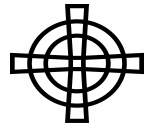


April, 2009



# The Voice

This past February the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality released the proposed social statement on human sexuality, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and a Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies. The work of the Task Force and its reports were requested by previous synodical and church wide assemblies. Both reports will come before the ELCA church wide assembly in August 2009 in Minneapolis for approval / disapproval or amendment.

I can't deal adequately with the important and complex issues raised by the reports in this small space in a parish newsletter. I am inviting you to join me in a series of conversations about the reports on Tuesdays in May. On May 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 10 to 12 noon and another series of conversations on those same days from 7 to 9 P.M. The two time periods for each day are so that opportunities for discussion can be made available for those who are able to meet during the day and for those who can only meet after work.

Copies of the reports can be downloaded on <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>. If you don't have access to a computer you can pick up copies in the church office. Copies will be available at the discussion sessions as well.

Some of the recommendations of the Task Force will be controversial. Others will not be. But if I've learned anything in my years in the ministry it is that it is better to talk about those things that are important to us than to not talk about them. I trust that God's Holy Spirit will be with us in our conversations about these matters.

Faithfully,

Pastor Nelson





We were returning from Tucson, Arizona one beautiful day. Twenty-Five miles west of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the Turner Turnpike we had an accident. A pickup truck pulling a trailer packed with lumber lost its left front wheel. Traveling at 75 mph everything happened so fast. The pickup crossed the left lane and crashed into the cement barrier or divider just ahead of us.

A young man and his two young boys returning to Missouri from a hunting trip traveling in the left lane hit the trailer. Lumber was flying all over. A 2 x 12 – 10 feet long came through our windshield in an upright (on edge) position. It grazed Lynn’s forehead and knocked out the door divider on our 4 door Avalon.

Everything happened so fast. Our car made a couple 360’s and we were pinned against the cement divider and pinned in our car. Lynn and I were both bleeding from broken glass. Many people came to assist in getting us out of the car by removing pieces of lumber that had penetrated our vehicle. Our car was completely demolished.

You know the rest – 4 state patrol cars, 2 ambulances, wrecker and 30 mile back up of traffic.

We were truly blessed – because if that 2 x 12 had penetrated our car flat, Lynn may have been decapitated. The young man and his sons traveled through the ditch and crashed through a fence and some brush.

We both picked small pieces of glass out of our bodies that were embedded under our skin for several days.

I’m sure the driver of the pickup never thought his whole front wheel would come off going 75 miles an hour, and the lumber on the trailer would do so much damage.

We feel someone was looking over us that beautiful day. Our earthly journey was not complete.

*Sherm & Lynn Moe*

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE      Check monthly calendar**

**Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 Worship with communion**

**Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday 6:15 p.m. Worship with communion**

**Friday, April 10 Good Friday 6:15 Choir Cantata**

**Saturday, April 11 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 Worship with communion  
9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch**



## **GREETINGS!**

### **The Seven Ups**

1. Wake Up - Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 116:24
2. Dress Up - The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. I Samuel 16:7
3. Shut Up - Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul. Proverbs 13:3
4. Stand Up - ....For what you believe in. Stand up for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity; let us do good...." Galatians 6:9-10
5. Look Up - ....to the Lord. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13
6. Reach Up - ....for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5-6
7. Lift Up - .....your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." Philippians 4:6

Your Parish Nurse,  
Pat Kugler

## [Notes/from/the/Music/Dept.]

First of all, I would like to thank Audrey Nugent, Mary Ann Dutcher, and Ann McNew for organizing the Lenten Supper which the Choir was responsible for preparing on March 11. I also want to thank ALL OF THE CHOIR MEMBERS AND SPOUSES who helped in any way with this supper!!!!

Our THANKS to Peg Ehm and Mary Stewart for accompanying the choir on the oboe and cello for the anthem, "At the Cross" March 15<sup>th</sup>, and to Sandy O'Neil and Holly Jones for leading the congregation during the communion hymn "I am the Bread of Life" March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Combined Choirs and Orchestra are practicing extra hours preparing for the Good Friday Service, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM during which they will present "TOUCHED BY THE CHRIST", a Cantata that recalls the last days of Jesus' earthly life through the eyes of individuals who were directly impacted by His ministry. His influence was significant and life-changing for these people whether they had known Jesus for many years or just through a brief encounter with Him in the final days of His earthly life.

