



## **Bethany Lutheran Outlook**

**March 2011**

**Serving God, Community, and Individuals**



**While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them,  
and a voice from the cloud said,  
“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”**

**Matthew 17:5**



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

“Have mercy on me O God, according to your loving kindness.” That’s the refrain from Psalm 51 which begins the Ash Wednesday liturgy which begins the season of Lent. Lent is late this year but it almost seems that the timing couldn’t be better with all that’s going on in the world. In particular, things are happening in the Middle East, some of it good, some of it maybe not so good but it would seem that shifts are taking place and challenges are being made that may significantly alter the world landscape. In this country political leaders are presenting budgets with major cuts that are likely to affect all of us in some fashion. For many the net result of these and other issues is anxiety and fear about what might happen, which brings us back to “Have mercy on me O God, according to your loving kindness.” In the midst of uncertainty there’s the reminder of God’s love and God’s forgiveness and that reminder is part of what Lent is about.

The themes and emphases of Lent have changed somewhat over the years. You may remember a time when the focus of Lent was largely on the Passion, the suffering and death of Jesus. That still is where Lent is headed, but the emphasis of the forty days has shifted more to themes of repentance and renewal. That involves reflection and to reflect honestly takes time. A good start to Lenten discipline then is to make sure you are taking time each day to pray, to reflect, to read the Bible and/or other devotional material. Such reflection doesn’t eliminate those things in your life and in your world that create anxiety, but it can help you to step away from them and keep them in perspective. We tend to think of repentance as feeling bad about and trying to change sinful behaviors and attitudes but it also involves not letting things that create anxiety to consume us. There are always those things we can’t control but it’s also those things that reveal to us our dependence on God so again, we come back to “Have mercy on me O God, according to your loving kindness.”

As always, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9th there will be worship opportunities each Wednesday evening of Lent at 6:30 preceded by soup suppers at 5:30. These services will again be a combination of Evening Prayer and a Lenten drama. On Sundays, as I have done the past couple of years, I plan to include reflection on the Psalm of the day as part of the sermon. The Psalms are another excellent source of Lenten reflection and I invite you to join me in making them part of your observance of the season. And remember the refrain from Psalm 51: “Have mercy on me O God, according to you loving kindness.” Carry it with you throughout Lent.

Pastor Geier



**Ash Wednesday Service**

**March 9**

**6:30 pm**

**Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 pm**

**God Is In Us**

Perhaps we do not remember it,...as loving arms held us  
and water of new belonging splashed over us.

Each Ash Wednesday we see the sign again revealed.

We had forgotten it on ourselves;  
we had neglected to see it on others,

But it persists.

That sign.

That cross.

A smudge of mortality.

A nudge of remembrance.

A remembrance of water poured.

A remembrance of anointing.

A remembrance of a way made straight for God.

You have been sealed...

With the cross...

Forever.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.



As we progress in our journey through Lent, dear Savior, help us remember that we don't live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you (Matthew 4:4).

## Wednesday Lenten Services Will Highlight a Five-Part Drama Series Will You Betray Me?

“Will You Betray Me?” (Luke 22:48) This was Jesus’ question to Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night he was arrested. In our lives of faith as Jesus’ disciples, it is a question that could be asked of each of us as well.



**"Will You Betray Me?"**

This five-part drama series focuses on “betrayal” as a central theme. Written in a direct and edgy style, the monologues feature biblical characters that (knowingly or unknowingly) contributed to the betrayal and death of Jesus.

1. SIMON, THE UPSTANDING PHARISEE  
(themes: responsibility, morality, and self-righteousness)
2. RACHEL, THE CONCERNED MOTHER  
(themes: ingratitude, gossip, and the assumption of guilt)
3. SIMON, THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER  
(themes: duty, personal distance, and not getting involved)
4. DINAH, THE FORGIVEN ADULTERESS  
(themes: scorn, resentment, and suspicion of motives)
5. JUDAS, THE GOOD DISCIPLE  
(themes: disappointment, disenchantment, and failure)

A Note About the Author: In addition to his service as a Lutheran pastor and writer of Bible studies, the Rev. Steven King has years of theater experience, including: acting, directing, writing, and production. He has written a number of biblical dramas for use in church by adults and children, as well as larger works produced for community theater.

