

February 2010 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR:

“Whose Cross Is It, Anyway?”

What does “Lent” mean to you? A little four-year-old girl went shouting through the house, “Give us the rabbits! Give us the rabbits!” Finally her father asked what she was doing. She had been to a Lenten service the night before where a drama was given so she said, “Daddy, that’s what all the people were yelling last night.” Dad thought about it for a moment and then it dawned on him. The crowd was actually yelling, “Give us Barabbas!”

I don’t think any of us will be shouting, “Give us the rabbits!” during Lent. Our dramas on Wednesday evenings during Lent are entitled, “Whose Cross Is It, Anyway?” The ongoing saga throughout the weeks of this Lenten series deals with a cross being delivered by a JPS (Jerusalem Parcel Service) man. Though the cross makes its rounds to many different people, only one accepts its delivery. By blending Biblical familiarity with contemporary society, these weekly dramas reveal how people across all generations make excuses for not carrying the Cross of Jesus Christ in their lives.

In Matthew 16 our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” Christ’s love for us at Calvary and the empty tomb enable us to take up the Cross of Jesus and live our lives in response to His love and grace. Join me, on Wednesday evenings this Lent, as we examine what Jesus means when He says to take up our cross and follow Him!”

In Christ,
Pastor Braun

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Come join us for the following special Worship Services being held during Lent:

- Ash Wednesday - February 17th - 7 p.m.
- Weekly Wednesday Evening Lenten services at 7 p.m. on February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24. The service is preceded by a supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. prepared by our youth, LWML and Council. A free-will donation will be received. Delicious desserts are served following each service.
- Maundy Thursday - April 1 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday - April 2 at 7 p.m.
- Easter Vigil - April 3 at 6 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Traditional Worship at 7 a.m. and Contemporary Worship at 10:30 a.m.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

by Roxann Leckband

Family Ministry: Young Family Night will be Sunday, February 21st at 6 p.m. The families will be attending the Sweetheart Banquet. Tables will be designated for the young families. Childcare will be provided to allow for the parents to have a relaxing evening. Tickets can be purchased in advance by phoning the church or on

Sunday mornings. Tickets may also be purchased at the door; however, reservations prior to the banquet are appreciated. Our January Family Night was well attended. We were happy to welcome the Stotts family – Matt, Lisa, Kyle, Aaron and Cody. We thank God for good Christian fellowship as we raise our children in the faith. If you have never attended, or attended once – please join us!



Strikes for Jesus – All elementary and middle school aged youth and their parents, please join us for “Strikes for Jesus” on Sunday, January 31st and February 28th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. We will meet at the bowling alley and divide up into teams there. Please bring \$3 per person. Don’t let the cost prohibit your participation as financial help is available. Come join us for a fun, family way of learning the 10 Commandments.

Sunday School – Children in preK through 8th grades have started working on Easter music and the 4th-8th grades will be presenting an Easter program entitled, “Alive Forever!”

Palm Sunday Event – Please mark your calendars for the “*Journey to the Cross*” event to be held on March 28th (Palm Sunday) from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Watch for more details!

Attendance Recognition – The Board of Education would like to announce “perfect attendance” for our preschool through 8th graders who had zero to one time missed for Sunday School during the first quarter (September-December 2009). They include: McKenzie M., daughter of Jaimie & Kim; Bethany, Gabriel and Stephen D., children of Ron & Dawn; Turner and Torey R., sons of Joe & Kim; and Jessica A., daughter of Jim and Pat. Congratulations to the children and parents! God bless your dedication to studying God’s word.

Senior Fellowship – The noon senior fellowship dinner is scheduled for Monday, February 8th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. This month’s theme is, of course, Valentine’s Day. The menu is meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole and dinner rolls. Please phone in advance if you will be attending, even if you are not quite sure, it helps in getting the right amount of food. Do not stay home if you decide at the last minute you want to come – just come! If you need assistance with transportation please call the church, 376-6168 and ask for Roxie. Hope to have you join us!



Serving in February will be: Velma C. and Barb H. for the 8 a.m. services; Bonnie H. and Sandy M. for the 10:30 a.m. services and the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service on February 17th. Our next meeting will be February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Ilona B., 376-5069.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m.; watch the bulletins for meeting place. The Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, February 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet at Deloris L.’s home at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 18th. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various projects.