WE INVITE YOU TO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. The music, narration, and drama will provide everyone attending a fresh look at the Messiah—the Incarnate God—who came to offer hope for the hurting and broken. "TOUCHED BY THE CHRIST" is an invitation to walk the path to the foot of the cross where we are met by the One who invites us to be changed by His eternal love and grace.

Starting Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> rehearsals for the following groups will be:

Orchestra----- 5:00 PM  
Sanctuary Choir----- 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Chancel Bells----- 3:15 PM  
Chancel Choir----- 5:00 PM

Prayer Corner



Don't tell God how big your problems are.

Tell your problems how big your God is.

*Thank You!*

**Many thanks** to Fred Schaap, Pat Kugler, and Esther Circle for their prayers, cards, and concerns during my recent bout with pneumonia in January and then on March 8th with pleurisy. It was great to be finally able to attend church this past Sunday. *Evelyn Snyder*



There were over 50 in attendance. The kitchen crew was thanked and the meal was preceded by the singing of the table grace. Birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged. Because of the length of today's program no devotion was given. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. Since there was no formal meeting in February the Secretary's report was for January. In February the ULMC sponsored the Valentines dinner with music by the Pride of the Ozarks. From all reports the dinner was a success and it may become an annual event. Duane introduced Jim Nugent who led a slide show presentation titled "Transformation Immersion Program in Mexico City." This was an excellent report of the trip taken by several members of our congregation in January-February. There was no old business.

Under new business it was mentioned that the ULMC would be picking up trash on March 14. Volunteers will meet at the church at 8:30 AM. It was also mentioned that the ULMC would be serving the March 18 Lenten dinner. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**COLUMBARIUM ADDITION COMING!!** A second phase to our columbarium will be added in the near future. 42 niches will be available for purchase. Inflation has forced us to raise our price to: \$600.00 plus the cost of the name plate (\$150.00 or more, as inflation dictates at the time of purchase) We will however, be offering niches for \$550.00 plus the name plate cost when needed.. This price will be good until JUNE 1. Don't forget, we still have spots for you to memorialize a friend or relative on our Memorial Tree for the original price of \$150.00. If interested, contact the church office or one of the Columbarium Team members. *Columbarium Committee*

**2 DOZEN "PLUS" APRONS!**

We hope you all have seen the wonderful display of aprons in Fellowship Hall. It's been fun to read a little bit of history of each apron, and to see such a great variety in styles and fabrics. The spring-y quilt on one wall is a compliment of the Piecemakers. We appreciate the wonderful response!

Dorothy Klitzke dreamed up this unique project to decorate Fellowship Hall with a touch of Spring, and nostalgia. Many thanks go to Dorothy and all the contributors, who are:

Kay Anderson  
Shirley Gehl  
Garnett Graf  
Johanna Jirousek  
Jane Nelson

Stephanie Ensley  
Joanie Golz  
Loruss Grasmick  
Dorothy Klitzke  
LoGene Test

Janet Zimmerman  
Ben Walford  
Peg Reimer  
Sandy Moline

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations to our Lenten suppers and offerings. Next month we will let you know exactly how much was contributed to each designated charity.

*Social Ministry Mission Team*

### **Easter Offering**

The Easter offering will be divided between the Samaritan Community Center which furnishes backpacks filled with food each Friday to students in Benton County and the Single Parent Scholarship Program of Benton County. Taking care of children and educating parents are ways we can show our love for our neighbors.

### **Greetings from United's Mexican Travelers**

As the 15 of us from United visited the community of Lomas de San Isidro with Jennifer Allen of Amextra (a charitable organization working to help impoverished people in Mexico) and David Brondos the missionary United supports in Mexico City, we were astonished by the living conditions in this community of more than 5,000 people. Lomas de San Isidro does not have running water, electricity, infrastructures to meet sanitary needs or health services, and 75% of the adult population is illiterate. But the people in this community are not giving up the hope for a better life.

