

The Staff Newsletter

*From fellow workers at ... Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
700 North Wright Road
Janesville, Wisconsin 53546*

APRIL 2010

The Sign of Jonah

April 1, 7 p.m. – MAUNDY THURSDAY Service

“On the Same Page”

How do we get on the same page as God?

April 2, 12:15 p.m. – GOOD FRIDAY Service

“The Answer!”

“One greater than Jonah is here!”

EASTER CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

7:00 a.m. SUNRISE Service

8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Good Shepherd Egg Dish

(Including Egg Beater Variety)

Coffee Cake – Fruit Cup - Beverages

9:30 a.m. FESTIVAL Service

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

The youth will do the set-up, serving, and clean-up for the Easter Breakfast as a means of raising funds for their special events and activities.

A Special Offering will be received at the end of both Easter services on their behalf.

2010 - 33rd Annual CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, April 25

Theme: “Step Out in Faith”

The goal is to raise \$45,000 for Church World Service of which ECHO will receive 25%.

Last year at the 2009 CROP WALK, \$39,750 was raised with the help of all the churches and organizations that participated. CWS was able to give ECHO a check for \$9,933.94.

The Walk Begins and Ends at: Cargill United Methodist Church

1:00 pm Registration* *1:30 pm Walk/Run/Rock Begins

Each walker is encouraged to bring a canned good or non-perishable item for ECHO. See our Good Shepherd recruiters *James & Heidi Horton* to sign up for the Walk. Then get out and ask people to sponsor you in support of our ‘neighbors’ all over the world including Janesville. The more people that walk/run/rock the more we are responding to the question “Who is my neighbor?”; and helping to address their needs. If you are uncomfortable asking people to sponsor you, sponsor *yourself* and walk.

Step Out in Faith and Walk for Hunger!

Dear Fellow Believers,

I was struck recently by a line spoken by *Dave Ramsey* in the Financial Peace University video at Good Shepherd a couple of weeks ago. *Dave Ramsey*, the financial guru, was talking about financial lies we all like to tell ourselves. They are lies like "I deserve this" or "everyone else is in debt" etc. And then *Mr. Ramsey* said, "98% of the truth is still not the truth."

Consider the case of the Jewish ruling council - the Sanhedrin - versus *Jesus* of Nazareth. *Matthew* tells us that during *Jesus'* passion, the Sanhedrin produced many false witnesses. Example: "This fellow said: "I am able to destroy the temple of God, and build it in three days." Well yes, *Jesus* did say in *Matthew* 24:2 that not one stone of the temple would remain standing. But He was predicting the destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D. Yes, on another occasion in *John* 2:19ff, *Jesus* had referred to his own body as the "temple that would be destroyed and raised in three days."

98% of the truth is not the truth. In a court of law, the classic line is "do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?"

But what is truth? We, too, question "truth."

Isn't it true that often knowingly or unknowingly our version of truth is shaded by our experience or bias or subjectivity? There may be values, attitudes, learned behaviors, and/or faulty relational skills we also bring to the table of discussion. In the Confession of Sins that we regularly use in corporate worship, we are a bit more honest, when we admit that our sins are "known or unknown, things done and left undone."

Put another way, there are those things we may choose to see or not see. Perhaps like the Sanhedrin, we are too often tempted to oversimplify reality and build religious cases that present only part of the picture. The scary thing is that we may not even know we are doing it.

That said - it really makes you wonder as you read the passion narrative if the Sanhedrin has gotten to the point where it believes its own lies. Sadly, the innocent Son of God will pay with his life for their hear-say. *Pilate* is right to ask, "What's Truth?" In a creation thoroughly corrupted by sin, truth managed by sinful humans will always become relative. People say things like "This is your perception. I have mine." People will always read the Bible with various interpretations and will be tempted to deem their own as the correct ones.

So, what is truth? Oddly enough, truth is standing right in front of *Pilate* in that judgment hall. Truth is the person of *Jesus the Messiah*. Some helpful background: the ancients believed there was a unifying principle called "Wisdom" that held the universe together, and they even spoke of wisdom as if it were a person. Without doubt, the Gospel of *John* identifies *Jesus* as that ultimate wisdom. Only in Him are all things held together.

