



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News And Views

MARCH
2012

Pastoral Perspective



I will be sharing this month about Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. The meaning of prodigal is "addicted to wasteful expenditure, or simply wasteful." An alternate meaning is "bountiful". When we are talking about the parable of the Prodigal Son, we are really talking about a whole family that is prodigal. The

two sons are prodigal in the sense of being wasteful. The father is prodigal in the sense of being bountiful.

The younger son is certainly prodigal in the sense of being wasteful. He's only concerned about how he can get the money coming to him as an inheritance so he can go have a good time with it. After he has wasted the money he gets, a famine hits the land where he is staying. He is so broke, he gets a job feeding pigs, a humiliating and horrible job for him. He is ashamed and hungry. It is in this condition that he comes to his senses. He realizes how wasteful he has been and heads home, hoping to be a servant in his father's house. He knows he has wasted his position as a son.

But wait! The father is also prodigal—this time in the sense of being bountiful. All the father cares about is that his son has come home. Even as his son is confessing, the father re-clothes him with the signs of sonship and calls for a great "welcome home" feast to be prepared.

Finally, we see that the elder son is prodigal

as well—this time in the sense of being wasteful of the love of his father. He has alienated himself from his father and brother in way that is truly prodigal. When he learns of the honors being paid his "no-good" brother, he complains bitterly to his father about how he doesn't feel honored or loved even though he has always done what he is told.

The point of this Parable for us is that God, just like the prodigal father, loves us all bountifully. When we mess up, He is always there to receive us back in right relationship with Him as though we had never left. We are urged by Him to not waste His love by nurturing hate or animosity toward one another. We are called rather to serve and care for one another in the bountiful love of the family of God.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



adulted@stlukes

Time to get out your Calendar and mark March 18th for 9:15 am, room 3 in the education bldg. This will be the start of the Adult Sunday School kick off for the spring session. We will have completed our in-depth study of John's Gospel and will be start on a

study of C. S. Lewis book *The Screwtape Letters*. These letters are from an uncle, who is a minor devil of Satan, to his nephew Wormwood on how to mess up Christians and any other religious order. These letters are delightful to read and with Pastor Carl leading us it should be a new way to look at our faith.

There is a sign up sheet for the class and book on the Opportunity table in the Narthex.

Submitted by,

Bob Allen

God has an app for that!

In the fast paced world that we live in, it seems as though our phone has an application - AKA "app" for every thing in our daily lives. The Alarm Clock App can tell you what time to wake up but it can't make you get up. The Diet App can count calories for you but it can't stop you from eating too much. It is the same for God's word.

James conveyed this to us when he stated: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

Life App Bible Study meets every Sunday at 9:15 in Room 4.

This small group bible study focuses on common life experiences and how to apply God's word to our lives - topic by topic. We leverage a variety of study guides to pave our way.

You are invited to join us!

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Melissa Jensen. We look forward to having you!

Submitted by:

Amberly Breeden-Maraspini



We are searching for someone to chair our Community Concerns Board. This Board plays a vital role in helping us all "serve those in need". If you would like to lead a group of folks who continue to work for worthy programs and efforts to mitigate social concerns and be a part of the active Church Council, please see me or Pastor Carl.

We had a good orientation meeting on the morning of Saturday January 28th with Church Council members, Board volunteers, and a few others where we reviewed the mission of St. Luke's and the various Church Board responsibilities. We also covered financial procedures and ensured all had a current budget for the year 2012. In addition, we had some discussion on how we can plan for the future of St. Luke's. It was decided that we should form a long-range planning committee to look at what we do well, what we do not so well, and to develop a plan for consideration that addresses these items and how we can make St' Luke's an even better place for worship, education, and serving our community. Over the next several weeks we will be looking for a few folks to get this going and then perhaps solicit a wider range of inputs across the congregation. We are looking for a good congregation cross-section of folks to get started. If you think you would be interested in participating in this effort, let me know.

The annual Crab Feed is March 3. This is a great event of many folks working together to create a family night of food and fun. As in past years, any money received will be applied to maintaining our facility. We certainly appreciate all who give of their time and efforts in making this a success.

As we continue our journey through Lent to Easter, may we work to build a stronger relationship with our God and with those around us.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



If you haven't joined us for our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and Services at 6pm in Schultz Hall, you have missed a wonderful time of fellowship and worship. It's not too late—we have 4 more:

Wednesday, March 7 – hosted by Evangelism and Community Concerns

Wednesday, March 14 – hosted by the Congregation

Wednesday, March 21 – hosted by Choir and Worship & Music

Wednesday, March 28 – hosted by Education and Youth

After Service Refreshments

Thank you to everyone who serves and/or brings refreshments so that all can enjoy this special time of sharing. Our 2012 Servers/Providers Calendar is now posted in the Fellowship Room. If you would like to serve and/or provide refreshments, we would love to have you add your name to our calendar. We have openings for the 2nd Sunday of each month and the 4th Sundays for April, June, August, and December. Serving is much easier now as we have an air pot coffee system so you don't have to struggle with those big pots anymore!