Amextra has been working in this community since 2005. The trust of the community has been gained and four committees with 85 people on each committee have been formed. Amextra has trained and prepared locals to lead and staff their health and nutrition programs, tutoring for children, literacy classes for adults, computer classes, garden projects, and rabbit raising. Thanks to the generosity of a Lutheran congregation from Minnesota, a small community center has been built where community activities and learning take place.

Amextra needs to raise \$8,000 this year to continue their nutrition programs in the Lomas community. As a part of the program, vitamins are distributed to children to help prevent malnutrition. Nutrition and soy workshops help teach women how to improve their families nutrition by including soy in their diets through the food they serve. Food supplies are provided at a low cost to 200 families. As self esteem has grown stronger residents have become more confident in their ability to take charge and make improvement in their lives and in their community.

It was a joy for us to meet some of the leaders and children from Lomas and to share the lunch they prepared for us. Seeing their desire and willingness to learn and to take charge of making positive changes in their community made us want to help. We contributed over \$300. from a fund raiser we had last spring and hopefully \$500 will be contributed to Amextra from the Lenten offerings. You will be hearing from our group of 15 during this year as we try to come up with ways to raise at least \$1,000 more to aid the people of this impoverished community improve their standard of living.

### **Social Ministry Mission Team**

The members of the Social Ministry Team had the delightful experience of distributing checks from the Advent offerings to the Salvation Army Shelter and the Community Medical and Dental Clinics in Rogers. We were impressed by the facilities and the people working in each center. Gratitude was expressed to our congregation for aiding the agencies as they serve those in need in north\west Arkansas. The \$800 given to the Medical Clinic will pay for 320 office visits for adults and children during these difficult times.

*Jean Mosby, Alice Rahlfs, Pastor Peterson and Marilyn Cornwell*



**Morning Circles**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:30 a.m.**

Deborah.Marlene Doran  
Elizabeth Alice Johnson  
Mary .....  
Naomi ..Eunice Lovaas  
Rachel ..LoGene Test  
.....

**Afternoon Circles**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m.**

Hannah..Alice Rahlfs

**April 14<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m.**

Martha...Bonnie Buechler/  
Alice Johnson

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – 1:00 p.m. (At Church)**

Esther ....Ann McNew

**Evening Circle**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**

Priscilla .Mavis Hvidsten

**April 12**



**Coffee  
Martha Circle**

**April 8 9:30 a.m.**

General Board Meeting

**April 12**

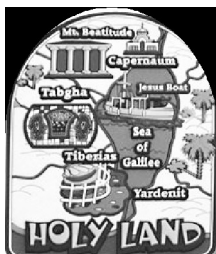
Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate

**April 15 9:00 a.m.**

Visiting Phoebes

**April 29 9:30 a.m.**

Bible Study Leaders with Pastor Nelson



**Women of United  
Discovering our Roots  
“Come to the Waters  
Of the Holy Land”  
Monday, April 20  
6:30 p.m. Dessert  
Speaker: Marlene Doran  
Hostess: Hannah Circle**

Marlene will take us on a spiritual journey to Israel as we discover the land that Jesus knew. Come for an evening of joy and inspiration. Sign up at the Women’s Podium



**The Bakeless Bake Sale**

is under way, and our treasurer reports that we have already received \$1700 of the \$2250 we need to meet our goal.

Thank you for your gifts, and thank you to Sandy Hansen for coordinating our annual fundraiser. You can leave your gifts in the “Birthday Bag” in the narthex all through the month of April.

*Please make your checks payable to*

***Women of United Bake Sale***

*Thank you for your generous support of all of our projects.*

Look What's Coming!

**Church Women United  
May Friendship Day  
Presbyterian Church**

"Building on Our Stories"

Friday, May 1 Noon Luncheon

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering

Inkind offering: Cans of soup for  
Helping Hands



**“I Am She—Discovering Your Best Bold!”**  
**Western Arkansas/Ozark Conference of the**  
**Women of the ELCA**  
**Spring Gathering**  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR**  
**Saturday, April 18 8:30-3:00**  
**Registration: \$8 Deadline April 5**

The theme for the Gathering is “I Am She: Discovering Your Best Bold.” As Women of the ELCA, women who are claimed and called by God, we believe that a life lived **boldly** is a faith-filled celebration! Have you found your best bold? The Gathering workshops will help you discover your **boldest bold**, and show you ways to put it into action.

