



Bethesda  
Lutheran Church

# Bethesda Outlook

March, 2010

## Images and words for the journey of Holy Week to Easter

**Holy Week**, (March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>) marks the center of our entire church year. More than a time of remembering, the experience of Holy Week and Easter offers the greatest gifts of God- life and salvation, forgiveness and grace, mercy and love. I invite you to come relive and experience these saving events. This week is indeed full of jarring contradictions.

**Palm Sunday** (March 28<sup>th</sup>) is the entry into Holy Week. On that Sunday we acknowledge the success of our Lord with cheers and waving Palms. (*The palm branch is an ancient symbol of victory used by the disciples as Jesus entered Jerusalem. We too, will carry palms in our procession into that Sundays Service*). Moments later we announce His humiliating defeat as we cry, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him”, “Crucify Him” and read of His death in the readings for that day.

**Maundy Thursday** (7pm-April 1<sup>st</sup>) we will gather together for ‘*The Lord’s Supper*’ in the sanctuary. The Latin word Maundy means command. On this day we hear the words of Jesus’ ‘new commandment’ for us to love and serve one another. We will focus our time around Jesus’ last meal together with his disciples and end that service by stripping the altar bare as a reminder of the starkness of the day to come. We leave that service in silence and begin our Good Friday service in silence as our liturgy of God’s story of salvation continues.

**Good Friday**, (7pm-April 2<sup>nd</sup>), is a service of quiet and darkness as we hear readings of Jesus arrest, trial and crucifixion. The church is bare and bleak. We will hear Jesus’ last words on that evening from members of Bethesda as we read the words given to us by a great story teller, Walt Wangerin. As the night comes to a close, we leave the church in silence after we have experienced the darkness of the day and heard the sound of Christ’s tomb slammed shut. *Again we leave the church in silence.*

Then on **Easter Sunday** Morning (April 4<sup>th</sup>), we gather and we here proclaimed: “Alleluia, He is risen” and we respond, “He is risen indeed”. White is the color for Easter’s joyous celebration and we will see many other beautiful colors in church on that day. Trumpets will be playing as we sing and celebrate the risen Christ and our new life. The season of Easter lasts for 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost and in that time together we will explore and rediscover how the mystery of salvation and resurrection can be claimed and made apart of our life in the coming year.



We are indeed Easter people, people of the Risen Christ! I invite you to come and journey with Jesus from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, share in His meal with us, see the starkness of the cross, and help bring the light of Jesus back into the church as we journey together into the new light and life for us all and for the world through the risen Christ on Easter morning.

Pastor Malcolm

### Inside this issue:

Wednesdays in Lent	2
Easter Breakfast	
	3
<i>The Spirit</i>	&
	4
Calendar	5
Schedule	6
Birthdays	
Thoughts for the Month	7

***Wednesdays of Lent!***  
***March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>***

During the season of Lent, we will be holding a special mid-week worship service as part of our Lenten journey together. This year it will again be preceded by a simple soup and bread supper at 6pm then followed by a ½ Hour simple sung Evening Prayer Service of meditation with a short Lenten message

**6pm Soup Supper - Please sign up in Fellowship Hall**  
**7pm - Evening Prayer Service with a short Lenten message.**

***ANNUAL SPRING WORK PARTY - March 27, 2010***

It has been our custom to have a work party the Saturday before Palm Sunday to get our church and grounds ready for Easter. We need all hands on deck! Everyone can help – this is your church! We can use children's help and anyone who is able to help indoors and outside. We will start at 8:30 a.m. but if you can't come that early, we can use help all day. Many hands make light labor for all. We will have lunch and the coffee is always on, too.

If you have questions, please talk with Larry Fischer, Cliff Pearson or Joan Minnis

***EASTER BREAKFAST - April 4, 2010***

We will be having our annual Easter Breakfast on April 4 between church services. Our services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The men prepare and serve the breakfast. We can all help with cleanup and making sure everyone gets served. This is a fundraiser, which we expect will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, at fifty cents on every dollar we make. The money will go to help those who are homeless.