## Lenten Soup Suppers - 5:30 each Wednesday of Lent

The various Boards of Bethany will provide the soups each Wednesday of Lent.

March 9 Ash Wednesday — Christian Education

March 16 — Social Ministry

March 23 — Worship and Music

March 30 — Stewardship and Personnel

April 6 — Finance and Property

April 13 — Council



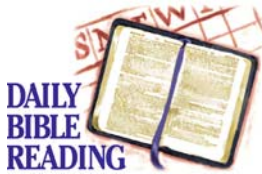
### Say Yes to God

Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.

In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God.

—Bill Hull

## DAILY LECTIONARY



*The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.*

### Daily Lectionary for March 2011

- |    |                                    |                      |  |
|----|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1  | Psalm 104                          | 1 Kings 17:1-16      | 1 Cor 4:6-21                           |
| 2  | Psalm 104                          | Isaiah 66:7-13       | Luke 12:22-31                          |
| 3  | Psalm 2                            | Exodus 6:2-9         | Hebrews 8:1-7                          |
| 4  | Psalm 2                            | Exodus 19:9b-25      | Hebrews 11:23-28                       |
| 5  | Psalm 2                            | 1 Kings 21:20-29     | Mark 9:9-13                            |
| 6  | <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> |                      |  |
|    | Exodus 24:12-18                    | Psalm 2              | 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9         |
| 7  | Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55              | Exodus 33:7-23       | Acts 7:30-34                           |
| 8  | Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55              | 1 Kings 19:9-18      | Romans 11:1-6                          |
| 9  | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>               |                      |  |
|    | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17                  | Psalm 51:1-17        | 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| 10 | Psalm 51                           | Jonah 3:1-10         | Romans 1:1-7                           |
| 11 | Psalm 51                           | Jonah 4:1-11         | Romans 1:8-17                          |
| 12 | Psalm 51                           | Isaiah 58:1-12       | Matthew 18:1-7                         |
| 13 | <b>First Sunday in Lent</b>        |                      |  |
|    | Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7            | Psalm 32             | Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11          |
| 14 | Psalm 32                           | 1 Kings 19:1-8       | Hebrews 2:10-18                        |
| 15 | Psalm 32                           | Genesis 4:1-16       | Hebrews 4:14-5:10                      |
| 16 | Psalm 32                           | Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28 | Matthew 18:10-14                       |

17	Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:1-3	2 Timothy 1:3-7
18	Psalm 121	Micah 7:18-20	Romans 3:21-31
19	Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:4-8	Luke 7:1-10

**20 Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
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21	Psalm 128	Numbers 21:4-9	Hebrews 3:1-6
22	Psalm 128	Isaiah 65:17-25	Romans 4:6-13
23	Psalm 128	Ezekiel 36:22-32	John 7:53-8:11
24	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:1-8	Col. 1:15-23
25	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:9-21	Eph. 2:11-22
26	Psalm 95	Exodus 16:27-35	John 4:1-6

**27 Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
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28	Psalm 81	Genesis 24:1-27	2 John 1-13
29	Psalm 81	Genesis 29:1-14	1 Cor. 10:1-4
30	Psalm 81	Jeremiah 2:4-13	John 7:14-31, 37-39
31	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 15:10-21	Eph. 4:25-32

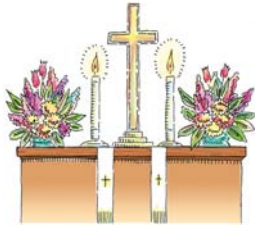


**Psalm 51: 1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
 According to Your lovingkindness;  
 In your great compassion,  
 Blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thorough and through from my wickedness,  
 And cleanse me from my sin.





## Worship and Music



For many people, change does not come easily. Change requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. We all find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting. Change interrupts those familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and to come to a better understanding of God, who does not change.

The ELCA believes that for Lutherans, worship is an ever-changing and -growing experience. Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

Here at Bethany, our liturgy changes during the days of Lent. Our worship space is simplified, we omit the use of flowers. We use the Kyrie and omit the Hymn of Praise and use the "Apostles' Creed." The Psalm is led by the choir with the congregation participating by singing "Have mercy on me, O Lord." "Alleluias" are put away during Lent and the Gospel Acclamation is replaced with "Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord." At the close of the worship service, the choir sings "Adoramus Te Christe" as we silently leave the sanctuary sent out to be the presence of God in the world.



