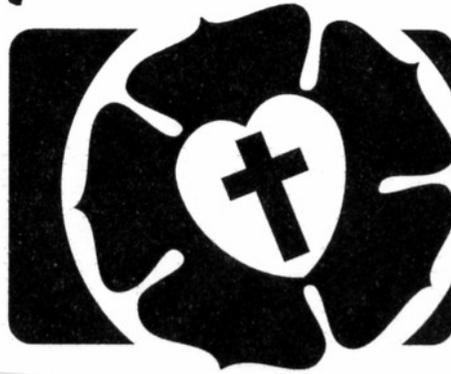


university lutheran church



March
2007



Mid week Lenten Worship Wednesdays 6:30pm~7:10pm

Looking ahead....

Holy Week

Wednesday Worship 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday 7:30pm

Good Friday Spoken Service at Noon and Tennebrae 7:30pm

Easter Sunday

Sunrise (outdoor) 6am

Festival of the Resurrection: 10:30am

Inside this issue:

From Pastor, Sianipar update	2
Prayer Group, Citrus Gleaning, Washington	3
Campus Ministry News, Congrats	4
From the Pagel Family	5
Hunger, Reports, Religion in Conflict, Thanks	6
From the Church Council, Condolences	7
Reconciling in Christ, Hymnals	8
Good information to know...	9

Open Forum

Sunday, March 4: Tammaji "Tom" Vasudev: "Hindu Scripture

Sunday, March 11: Tammaji "Tom Vasudev": "Hindu Belief"

Student Offering

Every Wednesday/Sunday students gather for delicious home-cooked meals. Senior Mike Robers is fond of telling new students, "I have never had a bad meal here". That is good because he has cooked some of those meals! Every Wednesday/Sunday students also receive an offering for some purpose beyond campus ministry. Fall semester the offerings support a local family to provide Christmas for the family. This semester, having been to New Orleans and having seen first-hand the destruction, student meal offerings will go to New Orleans relief. Thanks for your continued provision of such wonderful meals. Opportunities to sign up and provide a meal are on the moving bulletin board. Thank you!! (we also receive offerings of money for meals. Students will then shop for food and cook the meals. Talk to Pastor Gary if you would like to do this)



Dear Family of Faith:

The prophet Jeremiah calls us to trust in God, not mere mortals. Jeremiah likens those who do not trust in God to shrubs in the desert failing to seek relief when rains do come. Those who trust are like a tree planted by the water whose roots grow strong. The funny thing is, when we do trust in God, we also begin to trust one another. When we trust in God and learn to trust one another, our roots grow stronger. We also begin to see not only the difficult things in life, but the good things. We begin to see the very God whom we trust at work.

With the selection of a new council, a revised Social Ministry committee up and running, Campus Ministry Committee hard at work preparing for our Quadrennial Review, I am reminded how surrounded I am by capable, gifted, and dedicated people. More importantly, we are surrounded by dedicated and capable people. We also see those people come in various ages, shapes, and sizes. While many congregations pine for the presence of young people in their midst, we have young adults participating and even leading in our community of faith. That is due to your encouragement and support and their willingness and enthusiasm to respond. Sometimes I need to trust more. I need to look around and see the good things God is doing right here among us. Sometimes we all need to do this.



There is one more insight from Jeremiah's call to trust. The one whom we often find most difficult to trust is our self. We know only too well how flawed we are. That makes trust difficult. Ultimate trust in God can lead to trust in ourselves, too. We are not just surrounded by capable, gifted, people. We are part of those capable, gifted, people.

Lent interrupts like a drought. Trust God in parched times. Trust one another. Trust yourself. Even in the driest of times, there is water to be found.

Christ's peace,
Gary N. McCluskey
Pastor



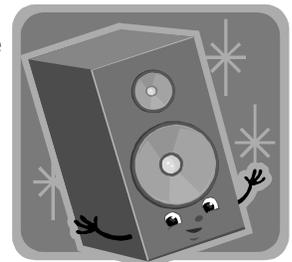
Key Into the Sianipar Sound System!

You'll recall that the Council approved responding to the request of our sister congregation in Indonesia, HKBP Sianipar, by soliciting donations with the goal of raising \$3,000 so they might enhance their worship experience.

The HKBP Sianipar congregation is located in north Sumatra at a considerable distance from the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta, where Esther Sianipar and her family live. Due to efforts of the German Rhenish Missionary Society, Lutheran congregations were formed beginning in 1861, of which our sister congregation is one. For Indonesia: Muslims: 76.5%; Christians: 13.1%.