In the past we gave the money to LATCH (Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing). This organization is now part of Compass Housing Alliance. Compass Center has been an outreach of our church for many years. Come and join us for this great breakfast and very worthwhile outreach.

*The Intern Committee met on February 1st, at the home of Katherine Dedrick. Those present were , Diane McCallum (Edmonds Lutheran Church) , Doug Walker (Edmonds Lutheran Church) , Katherine Dedrick, Penny Thedens, Mimi Seale, Debbie Luce. Together we began the compilation, of the required Mid Term Evaluation, for our Intern, Pr. Jacquie Berlien, to review with us at our next meeting, before submission. The evaluation will be submitted by March 15th, 2010.*

*We will meet again on Monday, March 1st, at 7pm.*

*Location: Edmonds Lutheran Church 23525 84th Avenue West, Edmonds - (425) 744-8090.*

*Debbie Luce*

The ***More Than Membership*** Committee met on Monday, February 8, at 10am in the church office. Those present were Pr. Malcolm, Sharon Boyd, Pat Olson, Debbie Luce, Joan Minnis, Joy DeGraff and Mimi Seale.

This group focuses on several areas, one being, prayer concerns, of those in our congregation, or perhaps those that have been unable to come to church, due to illness, hospitalization, or other personal reasons. It is the desire of this group, to be a support as needed, to the church body. Support can be a visit, call, card, or most importantly, the prayers of our church community. We are currently working on putting together a "Communication Tree" list, as well as an "Urgent Prayer Concern Team" list. Also we are updating the contact information of congregants, as we receive it.

All are welcome to join us, we meet once a month. Our next meeting is set for March 8 at 10am.



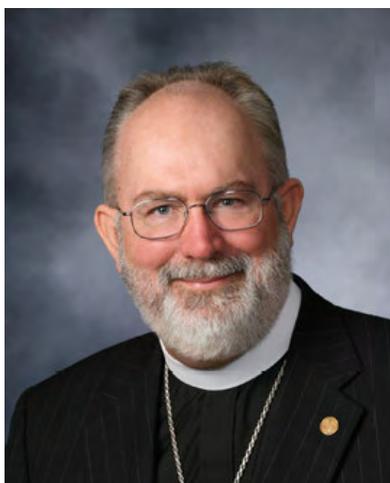
# The Spirit

Volume 27, Number 3

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2010

## Disciples Follow Jesus by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



I am very proud of the way in which this synod has responded to the need for new leaders as Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses, and Ordained Ministers.

We currently have more than 60 individuals in the candidacy process for one of the rosters of this church. For a synod our size, this is significant work and I thank you for your past support. I also want to encourage you to continue raise up leaders for the future of God's church.

I am also aware that often our discussion of vocation in the church only addresses the vocations of those employed by one of the expressions of the church. Lutherans understand that we each have several vocations from God. I am a citizen, husband, father, pastor, congregation member, grandfather, etc. All of these vocations come from God and I am responsible to God for my living in these vocations.

We live in a time when people are being pulled in a variety of directions by competing interests.

It is important for me to think about how God is calling me in each of these directions in order to make sense and give priority to my response. Understanding vocation also helps us address the competing priorities that we face.

You and I have a responsibility and the privilege of responding to God's call as we act in a various vocations.

I hear people defining themselves by their job. Their sense of self-worth seems too connected to that which provides a pay check. In baptism we have all been given our identities in Christ. As a child of God I am a husband, grandfather, etc. My identity comes from God who created and re-created me.

It is easy to fall into the trap that says one vocation is superior to another. Luther's understanding says that God has called me to this vocation. I am not pitting one vocation against another. I am living in the bounty of opportunity and gifts that God has provided to accomplish the work that needs to be done at home, in the community and in the world.

To what is God calling you? Rostered leaders serving under call can point to the piece of paper that says that the church acting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit has called that individual to that vocation. I would say that your baptismal certificate is your call to the various vocations that you have to act with confidence that God is the source and the strength for living that vocation.

