

ChristLink

Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo, IL

March 2010

Lent at the Oasis

Living Water for Thirsty Souls

“Portraits of Christ” Continues

Oasis continues through March with our Lenten series on “Portraits of Christ.” Each week, the message focus on a different aspect of the person and work of Jesus Christ, answering the



question: “Who is Jesus, and what does that matter to me?” The speakers for March are:

- March 3:** “Compassionate Healer” – Jim Luder, Dallas City, Chaplain for the Iowa National Guard and Hospice of Central Iowa
- March 10:** “Uncompromising Leader” – Dave Poland, Nauvoo, Licensed Lay Minister
- March 17:** “Determined Messiah” – Pastor John Simpson, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fort Madison
- March 24:** “Fully Human, Fully Divine” – Pastor Kurt Smith, Golden’s Point Church, Hamilton
- March 31 (Holy Week):** “Humble Servant” – Pastor Gayle Pope



Announcing Our Fifth Annual

Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper



5 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17

\$7 Adults

\$3.50 age 12 and under

Menu includes potatoes, beverage and dessert.

Hot dogs will be available for kids

Dinner is in Luther Hall.

Our Wednesday night “Oasis” service will be held in the Sanctuary at p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the Door, or in advance at the Nauvoo Pharmacy.

Take Out Available!



♣ ♣ More March Happenings ♣ ♣

March 2: Survivor Story at HUGS

Lisa Weeks will talk about her experiences as a breast cancer survivor at the March meeting of HUGS, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their caregivers and loved ones. The meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Memorial Support Services, 402 S. Adams St., Carthage (former hospital building). Lisa is an EMT at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, and is also a cosmetologist, working out of her home in Warsaw. HUGS supports people impacted by cancer by offering monthly meetings for fellowship and education. Financial assistance is also available through HUGS for any Hancock County resident undergoing cancer treatment, including up to \$200 a year in the form of either a gas card or a pharmacy gift certificate. For more information about HUGS, talk to Pastor Gayle.

March 5: World Day of Prayer

The Nauvoo Methodist Church will host the annual World Day of Prayer service for the Nauvoo Inter-Faith Partnership this year at noon on Friday, March 5, followed by a light lunch in Friendship Hall. This year's theme is "Let Everything that Has Breath Praise God." The service is written by women of Cameroon, and emphasizes the importance the people there place on music and celebration in their praise to God. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.



March 6: Hope For Haiti Concert

Area Christian performers and artists are sponsoring "Hope for Haiti," a concert and fine arts charity event Saturday, March 6, 6-9 p.m. at the Grand Theatre in Keokuk. Admission is \$5, with 100% of the proceeds going to help the people of Haiti through Samaritans Purse and Red Cross Charities. For more information or to volunteer call 217-430-0233.

March 7: On-Line ELCA Town Hall

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson is hosting an on-line Town Hall forum on Sunday, March 7, at 4 p.m. This is the second such forum. In December 2009, thousands of ELCA members across the country

watched and participated online in the first nationwide on-line conversation about the mission and ministry of this church. You can participate in several ways:

- Watch the event live from 4-5 p.m. CST at www.elca.org/townhall
- Log in to post questions
- Post comments using Facebook Connect
- Tweet about the event using the hashtags #ELCA and #BishopHanson

March 13: Turkey Pot Pie Supper

The Nauvoo United Methodist Church will hold a Turkey Pot Pie Dinner on Saturday, March 13, 4:30 to 7 p.m. The menu will include turkey pot pie, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, lettuce salad, dessert, and lemonade, tea or coffee. Free will donations will be taken at the door. Carry-outs will be available. Proceeds will go to the NUMC Friendship Hall fund.

March 18-20: Warsaw HS Musical

Kiri Gibson plays the role of Millie and Luke Schwan plays Millie's boss in the Warsaw High School musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" March 18-20 in the school auditorium. Luke is in Cast 1, which performs at 7 p.m. Thursday and Saturday. Kiri is in Cast 2, performing at 7 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday. Tickets will be for sale at the Nauvoo Pharmacy. Beijia Guo, the Chinese exchange student staying with Glenn and Silvia McMeins, was also involved in the production, helping cast members learn how to pronounce some lines that had to be spoken in Chinese!