Easter Breakfast

We are very happy to announce that Carol Carney and Ron Webb will co-chair our Easter Breakfast again this year. You can look forward to another delicious breakfast, but they will need your help with set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. Sign-up sheets will soon be available so be sure to let them know how you can help make this a very special day.

Let's do Lunch

Please put Saturday, April 21 on your calendar so you won't miss our next outreach event—lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory on Laguna Blvd. Watch for more details in the bulletin and the April News & Views.

God's blessings,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Board Chair



In 2012, the Property Board will focus their efforts on three board endeavors: (a) continue the facility maintenance and repairs as needed, (b) complete the remaining Blumhardt projects, and (c) expend the Board's Special Funds (primarily net earnings from the Crab Feed and Fireworks Sales) on selected improvement projects. During the past month, the following specific work was accomplished.

Leaking Sprinkler Valve: The two sprinkler valves (one leaking) for the south lawn area were recently replaced and moved out of the sidewalk area. As the time this report was prepared, minor clean up work remained to be completed. The repair costs were about \$750, a General Budget expense.

Tree Removal: The large pine tree, in the SE corner of the sanctuary building, and four additional trees were removed in February. The pine tree with its long pine needles were harming the roof, plugging the roof gutters, and damaging the adjacent sidewalk. The other removed trees were either dying or causing similar problems. Cost for the tree removal was \$1,700. The work was included, and funded, as a Priority 7 Blumhardt Memorial Fund project.

Landscape/Sprinklers: A proposal for completing the landscaping work, as shown on a plan prepared by the Board, has been received from Corona Landscaping, a licensed landscape contractor. The work involved is primarily renovation of the existing sprinkler system to water-efficient spray heads. The costs, as proposed by Corona, are \$5,840. The Board accepted the proposal and will proceed with the contract. Upon completion of this project, the Blumhardt Priority 7 projects will be completed.

Signage for the Church Facilities: This effort is progressing but remains in the preliminary stages. Initial indications are (a) total cost should be around \$500 or less; (b) preferred colors are a combination of dark brown and light tan; and (c) etched plastic signs are preferred for durability. The Board's goal is to have improved cost estimates and a sample sign available in March. The signage will be funded by the Property Board's Special Funds.

Other Projects: The Board is working with the Council to develop priorities for other proposed projects, including the Blumhardt Schultz Hall addition project (the last remaining Property Board project on the Blumhardt Memorial Fund project list).

The February 25th scheduled work day was cancelled. There are three more Work Days scheduled this year in May, August, and December. Watch for the announcements and assist, if feasible.

Remember, your comments regarding the Board's activities are always welcomed.

*Clarence Korhonen, Chairperson
St. Luke's Property Board*



There were 34 men and women at the February meeting. What an exciting turn out! We welcomed Frank Victorio from the Moral Values Program and our speaker. Frank shared with us about how MVP began, what services they provide, and how he shares with the youth. The youth need guidance and we thank God that Frank and his staff provides that for them. We collected personal care items and cleaning supplies for Moral Values and Frank left with many bags full or graciously donated items. The members of W-ELCA never cease to amaze me with their generosity.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our March 10th meeting at 11:30 am. We will be having a potato bar and collecting items for the Union Gospel Mission. Please bring new or gently used towels, washcloths, and men's packaged underwear and socks if you are able to. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you are planning on attending, please sign-up so we know how many potatoes to bake and how many to set-up for. You can also sign-up to bring a topping if you would like.

In Christ,
Kirsten Ireton, W-ELCA President



Did you know that St. Luke's has a Relay For Life team? "Friends in Faith" is captained by Kirsten & Ed Ireton and they would love for you to join the team. Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's flagship event and Relays are held all over the world. The money raised by participating in a Relay goes to research, education, and programs sponsored by the ACS. "Friends in Faith" will be participating in the Relay on April 28-29, 2012 at Elk Grove High School. The event is a 24 hour team walk, where there is always someone from the team walking the track during the 24

hour period. Last year's event raised over \$98,000 with team "Friends in Faith" raising over \$2,000; this year we hope to raise so much more! For more information contact Kirsten Ireton or go to www.relayforlife.org/elkgrovec. If you are a cancer survivor, we encourage you to sign up for the event so you can be celebrated for your accomplishments. You are the reason we Relay!



