

March, 2009



The Voice

Mid-Week Lenten Schedule

Theme - Living Lent - The Animals Tell the Story

March 4, 2009

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper in Luther Hall

6:15 p.m. Worship

The Fox Reveals a Homeless Savior/Jax Ball

March 11, 2009

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper in Luther Hall

6:15 p.m. Worship

The Donkey Reveals a Peaceful Savior/Claire Redlaczkyk

March 18, 2009

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper in Luther Hall

6:15 p.m. Worship

The Dove Reveals an Angry Savior/Maygan Frederick

March 25, 2009

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper in Luther Hall

6:15 p.m. Worship

The Camel Reveals a Warning Savior/Holly Rendon

April 1, 2009

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper in Luther Hall

6:15 p.m. Worship

The Hen Reveals a Grieving Savior/Brandon Ray



There was no official ULMC meeting in February. Instead a Valentine dinner was held at the church on February 14. Over 100 attended and enjoyed a catered meal and songs by the Pride of the Ozarks. (Marge Wolf and her decoration committee did an outstanding job decorating to get everyone into the Valentine spirit.) This dinner may become an annual event. The next ULMC meeting will be at 8:00 AM on March 2. Program will be Mexico Mission trip. Women are invited.

THANK YOU OTIS DAHL -

Because of a \$500 gift from Otis Dahl, a "Church Vehicle Fund" has been established. This gift is very much appreciated by those of us who are concerned about the situation. It is now hoped that others who feel the need for transportation to church activities will make gifts and memorials to this fund. Contributions may be left in the Sunday offering plate, so identified, or left at the church office.

Thank you to the family of Lorraine Janzen who gave a large monetary gift to United Lutheran Church in honor of Lorraine's birthday. This money has been used to purchase communion sets that are being used in the new lay communion program to serve the sick and shut-ins in our congregation.



For Prayer

Corner: "Thy Kingdom come": How many of us pray for God's Kingdom to come? It must be important or why else would Jesus put this in what we know as the Lord's prayer? Do you really want His kingdom to come? Something to think about!!



GREETINGS!

As the Lenten season begins, we can use this season to reflect upon our hearts - physically, emotionally, and spiritually

Ways to guard your heart

Physically

1. Do not smoke cigarettes.
2. Control high blood pressure.
3. Reduce saturated fat and cholesterol in your diet.
4. Identify diabetes.
5. Exercise regularly.
6. Have regular medical check-ups.

Emotionally

Love and acceptance in our relationships help us to affirm our oneness as God's children. Learning about our emotions, both positive and negative, assists us in achieving harmony and balance in our life.

Spiritually

Setting aside time in our schedule for worship, Bible study, individual and family devotions, prayer and meditation is essential to nourishing our faith and relationship with God.

We wish you all have a heart-healthy Lenten season.

Your Parish Nurses,
Pat Kugler

[Notes/from/the/Music Dept.]

Our THANKS to Holly Jones for her vocal solo with the Choirs last month when they sang “I Am Alive and I Can See” and to Shiela Jones, Mary Stewart and John Cornwell for accompanying the Choirs on the electronic keyboard, cello and drums for the Transfiguration number “High Upon On A Mountain”.

Also, we would like to THANK ALL THE MUSICIANS who have provided or will provide “Special Music” for the Mid-Week Lent Services this year—Sanctuary Choir; Orchestra; Youth Choir; Vocal Duet by Holly Jones and Sandy O’Neil; Bel Canto; Instrumental Ensemble with Peg Ehm, Mary Stewart, and Marilyn Denniston; and Chancel Choir. A “special THANKS” to Peg Ehm for playing the organ for the five Mid-Week Lent Services.

With Mid-Week Lent Services come some changes in rehearsal times. The following schedule is for the month of March and the 1st two weeks of April:

WEDNESDAY-----ORCHESTRA-----	---	4:00—5:30 PM
	SANCTUARY CHOIR--	7:00 – 8:30 PM

THURSDAY-- CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL ----4:30-6:00 PM

The Combined Sanctuary and Chancel Choirs will present the Cantata, “Touched by the Christ” by Lloyd Larson on GOOD FRIDAY, April 10th at 6:15 PM. They will be accompanied by Phyllis Bergstrom and the Orchestra under the direction of Lois Carlson. The Cantata is a music drama which will include Narrators and Characters in costumes with props bringing an invitation for all of us to walk the path to the foot of the cross where we see the Messiah—the Incarnate God—who came to offer hope for the hurting and the broken. WE INVITE YOU TO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS to this VERY SPECIAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE!!

A letter from Afghanistan

Dear Patriotic Friends,

The Combined Security Transition Command would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your recent donation of clothing. The clothes were given to local Afghan families.

On average we complete a minimum of 3 humanitarian missions a month. Our missions have included the Kabul Orthopedic Clinic, the Indira Ghandi Children's Hospital, Zabuli Education Center for Girls and Women, MIRMUN girl's orphanage and numerous refugee camps for Hazarah and Kuchie tribes. On any one visit we can serve from 10 to 230 families. Each family receives several large bags filled with clothing, blankets and food. During the winter months the families also receive a bag of coal for heating.

It is your generous donations that make these trips possible. We refer to this as winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. Thank you for your support!