March 21: LSSI Sunday

Pastor Dan Schwick from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois will join us on Sunday, March 21, to update us on the activities of LSSI as it serves those in need throughout our state. Pastor Schwick is assistant to the president of LSSI, and also serves as director of the Office of Church and Government Relations and director of Lutheran Advocacy--Illinois. He will give the sermon at the 9:30 service and present a forum during the Sunday School hour. Plan to be there and learn about the many services LSSI provides and how it is active in advocating for support from our governing bodies.

♣ ♣ Even More March Happenings ♣ ♣

March 18: Nauvoo Senior Council Organizational Meeting

The Nauvoo Inter-Faith Partnership (NIFP) is sponsoring the formation of a Nauvoo Senior Council to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens in Nauvoo and the surrounding area. Each congregation in the NIFP is asked to appoint two individuals to serve on this council. If you are interested, talk to Pastor Gayle. You don't have to be a "senior" to serve! The organizational meeting has been set for Thursday, March 18, 11:30 a.m. at Grandpa John's restaurant. The purpose of the council will be to assess the current status and needs of Nauvoo area residents age 60 and older in the areas of housing, transportation, health, nutrition, economics, recreation and leisure, and develop, sponsor and/or advocate for programs to meet identified needs.

March 23: VBS Planning Meeting

Tiffany Aguilera is representing Christ Lutheran Church on the planning team for the Nauvoo Community Vacation Bible School, set for Monday-Friday, June 7-11 at Camp Nauvoo. The theme is SonQuest Rainforest and the Methodist Church is in charge. If you can serve as a teacher or helper, or with crafts, recreation, set up or clean up, please let Tiffany know. We would also welcome another representative on the planning team. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, at the Methodist Church.



March 25: CROSS Parish Meeting

Representatives from area Lutheran congregations will meet again at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at Salem Lutheran in Mendon, as we continue looking at ways to support one another in mission and ministry. CROSS stands for "Congregations Regionally Organized for Support and Service. At our last meeting Jan. 28 we:

- Agreed to start a third round of pulpit rotations beginning the second Sunday in June 2010
- Made plans for a soup supper and Lenten service Feb. 28 at St. Peter's, Coatsburg
- Discussed a CROSS Parish mission statement.
- Decided to hold Lutherfest 2010 at Weinberg King State Park on Aug. 15

March 27: "You've Got Talent" Fundraiser for Memorial Hospital

It is rumored that members of Christ Lutheran Church will be among those show off their talents during Memorial Hospital's second annual "You've Got Talent" fundraising event, scheduled for 7 p.m. March 27 at the University of Illinois Extension Center. Artists, singers, musicians, dancers and entertainers of every kind are invited to vie for the \$500 prize.

The competition will be decided with a simple format: members of the audience will place money inside their favorite performer or artist's designated jar. The contestant who collects the most contributions will be declared the winner. "You might think of it as a 'People's Choice Award' type of vote," said Greta Wetzel, Chair of the Capital Campaign Talent Event Committee. There is a \$10 fee to enter. For more information or to volunteer to help with the event call Greta at 309-221-7286.

March 28: Living Water Easter Concert: "My Redeemer Lives!"

"My Redeemer Lives," an Easter concert with Living Water praise band, will be held in Grandpa John's Theatre at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 28. During the concert, a mixture of music, scripture, words and images will tell the story of how God created the world with amazing power and saved the world with amazing grace and love! It will be an updated version of the concert performed last year to rave reviews.



March Birthdays

02	Samuel Stinson
04	Carol Berry
07	Noah Aguilera
11	John Poland
16	Shirley Ammer
17	Brenda Herr
21	Carolyn Rosenboom
23	Tom Schmitz
27	Bill Newton Jr.
28	Silvia McMeins



Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter



- Palm Sunday, March 28:** We will have a procession with palms and will read the passion story according to Luke during the 9:30 contemporary service.
- Maundy Thursday, April 1:** We will have a traditional service here at 7:30 p.m. commemorating our Lord's Last Supper with a foot-washing ritual, Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.
- Good Friday, April 2: A Community Ecumenical Service** sponsored by the Nauvoo Inter-Faith Partnership will be held at noon at the Community of Christ Church. A light lunch will follow the service.

