

notes from Hosanna MARCH 2009
HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH **Volume 23 Nbr. 3**
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**JOURNEY THROUGH LENT: Come join Hosanna's people
as we travel through Lent together:**

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4 - APRIL 1

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship, using Holden Evening Prayer. Sharing their faith story: Barry Couling, Nancy Neumann, Johanna Borle, Phil Zinken

SERVICE OF HEALING: Sunday, March 8. 7:00 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9: Seder Celebration - 5:30 pm
(with potluck meal)

Service with Holy Communion, approx. 8:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10: service at 10:00 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY: 7:00 a.m. "Sonrise" service led by Youth

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:00 & 11:15 Easter worship with Holy Communion

Congregational meeting set for March 8, 12:30 p.m.

The Call Committee has recommended that Hosanna issue a call to Pastor Tim Graff. The meeting to consider extending the call has been set by Council for March 8, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided with a freewill offering collected for the Paving Stone Fund. The Call Committee will be available to answer questions at the meeting, and the Rev. Phil Hink (from the Bishop's office) will also attend and participate. Please note - we need a quorum of 75 people at this meeting.

"I'M GOIN' ON A JOURNEY" (ELW 446)

We are once again at the beginning of the season of Lent. Of all the seasons of the church year, this is the one that speaks most of renewal. Lent is a season which calls us to personally examine and renew our relationship to Christ. The church also bears witness to the world that now is the time for repentance, rebirth and renewal. The invitation is to journey with Christ through Lent to Jerusalem in order to witness what happens there. But also to journey beyond, to the witness of the empty tomb (Mk. 16), to walk on the eve of the resurrection to Emmaus (Lk. 24), to gather on the shore with the disciples and the risen Lord (Jn. 21), to return to Galilee with the others to hear Jesus' sending, "Go into all the world....." (Mt. 28). Thus being sent on our own journey of faith and discipleship.

Lent is well-placed within the calendar year for renewal as we witness daylight hours extend and the signs of spring brings to all of creation a sense of renewal, hope and rebirth as we journey through Lent.

You will notice the changes in our sanctuary this season; signs depicting "journey". This is not to depict the journey of life. Rather it is to enhance our own awareness of God journeying with us and to invite each of us to become more aware of, to renew and to become more intentional about, our own journey with God.

One of the wonderful gifts of spring is the spring walk. It may not necessarily feel that way on Feb. 25 with the temperature at -25C, but as the season warms many people love to go on walks to feel the spring breezes and to look for the many signs of spring.

I invite you to add a dimension to your spring walks this Lenten season. Why not try an evening prayer walk through your neighbourhood (morning and afternoon prayer walks work too!). If this is a new concept for you, do not despair. On our black counter are green-covered copies of a description and orientation guide to prayer walking. These are not onerous to understand or long to read and will provide you with a good understanding of prayer walking. This may be an excellent way of renewing our journey with God, ourselves, each other and the world around us. The description to prayer walking ends with these words, "Prayer walkers cannot remain the same. Neither can their world." May our journey through Lent provide us all with a time of hope, renewal and rebirth.

Peace, Pastor Ron.

Lent: A Journey!!

"Lent is a journey, and that means taking risks. Experienced travellers have tips to share for making the trip go as smoothly as possible, but most people who have been on a journey know that things can go wrong. Buses break down. Planes are delayed. Storms interfere. Luggage gets lost. All these variables mean releasing some of the control we have over our lives. We are at the mercy of pilots, wind and weather. However, in spite of - or maybe because of - all the ways a journey can throw us off balance, travellers have the opportunity to see, taste, hear, smell, feel, experience, even be something new." (S&S 2008 p. 104)

For this Lenten season at Hosanna, we will be focussing on the journey that we all take. Visually, there will be a path of stones leading up to the Altar, and along the path we will find other objects that could be used to aid our journey - a walking sticks, a canteen or water bottle, hiking shoes or old sandals, and a backpack or shoulder bag. The Children's lessons will be specifically drawn from this display. In addition to this, the Baptismal font, altar and credence tables will be draped with purple cloth (the colour of Lent); the sliding glass doors will be closed in order to create a more intimate chapel atmosphere; there will be less lighting; and the six purple candles on the Altar will represent the five weeks of Lent and Palm Sunday.

