

The MESSENGER

MARCH 2009

“GROW IN FAITH, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE IN LOVE”

COME TO LENTEN WORSHIP AT HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH!



40 DAYS TO SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Lent is the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Traditionally, it has been a time when Christians re-examine their spiritual life and try to discern the quality of their relationship with God.

There are many individual approaches to strengthening the spiritual life, including: choosing to fast, praying more often, reading the Bible and devotional literature, engaging more often in public worship, serving God more intensely in the world.

We miss the mark if we focus only on our desires. Lent ought to be a time of deeper dedication to God and seeking ways in which we can help to further God's kingdom on Earth.*

Everyone is invited to attend Lenten services every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning up to Easter Sunday. On Wednesday evenings there will be a light supper at 6:00pm, Bible study and Lenten service at 7:00pm.

Pastor Marcus will begin presenting a DVD series that will be discussed during the Lenten supper hour. The study series is titled "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible", presented by Dr. Mark Powell, a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.



*Information used by permission of The Newsletter Newsletter—February 2004.

BISHOP MIKE RINEHART GUEST PREACHER—Sunday, March 22

Bishop Michael Rinehart will be a guest of House of Prayer Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 22 at both services. During the Adult Sunday School hour, Bishop Mike will have a presentation on his trip to Israel.

LUTHER NORDIC CHOIR—Tuesday, March 24, 7:30pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church



The Nordic Choir from Luther College is on tour and will be singing at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30pm.

Cost of event tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$7 for students. For tickets, visit www.luthertickets.com or call 1-800-4 LUTHER. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located at 18220 Upper Bay Road in Houston.

TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR—Friday, March 27, 7:30pm

The Texas Lutheran University Choirs will tour this spring. The TLU Choir, founded in 1929, is one of the oldest a cappella choirs in Texas.

The annual choir tour for 2009, "The Godly Stranger," will include House of Prayer in its tour schedule. House of Prayer will be hosting the choir with a special dinner on Friday, March 17 at 5:30pm. After the dinner, the choir will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. For more specifics on the musical performances, including times, dates and locations, please check the TLU Web site at www.tlu.edu.



House of Prayer Lutheran Church will be responsible for housing 60 choir members Friday evening after the concert. The choir will leave on Saturday morning as they continue their tour.

Look for a signup sheet to be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex if you can house some students.

Please come enjoy beautiful choral music and support our Lutheran colleges.



TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD!

On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*. This Act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November.

During DST, clocks are turned forward an hour, effectively moving an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. **Set your clocks forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 8.**

PRAYER CHAIN

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: Barbara Alred, Amber, Annie Anderson, Johanna Anderson, Kyle Balusek, Rose Marie Badough, Bill Brown, Anne C. Buchanan, John and Pat Carlson,



Bob Clacher, William Contois, Ruth Cox, Rebecca Dodd, Jacque Dunn, Lana Evans, Ray Fetterman, Jackie Gabler, Michael Giles, Nita Hammock, Ed Harlowe, Byron Heist, Susan Herd, Iris Hodges, Richard Jackson, Patty Lawrence, Kristin Linn, Carl Lueders, Sue Lyon, Pastor David Mancuso, Donald Maretti, Becky McCleary, Richard McCoy, Rev. John Mills, Jonathan O'Malley, Frances Patterson, Helen Peszko, Norm Price, Ruby Reis, Anna Roschke, Sussan Shreffler, Margaret Spivey, Einar and Martha Sundstrom, Douglas Szopa, Dick Theis, Norma Thompson, Deborah Walton, Ruth Williams, Jim Wright and Walt Wright.

Please help us keep our prayer chain current. Contact either Anneke Ensmann (281-488-8158) or Carolyn Myers (281-326-1840) or the church office (281-488-4439) with updates or additions. Thank you!



Happy Anniversary!

to

- Ron & Jean Price—March 1
- Dennis & Alma Sbach—March 4
- Jay & Beth Aslaksen—March 17
- Wes & Ann Tarkington—March 20
- Richard & Jane Markle—March 27



- Gloria Davidson, Katie Huddleston, Yvonne Noack, Jenna Price (March 2), Carrie Busch, Deloris Dugdale, Michael Carlson (March 3), Clayton Cromer, Norma Haugen (March 4), Michelle Basci, John Meyer (March 6), Glenn Chisman, Ken Clacher, Emery Gallia Sr., John Haugen, Brad Cole, Lois Costin (March 7), Devon Laughlin, Daniel Perez (March 9), Reata Baker (March 10), Joyce Miller (March 12), Chris Rivera, Shirley Kingsley (March 14), Amber Bates, Shawn Nelson, Ron Price, Ralph Rohloff (March 15), Doug Dugdale (March 16), Marcella Buel (March 17), Laura Braciale, Gloria Pechacek, Izabelle Simonds (March 18), Casey Johnston (March 19), Elaine Snowden (March 21), Cameron Larson, Courtney Proske, Dorrie Byford (March 22), Abby Montemayor (March 24), Dylan Daugherty (March 26), Karen Larey (March 27), David Ryden, Charlotte Rohloff (March 28), Shiloh Becker (March 31)

COWBOY CHURCH PRAISE TEAM SERVICE Sunday, March 1, 8:30am & 11am



Saddle up, Partner! It's back by popular demand! The Praise Team kicks off the 2009 Rodeo season with "Cowboy Church" on Sunday, March 1st.