A solemn Tenebrae "Service of the Nails" will be held at 7:30 p.m. here at Christ Lutheran. Readings and songs and will help us meditate on Christ's passion and death as candles are extinguished.
- Easter Sunday, April 4: A Sunrise Festival Worship Service** will be held at 7:30 a.m., followed by an **Easter breakfast** served by our children, youth and families. A free will offering will be taken to fund our LYO account for future youth activities! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids, too. Many thanks to Carolyn Rosenboom for organizing this!

Sign Up for Lutheran Day

On April 21, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will join Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois and other Lutheran service organizations at the annual Lutheran Day in the state capitol. Since 2004, Lutheran Day has provided Lutherans from across Illinois the opportunity to build relationships with public officials and each other, as well as demonstrate Lutherans' involvement in their communities as citizens and as leaders of charitable organizations meeting human needs.

Visit www.LutheranDay.org to register. For more information on Lutheran Day 2010, contact Stephen Taylor at 847/635-4653 or Stephen.Taylor@LSSI.org.



Make Sure You Are Counted!

Census forms have begun to arrive in the mail in Nauvoo and surrounding areas and will continue through the third week of March. The forms will either come to you via your mailbox (if you are on rural delivery) or hand delivered by a Census worker. If you do not receive a form by the end of March, or if you lose it, you may pick one up from City Hall. (Remember, forms are not addressed to people, they're addressed to living quarters, so you will have to supply your physical address—number and street name—as well as fill out the questions on the form.)

It is very important to complete and return your census form, as it determines the annual distribution of government funding for critical community services, and provides key statistical information needed to secure grants. Each resident counted generates thousands of dollars in public funds for our community over the next 10 years. The questionnaires contain only a few simple questions and take just a few minutes to complete.

Briefly ...

- Our congregation donated \$268 in cash and 31 food items to help feed the hungry** on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday Feb. 7. According to the Souper Bowl website, as of Feb. 26, 9,445 groups had reported collecting more than \$4 million in cash and 4.4 million pounds of food nationwide, with 216,594 youth participating.
- The Nauvoo Food Pantry is especially requesting donations of apple juice, evaporated milk, and canned fruit.** Cash donations are always welcome as well. Food can be left in the boxes under the coat rack in the narthex. In December the Nauvoo Food Pantry reported serving 40 families/105 people; in January, 35 families/79 people, and so far in February, 26 families/55 people.
- Janet Reinhardt writes:** *Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran: Thank you all for the Valentine. It was so nice and thoughtful of all that you remembered me.*

Janet continues to send baby congratulations, get well, sympathy, thinking-of-you, and birthday cards on behalf of the congregation to several people every month.

Church Council Minutes

By Jyll Sly
Jan 19, 2010



PRESENT: Spencer Berry (President), Elaine Schenk, Bob Zeigler, Jyll Sly, Pastor Gayle Pope. **Absent:** Bill Newton, Tawnya Ammer

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were accepted. Pastor Gayle presented her monthly report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Meeting** plans were discussed. A final 2010 budget was reviewed (2 versions). Proposed agenda for annual meeting was approved, with no need for a "hospitality committee" report. Pastor had contacted Jaycee Phillips to entertain the children during the meeting. Council agreed on lunch assignments for meeting.
- Property Insurance:** Table for next meeting (renewal is April 2010)

NEW BUSINESS

- Share the Harvest:** Agreed to join with Trinity Carthage. Bob Ziegler will be the representative for Christ Lutheran
- Loose coin offerings** of November and December: \$113 (previously earmarked for the Bright Angel program and pastor's discretionary fund) should be donated to Haiti Relief instead, through Lutheran World Relief or Lutheran Disaster Response
- Loose coin in January-February:** Hancock County Red Cross
- Monthly Potlucks:** Upcoming congregational meals are Jan. 31 (annual meeting); March 17 (St. Patrick's Dinner); April 4 (Easter Breakfast) and May 23 (end of Sunday School pot luck). This is four times in five months. Do we want to schedule one more in between? No -- this is sufficient.

There were no Committee Reports. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Jyll Sly for Tawnya Ammer (Secretary)

NOTE: These minutes are still subject to approval, since the February council meeting was canceled. In addition, these minutes are abbreviated. The minutes in their entirety will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office once they receive final approval.

Congregational Pulse...

Following are highlights from January financial reports, which would have been presented at the February council meeting if it hadn't been canceled.