Embrace the changes that we make during Lent and allow them to help you to focus on the season. Make a conscious effort to participate more fully in worship each Sunday and you will be renewed and empowered by the presence of God.



On Transfiguration Sunday, the Bethany choir will sing ***Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain***. The words of this anthem are on the following page.

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

Jesus, take us to the mountain,  
where, with Peter, James, and John,  
we are dazzled by Your glory,  
light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
by the vision of that sight.

What do You want us to see there,  
that Your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
fills us with the self-same awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours You go  
matched to meet our deadliest Foe.

What do You want us to hear there,  
that Your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the Voice from heaven  
says of the Incarnate Word:  
“Listen, listen, ev’ry one,  
This is my beloved Son!”

Take us to that other mountain  
where we see You glorified,  
where You shouted “It is finished!”  
where for all the world You died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
“Truly This was God’s own Son!”

We who have beheld Your glory,  
risen and ascended Lord,  
cannot help but tell the story,  
all that we have seen and heard;  
say with Peter, James and John:  
“You are God’s beloved Son!”



Jaroslav J. Vajda

## Jesus Christ



When Peter and James and John  
saw Jesus transfigured  
wholly changed  
standing with the law and the prophets  
the living and the dead  
they saw beyond  
beyond what their usual  
limited perceptions  
let them see.  
We can imagine  
that they themselves  
were never again  
quite the same.

There is in the Kalahari  
a tribe of bushpeople  
who believe that the world ends  
150 yards outside the edge of their boundaries.  
They believe that a person  
will fall off this world  
if they step beyond that limit.  
If you try to convince them  
that it is not so,  
if you step beyond the edge,  
they will cry out and keen,  
they will mourn for you  
for they can no longer see you -  
you have left their world.  
They only see you  
when you step again across the boundary  
back into their world.

So we too are limited  
by what we believe to be true  
so too we are blinded  
by what we perceive of God and of the world.  
but every so often we see  
a glimpse  
(I have come that you may have life)  
we hear  
a whisper  
(My kingdom is not of this world)  
we sense  
a presence  
(lo, I am with you always)  
beyond what we normally perceive  
every so often we become aware  
for a brief - oh, too brief - time  
of a transfigured reality  
of something beyond  
what we believe to be true  
of something beyond  
what we usually know

and somehow  
we are never again  
quite the same.



From *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*  
by Susan Palo Cherwien

## Haiti - One Year Later

The news was devastating; the images, indelible. The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti the afternoon of January 12, 2010, the worst in more than 200 years, killed approximately 230,000 people, brought countless buildings to the ground in a matter of seconds, and forever changed the lives of millions.



Just as the tragedy was overwhelming, so was the response. Thanks to generous supporters, LWR raised more than \$7 million for an immediate and long-term response. In the days and weeks immediately following the earthquake, that generosity provided much-needed food, water and shelter. Today, it is helping lay the groundwork for a brighter future.

The road ahead is long. Haiti continues to struggle, and challenges like the recent cholera outbreak make things even more difficult. But LWR has been there through it all, walking with the people of Haiti as they work to overcome adversity, rebuild their lives and pave the path for the future.

### **In the aftermath of the earthquake, LWR provided:**

- 25,545 quilts, giving warmth to those forced to sleep outdoors
- 77,585 health kits, to help people living in desperate conditions maintain basic hygiene
- 1,500 layettes, to help new parents care for their infants
- 35,700 school kits, to help displaced children learn
- 39 large tents, to set up temporary schools
- 17,500 tarps, to provide temporary shelter for displaced families
- \$1.1 million to local partners to provide food, water, sanitation services and shelter

With experience and expertise in rural development, LWR focused its program interventions on the many rural communities that took in the approximately 600,000 people who fled the capital city of Port au Prince after the quake.



