



Grace Note

Messiah Lutheran Church

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March, 2007

I'm not sure if this is something I should be admitting, but my family and I have become "American Idol" addicts. Last year it was fun to see Taylor (note the white hair!) rise to the top of a very talented group of people. Before he was an American Idol, he was singing in clubs and just about anywhere else that would hire him. Now he's nationally famous and performing concerts to sell out audiences.

Part of the fun of the show is to see basically ordinary people become stars. It's something that you can almost see happening before your eyes. There comes a time in the competition for each contestant to really step up and shine. Those that can't make that step don't go far. But for a few, it really is amazing to watch.

There is an element of truth here to apply to the Christian life. We need to step up and shine if we want to do make a difference in this world. The only difference for us Christians is that the light that shines in us is not our light, it belongs to Christ.

In our baptismal liturgy we tell the newly baptized: "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." There is a message here: We are to shine! We are to spread the glory of God by allowing it to manifest itself in our own lives.

That isn't always easy, however. We each struggle with our own insecurities and fears. The truth is, sometimes we just don't feel like shining. With this in mind I want to share with you a quote that I found. It is by Marianne Williamson from *A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*:

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

(Continued on the next page)

Our Mission Prayer: Gracious God, through belief in Christ's teachings and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch. Amen

(Pastor Fox continued)

I love the line that says: "We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us." That's the light! It's the glory of God that shines. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ we allow that light to shine so that all may see the radiance that comes from the Spirit. Also note that the reason we let the light through is to serve the world. It's not for our own glory, or benefit, but for the benefit of others.

There comes a time in each of our lives when we are called to step up and shine. We aren't all American Idols, but we all have God given gifts. When the time comes for you to share your gifts with others, remember that the light belongs to God. All you have to do is allow it to spread to those around you.

In Christ's Name, *Pastor Fox*



LENTEN PRETZELS ARE COMING!!!

Through April 1st, our Sunday School classes will bake Lenten Pretzels. The proceeds will be used to purchase chickens

for a family/village in Africa and for shipments to Iraq for *Sal Perez*, son of *Nancy and Lee Pittard*. We are applying for matching funds from Thrivent Financial for this fund raiser. Pretzels are sold for "donations" so remember to bring your cash each week to support this global outreach.

Baking schedule:

- February 25 - Junior High Class;
- March 4 - Pre-K;
- March 11: K & 1
- March 19 - 4th & 5th;

March 25 - 2nd & 3rd;

April 1 - High School.

We are collecting the following items for shipment to *Sal Perez* in Iraq: Insect repellent wipes, fly strips, baby wipes, Ziplock bags (quart and gallon), activity books, pens/pencils, AA and D cell batteries, calf length socks, sports/educational magazines, bar soap, deodorant, suntan lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes, combs, razors, Band-aids, antibiotic cream, beef jerky, granola bars, dried fruit, pudding packs, fruit cups, cereals, sardines, tuna, crackers, hard candy, powdered Gatorade drink mix, cookies, AT&T phone cards, and notes of encouragement. NO CANS or LIQUIDS may be shipped and SMALL SIZE PACKAGES are best. Place items in High School classroom. Questions? Contact Social Ministry or Christian Education committee members. This collection will continue as long as Sal is stationed in Iraq. Our goal is to send one box each week.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The *Children's Easter Program* will be held on *Sunday, April 8th at 10:00* in the sanctuary. Practice for the program is planned for *Saturday, April 7 at 10:00* followed by pizza at noon.

Children's Easter Program



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY will resume with a new study after Easter. Watch the bulletin for details.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

SCHEDULED *Pastor Fox* will conduct First Communion classes on *March 11, 18, and 25, from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.* All fifth graders are invited. Please call the office (440 442-6941) if you wish to attend.



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5 – 7:00 P.M.

Holy Communion – Stripping of the Altar
24-Hour Prayer Vigil begins following this Service
and continues until the Good Friday evening Service.
(Sign the chart in the reception area.)

GOOD FRIDAY - April 6

Community Wide Service – 12:00 Noon
Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church
5312 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst
The whole community is invited
Evening Tenabrae Service – Messiah – 7:00 P.M.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Sunday – April 8

8:00 A.M. Holy Communion Celebration
(note time change)
9:00 A.M. Easter Breakfast begins
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Easter Program
11:00 A.M. Festival Service of Holy Communion



FAITH CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, March 15 at Noon.**

Please bring a sack lunch.

Dessert will be provided by

Nancy Coleman and **Pastor Fox**

will continue his Bible study on "Women of the New Testament."



Turk, Joe Gilmore, Sandy Caplinger, Sharon Craig, Scott, and Pat Gileride.

MUSICIANS ARE NEEDED FOR LENTEN VESPERS - If you are willing to share your talents during our Wednesday evening services in Lent, please sign up on the bulletin board in the reception area. Call **Esther Hodgkinson** (440 729-9550.)

CAN YOU HELP WITH LENTEN SUPPERS?