On the first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for those church committees/groups wishing to host a coffee hour. Please sign up on the sheet in the church basement when you plan to host the coffee hour. ***Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.***

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour as a fundraiser to help support Seminary Students, Joel & Candy Brassfield. *On that Sunday there is also a door offering following the church service, which also goes to support the Seminary students.*

The fourth Sunday of the month, the youth sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds will go to support their trip to the National Youth Gathering in July 2010.

LWML NEWS

The monthly meeting of the LWML will be on Thursday, February 4th at 1:30 p.m. in the basement fellowship hall. Hostess will be the Mary Circle. The Sarah Circle will host the coffee hour on Sunday, February 21st.



THANK YOU NOTES

To all who donated the baked goods and graciously helped with David Folker's benefit, I humbly thank you. The day was truly blessed. Good weather, good food, good help and a generous crowd. What God ordains, He sustains. Blessings,
Nadine Froderman

Unit Leader, Reading First Responders

My deepest thank you to all who attended my 80th birthday open house and those who remembered me with cards and words of well wishes. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. May God bless and keep you.
Jim Leckband

Dear St. Matthew's family members in Christ,

Life has been busy for me as I am studying at Concordia University in St. Paul. Recently I have been heavily involved with the upcoming Christmas concert. I am involved in the choir here at Concordia, as well as playing in the hand bell choir. The theme this year is "Love's Pure Light". We are singing some intense repertoire which is a lot of fun and challenging at the same time. In addition to music at Concordia, I also am the leader of a convergence small group bible study. As if that doesn't keep me busy enough, I am also president of an organization on campus called TRUTH (Together Reaching Unity with The Homeless). TRUTH is a Concordia campus organization that is comprised of members that are dedicated to the education and prevention of homelessness on campus and in the community. Earlier this year several group members, myself included, took part in an event called "Cardboard Box City". We raised money for the Homeless Coalition of the Twin Cities by having people sponsor us to sleep out overnight in our homemade cardboard box houses. It was cold and rainy but a lot of fun and a definite eye opener. This past week I was also busy as it was National Homeless Awareness week. There were many activities including leading the chapel service and spending three evenings volunteering at the Dorothy Day center (a homeless shelter) in downtown Minneapolis.

Indeed life is busy with all the extra involvement and my continued studies to become a DCE (Director or Christian Education). As I am almost halfway done with my sophomore year, I look back and reflect on the many things I have to be thankful for and all that God has provided for me; newfound friendships, an amazing college, infinite opportunities, and a supportive family and extended church family to name a few. God has truly blessed me in many

ways. Words cannot describe my sincere thanks for your continued financial and prayerful support. While money is important, it comes in a distant second to all the continued prayer support. Thank you so much, and to God be the Glory.

God bless,
Kristi Kuhl

YPOG (Youth) NEWS

The **youth continue to serve** in many ways at St. Matthew's. They participated in two Advent services performing the black light hand plays. They greet and read on youth Sunday. Many are on the rotating tech crew each week and also share their musical talents from time to time in worship services. The young people helped put up and remove the Christmas decorations around the church along with many other serving adults. Some are even sponsoring the coffee hour for missions as well as on the youth Sunday.

We had a great turn out at our **Christmas party** on December 20th. We went caroling at the nursing homes and then back to the church for some holiday games and good eats. Thanks to the Vogt family for planning this event.

A **lock-in** that was planned for January 17th was postponed due to a school make up day. We will pick a new date at our meeting on February 7th.

The **month of February** will be busy with planning and preparing for the Sweetheart Banquet which is on the 21st. Tickets will go on sale soon. We will hold the traditional silent auction as well as a new servant auction in conjunction with the Sweetheart Banquet. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details.

A **National Youth Gathering** meeting was held on January 3rd. We have registered 20 youth and 4 adults for the gathering in New Orleans. It was decided to travel by vans rather than fly due to high airfare costs. Upcoming fundraisers were discussed. We are currently selling hoagies. Contact any youth or Kim Rogers to place an order. They will be made and delivered on February 6th. As always we praise God for the generous support that the congregation gives the youth.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan.24 - Youth Sunday, Hoagie orders due
Feb.6 - 9:00 a.m. make hoagies and deliver
Feb.7 - Youth meeting during Sunday School (9:15 am)
Feb.17 - Serve Lenten Meal (see bulletin board by youth room for the families serving)
Feb.21 - Sweetheart Banquet (6:00 pm)
Feb 28 - Youth Sunday, National Gathering meeting (6:00 pm)
Mar.3 - Serve Lenten Meal (see bulletin board by youth room for the families serving)
Mar.17 - Serve Lenten Meal (see bulletin board by youth room for the families serving)

HUMAN CARE NEWS

Thank you to Duane R., Virgil R. and Jerry V. for driving the **church van** for December and January for the 10:30 worship service. We are still in need of van drivers for March, April, July and August. Please contact Rita S. (376-9833) or the church office (376-6168) if you are interested in providing this service. No "special" driver's license required.

