord, for supplying me with friends.
 Thank you for being my best Friend.

Taken from *You Make a Difference* by Alma Kern
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THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
 God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
 You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
 For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
 It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
 He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
 and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
 He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
 That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
 Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
 He'd like them to know,
 But it all starts with U.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Christian education committee has been meeting with its members and other individuals in an effort to be able to present a Vacation Bible School this summer. The committee believes that this program can act as an important outreach to the community and ultimately work in favor of our congregation. In order for the program to take place volunteers will be nec-

essary. Anyone who can offer any amount of time is urged to volunteer. More information and sign up sheets will be posted in the near future.

Please consider helping.
 Dave DeMelfi
 Chairman of the Board of Christian Education



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- Angela Fulton 2/02
- Leanne Adamoyurka 2/03
- Linda Rabets 2/04
- Heather DeCocinis 2/05
- Bruce Hunsinger 2/12
- Robert Drummond 2/16
- Seth Rang 2/16
- Beth PaVon 2/19
- Zachary Pontry 2/21

Robert Denesvich 2/23

Anniversaries

- Emil and Ann Daniels 2/01
- Donald and Kristen Gipson 2/25



PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We pray Jesus' hand would rest on Alan Vayda, Anna Steranka, Dave Trovitch, Helen Wargo, Bobby Drummond (Bob's nephew), Lil Junas, Janice Johnson, Bob Mandak, Michael Mandak and all in need of His physical, emotional and spiritual care.



FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



ACOLYTES

02/07 Brandi Benko
 02/14 Ashley Hanko
 02/21 Denae Starry
 02/28 Aubrey Cool

ALTAR GUILD

Jolene Evancho & Lynette Trovitch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

02/07 Dave Trovitch
 02/14 Dave Trovitch
 02/17 Don Roegge

02/21 Don Roegge

02/28 Bob Mandak

COUNTERS

02/07 Sharon Roegge & Pam
 Jacobs

02/14 Nancy Trovitch & MaryAnne
 Gilham

02/21 Bob Junas & Frank Gilham

02/28 Dave Trovitch & Tom Wargo

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS) RESPONDS

LCMS World Relief and Human Care emergency Mercy Medical Team (MMT) landed in the Dominican Republic Jan 19, and half of the 13 member team worked through the night to care for patients at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kimani, a city near the Haiti border where Haitian refugees have fled since the devastating earthquake.

The Rev. Glenn Merritt, director of disaster response with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, is working with Lutheran partners in the United States who are collecting relief shipment and making plans for transport by air and by sea as airports and ocean ports re-open. Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Church Charities and Mission: Haiti are filling shipping containers with food, clothing, and other needed supplies that Merritt says he expects will be ready for transport shortly.

See the LCMS website for more information and what your church is doing to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need.

Watch for the update in the Sunday bulletin as needs change, although these basic human needs will be going on for years.

St. John's is doing a hands on project that Sharon Roegge is coordinating, but we will be collecting items as the needs change; please purchase items as listed - there are reasons why the list is developed with those items. We don't want to ship anything that will not be used in the field.

URGENTLY NEEDED clean and in good condition children's summer clothes are needed for children in orphanages in Haiti and other parts of the world. Please contact Karen Ann Kowalczyk if you have these items.

MITES-FEBRUARY 2010

MITES – Receiving the fifth most votes at the Portland Convention for a mission grant is the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program through Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Fort Wayne. The \$36,000 grant will be used to purchase five work stations for the SMP program and one digitizing station for the library to make materials available electronically world wide to teach and assist pastors, students, missionaries, and seminaries in going “into all the world”. Digitizing equipment is becoming antiquated, is beginning to fail, is sometimes difficult to read, and new equipment is needed for the SMP program. CTS needs to continue to teach students and support missions, ministries, and seminaries throughout the world by making materials and classes available over the Internet to assist in their calling.

Thanks to everyone who brought in their mite boxes to help fund the national and our district mites. We received \$46.49 this time around. Look for the box to be out again late February through early March so we can get another payment into district because our SELC LWML fiscal year ends on March 31, 2010.

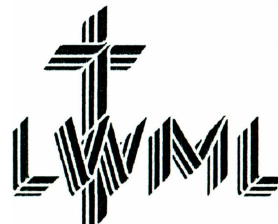
Speaking of the end of the fiscal year, the reason for that is that we will be having a SELC District LWML Convention. It will be held May 14-16th at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois. The theme for the convention is “As For Me and For My House, We Will Serve the Lord” from Joshua 24:15. We’ll begin Friday night with a 5:00 pm dinner at Zion Lutheran Church in Norridge, Illinois followed by a Communion Worship Service. There will be election of officers, selection of mission grants, Bible study Saturday and Sunday with church service at the CUC Chapel, LWML representa-

tive Helen Miller, and a Christian artist for Saturday evening. Always there is lots of Christian fellowship and a surprise or two added into the happenings.

LWML has received a S.O.S. from Lutheran World Relief (LWF) with a need for health kits and quilts. Everything they had on hand has been depleted and they need even more for Haiti. The health kits contain a hand towel, a washcloth, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, a comb, a nail file or clippers, and Band-Aids. We’ve all seen the devastation in Haiti and I’m sure many watched the telethon “Hope for Haiti Now” on January 22. We all know the need is great. You can help by Thrivent members giving through Thrivent (with a \$1 for \$2 matching), by putting a check in the offering plate made out to St. John’s and marked Haiti on the memo line, or my providing some of the items for the health kits. Look for a sign up sheet with more details on the bulletin board.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Sharon Roegge



**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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We are:
"Faith-Growing Followers of Christ,
Reaching Out in Response to God's
Love"



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Special thanks to everyone who helped contribute to the Haiti fund. If you have not done so yet and would like to donate, there are several alternatives available.

Donations for Haiti may be made through the church to LCMS World Relief. Please mark donations as **Help for Haiti** and make checks payable to the church. We will collect all of the donations and send in a check for the total amount in a couple of weeks.

Thrivent members may make donations directly through Thrivent by phone (800-236-3736) or on-line at www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti. Thrivent will match donations on a \$1 for each \$2 donated. Donations may be made to LCMS World Relief or selected other Lutheran charitable organizations.

The Call Committee should complete their work for issuing a Call to a Vicar this month. A final status will be available next month.

Pastor Fink will lead our Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) Lenten Services at 1PM and 7 PM. Both services will include Communion and the imposition of ashes. No mid-week Lenten services will be conducted again this year.

Don Roegge

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

If it is necessary to cancel our church services due to bad weather, please watch for a closing notice on TV channels 16(WNEP) or 28(WBRE). You may also check online at the WBRE website at www.PAHomePage.com.

You may also check the church's answering machine message. Just call the church's number at 459-6423. If services are cancelled, a special message indicating the cancellation will play. If services are scheduled as usual, the regular message will play.