*Editor's Note: If you would like to find out more about the vocations that Bishop Boerger mentions in his article, please visit the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA. There are resources there for lay, youth, young leaders and rostered leaders. Visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and at the bottom of the page click on the [Vocation and Education](#) link.*

## Ongoing Need In Haiti

*(The ELCA and their partners are in Haiti. A new situation report was posted on the ELCA Disaster Relief dated 2/5/2010.)*

Since the earthquake in Haiti one month ago, the ELCA has received more than 27,000 gifts totaling more than \$4.2 million to support humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti. According to ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton, the ELCA received an additional \$320,000 in a matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, bringing the overall total to more than \$4.6 million in gifts to the ELCA.

"We've seen a phenomenal response," said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. Rift said members of the ELCA have been "faithful in their giving, bearing witness to the hope for the Lutheran church and communities in Haiti."

One-quarter of Haiti's population has been directly affected by the earthquake and that presents an overwhelming challenge for those responding with humanitarian aid, said Rift. "The only way to truly, effectively respond is to build long-term partnerships with Haitians," he said.

Financial gifts from the 4.6-million-member ELCA are used to purchase and distribute medicine, drinking water, food, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene kits and other materials to aid survivors of the earthquake. Lutherans are also working to provide psychosocial services and other support.

The funds are distributed to three partner organizations of the ELCA working on the ground in Haiti -- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Lutheran World Relief (LWR); and Church World Service (CWS).

Chris Herlinger, CWS communication officer, was on assignment in Haiti this month. In a news release, Herlinger said that in a perfect world the distribution of humanitarian aid after a major disaster would occur without a hitch. "Everything would be orderly, and proceed with due precision," he wrote.

Haiti is far from a perfect place, wrote Herlinger. "Humanitarian practice, even during relatively small emergencies, is hard and imperfect work -- a fact often not fully

understood or appreciated by donors and even non-emergency staff members of humanitarian groups," he said.

"When compounded by the many challenges

posed in Haiti -- bad infrastructure even before the quake, the massive scale of damage, the toll the quake has taken on everyone - some acceptance of imperfection and the need to improvise become part of the daily realities of aid workers," he wrote.

During his trip, Herlinger said he met Emmanuela Blain, a medical doctor helping to coordinate Action by Churches Together (ACT) and LWR's distribution of food and non-food items. Blain told Herlinger, "You need to be patient to do this kind of work."

*(Editor's Note: This article is from an ELCA press release dated Feb 12, 2010. For the full release visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click on News Releases on the far right side of the page. If you would like to make a financial contribution or to learn more how the ELCA is helping please visit [www.elca.org/earthquakehaiti](http://www.elca.org/earthquakehaiti).)*



*A man building a shelter.*

**The Spirit**, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy **The Spirit** and include it in their own newsletters. **The Spirit** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

### Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

5519 Phinney Ave North  
Seattle, WA 98103-5829  
Telephone: 206-783-9292  
Toll Free: 1-800-244-6997  
Fax: 206-783-9833  
Email: [office@lutheransnw.org](mailto:office@lutheransnw.org)

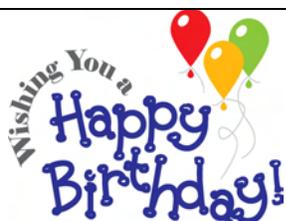
### Editor: Margit Peiffle

Email: [margit@lutheransnw.org](mailto:margit@lutheransnw.org)  
Telephone: 425-299-6667  
Website: [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org)