What is so wise about *Jesus*? *Jesus* forgives without limit and gives his life without limit. This action will not only pay for our sins, but will lay down the foundation for any hope of genuine and lasting human community.

So when we say in our Mission Statement at Good Shepherd: "Unite All Things in Christ," we are declaring that we not united by principles, policies, or personalities. The only thing that holds us together is *Jesus*. Unless by His Spirit we *forgive without limit* and *serve each other without limit* there can be no unity in God's community. **This is most certainly 100% true.**

Have a Blessed Easter! Pastor Steve

LUTHER COLLEGE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Juan Tony Guzman, conductor

Sunday, April 25, 2010 / 6:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7337 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton
Freewill Offering / For concert info, call (608/831-6084)

From the Parish Nurse

~APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH~

When you think of alcohol abusers, do you picture teenagers sneaking drinks before the football game and unsupervised parties? Surely, this occurs all too frequently, but alcohol abuse happens in many demographic groups. These include college students bingeing at local bars, pregnant women who put their babies at risk for fetal alcohol syndrome, professionals who drink after a long day at work and senior citizens who drink out of loneliness. According to one study, one fifth of people age 12 or older participated in binge drinking at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey! Because of the prevalence and seriousness of alcohol abuse, **April is designated "Alcohol Awareness Month."**

Alcoholism is a **disease** that is characterized by:

Craving: A strong need or compulsion to drink.

Loss of control: The frequent inability to stop drinking once a person has begun.

Physical dependence: The occurrence of withdrawal symptoms, such as nausea, sweating, shakiness, and anxiety, when alcohol use is stopped after a period of heavy drinking.

How can you tell whether you, or someone close to you, may have a drinking problem? Answering the following four questions can help you find out. (To help remember these questions, note that the first letter of a key word in each of the four questions spells "**CAGE**".

Have you ever felt you should **Cut** down on your drinking?

Have people **Annoyed** you by criticizing your drinking?

Have you ever felt bad or **Guilty** about your drinking?

Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover? **Eye-opener?**

Parents and grandparents will find these statistics interesting. Approximately 8% of the nation's eighth graders; 24% of tenth graders; and 32% of twelfth graders have been drunk during the last month. Teenagers whose parents talk to them about the dangers of alcohol and drugs are 42% less likely to use them than those whose parents don't; yet only 1 in 4 teens reports having these conversations. So it's important to talk to your children!

For more information call the parish nurse, talk to your Pastor or call Alcohol Anonymous.

*Adapted from St Anne's' Parish, Annapolis, Health Ministry

Suggested websites: www.mayoclinic.com (alcoholism)

www.niaaa.nih.gov (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism)

The above site has a really good link for young teens called "The Cool Spot: alcohol info for teens" in addition to lots of general info.

www.aa.org (alcoholics anonymous)

www.ncadi.samhsa.gov

MEALS ON WHEELS

Weeks of April 26 - 30 and May 3 - 7

Routes E - H

These are Good Shepherd's assigned weeks for this spring. If you can deliver meals, sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Room *or* check with *Dianne Punzel (931-0388)*. This is one more opportunity to serve with *Jesus' love* in this community. The recipients will be blessed by your kindness and effort and you, in turn, will be blessed, too!

**LISTENING SESSION - SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 9:10 a.m.
in the Pastor's office**

Congregation President, *Dan Milbrandt*, will hold a Listening Session on the 2010 first quarter on Sunday, April 25, between the services, in the Pastor's office. Anyone interested on an update or has questions on the end of quarter status of Good Shepherd is invited to attend.

FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE CONTINUES THROUGH APRIL 30

ECHO is once again participating in the *Feinstein Challenge* this year. The *Feinstein Foundation* is a non-profit organization founded by Rhode Island philanthropist *Alan Shawn Feinstein*. *Feinstein* believes we were put on this earth to help those in need, and he is giving us an incentive to help even more than ever. This is the thirteenth year that the foundation will divide \$1 million among non-profit agencies throughout the country that are helping fight hunger. Each participating agency will receive a share of the \$1 million equal to the proportion of the total amount raised from all agencies. The more that is donated, the more of the \$1 million ECHO will receive to help fight hunger.

