

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5606 W. Lincoln Ave.
Yakima, WA 98908



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From the Pastor's Desk

March '09

In Lent we are called to grapple with Jesus' life, death and resurrection and what Jesus coming among us, as one of us, means to Lutheran Christians, today, to Christ Lutheran Christians in March of 2009.

Jesus' call to us is summed up in two passages:

Matthew 19:19 *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...and soul ... and mind ... and your neighbor as yourself."*

Matthew 28: *"Go ... make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

What is the faithful response to which we are called?

The world in 2009 is filled with anxiety and fear. Society around us puts it in our face all day, every day; be afraid – be anxious – what if – isn't it awful – how can I possibly? The list of fearful things is ever before us – losing your job – losing your home – losing your retirement or college savings – what if I get sick – how will I pay for my medicine – how will I provide for my family? The list goes on and on. Anxiety, apprehension and fear are constantly in our face.

But, we are called to trust God. In Psalms – "Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise ... This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise give me life." In Romans – "the children of the promise are counted as descendants." II Timothy – "... for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus." In II Peter – "... in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home."

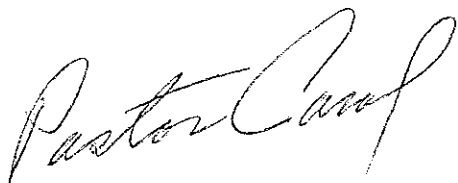
We always are faced with how we respond to crises – do we respond in faith or do we respond in doubt.

The March issue of The Lutheran has several articles about how Lutherans are responding to people's nervousness about what is going to happen. In 'A Crisis & Faith,' Lutheran congregations around the nation are responding by supporting good banks, offering services of hope, giving to Lutheran Disaster Response and World Hunger, challenging themselves to reevaluate their priorities and giving. In 'Facing hard times,' we are reminded – **Be confident! God will provide – Be careful! God tell us what is most important – Be grateful! God has given us so much – Be generous! God uses us to help others.**

"We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn 635

The Christian Growth Committee has scheduled a Career Night to help folks with tools to help them find employment.



FROM THE BISHOP

God's beloved people,

I don't know if we've ever talked about Life in this space. It comes to mind because the State of Washington has now scheduled an execution at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

I've been drawn to what is called the "consistent ethic of Life" of deceased Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the former Archbishop of Chicago. As I understand the approach, it links all the Life issues we face in a seamless garment of respect. War, euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, even poverty and pornography, must be tested against God's deep desire to perpetuate Life. There is a presumption always favoring Life. Why? Because God is the author of Life and for Christian people our lives are purchased at the price of the Son of God, such is God's desire that all live and thrive in Life.

I consider myself pro-Life, though I imagine more fervent opponents of abortion wouldn't accept my membership in the movement. There I'd ask them to distinguish between an ideological approach to the question, which brooks no opposition, and the theological approach that must take into account human nature as saint and sinner at the same time. In this we affirm, if uncomfortably, that God is at work through the State to protect Life, even when it takes it.

I understand the deep ambiguity the Lutheran family faces around these issues. We are not pacifists, instead observing stringent rules for war under the Just War Theory. These rules have recently come to the fore over the question of "proportionality" in the conflict in Gaza. On the question of abortion we remember two lives at the same time, the life forming in the womb and the life of the mother. I have seen what I regarded as real evil in my time as a prison chaplain so I understand the desire to erase such evil through capital punishment. I opposed the move toward "physician assisted suicide" on the last Washington ballot, but that assumes we're capable of improving palliative care to control pain at the end of life.

The truth is we are not God. We are called to perpetuate Life but we did not create it in its original glory. Life, in itself, deserves our respect, but we take it easily and so the presumption must always favor Life, putting the burden on any rationale for death. We now enter the season of Lent and I can't think of a better time to bring new focus to our most deeply held beliefs about Life. It is also the time to recognize how far we "miss the mark" in honoring Life.

Our Synod's Guiding Principles name as one of our values the cry of Advent, "Come Lord Jesus!" In this we pray for God to come and resolve all our perplexities. Until then I hope I'm always present to light a candle for Life and to protest against the false kingdom of death.

Peace be with you,

Pr Martin Wells

Bishop

mstmwells@aol.com

Resource: <http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Search.aspx?q=Death+Penalty>



**A Social Ministry
Thank You and March's Project**

Thank you so much for your response to January's request for diapers and baby food. We filled the playpen in the narthex with diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoos and supplies and baby food. Jeff took all of the items to Epic Crisis Nursery who was extremely grateful for your gifts.

We would also like to thank everyone who brought food to fill the shopping cart. As of this writing, we haven't taken a count but I know that the cart is filling up. We will contact Northwest Harvest after the 1st of March to pick up the food.