Information for the April 2010 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, March 3.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b> ESL - 9:00am Ruth/Miriam - 2pm <i>@office (M. Fay)</i> Community Dinner 5:30pm Facilities Comm. @ J. Minnis' 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Intern Comm. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> Brownies 6:30pm Education Comm. 7:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> ESL - 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Soup/Bread - 6pm Lenten Svc. - 7pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. - 7pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Brownies 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6pm WAM Comm. 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. - 3:00pm Bethesda Terrace Youth - 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> MTM Mtg. 10:00am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>9</b> Outreach Comm. 7:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> ESL - 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Soup/Bread - 6pm Lenten Svc. - 7pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. - 7pm</p>	<p><b>11</b> Brownies 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> Hospitality Comm. 10:00am Exec. Comm. Mtg. Noon</p>
<p><b>14</b> Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. - 3:00pm Bethesda Terrace Youth - 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> ESL - 9:00am Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:15pm  <b><u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u></b></p>	<p><b>17</b> ESL - 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Soup/Bread - 6pm Lenten Svc. - 7pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. - 7pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> Brownies 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Family Movie Night 5:00pm</p>
<p><b>21</b> Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. - 3:00pm Bethesda Terrace Youth - 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> ESL - 9:00am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> Twins Club 5:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>24</b> ESL - 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Soup/Bread - 6pm Lenten Svc. - 7pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. - 7pm</p>	<p><b>25</b> Brownies 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>26</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> Men's Fellowship 8:00am WORK PARTY 8:30am</p>
<p><b>28</b> <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. - 3:00pm Bethesda Terrace Youth - 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>29</b> ESL - 9:00am Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> Twins Club 5:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>31</b> ESL - 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. - 7pm</p>	<p><b>MARCH 2010</b></p>		

DATE		COMMUNION ORGANIZER	USHERS	LAY READER	READINGS
Mar. 7	Third Sunday in Lent	Joy DeGraff	John & Sarah Sullivan	Debbie Luce	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
Mar. 14	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Joy DeGraff	John & Sarah Sullivan	Joy DeGraff	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Mar. 21	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Joy DeGraff	John & Sarah Sullivan	Sue Rasmussen	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8
Mar. 28	Palm Sunday	Joy DeGraff	Eric & Nancy Anderson	Sue Rasmussen	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56



### MARCH

- 1 - Dena Lee-Cumming  
Ashley Schwald
- 2 - Sharon Boehm
- 7 - Gabe McArdle
- 8 - Justin Kehres  
Jill Salsbury  
Doris Smith
- 16 - Mark Currier
- 17 - Molly Currier
- 22 - Shane Salsbury
- 24 - Bill Cumming
- 27 - Glenn Engelstad
- 28 - Ron Massey
- 29 - Kari Gray  
Anna Matteucci  
Seiloni Tonga

From the Council President:

Greetings Fellow Disciples!

**Dis-** prefix meaning separate, not joined, negative or reversing force.

**En-** prefix meaning cause to be in

**Courage-** lack of fear, bravery, valor, to act in accordance with one's beliefs in spite of criticism

*What are we?* Are we *encouragers* or *discouragers*?

**Good News!** Faith Formation is growing stronger at Bethesda! **The Bethesda Terrace Youth Group** and **the Confirmation Class** have a room of their own!! Starting this month our youth will be creating a space that reflects the energy and spirit of them. This space is in the southeast corner of our office building and has seen many different transformations. We are blessed to have fresh energy working here.

***DID YOU KNOW*** that **Outreach** supports and sponsors more than 25 different organizations?

Over the next few months we will uplift these groups with temple talks so we can see and hear what Bethesda Lutheran Church is doing for our community! To name a few: Bethesda Community Services, Community Dinner, AA, Al-Anon, God's Little Acre, Operation Nightwatch, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Arts Fest, Tent City, Living Water Fellowship, Family Movie Night, Hot Dogs & Hugs and there's more!!

## Thoughts For The Month

by Jeanne Krahn

Nope! They're still trying to go through that sloshy snow up in B.C.—the Olympics—watching these first few days has already atrophied my brain (think it's still there in a holding pattern), the media molding everyone's beliefs or wishes. It's March, a month filled with too much of a world out of focus—sledding on the White House lawn but no snow for the Olympics out here. Silly flowers thinking it's springtime and trying to bloom—what's that going to do to the Tulip Festival? Politicians overflowing with “slugs” for the President and everyone else within hearing distance. More wars, more failures. Does any company make cars that are “safe” anymore? Economy, job losses everywhere. Seemingly, people never seem to heed Hannah Teter's *“The earth is one big interconnected entity. If you hurt the people, you hurt the environment. It swaps back and forth.”* For example, why subsidize Exxon Mobile? It earned \$45.2 billion in 2008 profit, and in the past couple years has posted more profit than any other corporation in history. But we have given 13 billion in taxpayer funded giveaways to big oil companies. Instead of funding big oil with that 13 billion in giveaways, supposedly to help them look for more oil to worsen the problem of global warming, that money should be directed to clean renewable energy sources. Yes, Hannah, we need to speak out! Grumble, grumble, grouse, grouse! Individuals and societies without hope become dysfunctional, for hope implies a belief in tomorrow, for justice, for mercy, for love and for peace.