**Working with local partners, LWR**

- Provided health and hygiene training for 10,253 people
- Built 253 collective and family latrines to serve thousands of families
- Assisted 8,151 people through cash-for-work programs that repaired roads, improved farms and built latrines and community water filters
- Provided seeds and tools to thousands of farmers to ensure an adequate food supply
- Stocked community stores in 12 rural communities to provide basic necessities at subsidized prices

In October, an outbreak of cholera, a potentially fatal intestinal infection, began spreading rapidly through Haiti, making already difficult conditions even worse.

**Working with local partners and in coordination with the Ministry of Health, LWR responded in five Departments (Artibonite, Northwest, North, Southeast and South) by**

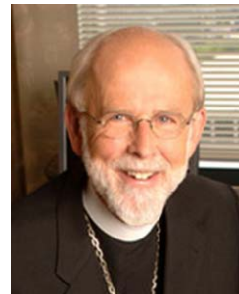
- Procuring and distributing medical supplies to health facilities (public and private hospitals as well as local health centers that have been set up to respond to the cholera epidemic).
- Distributing water filters to schools
- Distributing oral rehydration salts, soap, and water treatment tablets to vulnerable populations in rural communities.



Lord, please comfort the people of Haiti. Be with them as they remember the loved ones they lost, give them strength and courage as they continue to work to rebuild their country and their lives. Thank you for generous donors, dedicated staff, and thank you for each and every individual working to make a difference.

## Obama Announces Intention to Appoint ELCA Presiding Bishop to Council

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- President Barack Obama announced Feb. 4 his intention to appoint the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



The advisory council brings together religious and secular leaders, as well as scholars and experts in fields related to the work of faith-based and neighborhood organizations, to make recommendations to the government on how to improve partnerships, according to a White House news release.

"I am pleased to announce that these experienced and committed individuals have agreed to join this Administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," Obama said.

In 2009 Hanson was appointed to a White House task force on interreligious dialogue and cooperation, through the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Obama also announced his intention to appoint several other leaders to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships:

- + Leith Anderson, president, National Association of Evangelicals
- + Andrea Bazán, president, Triangle Community Foundation
- + Angela Glover Blackwell, founder and chief executive, Policy Link
- + Brian Gallagher, president and chief executive officer, United Way Worldwide
- + Lynne Hybels, co-founder and advocate for global engagement, Willow Creek Community Church
- + The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop, The Episcopal Church
- + Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative and Masorti Rabbis
- + Susan K. Stern, special adviser on government affairs, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- + Archbishop Demetrios Trakatellis, Greek Orthodox Church of America
- + Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- + The Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson, moderator, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

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Information about the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships is at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ofbnp/about/council> on the Web.

—ELCA News Service February 4, 2011

## March Worship Assistants

### March 6

Assisting Minister - Ed Johns  
Acolyte - Courtney Allen  
Coffee Hosts -  
Nursery - Megan Hough  
Bread - Kaye Fredrickson

### March 13

Assisting Minister - Carl Pellonpaa  
Acolytes - Jessica Penhale and Josh Argall  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Nursery - Christina Mariani  
Bread - Kay Chartre

### March 20

Assisting Minister - John & Marilyn Pontti  
Acolytes - Nora Seppanen and Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Coffee Hosts -  
Nursery - Tory Mattson  
Bread - Rae Elliot

### March 27

Assisting Minister - Sally Grant  
Acolytes - Courtney Allen and Josh Argall  
Coffee Hosts - Martha Circle  
Nursery - Kara Harrington  
Bread - Evelyn Nadeau



Sue Holmgren's team  
will take care of altar  
duties during March.



Forms to sign up for  
Easter flowers will be  
available later this month.  
The forms will be in the  
Sunday bulletin.