The Spring Gathering is one of the highlights of our year. It’s a chance to see old friends and to make new ones and to celebrate our sisterhood with the women of the conference. You won’t want to miss this gathering of bold women because as you already know, we AR/OK!!!

Because Mountain Home is 3 1/2 hours away, most of us will go on Friday and return on Saturday. There are a number of motels available, and we can share rooms. Pick up a registration form at the Women’s Podium or use the registration form below to register for the Gathering and send in your money. Then, sign up at the Women’s Podium if you want us to book a room and arrange travel for you. If you feel you can only go on Saturday, let us know that, too, and we’ll see if we can pair you up with others. Deadline is April 5. There will not be an inkind offering this year, but your personal offering will be appreciated.

Questions: Call Louise Wobig or Glenda Heist.

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**CONFERENCE IV SPRING GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM**

Complete the following information and mail to : Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
48 Carnation Drive, Mountain Home, AR 72653 Attention: Janet Cryts

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$8 Fee       Yes     No



## A Year Without Easter

My faith in the promise of resurrection was faltering. Easter didn't come for me that year. For the second consecutive year we had buried a day-old son, a child for whom we had ardently prayed. My lips formed the words of the Easter hymns. But there was no song in my heart, so cold and numb it was. I spoke the words of the Apostles' Creed. But my faith in God's goodness and the promise of resurrection was, faltering.

"Take comfort that your child is with God," one well-meaning friend said. But I found no comfort when all I wanted was to hold my baby. "How wonderful that your little one could go to be with God right at Easter," another said. But I saw nothing wonderful in that. The jubilant hymns, the cross bedecked with flowers-- these only left me feeling colder and more desolate, this second Easter of grief.

Our baby girl cuddled in my arms the next year. And although my heart sang because I held her, the Easter message still didn't come to me. And it didn't for a long time. I can't remember the hour or day, or even the year, when Easter dawned again. I know only that it was a long, searching and painful journey. But I'm grateful for the journey. It made me aware of the many others in our pews on Easter for whom Easter has not come. And I'm conscious of the need to speak to them in their need-to give them words of reassurance. To tell them that Easter will come, in time. That God does love them although they find it hard to believe in this love. That there is hope for them although they despair. That it's all right if they don't feel like rejoicing because doubt, sorrow, grief, anger and depression-and other unwelcome emotions-are all part of the journey that leads to Easter.

Tears from the faltering, the perplexed, the grieving can be just as appropriate as alleluias. And when Easter finally does come to them, it may be more truly Easter for them than for those who don't know that a year may come when Easter will not.

By Mildred Tengbom

Tengbom lives in Claremont, Calif., where she is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She is the author of *Moving into a New Now: Faith for the Later Years* (Augsburg Books, 1997) and *When Your Spouse Dies* (Augsburg Books, 2002.)

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Pastor: Fred Nelson

Secretaries: Karen Anderson & Kay Anderson

Custodian: Jeff Peleaux

Parish Nurse: Pat Kugler

Grief Share Coordinator: Pat Kugler

Stephen Ministry Coordinator: Jerry & Linda Shaw

Visitation Coordinator: Fred Schaap

Youth Director: Sally Ball & Janelle Redlazyk

Financial Secretary: Mable Eckert

Worship & Music Coordinator: Lois Carlson

Choir Directors: Lois Carlson, Peg Ehm, Shiela Jones

Bell Choir Director: Margaret Seba

Orchestra Director: Lois Carlson

Youth Choir Director: Holly Jones

Organists: Margaret Seba, Lois Carlson, Peg Ehm

Pianist: Phyllis Bergstrom, Marilyn Denniston

Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

for all ages

9:15 a.m.

**Notice:**

**Semi-annual congregational meeting of United Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. There will be election of council members.**

**Please plan to attend.**

***VOICE* deadline:**

**April 20, 2009**

The church office may edit submissions for clarity and brevity.