We've also received a number of letters from pen pals, seeking to establish a more personal contact in spite of time, space and language obstacles. If you want to join the communication stream, get your letter to Ruth Wootten so it can be sent to Esther for translation and response.

The contribution you make in response to our sister congregation's request will have you humming, "Joyful, Joyful we adore you...." and many other hymns of praise. Make a note on your offering envelope of the amount you want to go to HKBP. You'll be glad you did!



Join us in Prayer during Lent

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Pastor Gary has challenged us to follow the tradition of giving something up for Lent this year. Can you give up an hour or two of your time once a week to join us for prayer and worship on Wednesdays?

Forty-nine people in our community recognize the value of having and being a prayer pal and have taken on that individual responsibility. But only three of us come together on Wednesday evenings to pray as a group. We would love to have someone join us during Lent, even occasionally.

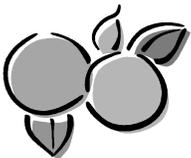
The prayer group continues to meet in the sanctuary from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, immediately before the Lenten service. We do not wish to be a threesome forever! There are many needs in our community, and we need your help. It is perfectly okay with us if you would like to come but do not wish to pray aloud. Please join us this month and give it a try.

Kim Savage

CITRUS GLEANING OPPORTUNITIES

Again this year, we'll have a large bin on the west side of the church into which citrus can be placed (yes, even dumped) from February 24 through March 18.

For those of our members and friends who are not able to pick their own and bring the fruit to church, volunteers will come and pick for you, bringing the fruit to the bin. The sign-up sheet for volunteers and for the tree=owners are on the kiosk.



March 3--Saturday--at 8 a.m. (ooohhh...) we'll gather in the church parking lot to set forth to our designated trees. Aside from bringing your own water and wearing working clothes (flip-flops are probably best left home), you need bring nothing to the venture except your energy and enthusiasm.

The bin will be emptied each Monday by United Food Bank, the Mesa-based facility who, as last year, uses the fruit to add to the thousands of pounds of food they distribute to pantries and distribution centers in the East Valley and eastern Arizona for low-income folks needing some help in putting food on their own tables.

WANNA BE UP TO DATE IN WASHINGTON?

Have you ever wondered what justice issues in congress and the world haven't made the headlines? One way to keep informed is to sign up for the ELCA advocacy network. Among other things, for example, you'll know that Senator Kyl was one of three Senators who voted against the Minimum Wage bill in early February. (Then you'll want to ask him why, in spite of your letter urging support, he didn't listen to you!) And you'll get information about issues such as what Bishop Hanson is saying about the importance of peace in the Mideast, and how the farm bill is progressing.

If you don't have the webpage for the church--www.elca.org--among your favorites, log on now and browse through its wealth of information, and type in "Advocacy" and you'll have the page for signing on to ELCA E-Advocacy news. You'll be glad you did!





Campus Ministry News

Hello all!

It has been a while since I've included something in the newsletter, so consider this a special occasion! I have two exciting opportunities to tell you about.

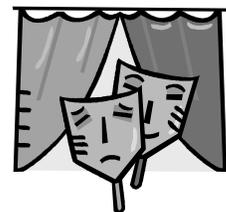


Mexico Mission Trip Slideshow March 4th

On March 4th, join me after worship for an informational presentation about an opportunity to go to Tijuana, Mexico this summer to build houses. Having gone for the past three years, I look forward to taking a group from LCM on what can be a life-changing journey. The trip isn't scheduled until July 16th through the 21st, but I will take reservations during the month of March as everyone will have to have a passport to be able to go. I am hoping to take 10-15 people total from ULC, and that includes the possibility for a few adults who want to make the trip. Please come on March 4th whether you are interested in going or just curious about what this is. I will answer your questions and show you some pictures from past trips.

"What Really Matters" Dinner Theatre April 13th-15th

What is this Dinner Theatre everyone has been talking about? The play, "What Really Matters" is an original piece (starring University Lutheran's very own students) and it's about college students who find out that they have 10 days left to live. Throughout the play each character deals with the news in different ways, but everyone is decidedly in it together. A heart-warming comedy, you'll experience what it means to narrow your focus to the immediate future, and discover what really matters. This play will have a three night run, starting Friday the 13th of April, and running April 14th, and 15th as well. Dinner is at 6pm, and the entertainment starts at 7. Tickets will be \$16 for adults and \$8 for kids. Considering modern-day prices, it's cheaper than dinner and a movie, and I guarantee more fun. Tickets will go on sale March 17th. Contact me if you're excited!



Thank you to everyone who supports campus ministry here at ULC. I have felt so blessed to be part of this church, and your continuing support allows us to do these marvelous things.