### March 9 Ash Wednesday

Assisting Minister - Marie Chilman  
Acolyte - Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Bread - Ann Gonyea

*Thank You!*

### March Ushers:

Robert Waters  
James Anderson  
John Carlson  
Robert Nadeau  
Tom Sodergred  
Greg Stahlmann  
Roger Solberg



### April Ushers:

John Beerling  
Jerry Hager  
Bill Heavyside  
Robert Maki  
Donald Meyer  
John Pontti  
Dan Sleeman

*Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Carol Carlson
- 2 Carol Heavyside
- 3 Heidi Sweet
- 4 Marvin Swanson
- 5 Addy Cain
- 5 Joyce Lehto
- 7 Alexandra Kitchen
- 7 Evelyn Valente
- 8 Terra Argall
- 8 Roberta Luokkala
- 9 Gwen Bruhnke
- 10 Rick Dault
- 10 Betty Leverton
- 11 Brett Sandstrom
- 12 Robert Clark
- 12 Trisha Gugin
- 14 William Carne
- 14 Marjorie Rosten
- 15 Jamie Healey
- 16 Joshua Argall
- 17 Beth Bertucci
- 18 Peggy Clark
- 19 Sue Ryan
- 21 Gregory Stahlmann
- 22 Nicholas Chartre
- 24 Patricia Nault
- 25 Paul Blomgren
- 25 Robert Kaukola
- 25 Roy Lemin
- 27 Gavin Argall
- 27 Allen Maki
- 28 Kimberly Marks
- 28 Doris Pellonpaa
- 28 Donna Stahlmann



**MARCH**

- 29 Chad Anderson
- 29 Catherine Barton
- 29 Marie Chilman
- 29 Kenneth Lawson
- 30 Sharla Riutta
- 31 Benjamin Bruhnke
- 31 Lois Goethe

*Happy Anniversary!*

**Paul & Marcia Waters**  
3/12/1994    17 years

**Kenneth & Jean Lawson**  
3/29/1958    53 years





## Social Ministry Update March 2011

As of February 22 we have restocked the supplies of Divine Chocolate for all the chocolate fans! We continue to encourage the purchase of Fair Trade Coffee for use at the coffee hour.



We were able to contribute \$50 to Lutheran Campus Ministry and \$75 to Fortune Lake. For the months of March and April the Noisy Offering will go to support the general activities of Fortune Lake.



Each year around this time Habitat for Humanity is planning construction for the building season. If you as an individual are interested in volunteering for Habitat, please contact Jane Iery at 228-3578 or [Jane@mqthabitat.org](mailto:Jane@mqthabitat.org)

Thank you for your steadfast support of Social Ministry at Bethany.



**The March Noisy Offering  
will go to Fortune Lake.  
Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



Bethany participated in the 2011 Souper Bowl of Caring on February 6. A total of \$236.76 was deposited in the buckets for the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers. All of the generous donations have been given to the Salvation Army to help those in need. Thanks to all for your generous donations.

## To Remember Me

by  
Robert N. Test

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying. As a certain moment, a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.



Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.



Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body, and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that, some day, a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.



Burn what is left of me, and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God.



If, by chance, you wish to remember, me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs it. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Submitted by Loreth Johnson



WELCA members met on January 23 and approved the following disbursement of funds:

- \$300 Kitchen
- \$500 Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- \$200 Voices for Youth
- \$200 Room at the Inn



### **Thank You Carol Holmgren!**

Carol Holmgren has been Bethany's WELCA treasurer for twenty-five years. Thank you for your efficient and dedicated service to Bethany.



### **Shawl Ministry**



The Shawl Ministry is alive and well at Bethany. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7pm in the social room. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 7th. New members are always welcome! Since starting in October of 2007 we have given out 90 shawls. If you would like to give a shawl to someone just ask Marian Medlyn, Jean Johns, Sue Ryan, Debbie Cain, Kay Chartre, Kathy Geier, or Ruby Kaukola. Shawls are ready for the asking.

### **Joy Circle Completes Study of Prayer of Jabez**

Joy Circle recently completed a four part video series on the prayer of Jabez. The prayer is found in 1 Chronicles.

1 Chronicles 4:10: *"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that Thine hand might be with me, and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."*

## Books for March



Madeline L'Engle is well-known for writing children's books, notably *A Wrinkle in Time*. In addition she has written many nonfiction works especially for an adult audience. In the Genesis trilogy, she weaves her own experiences with those of Jacob and Joseph of the Old Testament. The books in the Genesis trilogy will be a treat for you.

### **The Genesis Trilogy: *And It Was Good*, *A Stone for a Pillow*, *Sold Into Egypt***

Book 1 of the trilogy, ***And It Was Good***, speaks especially to those captivated by the creation story and those interested in new beginnings, while Book 2, ***A Stone for a Pillow***, holds treasure for those seeking answers to the questions posed during their inner and outer journeys. Book 3, ***Sold into Egypt***, provides hope to those who have experienced grief and loss.