We've been intentional in choosing music that reflects the various stages of a journey. For example, the Gathering Hymn will be "Come and Journey with a Saviour," written by Marty Haugen. The services will begin with the Thanksgiving for Baptism - which "provides a focus on God, the fountain of living water during the wilderness journey." (S&S 2008 p. 104) At the end of each of our Sunday services, we will sing "I'm Going on a Journey," as one more candle will be danced out of the sanctuary "into the world with each of us," as we continue along our journeys.

We will be starting a different communion liturgy during Lent - that of Setting IV from the ELW, written by Ronald A. Nelson - a familiar setting from the LBW. We will also return to the penitential singing of the Kyrie, but not the Hymn of Praise. Overall, the music will be completely focussed on our journey through this season.

Looking ahead!! Take time to avail yourself of our special mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. Please note the front page of this Newsletter for all the dates and times of these Lenten services, as well as the Holy Week, and Easter

services, and the special Healing Service on Sunday evening, March 8, 7:00 pm using music of Taize. Also note the opportunities for Individual Confession and Forgiveness in the article below.

May you know God's peace and presence as you journey with Him throughout this season.

Evelyn, Director of Worship and Music

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We teach that any Christian at any time and in any place can confess sin to God and receive the promise of forgiveness in Christ Jesus. "If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

However, in our life and walk as disciples, we may become burdened by guilt, or carry with us a troubled conscience, or a general uncertainty about God's loving presence and forgiving grace. At these times, we have in the Lutheran Church, a treasure and a gift called "Individual Confession & Forgiveness. (You can see the service printed in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p243).

This rite gives one the opportunity to speak aloud to God specific sins, burdens, etc, while in the presence of your pastor. The pastor's role is to simply hear the confession and pronounce the liberating Word of God which announces assurance of forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

The rite of Individual Confession and Forgiveness is a confidential encounter between God, pastor and confessor. Lent is a particularly appropriate time to consider this rite as part of your spiritual preparations for Easter. There are 4 times during Lent when one of our pastors will be available in the sanctuary to hear individual confession:

Thursdays, March 12th & 26th from 5:00-6:30 pm

Tuesdays, March 17th & 31st from 3:30-5:30 pm

Of course, if these times do not work for you, you are always free to contact a pastor at any time. If you wish to discuss this service in advance, please call Pastor Ron or Pastor Cliff, and they'd be happy to discuss it with you in person.

A CARBON FAST FOR LENT

The idea of giving up something for Lent is a long standing practice for many Christians. This can include abstaining from certain types of food or routines during the period, in other words fasting. Quite often what we choose to abstain from is something that we know to be generally less than healthy for us, but which we choose to do anyway because we derive some enjoyment or pleasure from it (giving up pop or chocolate for Lent sound familiar?). However, this Lent, why not try doing something of more lasting significance - try a carbon fast!

Regardless of what side you may be on in the global warming debate, it is clear that our daily lifestyles contribute to an ongoing, and ever increasing, harmful impact on the world's environment. We can all take measures in our own lives to make the world a cleaner and greener place to live. We do not have to wait for our governments to take action!

Those of us who live in the developed nations of the world have an especially large impact on the environment. A recent study in the U.K. found that each citizen of the U.K. was responsible for the emission into the atmosphere each year of an average of 9.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide, which is the gas that is eroding the earth's ozone layer. The figure for Canada is likely more or less the same, if not higher. Citizens of Bangladesh on the other hand caused the emission per year of 0.24 tonnes, while those of Ethiopia caused the emission of 0.067 tonnes. While we may not be able to, nor want to, change our lifestyle to that of the average Ethiopian, there are certainly many things that we can do in Canada to lessen our environmental impact.

Try thinking of something to do each day during Lent for your carbon fast. An idea to start things off is to remove one light bulb from a light in your residence, and live without it for the next 40 days. It will be a daily reminder of the need to give up something in your life. Then have some fun as you try to come up with ideas for each day thereafter. Here are a few ideas to get you started - turn your thermostat down by one degree; re-use an envelope that you receive in the mail; don't drive your car for a day; take public transit to somewhere that you would normally drive to; avoid buying things with excessive packaging; buy an energy saving light bulb to put in the light that you took the bulb out of at the start of Lent. Happy carbon fasting! It may even become a habit that you decide to keep after Lent is over.

The Stewardship Committee

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

THANK YOU!

I would like to extend a big thank you to all those who helped out with Shrove Tuesday, with a special thanks to our wonderful cooks, Sonja and Colleen! Thank you to all those who came out and supported the youth, we had a great turnout.

SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING:

The Alberta Synod Youth Gathering is fast approaching. It will be taking place at Camp Caroline May 15-18, 2009. The cost for each participant is \$265. The registration deadline for this gathering is April 10, so please contact Lindsay by MARCH 15 (so we can get all the forms and money sorted out) if you would like to take part in this wonderful experience.

Cheques can be made payable to "Hosanna Youth Group" so that we can send a single cheque on behalf of the group. There is some money in the youth budget allocated for this gathering, so the cost to you will be less than \$265. In addition, if we are able to raise a portion of the cost you will all be reimbursed equally.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE POSTER
ON THE YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2009 — - TOBOGGANING 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church and then head out to do some tobogganing. Make sure to dress warm and bring your favorite sled/crazy carpet/saucer/toboggan! We'll end the evening off with hot chocolate back at the church.

SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2009—MUFFIN MORNING 10:00

Marvelous Muffins! Stop by and support the youth.

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2009—EAVESTROUGH ICE CREAM AND GAMES 7:00-9:30

We'll hang out at the church for this event. I'll provide the ice cream; you bring your favorite sundae toppings and games. We'll finish the night off with a devotion. (Don't worry parents...we'll be keeping each sundae separate for health reasons.)

YOUTH FORUM: Starting in March 2009 we'll delve into the mysteries of the Bible. We will be screening an adventure film about an archeological expedition that uncovers some amazing truths about Mount Sinai. Be sure not to miss it! We meet from 10:15-10:45 in the Conference Room each Sunday. (At this time I am still awaiting the arrival of the DVD, I will announce when it is in.)

NEEDED:

1. **VOLUNTEERS** - We can always use an extra helping hand! If you are interested in working with the youth this year please contact Lindsay for more information.
2. **MUFFIN MAKERS** -Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to bring muffins on **SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2009** or at any other time during the year, or e-mail lindsay@hosannalutheran.ab.ca.
3. **E-MAIL LIST** - As we live in a technologically advanced society, I would like to compile a list of parent and youth e-mails so that I can make sure to get a hold of everyone when there are important youth announcements or upcoming events. Please write your e-mail legibly and put it in my mailbox. Thank you!
4. **DRIVERS** - We rely on the help of parents in this area. If you are able to drive at any time throughout the year, please sign up on the youth bulletin board and look forward to a phone call.

COUNCIL NEWS:

Council 2009 has already met twice since the Annual General Meeting on January 25. I wish to thank retiring Council members from 2008 (Dorothy Follinglo, Shirley Querengesser, Susan Smith, Marilyn Thompson and Colleen Vogel) and also those who remained or were elected at the AGM. There are many new faces at the table and our meetings have been lively and engaged.

At our first meeting, we elected an executive and determined the committee and ministry liaisons. (see list following). Please feel free to bring your questions or concerns to any member of Council.

We thank the congregation for their ongoing support and encouragement during these interesting times for Hosanna. We look forward to hearing from you!

Heidi Robinson, Chair

**COUNCIL MINUTES are available for anyone interested,
kept in a binder above the black counter.**

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Heidi Robinson-Chair,
Nordahl Flakstad-Vice Chair & Personnel,
Dennis Heise-Secretary & Social Ministry,
Millie Dofka-Seniors,
Dan Fessenden-Youth Ministry,
Marlene Grinde-Education,
Richard Hernder-Stewardship,
Russel Hoffman-Fellowship,
Brent Layden-Finance,
Nancy Neumann-Worship & Music,
Ron Vandermeer-Property.

FaithLife matching grants:

As a FaithLife Chapter, Hosanna has the opportunity to apply for up to 3 matching grants each year from FaithLife Financial (\$500 each grant, for a total of \$1500 in matching funds). As FaithLife has a limited amount of grants available, it is important to make the request for matching funds early in the calendar year.

Thus far in 2009, Council has approved two fundraising events for matching grants, so one opportunity still remains. If your group is raising funds using FaithLife's matching grant program and has an event planned for the first few months of 2009, please contact a Council member as soon as possible.

Thank you to Barb Ulmer who is Hosanna's FaithLife representative and who ensures that the grant paperwork is taken care of for approved fundraisers!

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

To request prayer for yourself or for others, contact:
Del Bennett, Dan Wold, or the pastors at 780-484-3932.

If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain,
please also contact any of the above.