Whoops! I'm in big trouble now! Stan just came by asking if I'd found a focus for writing this month. My “nope” reply brought his comment “Don't write about sad things, there's enough misery in the world. Try to keep a sense of humor.” Yes, isn't it a truism that “church people” tend to take themselves too seriously? Garrison Keillor says *“For Midwest Lutherans every day is Lent.”* After all, Lent is not a let's pretend Jesus hasn't risen time. OK—so what, who or how is Lent? Lent— a time often described as the time when we dress our altars, pulpits and pastors in purple and it comes usually in March, before Easter. What comes to your mind when you hear the word Lent, especially when you were young? Often it was going to church in the middle of the week beginning with Ash Wednesday. (Don't forget our soup and bread Wednesday night gatherings—umm good!) But Lent was often an endurance test for kids as confirmation was on Palm Sunday, ending two or three years of preparation. Lent is usually considered a time of self-denial, a time for releasing, for slowing down, for discovering “less is more”, to engage in disciplines to deepen our faith, to live a life of

trust. Originally, the Lenten time in early churches was a short period of denial of everything—meat, dairy products, coffee and chocolate. Coffee and chocolate denial—no wonder Scandinavians are so stoic! The short period was probably only 2-3 days of instruction to prepare candidates for baptism, with fasting, prayers and outward signs of penance—even self-flagellation, all ways to discipline the flesh. By the 4th century Lent began to be a time for all believers to prepare themselves for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection (Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!). Once Emperor Constantine converted in A.D. 312—the church was legalized by Rome. In the documents of the First Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 (whence cometh the Nicene Creed) the number of Lenten days had risen to 40, equal to the time of Moses on the mountain, Noah in the ark, Elijah in the wilderness and Jesus before his temptation. It was also considered as the common number regarding human endurance for fasting or corporal punishment (40 lashes less one is the limit in Jewish law) or number of years spanning a generation. Recently, more Christians not only practice denial, but view Lent as a time for, not only devotions, but helping outside their homes. I've often thought of Lent as one of God's big STOP signs along our life's highway. I can have some quiet time for reading, pausing to ponder and ignore someone else's “slugs” in my life. It's a time to take a look at our lives here on earth.

Wow! I'm 83 today—what blessings 'midst the ups and downs of all those years. What family! What friends! Truly, how can I count the days? Thank you Lord! Now, how's your singing? Read this bit of humor from our over the mountain paper “Sing While You Drive”. At 45 miles per hour, sing “Highways are Happy Ways”. At 55 miles per hour, sing “I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home”. At 65 miles per hour, sing “Nearer My God To Thee”. At 75 miles per hour, sing “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There”. At 85 miles per hour, sing “Lord I'm Coming Home.” Now see if you can find a copy of Ann Weem's poem *“Come To The Easter Party”*. What thoughts for Lent and Easter! Will share a few!

P.S.: What a repetition of Lent you'll have after last month's Outlook! Just consider yourselves really “Lentified” - maybe my brain will work for April.



**Bethesda  
Lutheran Church**

23406 56th Ave. W  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 425-778-6390

Pastor: Malcolm Brown  
Sno-King Cluster Intern: Jacquie Berlien  
Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Mountlake Terrace, WA  
PERMIT #10

**We're on the Web!**  
**bethesdalcm.com**



*Let's Journey  
Together*

*Come and journey to the cross  
and new life at*

*Bethesda Lutheran Church*

23406~56<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Mountlake Terrace, WA, 98043

425-778-6390 - <http://bethesdalcm.com/>