Thank you to Bill & Karen K. for delivering the Congregational Caring Tree presents. Seven families or 26 individuals received the gifts.

Our Soldiers

Packages will be sent to our overseas service people to be received by February 14, 2010.

March is Minnesota Food Share month. Please consider this project. You may place your donations in the wooden box in our church's elevator (north) entrance. Monetary donations can be mailed to the Worthington Christian Church Food Shelf, 1501 N. Douglas Ave, Worthington, MN 56187.

NEW BELL CHOIR

A new Bell Choir is being organized. If you have some rhythmic/note reading ability, then this fantastic opportunity utilizes your talents and enhances our worship services. Sign up on the sheet on the Music Office door or contact the Church Office. Rehearsal times TBA.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

We will recognize "Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday" on Sunday, February 14th. Jesus promised His disciples, "When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power, you will be my witnesses – in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world." Today, Jesus' words still stir His disciples to action. Every one who knows Jesus through faith is a witness dedicated to sharing Him with others. You are called to be a witness – and for more than 90 years, the testimony of faithful Christian witnesses like you has been extended and multiplied by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Our celebration of LHM Sunday on February 14th helps sustain and expand the impact of LHM outreach programs. "The Lutheran Hour" program boldly proclaims the Gospel every week to hundreds of listeners over the internet, XM Satellite Radio, the American Forces Network, and more than 900 radio stations - a figure that continues to grow, thanks to our supporters! Below is a schedule of when some local radio stations air "The Lutheran Hour": WCCO 830AM – 6 a.m. on Sundays

WNAX 570AM – 9:30 a.m. Sundays

KICD 1240AM – 10:30 a.m. Sundays

KQAD 800AM – 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sundays

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee is interviewing a candidate from the Seminary and a candidate from the field for the Associate Pastor position. Watch for further information in the weekly bulletins and the March Newsletter.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

ALTAR FLOWERS – if you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday please sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Iva B., 727-4381 or Bev in the church office, 376-6168.

DEADLINES REMINDER – If you wish to have a notice or announcement in the **Sunday bulletin** – the deadline to have it into the church office is Wednesdays at noon (with the exception of holiday weeks). Any announcements/articles for the **monthly newsletter** need to be into the church office by the 20th of the month. All these deadlines are posted in the weekly bulletins and monthly calendars included in the newsletters.

A note from Sioux Valley Lutheran High School:

SIoux VALLEY LUTHERAN HS MEMORY BOOK – Check out this great PhotoBook made with MyPublishers bookmaking software. It spans the years 2001-2009, 80 pages, 300 photos. To order a copy of the Sioux Valley Memory book, 1) go to www.MyPublisher.com, click on MyBookshelf link on the left side of the screen; 2) on the next screen, look to the right of the log in area and click "Looking for a friend's book? Click HERE."; 3) enter the book ID/order number (1292091) and then the password (2823538); 4) to view the book only,

scroll to the bottom of the screen under the image and advance the pages; to purchase the book, click "purchase" and follow the directions for signing in. If you wish to only view the book online, you do not need to set up an account. If you have any questions, call their customer service at 1-877-411-6978.

Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti

The response of people worldwide – Lutherans included – has been amazingly generous. Generous LCMS members have already sacrificed and given more than \$300,000 for the people of Haiti through the effort spearheaded by LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC) and LCMS World Mission, both in St. Louis. These contributions and others will help to meet the short and long-term needs of our partners in Haiti, including our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. To find more information about these efforts, please see the WR-HC Web site, www.lcms.org/worldrelief or the LWR Web site, www.lwr.org/emergencies/10/HaitiEarthquake/index.asp