From the CSTC=A VCR Program

See the certificate under the poster in the narthex

Social Ministry Team of United

LENTEN SUPPERS

Plan to attend the Lenten suppers each Wednesday evening during Lent. They will be served by a variety of organizations at United. The money collected will be divided between the Heifer Project sponsored by our youth and the Tanzanian Well Project. Thrivent will match up to \$1,200.00 of the money contributed for the suppers.

Easter and Lenten Offerings

The Easter Offering will go to help people in northwest Arkansas. Our offering will be divided between the Single Parent Scholarship Program of Benton County and the Community Dental and Health Clinics of Rogers. Education is the best tool for lifting families out of poverty, and health insurance is a luxury many of the working poor can not afford. During this difficult time, let us continue to be God's hands as we live in His world.

The Lenten Offerings will help fund the Heifer Project sponsored by our youth. They need to raise \$3,000.00 to receive a grant of \$2,000.00, enabling them to purchase an ark. Heifer provides animals to struggling farmers here in the U.S. and abroad. Funds will also be given to the Samaritan Community Center Fund which provides backpacks filled with food given each Friday to school children in Benton County whose parents are struggling to feed their families. We would also like to provide additional funds for our synod's Tanzanian Projects and the Oaks Indian School. We hope you will continue to support these charities through your Lenten donations.

Social Ministry Team of United

Circle



News

Women of United



Act boldly.

Morning Circles

Mar 4 – 9:30 a.m.

- DeborahKay Anderson
 - Elizabeth.....Ardythe Schultz
 - MaryReva Stengle
 - NaomiInez Polaski
 - RachelLucile Aasmundstad
- (At Church)

Afternoon Circles

Mar 3 – 1:00 p.m.

- Hannah.....Toni Hippe

Mar 10 – 1:00 p.m.

- MarthaJean Koppernolle/
Ann McNew

Everyone is welcome!

Mar 17 – 1:00 p.m. At Church

- Esther.....Barbara Hollrah

Evening Circle

Mar 2 – 7:00 p.m.

- Priscilla.....Lisa Muller

Piece Makers – Every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in Luther Hall. Join the fun and help create warm and beautiful quilts.

Mar 8



Cookies: Priscilla Circle

Mar 8 Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate

Mar 11 9:30 a.m. General Board Meeting

Mar 18 9:00 a.m. Visiting Phoebes

Mar 25 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild

Mar 25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Leaders



**Women of United
General Meeting
March 16 1:00 p.m.
“Discovering a New You”
Helping Hands Style Show**

It’s always fun to see the fashions available at Helping Hands! Join us for a great afternoon of fellowship and fun as our own Women of United serve as models for this unusual style show. Sign up at the women’s podium.

Hostess: Mary Circle



Church Women United World Day of Prayer

First United Methodist Church 20 Boyce Drive March 6, 2009

Refreshments 12:30 p.m. Program 1:00 p.m.



Written by the Women of Papua New Guinea, the 2009 World Day of Prayer worship service will focus on indigenous women and children's concerns as their communities struggle to maintain their history and culture in an ever-changing world. In kind offering: Cooper Elementary School supply closet to serve students in need. New clothing for boys and girls sizes 8 - 12: underwear, socks, plain tennis shoes, jeans, shirts. School supplies: glue sticks, pointed scissors, red pens, pink erasers, non-spiral composition books, zippered pencil bags, set of 4 highlighters, 1 1/2" binders and bradded folders.

If you can't attend, please bring your offering to the box in the narthex.

STEPHEN MINISTRY "ACTS OF GOD"



As I watched a news broadcast on a cable network, I became interested in a legal debate on who is responsible for damages after a plane crash. It was stated that it would be a matter of negligence. It would have to be determined if it was the airline or the manufacturer of the airplane at fault. If no fault is found, it would have to have been an "Act of God" that was the cause. On another channel, I found an educational program on natural disasters. The title of the series of programs is "The Wrath of God". It seems the secular world has to find a place to put blame, and if it is not easily found, the world places the fault on God.

The Church knows that is not the way God works. God would never cause these tragic events. These terrible things happen because there is sin in this world. If blame has to be put, then let's put it where it belongs, on the fall of man in Eden.

When affliction, grief, loss or other tragedies come into our lives, we cannot blame God. He gifted man with "freedom of choice" and man chose. It is God who has sacrificed His only Son to buy us back. That is the TRUE "Act of God".

We now have the command of Jesus to "love one another" and to "bear each other's burdens. Each time we have mercy on one another; each time we help someone, in the name of Jesus; each time we lend a listening ear to someone who is hurting, we are doing God's work. Those are the true "Acts of God". That is why it is so important to have a Stephen Ministry in United Lutheran Church. More often than ever before, more and more of our members are facing suffering situations. We ask you to pray for those who are in care-giving situations. Please pray that God would continue to move our members to consider becoming a Stephen Minister. The

March Events For Stephen Ministers
March 9, 2009 – 6:00 Small Group Supervision
7:15 (Meet Richard Solberg and Bible Commentary)
March 23, 2009 – 6:00 Small Group Supervision
7:15 PM Continuing Education (Intercessory Prayer – Richard Solberg)