Drop me a line anytime @ LCMDAN@aol.com.

God's love,

Daniel Pugh



Congratulations

- Astrid, Ingrid and Brigid Wilson. After completing instruction with Pastor Gary, they received their First Holy Communion during Sunday worship in January.
- Aaron VanderYacht who will be confirmed in worship, Sunday, March 11 after completing instruction with Pastor Gary. Aaron is a Junior at Arizona State University.



From the Pagel Family

Can we go home yet? Kayla constantly asks. I admit I too have been asking that since we left. And finally it is time. Not yet but almost. If the synod can find an internship site for me, we could be back in Arizona as soon as June 1, 2007. Columbia, SC. and Southern Seminary have been good to us, but I want to come home.

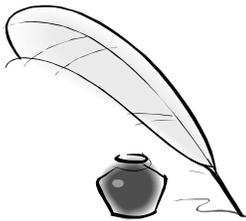
At the conclusion of this school year I will have fulfilled all of my academic obligations including an amazing cross cultural experience. With your help Larry and I went on a mission trip to Honduras. It was amazing. Before we left many people predicted it would be a life altering experience and it was. We are so thankful to be privileged North Americans. It is really cool that Larry was able to participate on the team. I like being able to talk about the experience with him. Larry says, "The trip was definitely worth going on, anybody who thinks they are poor here should go on a trip like this to see what poor really is."

The trip combined the building of a house and running a medical clinic for the villagers. There were a total of 12 people on the trip; nine students, two spouses, one professor. The success of the trip was due to our project coordinator Gloria Wheeler with Heifer Project. She is a native to Honduras and knows where the real needs lie. She is quite familiar with system. For instance when we were stopped by the "Transportation Authority" who carried hand guns, Gloria quickly and firmly let them know that they had no right to stop our travel bus full of tourists. As soon as we pulled away and started breathing normally, Gloria advised us that they were hoping for a financial tip. That was our only direct run-in with the "law".

In many ways the trip was like a vacation. We never felt at risk or insecure. Personally I can tell you I have seen enough poop to last a life time but that is probably more information than you all need to have. Germ X is my friend and I am very grateful for indoor plumbing. There were just a couple of cases of Montezuma's Revenge, one (1) case of scabies, and I came back with a minor bacteria eye infection. Larry received bruised ribs from a friendly game of basketball. Since he was the tallest person on the court he probably deserved all that he got. The guy that ran into him still apologizes when we see him on campus. We really feel like we were able to have an authentic experience. We got a taste of the full flavor of Honduras. We ate very well with the food cooked by our host family. We played very hard with the children, and our hearts ached much for pain and suffering we witnessed in the clinics. The biggest jolt for me came in the full recognition that the many moms that I saw and met love their children just as much as I love mine. Also the children want the same things that my girls want. They want unconditional love and comfort. Overall, the people in Honduras are not much different than we are in North America. The people in Honduras are beautiful, caring, and smart who were born in Central America instead of North America.

Our trip concluded with a stop in Copan to see the Mayan ruins, where we were amazed by the realization that these were once great people in a great civilization. Larry sums up the trip by saying, "the contrast in the beauty of the Honduran country side to the material poverty of her people is startling. The sincerity of the people to care for one another is overwhelming, and their lack of resentment for us is surprising." The Hondurans in the various villages that we visited seemed honestly happy to have us and willing to share all that they had. They asked that God bless us so that we can continue to help them help themselves. We received much more than we gave.

It was mostly an easy trip. Outside of the overwhelming poverty, the hardest part was being away from Kayla, Krystyna, and Larysa with no way to contact them. Of course they did fine. As Mary, Jacqui's mom said, "They barely missed you." She also greeted us at the airport by saying, "I'm GLAD you're home". It is challenging for Larry and I to keep our house running smoothly with the two of us, so surely Mary had more fun than she bargained for. We could not have done this trip with out her help. Larry and I came back very thankful for the wonderful life we have with all of the great people who help make life good. Thank you.



HUNGER, RURAL AMERICA AND THE U.S. FARM BILL

April 29 is the date set for the Offering of Letters at University Lutheran, that annual event in which we join in one of Bread for the World's effort to help end hunger in God's World. You'll be getting samples of letters you can send and the names of your Senators and Representative so you can add your voice to many others seeking to help strengthen rural communities, better support farmers, improve the Food Stamp Program and provide increased opportunities for farmer in other countries to earn a living from agriculture.

Sound like a big order? You bet! That's why we urge you to read up on this issue, since Congress will be working this spring to renew this legislation. The term "farm bill" does not really do justice to this very complex legislation. Bread for the World is providing information and suggestions for improving the farm bill so that U. S. farmers receive better and broader support, rural communities are strengthened, hungry people in this country are helped, and farmers in developing countries are supported in their efforts to sell their crops and support their families.