Council Highlights

- Taehyun Ahn will start preaching once a month at his request.
- Jane Fanucci has submitted her resignation as our organist to take a position where she will play every Sunday.
- The Property Board will reschedule the February workday.
- Work will begin on Schultz Hall's restrooms, the courtyard and the sprinklers.
- Lenten Suppers and Services are beginning.
- Easter Breakfast will be April 8th, lots of help will be needed. See Carol Carney or Ron Webb who are co-chairing the event.
- Easter Lily sign-ups will be taken starting February 26th.
- New purple paraments have been ordered.
- Dorothy Haney was elected Treasurer of WELCA.
- Continuing Resolution CR-2008-1 "Policies and Procedures for Tithing from Monies Received from Iglesia El Monte De Sion" has been rescinded. The next meeting will be March 20th, 2012, at 7pm.

Submitted by Holly Hoppman

Welcome To Our New Members



Ian, Jennifer and Phillip Petersen



Lynn Gavia



Gail Weber



Betty Hansen



THIS MONTH'S
* Birthdays *

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Mar 1 | Corey Anderson |
| Mar 2 | Megan Lester |
| Mar 2 | Barbara Tears |
| Mar 4 | Sue Jones |
| Mar 5 | Selena Connell |
| Mar 6 | Jennifer Connell |
| Mar 6 | Renee Roberts |
| Mar 10 | Ruth Jones |
| Mar 10 | Don Miller |
| Mar 13 | Ben Bates |
| Mar 13 | Donna Ben-Iesau |
| Mar 16 | Sarah Madison |
| Mar 17 | Mackenzie Harrison |
| Mar 23 | David Saxby |
| Mar 24 | Kimiya Ricciardi |
| Mar 24 | Norene Schell |
| Mar 25 | Katie Light |
| Mar 26 | Bob Harrison |
| Mar 26 | Al Moser |
| Mar 28 | Karen Kiser |
| Mar 28 | Jim Whitehurst |
| Mar 29 | John Johnsen |
| Mar 29 | Pat Lehman |
| Mar 29 | Agnes Wood |
| Mar 30 | Bob Behr |
| Mar 30 | Kelly Sobkowsky |



Altar Flowers

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 4 | <i>Available</i> |
| March 11 | <i>Bruce & Karen Kiser for 37th Anniversary</i> |
| March 18 | <i>Howard Triebwasser In Memory of Wife, Pearl Triebwasser</i> |
| March 25 | <i>Jerry & Karen Linfor for Katie Light's Birthday</i> |
| | <i>Ken & Tracy Light for Katie Light's Birthday</i> |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes

March 4 Daniel Encinas, Joshua Bell
March 11 Katy Etchison
March 18 Katie Light, Selena Connell
March 25 Elise Mihanovich

Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin
10:30 AM

Communion Servers

David Saxby, Al Boschee,
Karen Linfor

Counters

March 4 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen
March 11 Don Schell, Bob Behr
March 18 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
March 25 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters

March 4 Pat Hamilton
March 11 Elsbeth & Jim Whitehurst
March 18 Bernie Johansen & Brian O'Connell
March 25 Paul Maki & Chona Sison

Head Ushers

8:15 AM Ron Franklin
10:30 AM Jerry Carney

Prayer Leaders

March 4 Pat Webb
March 11 Betty Englund
March 18 Peggy Moser
March 25 Triss Hoppman

Wednesday Lenten Prayer Leaders 7:00 PM

March 7 Katie Iniguez
March 14 Jason Havey
March 21 Vivian Blazic
March 28 Alison Thomas

Psalm Leaders

March 4 Derrick Mihanovich
March 11 Elise Mihanovich
March 18 Isabella Basquez
March 25 Katie Light

Readers 8:15 AM

March 4 Ron Webb
March 11 Eric Linblade
March 18 Mirabel Herrera
March 25 Christiana Wilson

Readers 10:30 AM

March 4 Alison Thomas
March 11 Vivian Blazic
March 18 Karen Behr
March 25 Al Moser

Wednesday Lenten Readers 7:00 PM

March 7 Triss Hoppman
March 14 Susan Escobar
March 21 Robert Behr
March 28 Sylvia Kohler

Refreshments

March 4 Ed and Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia
March 11 Pending
March 18 Paul Maki and Chona Sison
March 25 Larry and Deanna Dockter

Visitor Greeters

March 4 Pat Webb
March 11 Thelma Williams
March 18 Bertha Dahl
March 25 Pauline Arndt

Welcome Leaders

March 4 Peggy Moser
March 11 Pat Webb
March 18 Chet Madison
March 25 Carolyn Andrews



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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