

LENT IS HERE BUT EASTER IS COMING!

Lent has begun, and we prepare our hearts and minds during this season of repentance and refining of our souls in order to be ready for the awesome celebration of Easter on April 12, this year. Lent is a wonderful time where we worship on Wednesday as well as Sunday. It is a time when some of us might give something up for the season in a sacrificial mode. Lent actually comes from a word meaning to lengthen as the lengthening of the sun light in the coming of spring. We also lengthen our time with our Lord Jesus during this season as we observe His passion for our salvation. This season is a great time to refine our hearts toward our relationship with our Lord Jesus and prepare for a celebration like no other this Easter. ALL GLORY BE TO GOD!

My thanks to our young people and Brenda and Larry Scheneman for sharing their talents during our Wednesdays evening Lenten services. We explore the "I AM" sayings of Jesus this season with dialogues from our youth. They share the passion story as well, help with the Maundy Thursday service and lead us on Good Friday.

REMEMBER TO COME AS YOU ARE FROM WORK, SCHOOL, PLAY, PRACTICE FOR WORSHIP AT 5:30pm and stay for soup.

A schedule is as follows along with those groups sharing soup:

MARCH

Wednesday, March 4, 5:30pm—**Get to be First**

Soup by Music Department

Wednesday, March 11, 5:30pm—**Follow the Leader**

Soup by Youth Group

Wednesday, March 18, 5:30pm—**Where's the Bread?**

Soup by Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts

Wednesday, March 25, 5:30pm—**Who turned out the Lights?**

Soup by Mary/Martha Circle

CONFIRMATION FOR THREE OF OUR YOUTH WILL TAKE

PLACE ON MARCH 29th AT OUR 10:30am SERVICE.

APRIL

Wednesday, April 1, 5:30pm—**Daddy, can I have a puppy?** Soup by Ruth/Eve Circle

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 5:30—**Pruning the Branches**

Good Friday, April 10, 7:30pm—**Did you bring the Map?**

EASTER WORSHIP REMAINS THE SAME AS THE LAST 5 YEARS WITH 6:30am SERVICE OUTSIDE IN THE ROSE GARDEN, AND 8:30am CONTEMPORARY AND 10:30am TRADITIONAL WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT EACH SERVICE.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold a special congregational meeting on March 8th after the second service at approximately 11:30am, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A SEWARDSHIP PARTNER to go forward in Faith as per a resolution passed in March 2008. Do make plans to attend and voice your vote. Our leadership has worked very hard and spent many hours to serve our Lord God in this place.

Our church has received national news for her mission and ministry to the community of Lehigh Acres. The front page of the NEW YORK TIMES, Sunday, February 8th showed the dire straits of our community as Faith Lutheran is in ministry for and to all. We have received notes and calls from many places in our country saying that many are proud to be Lutherans. Jim, our organist, was on the NBC TODAY SHOW February 10th, close to our President's visit to Lee County. God will continue to be with us as we heed God's call –"God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:6-8

COME OBSERVE LENT - PREPARE FOR EASTER - GIVE GLORY TO GOD

NEW MEMBER CLASS AND NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

During Lent, I will, once again, teach a class on the blessings of the Christian faith through the Lutheran perspective, Sunday mornings between the services at 9:30am beginning March 1st. New Member Sunday will be Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Pastor Doug

FAITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

LCPL Logan Raymond, LCPL Hannah Frank, LCPL Trevor Frank, Airman Jennifer Iglesias, US Air Force, Lackland Air Force Base
Lance Corporal Tyler Blum, US Marine Corp, Cherry Point, Senior Airman Kenny Brooks, US Air Force, Davis/Mothan AFB Arizona, Petty Officer Tim Fjelsted, US Navy Reserves, Private 1st Class Nick Schmidt, US Army, Afghanistan, Sergeant Robert Waigand, US Army, SA David Pykal, San Diego

YOUTH EVENTS

Remember Teen Youth Meetings are Sundays from 9:30am-10:25am in Schmidt Chapel. Check us out!

Saturday, April 4, 2009 Selling Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda for Antique Appraisal Show in SFH. We will have a car wash late in April and a picnic in May.

PALM SUNDAY CHOIR CANTATA

Once again, our choir will perform a special extravaganza on Palm Sunday, but in the late afternoon (4:00pm) followed by a potluck supper in Sweatlock Fellowship Hall. Our own Pastor Doug will be the lead as Jesus. Jerry Emmel, Carol Frantz and Diane Bernatz will sing the parts of the three women mentioned in Mark's poignant Gospel. The title of our cantata this year is "The Song of Mark," by Marty Haugen, a nearly complete rendition of the Gospel of Mark. Barry Moll, Tom Nelson & Nick Chistoff will portray the fisherman (disciples of Jesus), Mark Brown will sing the part of John the Baptist. Merrilyn Penegor and Helen Chistoff will be disguised by masks singing the part of do-gooders from the Gospel.

All this and a free supper—What more could you ask for?

What an opportunity this will be to bring friends and neighbors to hear our choir sing, and, perhaps for some, hear the Gospel for the first time. Not only our choir, but the choirs from St. Anselm's Episcopal Church and The Church of God of Prophecy will be involved in this costumed Extravaganza.

DON'T MISS IT!