So pull on your boots, dust off your hat, and come join us for a worship service with both kinds of music...Country and Western. Tie your horse up in the corral out back, and c'mon in!



NO
CONFIRMATION
DURING LENT

Students are expected to come to Maundy Thursday service and are also expected to come to at least 2 Wednesday Lenten services in between.

LADIES LUNCHEON—March 3, 11:30am

Ladies Luncheon



An invitation goes out to all ladies of House of Prayer to join us for the celebration of all March birthday's. Our next luncheon date is Thursday, March 5th, 11:30 .m. at Clear Lake Hunan Restaurant, 2323 Clear Lake City Blvd., Suite 158, in the Randall's Shopping Center, which is just across the street from House of Prayer. Please make your reservation by calling Diane Busch at 281-286-1184 or Fran Hippensteel at 281-486-7969 by Tuesday, March 3rd. In lieu of gifts our donation for March will go to Women of the ELCA. Please make checks payable to House of Prayer and write "Women of the ELCA" on the memo section.

At our February luncheon, a donation of \$211.00 was received for Meals on Wheels. Thanks ladies for your donation. We hope to see you for our March luncheon!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—First Workday—March 14, 8am to 2pm

Volunteers are needed for two Habitat for Humanity workdays this spring:

- March 14, 8:00am to 2:00pm
- May 9, 8:00am to 2:00pm.

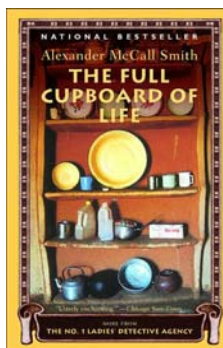


We are partners on those days with First Methodist Church in Dickinson. We are to provide lunch for the March workday. For more information and to sign up, see the sheet in the narthex or contact Rachel Zoch at 281/479-7606.

HOP BOOK CLUB—Tuesday, March 17, 7:30pm

Please come to the next House of Prayer Lutheran Church Book Club on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30pm. The selection for March is Cupboard Full of Life by Alexander McCall Smith. The hostess is Fran Hippensteel. A synopsis from the publisher is listed below.

"Alexander McCall Smith's *The Full Cupboard of Life* continues the adventures of *Precious Ramotswe*, the remarkable proprie-



triss of an unusual detective agency in Botswana. *Mma Ramotswe* begins to fret that she has been engaged to Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni for a while now (in fact, through the first four books of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series —*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, *Tears of the Giraffe*, *Morality for Beautiful Girls*, and *The Kalahari Typing School for Men*) with no wedding date in sight. He, unfortunately, is preoccupied with other things, in particular, a frightening proposition from the bossy matron of the Orphan Farm. And, of course, there is always the day-to-day business of the detective agency to occupy *Mma Ramotswe's* time and energy."

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Howard Holt, Choir Director
tbn46@hotmail.com

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ginny2359@yahoo.com

Elida Lopez, Secretary
office@hopelca.org



"Life is Good; 888 Reasons Why" by Amy Hall

Reason Number 428: A rainbow arch appearing to celebrate the end of a spring shower.



If you would like to submit an article for Newsletter consideration, please submit your article to the Church office by the 15th. **For example, submit April 2009 article by Friday, March 13.** Email article in an MS Word document to office@hopelca.org or mail to office at the address listed at the top of this page.

ACTIVITIES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING—Sunday, February 8



On Sunday, February 8, House of Prayer had its annual congregational meeting. Many issues were discussed and voted on. Some of the changes included constitutional amendments that restructured the congregational council roles and election of council members.

The resolution to amend the constitution in order to re-classify the existing council and activities under the new system was passed. If you wish to know more about the amendments, please go to the church website (www.hopelca.org) and click on the links.

The following structure is what was approved and is being implemented into the activities of House of Prayer Lutheran Church:

FAITH COORDINATOR

EDUCATION—Includes, but not limited to:

- Sunday School
- Adult Bible study
- Book Clubs
- Confirmation Mentoring
- Library

FELLOWSHIP—Includes, but not limited to:

- Hospital Visitation
- Dinner for Eight
- Choir Cantata & dinner
- Oktoberfest
- Senior High Youth group
- Prayer Chain
- Ladies Luncheon
- Youth Auction/Trip

DISCIPLESHIP COORDINATOR

EVANGELISM—Includes, but not limited to:

- Visitation of Prospective Members
- Advertising Worship & Fellowship Opportunities

WORSHIP—Includes, but not limited to:

- Worship Team (ushers, greeters, lectors, assistant ministers, etc.)
- Adult Choir
- Praise Team
- Audio/Visual

SERVICE COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY SERVICE & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT—

Includes, but not limited to:

- Guatemala Mission Trip
- Habitat for Humanity
- Recycling
- Interfaith Caring Ministries
- National Night Out
- Post-Hurricane Relief Efforts

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP—Includes, but not limited to:

- Council
- Property/Building Maintenance
- Financial Tellers
- Stewardship Campaigns (including \$\$ earned from Kroger/Randalls cards, goodsearch.org & goodshop.org)
- Synod Assembly Representatives

If you do not see a current/recent activities here that may have been overlooked, please let the incoming council members know to be sure it gets included.