Last year ECHO received the largest check in the state of WI for the fourth year in a row. This year they are hoping that you will help ensure that they receive the largest check in the state again. All food and monetary donations received **through April 30th** will be used in the *Feinstein Challenge*. Every item of food donated will be valued at **\$1**. Remember, any donations for any of the services must be received **before April 30** to be counted for the *Feinstein Challenge*.

ACOLYTES (Naomi Nelson/Coord) (754-0067)

8 am-Sean Gohlke (**7 am**-Easter)
10:30-Nathan Schneider (**9:30**-Easter)
Apr 1-7 pm Maundy Thurs-Sydney Schoeberle
Apr 2-12:15 Good Friday-Lacy Anderson

ALTAR CARE (Donna Grever/Coord)(756-5926)

Apr 1 – 7 pm-M T: Phyliss Williams
Apr 2 – 12:15 pm-GF: Phyliss Williams
Apr 4 – Easter/Apr 11: Maxine Quisberg
Juanita Habeck
Apr 18 & 25: Laurie Bauer/Cheryl Piper

COFFEE HOSTS (Dianne Punzel/Coord) (931-0388)

4-EASTER-Dianne Punzel/Naomi Nelson
11-Rita Milbrandt
18-Dianne Punzel
25-Betty Sass-Boswell
Apr 1 – M Thurs: Chris/Tami Schoeller

FLOWERS (Peg Kures/Coord) (752-4816)

4-EASTER FLOWERS
11-Denny/Barb Knopes-50th Anniversary
18-OPEN
25-Tom/Charlotte Hawley-In memory of Matt

GREETERS 1ST (Millie Burdick/Coord) (752-3813)

4-Harry/Cookie Robbins
11-Terry/Karen Seltz
18-Gene/Sherry Kasten
25-The Milbrandt Family

GREETERS 2ND

4-Jerry Schneider
11-Dwane/Linda Kamla
18-Amelita Lamendola
25-Gene Warren

Apr 1 - 7 pm-M Thurs:

Apr 2 - 12:15-G Fri:

READER 1ST (Cordy Madorin/Coord) (756-4605)

4-7 am-EASTER: Dan Milbrandt
11-Dianne Punzel
18-Harry Robbins
25-Dale Schwanke

READER 2ND

4-9:30-EASTER: Steve Langlie
11-Heidi Horton
18-Connie Malzfeldt
25-Tami Schoeller

SAC. ASS'TS 1ST (Linda Kamla/Coord) (757-0567)

4-EASTER-7am: Gary/Laurie Bauer
11-Donna Hanson/Tami Schoeller
18-Bill/Sue Schnell
25-Dwight/Maxine Quisberg

SAC. ASS'TS 2ND

4-EASTER-9:30: Todd Sullivan/Judy Trudeau/
David & Pat Waege/Gene Warren

11-Ruth Demmon/Sarah Haenel

18-Mike Hornby/Linda Kamla

25-Gloria Oleston/Dorothy Salzman

Apr 1-7 pm M Thurs: Chris Boll/Carol Benson

NURSERY (Margaret Jensen-Heth/Coord) (341-8982)

4-9:30-EASTER:

11-Carol Ekblad

18-Amanda Sookraj

25-Diane TeBeau

Apr 1 – 7 pm-M Thurs:

Apr 2 – 12-15-G Fri: Belinda Hornby



IN OUR PARISH



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Piper,

Dale/Irene Anderson, Bud Arneson, Denise Crandall, Dolores Ellison,
Tom
Hawley, Chuck/Gail Kinyon, Denny Knopes, Jean Frost, Linc Norby, Jim
Shirley Peterson, Elaine Rhodes, Ruth Schultz, Devon Schlegel.

SYMPATHY

to *Jean Kutz and family*, at the death of her nephew, Billy.



“Lutheran Woman Today” Bible Study



Monday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.

“Holy Hospitality” is the title of the April session of the September 2009-May 2010 *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study entitled TO GOD’S BELOVED: PAUL’S LETTER TO THE ROMANS.

