



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Volume 3, Issue 3
March 2010

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Message from Pastor Scott Johnson

March 3, 10, 17, 24,
Lenten Dinner at
6:30 p.m.
Worship at
7:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m. Traditional
10:30 a.m. Family
9:20 p.m. Sunday School
(right after
Children's Sermon)
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation Class

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Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45-46

In our confirmation class we have been studying the Lord's Prayer, and recently I asked the class to find places in Matthew where Jesus states: "The Kingdom of God is like...."

In Matthew 13, we see that a merchant sold all that he had to purchase a single pearl. But why, of all things, a pearl? I would think when it comes to gemstones there is something that has much greater significance, such as the much coveted diamond. You may know that the diamond is graded in value according to the 4 C's, Cut, Color, Clarity & Carat-weight. The answer to my pondering was right there! The diamond receives a substantial portion of its value from the way a person cuts it – the work of man's hand! Interestingly, the only natural gemstone that has more value when it is found than when men finish with it...is the PEARL!

In the same way, we can add nothing to the work of Salvation!

God in Jesus Christ has paid the price for us in full – and a tremendous price it was. The God of glory, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords left all the splendor of Heaven to claim this pearl. And He gained it by paying a price that was far more precious than any of us could pay.

Sometimes we get so busy that we don't take time out consider this incredible work of God in our lives. He has bought us with a price. We are fully paid, fully ransomed, fully redeemed! We are the pearls of great desire! Let's walk in that victory today!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

FAITH STORY

My Faith Story - Jean Hineman

I guess you could say that I have been a Christian my entire life. From day one I was brought up going to church, attending Sunday School and Confirmation classes, saying prayers at night and before meals, etc. However, when telling my faith story to someone, a lot of times my faith story does not include my childhood growing up, but how my relationship with God has developed during my adult years.

I believe that everything I am, everything I know, everything I do, everything I say, everything I hope to be, comes from my faith and love of God and His Word. I want to be able to show, tell and share the story of Jesus and his love for all people and the JOY that comes with it.

Through prayer my relationship with Jesus has grown stronger and stronger. This did not happen right away. It takes practice, it takes being willing to give up yourself to God and that without him you are nothing. This is very hard to do to humble yourself like that. We all like to know we are good at something. That we are better than anyone else. That we are in control and have all the answers. We can do it ourselves without any help. We are good. When we put ourselves up like that, the only place to go is down. We cannot control everything in our lives. We need HOPE. We need LOVE. We need FORGIVENESS.

Whenever I begin to lose it, things just seem insurmountable. I do not always know what to say or what to do and by the end of the day I am just exhausted and consumed with worry and not able to sleep. This can go on for a minute, an hour, even a day or two. I find myself getting so frustrated that I find myself almost yelling at God. I say OK, you take this problem, I can't do anything with it and I am tired of thinking about it. I literally see myself throwing all these things away toward God.

What happens then you might ask? I usually start laughing and I often think God is laughing too, but then calmness comes over me. The day is easier to get through and I am content and what was troubling me so much is now much more manageable and I will know how to handle it naturally. This does not happen immediately and sometimes not for awhile. But I know that if I pray, am patient and wait upon the Lord there is nothing I cannot overcome, there is nothing that I fear, because He walks with me through good times, bad times and always. All I have to do is talk to him prayerfully everyday. Give thanks to him everyday and lift up everything to him in prayer (my strengths, my worries, my weaknesses, my sins and people I know that need Him). And, finally, be still and know that he is God.

I have come in contact with people that have told me that they pray but nothing happens. I believe that something happens every time you pray. Maybe not what you expected, but something does happen. God begins to work within you. He gives you strength to get you through the tough times as well as the good times. During all these time people are in your life to help you – they were put there by God. When you have strength to go on when most people would have given up, that strength is from God. God is always there nudging, comforting and letting you know He is there and He loves you. Don't go to God with expectations, go to God with faith, go to God in prayer. He will never give up on you! He is the forgiver of all sins. He is the giver of life -- your life. He loves you. Love Him with all your heart, with all your soul, with your entire mind and always give thanks and praise to God for every blessing he has given you! Great things will happen! This is most certainly true

Thanks for letting me share my faith story with you!

In the Lord be ever thankful, In the Lord let us rejoice. Look to God. Do not be afraid.