The 2009 council members are:

- ✦ Pastor Marcus Otterstad
- ✦ President Geri Spratlin
- ✦ Vice President Steve Higginbotham
- ✦ Treasurer Mary Lou Wallin
- ✦ Financial Secretary Crystal Plumb
- ✦ Discipleship Coordinator Christine Smith
- ✦ Faith Coordinator Paul Larson
- ✦ Service Coordinator Rebecca Johnston



Welcome to
HOUSE OF PRAYER

FEBRUARY CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES—Tuesday, February 10 2009

Opening

House of Prayer Council Meeting was called to order on February 10, 2009 at 7 pm by the newly elected president, Gerri Spratlin. Pastor Otterstad opened the meeting with prayer.



People Present

The following people attended: Steve Higginbotham, Ron Hilkemeier, Rebecca Johnston, Mike Nagle, Marcus Otterstad, Paul Pathesema, Crystal Plumb, Elaine Simonds, Isabel Simonds, Christine Smith, Gerri Spratlin, and Mary Lou Wallin.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Council Meeting on January 25, 2009 were presented and reviewed. Paul Pathesema will finish typing up the minutes from the February 8, 2009 Congregational Meeting and email them. He will also provide a copy of the past meeting minutes to the new secretary via CD.—Motion: A motion was made by Christine Smith to approve the minutes as presented and was seconded by Rebecca Johnston. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Pastor's Report

The pastor's report was presented and discussed.—Motion: A motion was made by Steve Higgenbotham to approve the pastor's report as presented and was seconded by Christine Smith. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Discussion

- There was a discussion of how people would contact ministry leads and how input on goals and projects could be gathered. It was decided that Eli would be asked to create a box to be placed on the ground floor for use by the congregation to submit goals or projects. Gina Larson would be asked to add the capability to generate an electronic entry to a mailbox to allow people to submit from on-line. Gerri Spratlin will generate a form to be used.

- Ron Hilkemeier would like to continue to server as property project lead. He will work with Rebecca Johnston to establish what areas his project covers.
- Council and the ministry coordinators will work together to try to determine what the existing projects are in the congregation and who is the current lead. It is realized

that leads for some activities, such as the youth trip, may change annually. This is one of the first objectives of Council that needs to be completed before the June Congregational Meeting. The second objective is to rework the budget to bring it in line with the new organizational structure. The third objective is to modify the continuing resolutions to reflect the new organizational structure. Continuing resolutions are council-level policies. Christine Smith and Pastor Otterstad volunteered to work on modifying the continuing resolutions.

- Steve Higgenbotham requested the bylaws and constitution be placed on-line. Eli will first need to update them. They will then have to go to the Synod to be approved.

Bank Signature Card

A resolution was put forward by Christine Smith to remove the old council members from the signature card at Sterling bank and add the following people: Geraldine (Gerri) Spratlin, Mary Lou Wallin, Steve Higgenbotham, Marcus Otterstad. Steve Higgenbotham seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Closing

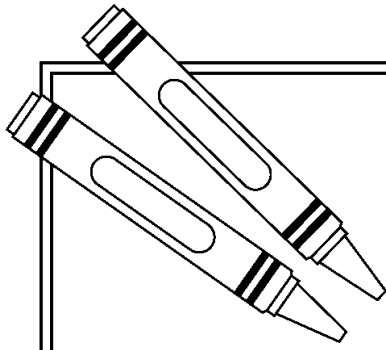
Pastor Otterstad lead the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8 pm.—Motion: Christine Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Higgenbotham.

Secretary: Crystal Plumb

The violet, a symbol of humility, is most often used in reference to the Virgin Mary.

St. Bernard described Mary as "the violet of humility." The flower is also used to express Christ's humility in assuming human form.





Just for **KIDS**

A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e ___nd ___ll h___s f___m___l___
 A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w___r___ d___v___ ___t___nd
 A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G___d-f___ ___r___ng; h___ g___v___
 B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g___n___r___ ___sl___ t___ th___s___ ___n
 A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n___ ___d ___nd pr___ ___d t___ G___d
 A+C A+C A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r___g___l___rl___." ___cts 10:2, NIV
 A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D



A cowboy once offered this sensible notion of living the Christian faith: "Lotsa folks who'd really like to do right think that servin' the Lord just means shoutin' themselves hoarse praisin' his name.

"Well, I'll tell ya how I look at that. I'm workin' here fer Jim. Now, if I'd sit around the house here tellin' what a good fella Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up in the night to serenade him, I'd be doin' just like a lot of Christians do. But I wouldn't suit Jim, and I'd get fired mighty quick.

"But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Jim's herd is all right and not sufferin' fer water and feed, or bein' off the range and branded by cattle thieves, well then, I'm servin' Jim the way he wants to be served."

"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Answers:

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