We think our country can do a better job of managing the resources allocated in the farm bill, so our letters will be letting our congressional people know of our support in specific areas. And sharpen your pencils for April 29!

Annual Reports

If you would like a copy of the Annual Reports for 2006 they are available on the desk at the church entrance. Reports from staff and committees are included as is the budget for 2007 that was adopted at the Annual Meeting.

Religion in Conflict Series

Amina Wadud will present "Islamic Ethics and Gender: Towards an ethics of Compassion" as part of ASU's Religion and Conflict series Thursday, March 8 at 7:30pm in the ASU Law College Great Hall. Tickets are free and required for entry. You can get tickets by calling 480.727.6736 or from the following website: www.asu.edu/csdc. Wadud has written two well-known books, "Inside the Gender Jihad", and "Qur'an and Woman". She is Professor of Islamic Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and Visiting Scholar of Islamic Studies at the Starr King School for Ministry. Coming April 17 at 7:30pm, Dr. John Tooby in the Carson Ballroom of Old Main. Dr. Tooby will speak on genetics and human research.

A Special Thank You. . .

- To Gerry Kleinfeld and Eric Nash for all their work arranging the visit from our Sister Congregation in Freiberg, Germany. To the families who hosted the Freiberg visitors: the Beckers, Gerry Kleinfeld & the McCluskeys.
- To Dan Beeks for auditing the church financial records.

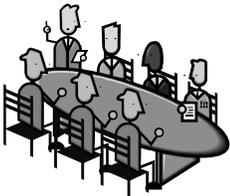


Notes from the Church Council

The annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 28. Elected by acclamation to Council for three-year terms were Mary Ann Salz and Ellie Strang. The 2007 Budget was approved unanimously.

On February 11, the Council met to elect officers for the new year. Re-elected as President was Jeanne Sims. Elected Vice-President was Eric Nash (Note: Eric was appointed by Council in December to fulfill the term of Matt Mills which ends in 2008). Mary Ann Salz was elected Secretary. Serving as Treasurer is Elsie Szecsy. Action Team Liaisons will be determined at a later date.

An audit of the 2006 financial records was completed and is on file. Many thanks to the audit committee for their work - Dan Beeks, Terry Pochert, and Elsie Szecsy.



A team from LCM will be here in March for the quadrennial review of Lutheran Campus Ministry at ASU. The Campus Ministry Board proposed the following vision for LCM at ASU: Exploring, Deepening, Celebrating, and Connecting Faith in Christ. This was discussed by Council and forwarded with an affirmative recommendation to the Fundraising Team (led by Mary Kuntzman) to guide its work. The students are actively preparing for a dinner theatre production as a new fundraiser this spring.

Reports from Action Teams included: Parish Life is planning for the Anniversary Potluck (with entertainment) on February 25 and continuing the tradition of Easter Brunch between the Sunrise Service and the 10:30am Worship Service; Social Ministry has arranged for a bin from the United Food Bank to collect citrus donations and is organizing volunteers to glean fruit from the trees of members' and friends' of ULC.

We will welcome the arrival of four friends from our sister church in Freiburg, Germany on February 16. A reception will be held following worship on February 18. They will also be our special guests at the Anniversary Potluck.

The Council expresses its gratitude for the excellent service of Beth Wootten, Jessie Havig, and Matt Mills and welcomes Mary Ann, Ellie, and Eric to the table. Continuing Council members are: Pastor Gary, Ron Hill, Marilyn Brown, Aaron Vander Yacht, Deb Hull, Elsie Szecsy, Jeanne Sims, and Jon Loomis. Please feel free to contact any Council member to ask questions, express concerns, offer suggestions, and give encouragement.

--Deb Hull
2006 Council Secretary



Condolences

To the family of Ralph Fleck, brother of Larry Fleck. Ralph died in February in Denver, CO.
To Darren Gest on the death of his grandfather, Dale Halberg, who died in Ohio in January.
To Gloria Peterson and Mary Peterson on the death of Glen Peterson. Glen was the last surviving brother of former ULC pastor John Peterson, the brother-in-law of Gloria and the uncle of Mary. Glen died in North Carolina Saturday, February 3rd.

FYI to Reconciling in Christ Congregations

The text below comes from Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), with whom we partner as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. It is in regard to the trial of Pastor Bradley Schmeling, a gay pastor in a committed relationship in the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA. A news release concerning this case can be viewed at www.elca.org/news/releases.