Lift up your voice for the Lord is near.

MARCH 2010 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	7 th	14 th	21 nd	28 th
COMMUNION SETUP AND ASSISTANTS	Lynnea Semasko Julie Malin	Ken Miller Myrna Salazar	Greg Paddock Carl Malin	Anne Wurfel Dick Bukowski
GREETERS	Russ & Muriel Tripp Carolyn Bonness	Jenny, Cameron and Madison Paddack Doris Olson	Phyllis Olson June Hanson Joanne Szukala	Carol Campbell Tom Fedro June Hanson
EXIT GREETERS	Jean Hineman Tim Satherlie	Don Finney Carolyn Ohman	Jody Check Eric Knox	Jean Hineman Jody Check
LAY READERS	Scott Fedro	Jean Kinder	Marilyn Anderson	Bob Lempkowski
LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS	Jean Hineman	Carl Malin	Tom Gnoyke	Carolyn Ohman
COUNTERS	Marilyn Anderson Carolyn Ohman	Klaus Schuetze Phyllis Olson	Greg Paddock Joyce Johnson	Tom Fedro Jill Kummer
USHERS	Karl Becker Joanne Szukala Sue Miller	Greg Paddock Jan Fedanzo Tom Fedro	Klaus & Gail Schuetze Jim Lagerhausen	Don Finney Ernest & Anne Wurfel
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	Pancake Breakfast	Lynnea, Joyce, Sue	Esther Circle	Jean Hineman

If you are not able to serve on these dates, please call another member or youth to trade with, and notify the church office of the change. Tel: 847-437-5141 Thanks!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Ash Wednesday - February 17th

Worship and distribution of ashes - 7:00PM

Wednesday Services for February 24 thru March 24

Suppers will be at 6:30pm followed by Worship at 7:30pm.

Please sign up for suppers in the Fellowship Hall:

February 24th - Worship and Music Committee - Chicken

March 3rd - Schuetze-Miller Team - Chili Dinner

March 10th - Esther Circle - Soup and Breads

March 17th - Education - Pasta

March 24th - Rebecca Circle - Subway sandwiches

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 28

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 1

7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 2

7:30 p.m.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL: APRIL 2 to 4

35½ Hours of Prayer, and Contemplation.

Please join your fellow members, and friends of Lutheran Church of the Cross as we pray continuously in our Sanctuary from the close of our Good Friday Service until our Easter Celebration.

EASTER CELEBRATION: APRIL 4

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship

March 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30 PM Chicago Bronze	2 9:00 AM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Music Team 7:30 PM Bell Choir	3 6:30PM Lenten Dinner – Chili 7:30PM Lenten Service 8:00 PM Disciple Church	4 2:45 PM Daisy Troop 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Practice 6:00 PM GSCPR Training 7:30 PM Choir	5 3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 203 8:00PM Disciple Church 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous	6 10:00AM SDA Church
7 9:00 AM Traditional Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 10:30 AM Family Service 11:30AM Confirmation Class 1:00 PM Disciple Church	8 6:30pm Chicago Bronze	9 9:00 AM Food Pantry 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00PM Music Team 7:00 PM Read to Learn 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 6:30PM Lenten Dinner – Soup & Breads 7:30PM Lenten Service 8:00PM Disciple Church	11 6:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Practice 7:30PM Choir	12 6:30 PM QUEST 8:00PM Disciple Church 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous	13 10:00AM SDA Church
14 9:00 AM Traditional Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Family Service 11:30AM Confirmation Class 1:00PM Disciple Church 6:00 PM Bowling	15 6:30pm Chicago Bronze	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry 6:30PM Confirmation Mtg 7:00 PM Read to Learn 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 6:30PM Lenten Dinner - Pasta 7:30PM Lenten Service 8:00PM Disciple Church 8:00PM Council Mtg.	18 2:45 PM Daisy Troop 6:00PM Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 7:30PM Choir	19 8:00PM Disciple Church 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous	20 10:00am SDA Church 1:00 PM Girl Scouts 40240- 40176
21 9:00 AM Traditional Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Family Service 11:30AM Confirmation Class 1:00PM Disciple Church	22 6:30pm Chicago Bronze	23 9:00 AM Food Pantry 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30PM Confirmation Mtg 7:00 PM NO Read to Learn 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 10:30 AM Chapel Service 6:30 PM Lenten Dinner – Subway Sandwiches 7:30 PM Lenten Service 8:00PM Disciple Church	25 6:00PM Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 7:30PM Choir	26 8:00PM Disciple Church 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous	27 10:00am SDA Church
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Traditional Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Family Service 11:30AM Confirmation Class 1:00PM Disciple Church	29 6:30pm Chicago Bronze	30 9:00 AM Food Pantry 6:00pm Worship Team 6:30PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Read to Learn 7:30pm Bell Choir	31 10:30AM Chapel Service 8:00PM Disciple Church	1 Maundy Thursday 7:30PM Service	2 Good Friday 7:30 PM Service	3