We will continue our tradition of coming together in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. for supper each Wednesday in Lent before we come together in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for worship. Members are asked to volunteer to bring an item and help in the kitchen for one of the weeks. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the reception area. Please indicate that you are assisting at least two weeks prior to the date. You will be contacted about what to bring.

MESSIAH NURSERY The Worship and Music Committee wants to provide nursery care during the 11:00 worship services for children from **infancy through age four!** **In order for us to be able to do this at least one adult and one teen must sign up to oversee the nursery each Sunday.** Teens may use

this opportunity for community service credit or Key Club. The primary responsibility to cover these times

Our Nursery and YOU

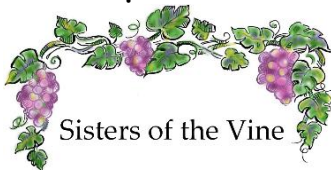


will be with those who have children in this age group - but others are welcome to become a part of this ministry, too. A sign-up sheet is posted on the easel in the library area. Those who sign up are responsible for finding a substitute if they can't make their appointed times. **Karyn Schmidt** will help find people to cover this duty. **IF THERE IS NO ONE SCHEDULED TO HELP ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY, NO NURSERY CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE THAT WEEK.** Nursery care will start **Sunday, March 4th.**

SISTERS OF THE VINE meet at the Laurensen's home on **Thursday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m.** and Messiah women (members and visitors) are

invited to join us as we come together to grow in faith and fellowship! For

directions email ToniLaurenson@adelphia.net. It's good to have sisters!!



Sisters of the Vine

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: *Lawson and Phyllis Anderson, Ken Wilt, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Alma Fanto, Avis Slaven, Theresa Hanson, Mary Ficken, Arlene Cohen, Emilie Petrillo,*

Leake Family, David and Marie, Babies Lucy and Zoe, Jim Spring, Arlene Cohen, Alicia Korosek, Baby Cheyanne, Mackenzie Shaw. Anna Marie



THE MEN'S LUNCHEON IN MARCH will be on March 23rd at Milano's. For information, call **Tom Short**, (216) 291-0769. Future dates are April 27th, May 25th, and June 22nd.

MESSIAH'S MEN'S LUNCHEON





Easter Cantata

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 1st
11 o'clock service.

Our Messiah Choir will present
"Footprints In the Sand"
by Joseph M. Martin.

THE LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) IS HOSTING AN EASTER BREAKFAST BUFFET from 9 until 10:15 a.m. on *April 8th*. Tickets - \$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 12 - will be on sale the two weeks before Easter at the church or by calling *Fred Moser* (440 473-1428). The menu includes pancakes, ham, eggs, hash browns, muffins, toast, fruit, coffee, and orange juice. Proceeds from the breakfast will be used to fund a white water rafting trip this summer. Matching funds are being applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. (*Do you have a pancake griddle or warming dishes that the LYO could use?* If so, please bring them to the church before Easter.) When you stop at the LYO table to buy your Easter Breakfast tickets, you can enter the LYO "guess the number of jelly beans" event for only \$.25. Please support our youth!

THE LYO IS ALSO SELLING HONEY BAKED HAMS. If you would like to purchase one, see any LYO member. *Orders will be*

available for pick up at the Messiah kitchen on Saturday, April 7th at noon.

OUR BOOK GROUP SELECTION FOR MARCH 13TH is *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven*, the latest from best-selling author, Fannie Flagg. "Combining southern warmth with unabashed emotion and side-splitting hilarity, Fannie Flagg takes readers back to Elmwood Springs, Missouri, where the most unlikely and surprising experiences of a high-spirited octogenarian inspire a town to ponder the age-old question. *Why are we here?*" Looking ahead to Spring, the April selection is a wonderful new book, *Water for Elephants*, a Depression-era circus tale by Sara Gruen. The New York Times says, "You will be drawn into the world of ringmasters, elephants, and sideshows...and will also experience the world of nursing homes and old age." We'll meet Tuesday, April 10, to read this one so you've got plenty of time to read ahead. Please consider joining us as we move in to our third year of reading together.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS - *Vaughn Wingfield* shares that *Frank Koracin*, a former member of Messiah, died on February 16th. Please remember *Ruth* and her family (*Frank, Jr., Tom, and Kathy*) in your prayers. The Koracin address is 1500 Addington Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301

www.messiahlyndhurst.org

Check our website anytime for the current edition of the Grace Note as well as an up to date Messiah calendar

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

This is month two of Angel Food Ministries and the response is amazing. Our goal is to open this program to the community, so we can help others with their physical needs, and, hopefully, also with their spiritual needs.

One question that has been asked is "How does this program benefit those in need?" Angel Food Ministries is open to all, regardless of how much or how little income an individual or family has. Too many programs are based solely on income. Unfortunately, some one may have a higher income, but it is eaten away by medical expenses, prescriptions or other things not taken into consideration. Other programs require a person to fill out multiple forms with many personal questions. A person may be unable or unwilling to fill out those forms. To benefit from this program, all one has to do is purchase a \$25 unit of food, for that \$25 they will receive \$50-\$75 worth of food.