Hosanna Quilters would like to thank everyone for their generous support and are pleased to let you know we have donated \$2,165 to Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

Kindly keep the Quilters in mind as you do your spring cleaning - we are especially looking for clean jeans and yarn for tying. Our next Quilt Sale is April 30th - May 3rd, 2009. We hope to see you there.

EDUCATION and FAMILY MINISTRIES

The F.A.I.T.H Page - Faith Activities in the Home

Lent is a season of preparation. Just as Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the joy of the resurrection at Easter. During these 40 days we take time for preparation, reflection, growth and change. Fasting, time spent in prayer and devotions, giving up unnecessary things, or focusing on a special project are some ways we may try to centre our lives on God and our relationship with Him. The following are some ideas for how we might try to simplify our often complicated lives during this season of Lent.

WORSHIP - Notice how our worship is simplified. What parts of the liturgy are missing or different? How does the look of the sanctuary differ from other seasons of the church year?

Consider coming to Hosanna's Wednesday Lenten services as a family. Before you go, talk about how the services will be different, quieter, more reflective. Hearing others' faith stories can be a very moving experience. Children also enjoy attending the Seder and learning some of the traditions of the Jewish faith.

MEALS - Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. While we are not likely to give up eating for all of Lent, we can eat simpler meals of soup or meatless meals. Fasting from certain foods enables us to realize that it is God who satisfies our hunger.

COMMITMENTS - Write down all the activities and commitments that you have. Think about what is really meaningful to you and what you are just doing out of habit. (You will probably be surprised at how much you are doing!) Give yourself permission to let go of some activities and responsibilities that you have taken on over the years.

"To do so no more is the truest repentance."

~Martin Luther

CLUTTER - It is amazing how much time and frustration can be spent looking for things among all the clutter in our houses. How much "stuff" do we really need? Start with a drawer or closet and see how good it makes you feel to sort it out and

know where things are. Just think - one small area a day - 40 days of Lent...!

LOVED ONES - Spend time with your loved ones by planning for activities that bring you together with those who are important to you. Write letters (email works too!) to friends. Do an act of kindness for someone else.

EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE - Deal with unresolved conflicts, hurts, and anger. This kind of emotional baggage complicates our lives and drains our energy. Ask for forgiveness if you can and pray to God for guidance.

ALMS - Giving money, other goods, or time to those who are needy reminds us of Jesus' acceptance of the poor and those who are not treated justly by society. Place a box or jar on the kitchen table to collect coins but also as a reminder of those in need.

DEVOTIONS - The Synod of Alberta and the Territories has a series of six "Table Talk" readings, questions and prayers that you might like to use for family devotions during Lent. Check out the website at www.albertasynod.ca/family_ministry/resource_for_home. Or use the 2009 Family Lenten Calendar provided by CLWR for ideas on ways we can learn, pray and act during this season. That website is at www.clwr.org/resources/lent.cfm.

PRAYER - Prayer includes not only worship and individual meditation, but also an openness to God's presence in the events of our everyday lives. Look for signs of God's presence in ordinary events.

"The fewer the words the better the prayer."
~Martin Luther

ENJOY NATURE - Take time to go for walks in a park, notice the changes that occur with the coming of spring and thank God for the environment he has created for our enjoyment. Don't forget that we have a responsibility to care for it.

God is in all things. How can we make sure He is in all aspects of our lives?

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School offerings collected during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany will be used to support the Koh Kandal School project in Cambodia through CLWR. Many thanks to Marcus and Margaret for bringing pictures and their personal experience of visiting the school so our children have a better understanding of how their offerings are able to help others far away.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter, we will focus on bringing our faith life into our homes by building up our Sunday School library. Offerings will be used to purchase books which will be available for families to borrow. Bible stories as well as stories with good messages will help families talk about how Jesus wants us to live our lives - not just at church on Sundays, but all week at work, school and play.

Adult Forum

On March 1, please join us in the Social Room between services for a special opportunity to hear guest speaker, Dr. Gordon Jensen, Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. The LTS website quotes him as saying: "My primary interests lie in Luther's theology of the cross and its implications for today, as well as the history and theology of the Lutheran Confessions. The Lutheran Confessions play an important role in laying the groundwork for ecumenical dialogues and conversations today. I am committed to an awareness of the Lutheran and ecumenical global community in my teaching. I am also interested in exploring mission from a Lutheran perspective." Dr. Jensen will be preaching at both services that day as well.