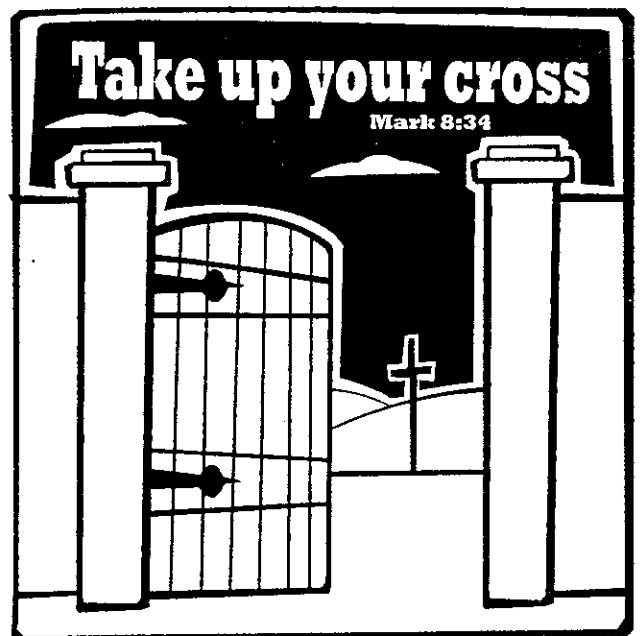
Now on to our "50" project for March. It has been brought to our attention that the springtime is when 1st graders are finally starting to read "real" books. We would like to collect 50 books suitable for 1st graders. These could be simple chapter books, Walt Disney books or Golden Books. They could be new books or gently used books. The committee has several ideas of places to donate these books but we don't have a definite suggestion yet. Some suggestions are the Battered Women's Shelter, Epic, Triumph Treatment Center, Casey Family or the DSHS Foster Care Program. If you have other ideas, please let the committee know. Once we know where we will be donating them, we will let the congregation know. We will have a collection point in the narthex.

Thank you again for your support of all of the "50" projects this year and for being such a generous congregation.

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**CAREER NIGHT OFFERED BY
CHRIST LUTHERAN COUNSELORS**

On March 24, 2009, at Christ Lutheran, at 6:30pm to 8:30pm, adults who are in need of career guidance, career resources, evaluation of their interests and career exploration are invited to attend this free service to the community. An interest test will be administered and the data will be used as a feedback tool for the participants during the session. The participants will be taught how to evaluate their own goals and interests, how to match those to the opportunities in the labor market, where and how to search for occupation/vocation that would best fit them. Resources will be shared to enhance participants ability to find employment in the current tight labor force. **Please call 509-248-3266 Whitmer and Associates and RSVP so that we know how many people we need to accommodate.** There is limited space available so this will be a first come first serve free opportunity.



Sanctuary Enhancement Update

As of the end of February Phase 1 (chancel reconfiguration, chancel carpet, new railing, and the new baptismal font) has been completed. After all of this was done there was still \$3384.97 unused and available for Phase 2 (complete carpeting of the sanctuary). The total cost of Phase 2 is \$5175.75. With this residual and generous donations totaling \$1800.00 Phase 2 is fully funded. The new carpet has been ordered and will be laid down near the end of March. This leaves Phase 3 (new chancel furnishings including the altar, pulpit, candle holders and flower and serving tables) yet to be done. The total cost of Phase 3 is \$8214.81. One family has agreed to underwrite what the congregation is not able to pay. So far this family has given \$2000.00 and the congregation has given \$1200.00. This leaves a balance for Phase 3 of \$5014.81. The Enhancement Committee would like everything in place with all the work done by Easter Sunday and they have decided to leave Phase 3 open for donations until March 8. If anyone is in a position to give, checks can simply be made out to Christ Lutheran Church – Enhancement Project. Then the project will be complete and Christ Lutheran's sanctuary will be ready for worship, moving us into the next fifty years.

Thank you to all the members of the congregation who wrote a devotion for our Lenten Devotion Booklet. If you want to know the authors, the list is in the Church Office. Don't forget to take one home with you or take one to a friend.

This Easter we will offer the opportunity to purchase Spring flower plants for \$8.50. Please fill out the form below and send to the church office.

Please order _____ plants for _____

In Memory of _____

In honor of _____

The deadline for ordering is March 31, 2009. If you have a preference to the kind of flower you want, please note here _____, we will try to honor your wish.

**CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAYS
IN
MARCH**

4	Cheryl Sauer Sue Stewart
6	Levi McClanathan Dan Murphy Matthew Sauer
7	Andrew Hyink
10	Robin Sissom
12	Vicki Dwight
14	Brittany Baumgarten
15	Ethel Clemans
17	Tressa Speight
19	Sylvia Whitmer
20	Janelle Peck Chambray Turner
23	Callie Marriner
25	Shey Dressel
27	Barbara Gilbert-Tom
29	Mary Kenney Betty Schenk
31	Zach Dwight

*wedding
Anniversaries*

8	Jack & Louise Goetz
23	Jim & Kathy Sebree
25	Al & Nalda Bryson

Counters

Sheri Bissell
Ilene Bushnell

Altar Guild

The Carroll family

Chancel Flowers

***Please bring a green plant in observance of Lent. Bring one from home!**

1	Open
8	Open
15	Open
22	Jim & Kathy Sebree
29	Open

Lectionary Readings

1	Genesis 9:8-17' Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
8	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
15	Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
22	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
29	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March Worship Schedule

March 1 – Worship Team

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Kathy Sebree
Acolyte – Nathan Sauer
Lector – Jim Sund
Greeter – Rita Fisher
Ushers – Andy & Matthew Sauer

March 8-- E L W –

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Jay Carroll
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Kathy Sebree
Greeters – Avis Hatheway
Ushers – JD Sundseth

March 15 – Worship Team

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Ilene Bushnell
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Mark Karn
Greeters – Open
Ushers – Jim Sund, JD Sundseth

March 22 – ELW

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Elisabeth Dunbar
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Marlene Libsack
Greeters – Ginger & Walt Mick
Ushers – Al Rose & Rita Fisher

March 29 – NTF

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Open
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Open
Greeters – Jim Sund
Ushers – Open

Christ Lutheran
50th Anniversary
CELEBRATION
Saturday, May 9, 2009

5 p.m. - Introduction of former pastors and wives, Bishop Martin Wells, guests, video history, special music and prayers

6:30 p.m. Dinner: adults - \$15; children 12 and under - \$5
children under 3 years old - no charge.

MENU SELECTIONS: *(choose one)*

Top Sirloin – topped with sautéed mushrooms
or Split Plate – combo of chicken and salmon

*All dinners served with green salad, asparagus, baby red roasted potatoes,
Assorted rolls and butter, choice of coffee or tea
Carmel apple pie for dessert*

Children 12 years and under

Chicken tenders, wild rice, fruit and caramel apple pie

Fill out and return this reservation form to

----- CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – 5606 W. Lincoln Ave., Yakima, WA 98908 -----
by April 22, 2009. *(Cancellations no later than April 29, 2009)*

Name _____ Number attending _____

Menu Selection: Top Sirloin _____ or Split Plate _____
(Number) Child _____ Child under 3 _____

Check amount enclosed _____ *(Make check payable to Christ Lutheran Church)*

PLEASE NOTE: Sunday, May 10th Regular Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.
followed by coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall

MARCH 2009

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
1 ELCA World Hunger 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School WT	2	3 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Support 7pm Scouts	4 9am Text Study noon Executive Board 1:30pm Quilters 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Lenten Worship	5	6	7 9:30am Hymn Selection- Worship Team Change your clocks AHEAD
8 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School ELW	9	10 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Scouts	11 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Lenten Worship	12 7pm Council	13 1pm Hymn Selection	14
15 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School WT	16 7pm Prayer Group	17 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Social Ministry 7pm Scouts	18 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Lenten Worship	19 3pm Fellowship Committee 7pm Worship & Music	20 Newsletter Articles due for April Newsletter	21 6pm Pinochle at Walt & Ginger Mick's
22 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School ELW	23	24 10am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Career Night 7pm Learning /Youth 7pm Scouts	25 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Lenten Worship	26 9:30am Office Helpers April Newsletter 5:30pm Synod Assembly meeting 7pm Christian Growth	27	28 9am Spring Clean up
29 New member Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am C Sunday School Noon-2pm Bowling at Nob Hill lanes Pizza&Pop after at LC NTF	30	31 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Scouts		Note: The book study group meets on Mondays. If a change is necessary, it will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.		

Lenten Season Events

The Devotional Booklets from the members at Christ Lutheran are available in the narthex.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

6pm Soup & Bread Suppers

7pm Holden Evening Prayer

Lenten offering will be given to the Trevino family

Easter Choir practices with Nita Hinman are March 8 and 22nd 15 minutes after the end of Sunday services.

Come and sing special praises to our Lord!!

An order form for Spring flowers for Easter is inside this newsletter. Please fill out and return to the church office.

Saturday March 28 at 9am is Spring Clean up
Plan to come and help beautify God's house.

New Member Sunday is March 29 during our Worship

Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Bowling Party from noon-2pm at Nob Hill Lanes. Pizza and Pop will be served at the church. Best bowler gets to eat first!!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Invitation for the 50th Anniversary Banquet is also in this newsletter.