We need your help in keeping the church calendar updated. Please send your calendar items to the church office no later than the 20th of the month. Thank you.
office@sharegodslove.org

PRAYER VIGIL



Friday, April 2—Sunday, April 4, 2010
36^{1/2} Hours of Prayer, and Contemplation.
Please join your fellow members, and
friends of Lutheran Church of the Cross as
we pray continuously in our Sanctuary from
the close of our Good Friday Service until
our Easter Celebration. You ask, why do we pray?

Then Jesus went back to his followers, and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak.”
Mark 14:37-38

Need I say more? Then, let us pray that God's will be carried out in this congregation, for all the concerns and needs of our members and friends. There are many in our congregation who need our prayers. We hear the names of many each week during our services. There are more whose names we never hear, but are no less needful of prayer.

Finance Committee
Phyllis Olson, Jill Kummer,
Myrna Salazar, Muriel Tripp,
Debbie Paddack,
Lynnea Semasko

Communications
Lynnea Semasko

WELCA REMINDS EVERYONE
Continue saving items for St
Mathews. Small items such as
soap, decks of cards, postage
stamps, stationery, long neck-
laces, small stuff animals, etc.
are appreciated. Please place
items in the box above the mail-
boxes in the Fellowship Hall

ESTHER CIRCLE
Lenten Service Hosts
March 10

REBECCA CIRCLE
7:30 PM
March 9th
Lynnea Semasko
1506 S. Kennicott Dr.
Arlington Heights

ESTHER CIRCLE
Sunday , March 21
Treats

REBECCA CIRCLE
Sunday, March 14
Treats
Lynnea, Sue, Joyce

**SAVE YOUR GOODIES
FOR OUR SPRING
GARAGE SALE**

KITCHEN CARE:
Front Kitchen—Esther Circle
Back Kitchen—Rebecca Circle

Isn't it great that our WELCA circles
take such good care of our kitch-
ens...Keeping them stocked and
keeping them clean!
Your service does not go un-noticed
and is much appreciated!
Thank you!

Social Ministry ... Is wearing the Green of March....

Activities keep Social Ministry in the Green.

Activities that support the LCC Food Pantry so we are able to serve the needy in our five-town community.

Activities that make it possible for LCC to

...“Share God’s Love”... with those in need.

Last year...

Pancake Breakfasts... Rummage Sale...Postal Workers Food Drive...

Organ Concert...Mama Mia Movie...65th Wedding Anniversary... Contributions...Grants...and Bunco Parties...

...All contributed to the successful operation of this

Community Outreach Ministry.

2010,,This is a new year...a new decade...The start of the 5thdecade of the LCC Food Pantry serving our community.

The Pancake Breakfasts... Today is the third for the year,

More to come. The Rummage Sale and the Food Drive are

on the calendar. BUT...THE NEXT EVENT IS....

Friday...That’s Next Friday Evening... March 12...

THE QUEST

A New...First Time Offered...LCC Family Event...

An Opportunity for a Fun-Filled Family Evening ,,

Time...6:30 Cost...\$6/adults...\$5/students...under 5 free

Sign up today...Do Not Miss This Fun-Filled Family Evening

Adult Education

March 7 :

Pancake Breakfast --- No Adult Education

March 14: The Faith Club

We are going to try something different for a Sunday AM session ---- a book discussion. You don't need to buy the book (unless you want to) and there will be no homework. In each session we will read selected portions of the book and discuss.