### **What Three Readers Had to Say about The Genesis Trilogy**

“Reading this trilogy is like reading and discussing the book of Genesis with a friend. The author invites you into her life as she reads and reflects on the first book of the Bible. The storytelling, poetry, and personal stories create a gentle Biblical commentary for those who might be intimidated by a more traditional commentary. Joyful! Beautiful! Wonderful!”

“She never ceases to amaze and inspire me. This book made me think. While she infuses her fiction work with her theological beliefs, this trilogy truly lays it all out in a thoughtful and thought provoking way. Every time I read this book I see something new and am forced to think. And being forced to think is a very good thing. L'Engle does indeed, think outside the box. L'Engle incorporates the stories from Genesis with her own life experiences and weaves an outlook on the world that is both unique and timeless. This book altered my outlook on life for the better, and every day I am presented with new and overwhelming evidence that she hit the nail on the head. Amazing book.”

“I reread this book every time I feel myself being drawn down by doubt and mired in the poisons of what Christians can do to one another. It reaffirms me and strengthens me!”



## **The Lutheran: February 2011**

Denominations: Pulling together or fraying apart?

### **Cover story**



**Pulling Together or Fraying Apart?** by Stephen P. Bouman  
Yes, there is good news for being Lutheran



**Rerooting in the Community** by Stephen P. Bouman  
**14 Wisconsin congregations agree to mission strategy**



**A Bible Study** by Stephen P. Bouman  
Imagine the reign of God as a stone thrown in the water

### **Features**

**Come, let's eat** by Kristin Berkey-Abbott  
Set your welcome table as a spiritual discipline

**Compounding misery** by Jami B. Hawkins  
When pain and losses add up, we sometimes don't know how we'll ever live again — until we see God's light

**Why we should care about Pakistan** by Elizabeth Hunter  
A Q&A with Charles Amjad-Ali

### **Columnists**



**Digesting Scripture** by Peter W. Marty



**Faith amid the silence** by Mark S. Hanson

Everyday Witness



An Organized Response

Some people today reject the idea of belonging to a church by saying, "I'm spiritual but not part of any organized religion."

It may be cute to respond by saying, "Well, you'd like our church. We're the most disorganized group of people you could imagine." But what a putdown to the body of Christ.

Instead, try saying this: "I really enjoy our church. We have something for everyone. I've learned so much and get a lift for living every week." Briefly point out what has been most helpful and meaningful to you. Then offer to take the person to worship with you as your guest.



Pie Social  
February 12, 2011





### **Thrivent Members Must Act On 2010 Choice Dollars By March 31**

Approximately 50 members of Bethany participate in Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. As such, members participate in Thrivent Choice, Thrivent's charitable grant program, which allows its members to recommend where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributes the member's portion of its charitable funds each year.

Each member can direct designated Choice Dollars to benefit your preferred Lutheran organizations nationwide. The list includes our own Bethany congregation.

If you have not yet directed any of your 2010 designated Choice Dollars, you have until March 31, 2011 to do so. You need to act now before your designated 2010 Choice Dollars expire. Follow these steps to direct your designated Choice Dollars.

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/choicedollars](http://Thrivent.com/choicedollars)
2. Review the organizations that are eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice.
3. Choose where you'd like to direct your designated Choice Dollars.

You also have the option to call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice." When next prompted, say, "Choice Dollars." Some who have used the toll free option have found it easier than going online.

When designating your 2010 Choice Dollars, you can also direct where you want your future Choice Dollars to be given. 2011 Choice Dollars will be available for disbursement at various times throughout this year. These funds are designated throughout the year as premiums are paid, as contract value is determined, and as Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership is identified.





**The Bible declares that "laughter does good - like medicine," so read and laugh, and you'll feel better!**

These BLOOPERS actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



Birthday Blessings to  
Ed Vickstrom

Ed Vickstrom celebrated his 91st birthday recently with some of his Bethany friends. We are all happy to know this man who is young at heart.