We have almost finished *Paul’s* long, complex, and wonderful letter to the Romans. In this session, the group will study Romans 14 – 15, among the most generous-spirited yet challenging portion of Paul’s letters. In these chapters, *Paul* makes clear that it is God’s own glory that we see in service to one another as fellow children of God. How do we love each other for mutual upbuilding? We are called to be loving friends to one another, following the example of Christ who loves us even when we do not and even when we cannot love back. Each of us uses our own gifts for upbuilding, even as *Paul* has used his gifts. While it is not always easy, such a life may fill us with the peace of God.

Interested parties are always welcome to participate in this study. Want to know more about it first? Come and sit in on a session. The study group meets at **9:30 a.m.** on the second Monday of each month at the church. Anyone interested in continuing in the study will need to subscribe to the *Lutheran Women Today* publication for the monthly lesson. The cost is **\$12**. See *Naomi* for subscription information.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA – BELOIT CONFERENCE “SPRING GATHERING”

Saturday, April 17, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Orfordville Lutheran Church, 210 N. Main St, Orfordville (608/879-2575)

Speaker: Colleen Pettitt - “*My Adventures in Faith: Reflections on My Mission Trip to Haiti*”
Registration/Lunch: \$6 – Due by Monday, April 12
Make check out to *Theresa Popple* and send to her at:
666 S. Bluff St. Lot 209, So. Beloit, IL 61080 or call (815/389-2797)
(Please add your home church on the memo line of your check.)



WITH PRAYER REQUESTS, CONTACT.....Naomi Nelson



by phone (O-754-0067) (H- 755-1384) or email (goodshep@ticon.net).

(Your prayer concerns are kept confidential within the chain.)



MAY Newsletter Deadline – Thursday, April 15



Visit Our Website: www.goodshepherdjanesville.org



The following appeared in a neighbor church’s newsletter recently. Your church council found it a very helpful document and decided to adapt it as a covenant for our interactions with each other on council. We thought the rest of the congregation might appreciate it as well.

Dan Milbrandt, Congregation President

Community Covenant

- 1. Listen to each other.** “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak...” James 1:19
Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated: “The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them.” *Life Together*, p. 97
- 2. Respect the Privacy of those Who Confide.** “A gossip goes about telling secrets, but one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence.” Proverbs 11:13
- 3. Challenge each other with the truth.** Be willing to confront when it is important. “Rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

4. **Deal with people directly. Don't complain to others.** "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." Matthew 18:15. If someone complains to you about another member, help that person follow this principle.
5. **Strengthen each other.** "[Speak] only what is useful for building up...so that your words may give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29 "The test of true...Christian community is that it serves to make the individual free, strong and mature," not "weak and dependent." Bonhoeffer, p. 88
6. **Be gentle with one another.** "My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness." Galatians 6:1
7. **Do not speak ill of others in the fellowship.** "Beloved, do not grumble against one another so that you may not be judged. See the Judge is standing at the doors!" James 5:9
8. **Do not judge each other.** "Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things.: Romans 2:1
9. **Pray for one another.** James 5:16
10. **Confess your sins to one another.** James 5:16
11. **Forgive one another.** "Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you." Luke 6:37b-38a
12. **Freely participate in the Body of Christ according to your gifts and talents.** "As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The Kingdom of heaven has come near.'" Matthew 10:7

≈ **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY** ≈
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 9:00 A.M.
 2010 Scripture Theme: "*Sow what? Sow the Seed!*"
 Lon Haenel, Property & Grounds (758-2471)

It is Spring!

And Spring Workday provides a wonderful opportunity to *sow the seed* of shared responsibility of tackling the needed clean-up chores on the inside and outside of our facility. Your help will be needed and appreciated. If you can participate on April 17th (even for a half-hour) please put your name on the Sign-Up sheet in the Fellowship Room. This is also a GREAT time for enjoying fellowship with other members. Refreshments will be provided.

≈ **MAY Newsletter Deadline – Thursday, April 15** ≈

This article by the Rev. Michael Rehak was shared with the Church Council at their last meeting and the council members thought it would be helpful to include it in this month's newsletter. It was originally published in the Synod newsletter when Rev. Rehak was serving as an Associate with the Bishop George Carlson.

Write your hurts
in the sand
Carve your
blessings in stone