To prepare us for the day we do open this program to the community, a few changes must be made. First, we will not be accepting checks. Payment must be made either by cash or money order. Money orders are to be made out to Faith Remnant, Inc., the ministry with which we are currently working. Secondly, we will only accept payment three times a month. This is so no orders get lost, or forgotten during the week. We will take new orders on distribution day and the two consecutive Sundays before the deadline. These dates will be listed in the Grace Note and the Sunday bulletin. On Sundays, someone from the Social Ministry Committee will be outside the library after church to take orders. ***The March order dates are February 24, March 4 and March 11.***

Just to remind you: A unit of food is \$25 (worth \$50-\$75). After you purchase a unit, you may purchase as many specials as you want at \$18 for each special. ***On distribution Saturday, please, don't forget a box or laundry basket to pick up your food.*** Any questions can be answered by Lisa Perry or Lori Marsalis of the Social Ministry Committee.

March Menu for Angel Food Ministry

26oz Chicken & Stuffing Bake Dinner	7.5 oz southern style biscuit mix
4-8oz hamburger steaks	24 oz steak cut fries
2 lb lasagna dinner	16 oz peas & carrots
5 lb. breaded frying chicken (pieces)	16 oz turnip greens
12 oz Philly steak portions	15 oz sliced pears
3 lb popcorn chicken	8 oz pineapple chunks
1 lb hot dogs	10 oz peanut butter
16 oz gourmet bean soup	13.75 10 ct waffles
7.5 macaroni & cheese	1 dessert item
Special #1: 4-6oz chicken cordon bleu; 4-6 oz chicken breast stuffed with broccoli & cheese; 4-6oz chicken kiev	
Special #2: 6-10oz T Bone Steaks	
Special #3: 4-6oz New York Strip Steaks; 4-6oz thick cut pork chops; 1 lb boneless/skinless chicken breasts; 1 lb Italian sausage	

March Distribution Date is Saturday, March 31st, from 11 AM until 1 PM.

Don't forget your box!

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/>

February 20, 2007



Pastor's Report:

Pastor Fox reported that he had no hospital visits, eight home visits, and five visits in the office.

Treasurer's Report: *Chris* reported that the Net Income at the end of January was \$294. He is applying the pre-pays equally through each of the 12 months. *Chris* met with *Jim Makee, Jr.* to sign papers so that the Endowment Fund is kept in a completely separate account and the temporarily restricted money is in a money market fund.

Property Committee: *Chris Kovach* reported that the Property Committee met and discussed the remodeling of Pastor's office. *Chris* met with an electrician regarding the lighting in the front of the building. The fixture in the sanctuary that is not working will be taken down and rewired. The timer is working.

Christian Ed: Vacation Bible School will be the 2nd week in August. A leader needs to be recruited.

Youth: The Youth Group met at *Halberg's* home on February 17th and eight youth attended. They are planning a Youth Worship Service on Sunday, May 20th. A lock-in was discussed. *Matt and Katie Murphy* attended and volunteered to help with the Youth Group. Plans are underway for the Easter Breakfast.

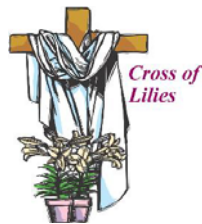
Stewardship: Pledge receipts in 2006 were 11.8 percent over 2005. \$3,559 is needed each week in pledges and plate offerings to meet the budget. This figure will be published in the weekly bulletin.

Council Vacancy: *Ron and Charlotte Miller* are leaving Messiah due to a long commute from their home and other commitments. *Charlotte* leaves a vacancy on Council. *Elise Hassink* has taken over chairmanship of the Evangelism Committee. The Executive Committee will meet to select replacement candidates.

OUR ANNUAL LENTEN FOOD DRIVE for New Covenant Hunger Center continues through *April 1*. Donations of non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Please think of those in need while doing your grocery shopping during Lent. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE.**

PLEASE BRING IN COUPONS for New Covenant Hunger Center - food items, paper products and cleaning supplies are needed. (No pet foods or restaurants) If at all possible, please cut the coupons out before bringing them to church. Because some coupons expire rather quickly, please bring them in a timely manner.

CROSS OF LILIES—The Cross of Lilies will again be a part of our Easter celebration. Plants may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones and may be taken home after the Easter morning services. Lilies can be ordered by using the Flower Offering Envelopes in the pew racks or by calling the church office. The cost of a lily is \$6.00.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER OFFERINGS will



be divided between
**New Covenant
Lutheran Church**
(formerly St. James),

**Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Lutheran
Chaplaincy Service.**

PRAYER VIGIL—Our 24-hour Prayer Vigil begins after our Maundy Thursday service and ends with the Good Friday Service. You may sign up on the Prayer Chart in our reception area. If you cannot come to the sanctuary during your allotted time, you may pray and meditate at home.