## February Council Highlights

- Received thank you from Fortune Lake
- Pastor Geier baptized Christopher Joseph Samsom on February 14
- Received into membership: Bruce Bussone and Cheryl Fredrickson
- Bethany banner ad is now on TV6 website
- Assigned Lenten soup supper responsibilities to various boards
- Need to have a point person to keep track of kitchen supplies and keep up-to-date



YTD Income: \$13,296.80  
YTD Expenses: \$15,486.79



## Report of Annual Meeting

**Annual Reports** of the Directors from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 were presented. Carol Holmgren moved the reports be accepted as presented, Ted Swanson supported and the motion carried.

**The Audit** of the 2010 Financial Report was presented. The motion to accept the Audit Report was made by Ted Swanson, supported by Ed Holmgren and the motion carried.

**The Proposed Budget for 2011** was presented by the Director of Finance, Cheryl Sleeman. Cheryl reminded us that while last year's budget projected a deficient, thanks to careful management by the boards and more than anticipated offerings we came out \$3300.00 to the good. Dan Argall moved we accepted the proposed budget as presented, Carl Pellonpaa supported the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

**Information Items** Tom Ryan presented the Executive Director's Report, which highlighted the outstanding management of the boards and the high level of participation of member of the congregation in the year's activities

**Necrology** Pastor Geier officiated at the funerals of Martha Ulrickson, Anita Liliquist, Juanita Racine, Lois Ryan, Barbara Waters and Cathie Beinlich at Bethany in 2010. He offered a prayer in memory of the departed.

**Courtesy Resolution** A courtesy resolution thanking paid staff was presented and thanks were given for the many volunteer groups and individuals who participate in the life of the Church.

**Concluding Remarks** Tom Ryan thanked the Bethany Council for their efforts and Pastor Geier remarked on the generosity and giving level of Bethany in light of difficult times.

**Adjourn** Carl Pellonpaa moved and Dan Argall seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:10PM

## Fortune Lake Upcoming Events

**March 4-5:** Junior High Mardi Gras Youth Gathering

**March 13:** Second Sunday Folk Dance with Russian musicians (4-7 p.m. CT)

**March 14:** Senior Adult Day (10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CT)

**April 1:** Final day to register for summer camp and save \$25; register youth campers online and save \$15 more. Online registrations aren't possible for Women and Kids' Week and Family Camp yet this year but moms and grandmas should be aware that each additional child for these weeks will receive a \$50 discount as it is in the regular youth programs. This is a new savings this year.



**Bethany's Website**

[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

The picture quality of the photos in the printed edition of the Outlook is often not good. To see the crystal clear photos in color, please visit the website.

**Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate  
Are Available at Bethany**



Café Salvador Coffee  
Organic Decaf Coffee  
Whole Bean Coffee  
Whole Bean Decaf  
Teas  
Hot cocoa  
Baking Cocoa  
Milk Chocolate Bar  
Dark Chocolate Mini Bars

**From Small Farmers With Love**



## Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents: Teckla Holmgren (home), Barbara Crabb (Mather), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (home)
- Michael and Kathy Richards who mourn the loss of Mike's father Robert Richards
- Jim Sodergren
- Tony Elliot
- Marian Franti
- Melissa Chartre
- June Forsberg
- Allen Beauchamp
- James Chapman
- Erica Teichman, a member of the National Guard, who is deployed to Afghanistan
- Alice Eman
- Jim Chartre
- Pauline Toivonen
- Marvin Toivonen
- Allen Maki
- Steven Leverton
- Rosemary Clark
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Paul Blomgren
- Nancy Swanson
- Pam Rushford
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Daylight Savings Time Begins  
March 13

Remember to turn your  
clocks ahead.

Contributions to and ideas for the newsletter can be made by contacting **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625  
[linkarzig@netscape.com](mailto:linkarzig@netscape.com)

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Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Tom Ryan  
Asst. Exec. Director, James Bjorne  
Christian Education, Brent Clark  
Finance, Cheryl Sleeman  
Personnel, Debbie Bussone  
Property, Bill Heavyside  
Social Ministry, Rae Elliot  
Stewardship, John Pontti  
Worship & Music, Ann Gonyea  
Youth member, Alexandra Kitchen



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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