Adult Crossings: God's Journey with Us

The Bible contains hundreds of stories - thousands of names. How does a person begin to understand and remember it all? Led by our pastors, this unique Bible overview continues in its exploration of what many scholars consider the eight core stories of the Bible. March topics are:

March 8	Sinai Covenant
March 15	Promised Land
March 22	Davidic Rule
March 29	Jesus' Family Tree

Come as often as you are able - you do not need to commit to coming each time (although you are certainly encouraged to!)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This month's study is Friday, March 13th, 8:00pm (note the time change) at Trina Uwiera's home. Bring along your Bible (any version) and your sweet tooth! All women are invited to enjoy an evening of study and fellowship - new people are always welcome.

PARENTING SERIES "Winning at Parenting ... without beating your kids"

This three part parenting series continues on Sunday afternoons March 1 and March 15 from 1:30 - 3:00pm. After watching a portion of a video by parenting expert Barbara Coloroso, we'll have the opportunity to share and discuss some of her ideas about raising children, from toddler to teen. Child care will be provided. All parents are invited to take part, even if you were not able to attend the first session. For more information, please talk to Sonja.

Vacation Bible School

VBS runs this summer from Sunday, July 6th - Thursday, July 10th. Plan your holidays so that you can attend this exciting week. As usual, we will be looking for lots of volunteers to make the fun happen! We are currently looking for people to help with planning the week - especially in the areas of music, drama, decorating, publicity science, crafts and snacks,. Talk to Gaylene Layden or Sonja if one of these areas is up your alley and to see how you can help.



ROMERO: 30 years of hope Saturday, March 21, 2009

9:00-4:30 pm Day of discussion about the life and thoughts of Mns. Romero.

Speaker: Guillermo Denaux from El Salvador at the Providence Centre,
3005-119 St. 780-436-7250

6:00 pm **ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION** (everyone invited) - Providence Centre

Events sponsored by: Sisters of Providence, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton & District Council of Churches, Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Ecclesial Base Communities

COMMUNITY MEAL COMMITTEE

MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

When the Community Meal Committee first started, the focus was on providing a hot and nutritious meal for our guests. If we accomplished that, then we would have achieved our goal for the program. As time has progressed, we have learned that there is much more to this ministry, although the provision of the meal obviously remains an important part. We have discovered that our meals are just the starting point for a ministry that allows us to build relationships and connections with our guests.

Many of the people that come to our meals are facing serious challenges in their lives - poverty, homelessness and illnesses to name a few. If you have ever experienced any of those issues in your own life, you will know how great it can feel to have a warm word, a hug, a laugh or two, and a sharing of some of what's going on inside you. As articulated by the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, an important part of what takes place at our meals is a "ministry of presence" with our guests.

In a recent article in the magazine, Christianity Today, titled "The Word on the Street - What the homeless taught me about prayer", the author discussed some of what he had learned while researching a book he was writing about homelessness. He quoted a counselor who had worked in street ministry for 25 years:

"The best ministry I can offer is a relationship. I hope that street people learn to trust me as someone who can handle their secrets. I hope that trust will gradually spill over to God. I tell people who encounter the homeless that eye contact and a listening ear may be more important than food or money or Bible verses. They need to connect in some small way with another human being, someone who sees them as a person of worth."

Please join us for our next Community Meal on March 21st. You can volunteer for any of the pre-meal tasks by checking the sign up sheet on the black counter in the narthex, or just come out for the meal, and share some food and friendship with

our guests. Your willingness to share your time with our guests will be greatly appreciated by them. Thanks also to everyone who has supported or volunteered for the Soup and Buns meal program on Saturday nights at the Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre. The program has been a great success. Watch the sheets on the black counter for further opportunities to serve in this area as well.

The Community Meal Committee

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY (ICPM) LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the ICPM Lunch at the Bissel Centre February 22, 2009. In addition to the donated sandwiches, fruit and vegetables, desserts and pickles, \$240.00 was given to buy what was needed to meet our commitment. Two hundred and twenty people were fed. The volunteers: Wesdyne Amyotte, Bev Boren, Dionne & Stan Buller, Ulrich Koeppen, Susan Querengesser, Dorothy & Erven Rendflesh and Dan Wold were enriched by the experience.

Submitted by Bev Boren.

The SOUP & BUNS project for people at the Jasper Place Health & Wellness Centre continues in March, with Hosanna having responsibility for March 7, 14 and 28. Soup is made at the church and then taken to the Centre and served along with ham bun-wiches. See the sign up sheet for what's needed, both soup & bun ingredients and volunteers.