To make a financial gift, visit <http://givenowlcms.org>, call toll-free 888-930-4438, or mail checks marked "Haiti Earthquake Relief" to: LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Or mail checks marked "Haiti Earthquake Relief" to Lutheran World Relief - Haiti Earthquake, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' is also taking donations for Haiti. Thrivent will match Lutheran donations – \$1 for every \$2 dollars given – from its members. (Note that the maximum gift is \$250 per member for donations accepted through March 31, 2010.) See www.thrivent.com for details about the "Helping Haiti" campaign; or call 1-800-236-3736 and when prompted, please say "directory" and enter ext. 83003; or contact Kathy R. at our local Thrivent office, 372-7807. The Thrivent Financial campaign could help generate \$3 million for much-needed assistance to Haiti. Praise be to God! You may also contact the church office, 376-6168 with any questions.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2010 offering envelopes are available. Please stop at the church and pick up your box. They are available in the Great Hall until February 15. After that time they will be available in the church office.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Beginning Wednesday, February 17th Senior Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 6-6:45 pm until March 24th, when regular rehearsal times will resume (7-8 pm).

Additional Senior Choir Rehearsals include:

Sundays - February 14th, 28th, March 14th and 28th.
(short rehearsals from 9-9:15 am in the church balcony)

Senior Choir is singing for service on February 28th, so there will be a pre-service run through at 7:30 am – same thing on March 14th and 28th.

On February 14th the Handbells will be playing, so they will meet at 7 a.m. to set up and practice.

Easter Sunday, April 1st the Senior Choir, handbells and instruments will participate in the service on the hymn, "When You Woke That Thursday Morning".

WHEN THE WINTER WEATHER IS QUESTIONABLE - HOW DO I FIND OUT IF CHURCH SERVICES and/or EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED?

When there is inclement weather, there is a possibility that activities or worship services will need to be cancelled. To find out if things have been cancelled, please tune into the following radio stations for announcements:

K101.1 FM – Luverne
KUSQ FM – 104.3 – Worthington

(Our local radio stations, KWOA (95.1 FM and 730AM) and KITN (93.5 FM) have informed us that many times, their station is unmanned during bad weather – therefore, no one is there to take phone calls for cancellations.) We will put our announcements on their stations, when they are available.

OR

Call the church office, 376-6168 and select option 1 – worship times (the church secretary, Bev – will be required to call in and put the message on the answering machine).

CARING CARDS

When filling out the yellow caring cards in the pews, please fill them out completely and every time you are at worship. Volunteers may help with entering the data on these cards and may not be familiar with all members. Encourage guests seated next to you to use them as well. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

***Worship Service Helpers
for February 2010***

ACOLYTES

	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Feb. 7	Summer R.	Torey R.
Feb. 14	Morgan S.	Shelby F.
Feb. 17	7 p.m. – Mason K.	
Feb. 21	Alexandra S.	Austin S.
Feb. 24	7 p.m. – Joshua VW.	
Feb. 28	Brigid H.	Caleb K.
March 3	7 p.m. – Amber P.	
March 7	Jessica A.	Stephen D.

NURSERY HELPERS

	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Feb. 7	Joshua VW.	Caleb K.
Feb. 14	Bridhid H.	Stephen D.
Feb. 17	7 p.m. – Amber P.	
Feb. 21	Brendan S.	Tyree M.
Feb. 24	7 p.m. – Jessica A.	
Feb. 28	Michael P.	Mason K.
March 3	7 p.m. – Torey R.	
March 7	Eric F.	Shelby F.

** Please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and **call the church office with the change.***

***PARENTS** – Thank you for supervising in the nursery while your student is scheduled for that service. If you cannot be with your student, please contact the church office, we have a list of substitute adults willing to fill-in for supervising.

THANK YOU

GREETER SCHEDULE for February 2010

*If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change.
THANK YOU FOR SERVING!*

Feb. 7 (8 am)	Tom & Eileen S.; Keith & Margaret S.
(10:30)	Dorothy J.; Norman & Darlene K.
Feb. 14 (8 am)	David & LaVonne H.; Bob W.
(10:30)	John & Jessica W.; Lisa B.
Feb. 17 (7 pm)	William & Phyllis H.; Voris & Sandie S.
Feb. 21 (8 am)	Jim & Eloise L.; Bill & Karen K.
(10:30)	Edgar & Anna S.; Crystal B.
Feb. 24 (7 pm)	Daryl & Karen D.; Sandy C.
Feb. 28 (8 am)	YOUTH
(10:30)	YOUTH
Mar. 3 (7 pm)	George & Bonnie H.; Bob P.
Mar. 7 (8 am)	Barry & Kerry S.; Dave & LuAnn P.
(10:30)	LaDean & Lori F.; Arlene B.