Key Financial Indicators	1/31/2009	1/31/2008
Total January Offerings	\$ 5,727.00	\$ 7,633.00
Total January Expenses	\$ 6,365.98	\$ 6,963.72
YTD Offerings	\$ 5,727.00	\$ 7,633.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 6,365.98	\$ 6,963.72
YTD Spending Deficit	\$ (638.98)	\$ 669.28
YTD Transfers from interest fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Balance of all funds	\$ 63,988.15	\$ 56,024.33

If you have questions about this information, please ask any council member or Pastor Gayle or Tom Haas.

Average Sunday Attendance		
Month	2009	2010
January	45	41
February	47	38
Year-To-Date	46	40

A Visitor from the Past ...

Steve Hockley, son of Pastor George Hockley who served Christ Lutheran from 1964-1966, was in Nauvoo for his job and stopped in to visit Jan. 31. He wrote the following to Spencer Berry about the experience:

Spencer: It was a wonderful trip down to the church. I have only remembered a handful of the names of the people that I met, but I hope I never forget the faces. As I said Sunday, I know a part of me was molded in the brief period we were there, and I will be thinking of that day and holding those memories. My sincere and deepest thanks to the congregation of Christ Lutheran, it was a great experience. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Sincerely,
Steve Hockley



Pastor George Hockley, now 72, and son Steve in March 2009.

Member News

Congratulations to Amy and John Poland on the birth of Stephen John at 2:05 a.m. Feb. 26. Grandpa and Grandma Dave and Sandy Poland report that Stephen weighed 8 lbs 3 oz and was 21 inches long, and that, "Lungs are good and strong. Mom and baby are doing great." Stephen joins big sisters Grace, 3-1/2, and Allyson, 1-1/2. For cards: John and Amy's address is: 561 N. 17th St., Hamilton, IL 62341.



Amanda Stevenson has made it to the third and final round of Roadtrip Nation's Green RV Opportunity competition! Every summer since 2004, Roadtrip Nation has sent teams of three young adults and two filmmakers on the road in their Green RVs to drive across America interviewing people who have defined success on their own terms; people who wake up and love what they do each and every day. If Amanda is selected for one of these teams, she and her teammates will plan their own route, then choose and contact potential interviews. Results could potentially be shared on Public Television as part of the documentary series, Roadtrip Nation.

The notification Amanda received said, "I just want to let you know that Roadtrip Nation truly sees something in you that makes us believe you are a wonderful candidate for our documentary series to share your journey and the stories of influential leaders to inspire our generation! There is much to be proud in that alone ... Understand that you possess personal gifts that we admire!" The Round 3 portion of this competition involves Amanda shooting a video of an actual interview she will conduct herself with a leader in her community.



News from
Patricia Bentsen,
ELCA Missionary in
Madagascar



Miracles!

1 January 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; Great is His faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Morning devotions, the last Friday of January at SALFA (Malagasy Lutheran Church Health Department) headquarters, was led by Pastor Claudius, a Malagasy Lutheran Church minister. He reminded us that we are all sinners and should confess our sins to the Lord every day, and the Lord will show his mercy.

Pastor Claudius then shared a story with us when he was ministering in a different part of Madagascar. Someone had asked him to visit a woman hospitalized for what was thought to be terminal tuberculosis. He came to this woman in the name of Jesus, prayed with her through the laying on of hands. The pastor said she was extremely weak, and just skin and bones. The next day, Pastor Claudius came to see this woman and discovered that her condition had remarkably improved. She could now talk and move around.

Another woman, a friend of this patient, was also visiting the hospital. She approached Pastor Claudius telling him that she had similar symptoms as her friend and that she wanted to know Jesus. The pastor perceived that this woman was possessed by a demon so he asked if he could pray over her and exorcise the demon. After the demon left this woman she lay as though dead, and the pastor thought, "What has happened? Did I kill this woman?" Then he saw a slight pulse in her neck after which she made a big sigh.

To this day, this woman prays over the sick, and heals others in Jesus' name. She is a witness to the Lord, with her Bible always accompanying her. Yes, the steadfast love and mercy of the Lord never ceases, nor ceases to amaze me.

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for your love and mercy which are never ceasing. May we realize your love and mercy in our lives, to the Glory of Your Name. Amen

Patricia Bentsen, ELCA Missionary