The Faith Club is about 3 women, a Christian, a Muslim and a Jew. They were asked to write a children's book, after 9/11 that would address interfaith issues. When they started the project, however, they found that they had much to learn about each other's faith before they could do the children's book justice.

The Faith Club is the story of their journey of exploration, understanding and acceptance. It is lovely and we hope that you all join us.

HELP WANTED!

If anyone is in need of a job or is in a position to offer a position within their company, please send your requirements to the church office and we will place the information in the newsletter. As much as we seek to help others, in these tough economic times it is also just as important to help those within our own community of faith here at LCC. So, if your in need or in a position to help...let us know!

NEWS & EVENTS

READ TO LEARN
Literacy / Volunteer Program
2010 Schedule
February 9 to April 13
7:00 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday
NO CLASS ON March 23—
Spring Break

Food Pantry

Sign Up to Help Pantry push 1st Sunday of the month. All food donations welcome!

Helping Hands Ministry

Just a reminder that we frequently have members of our church family who need assistance with rides, meal delivery or small chores. Accomplishing these tasks can seem insurmountable especially to those who are recovering from hospitalization. If you can help by cooking or providing a "helping hand" in another way, please sign up on the poster in the fellowship hall.

Nursery

The nursery is located down the North hallway is open to infants and toddlers during worship services. If you find it necessary to leave the Sanctuary, there is also a speaker system in the Narthex for your convenience.

The diakonia Program

Diakonia includes a whole new way of thinking and doing, of perception and reception, of defining and redefining our lives and purpose for living. The focus is no longer on ourselves, our fears, trials and tribulations, but on what God would have us say and do in the midst of those fears, trials and tribulations. God's call to ministry amidst the daily struggles of life is our call to Christian discipleship. For further information about this two-year theological program for lay people, please contact Pamela Marino at 773-763-0605 or go to the www.thediakoniprogram.org website.

Girl Scout Troop

#40240 and #30176

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

On Saturday

1:00—2:30 PM on the

following dates

1/23/10, 2/20/10, 3/13/10

4/10/10, 5/15/10 and 6/12/10

Troop 203 meets on Friday 3:30—6:30

February 5, March 5, April 16

Daisy Troop meets on Thursday 2:45—4:00

February 4 and 18

March 4 and 18

April 1 and 15

May 6 and 20

Fellowship Hosts

Fellowship Hosts are needed for after the 9AM Sunday services. Please find a date that you can bring goodies. The coffee and juice will be set-up for you. Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Daily Devotionals

January, February, March Daily Devotionals (Portals of Prayer) are now available in the back of the church. These have been purchased and donated by Esther Circle.



Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of this community outreach ministry, so that we may continue to...

"Share God's Love"

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“I got it on eBay.”

T h e Q u e s t

**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY.**

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 12

TIME: 6:30

**COST: \$6/ADULT, \$5/STUDENTS, UNDER
5 ARE FREE**

WHERE: FELLOWSHIP HALL

**WHAT IS A QUEST? COME AND FIND
OUT!**

Ministries at Lutheran Church Of The Cross

Adult Education

Chapel Service at Friendship Village

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Drama Team

Evangelical Team

Fellowship Team

Helping Hands

Home Communion Team

Outreach Team

Prayer Ministry

Small Group Bible Study

Social Ministry

Food Pantry

Worship and Music



The



is coming on March 21st!



Esther Circle will be hosting fellowship treats, and Jodi Check will be available to take Pampered Chef orders.

Pampered Chef makes wonderful kitchen products. These make terrific Mothers' Day gifts. It's a wonderful way to purchase these time saving utensils and lovely kitchen supplies as well as support our church.

Once again, this fundraiser raises funds to finance our take home devotional books, Portals of Prayer.

**The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's a
Relationship!**

I shall not want ----- that's Supply!

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures -
---that's Rest!**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters -----
that's Refreshment!**

He restoreth my soul ----- that's Healing!

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --
that's Guidance!**

For His name sake ----- that's Purpose!

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death--that's Testing!**

I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!

**For Thou art with me -----
that's Faithfulness!**

**Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me -----
that's Discipline!**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies-----that's Hope!**

**Thou annointest my head with oil -----
that's Consecration!**

My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life----that's Blessing!**

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord -----
that's Security!**

Forever ----- that's Eternity!