In a decision made public today, the hearing committee in the disciplinary action against Pastor Bradley Schmeling overwhelmingly affirmed the ministry of Pastor Schmeling and challenged the validity of the policy precluding pastors in same-gender relationships saying it is "at least bad policy, and very well may violate the constitution and bylaws of this church." The hearing committee called for the removal of the policy giving two pathways to do so: through the judicial process of the committee on appeals or through the legislative process of the churchwide assembly. Consequently, the hearing committee delayed the effective date of a decision to remove Pastor Schmeling until after the next ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Emily Eastwood, Executive Director of Lutherans Concerned/North America, said "This decision is courageous and unprecedented in the history of the ELCA. For an official judicial body of the church to call for removal of the discriminatory policy marks a tremendous shift in the ongoing struggle for equality. Pastor Schmeling and St. John's presented a compelling case. Peter met Cornelius and the Holy Spirit became the wind of change. The hearing committee of elected and faithful Lutherans heard the witness and acted accordingly within its purview. While seven of the committee members felt that they did not have the authority to set new policy, the group was nearly unanimous in calling for swift and complete removal of the old. The decision has taken the case of one fine pastor in the deep south to the national stage. Unintended advocates, Pastor Schmeling and St. John's now stand squarely at the center of the ongoing conversation. LC/NA continues to accompany and support them in this process."

As a result of this decision, two tracks of action will proceed immediately. Pastor Schmeling has 30 days to decide to submit an appeal. Within 24 hours LC/NA and its collaborative partners under the banner of goodsoil.org will release the legislative package requested by the hearing committee in its decision. LC/NA calls on its members and RIC churches to answer the call of the hearing committee and bring the recommended motions to their conference and synodical assemblies. Organizing for the ELCA Churchwide Convention, August 6-12, 2007 at Navy Pier in Chicago, is already underway.

The full text of the decision of the Hearing Committee can be found on St. John's website, www.stjohnsatlanta.org

New Hymnal

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (that's us!) has come out with a new hymnal replacing the green Lutheran Book of Worship that made its debut in 1978 (following the red Service Book and Hymnal, debuting 1958). Worship and Music has decided not to buy 150 copies of the hymnal. Instead we have purchased the CD Rom (computer) version of the hymnal to print each week. Yearly we will have to pay a copyright fee to use this disc. However, if you would like to look at one of the hymnals, we have 7 of them here. Talk to Aiko or Pastor Gary. If you would like to purchase one, go to www.augsburgfortress.org and order it on line or call 1-800.328.4648.

This new hymnal has 10 liturgies for Sunday worship. Hymns, for the most part, are a compilation of the Lutheran Book of Worship and the blue With One Voice paperback hymnal as well as the recent paperback Renewing Worship Songbook. During Epiphany we have used the first setting from the new cranberry colored hymnal, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).





University Lutheran Church intends to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all of God's people, regardless of race, situation, family status, sexuality, size, shape and place in the world. ULC is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation registered with Lutherans Concerned/North America. Thanks be to God for the blessings we have and the differences we share!

Newsletter News

Don't forget to get your newsletter articles to news@ulctempe.org by the 15th of each month. If you have not received a confirmation from the editor by the 17th of the month, please call Jeanne at 480-203-8847 to ensure she has received it.



Web site

Have you checked our web site lately? All kinds of current news is on it. Pictures, info, etc. Check it out! www.ulctempe.org



March Birthdays

- 3/2 Katie Meyer
- 3/2 Sarah Stone
- 3/3 Kayla Pagel
- 3/5 Trey Wilcher
- 3/6 Andrea Clark
- 3/7 Krystyna Pagel
- 3/8 Shirley Peterson
- 3/8 Carl Mangold
- 3/9 Callie Martin
- 3/9 John Mogk
- 3/10 Randy McCluskey
- 3/11 Eric Aiken
- 3/11 Kylee Peterson-Johnson
- 3/17 Lynn Becker
- 3/19 Josh Niska
- 3/21 Samantha Vancel
- 3/24 Luke Johnson
- 3/26 Brian Becker
- 3/27 Rona Johnson

Sunday Bulletins



Yes, we do recycle them. However, we would think it even better stewardship if you take them home and use them for the information included in them. After that, we hope you recycle them. From years past when we used service booklets that we reused from Sunday to Sunday and year to year we were in the habit of returning those booklets to the desk at the church entrance. Creatures of habit, we continue to do so as though the church has need of our bulletins. Why not take yours home, check out the info in the back, and then recycle them? Thanks!!

Volunteers Needed!

Don't forget to sign up for service opportunities on the moving kiosk. Opportunities to serve meals, serve as ushers, communion assistants and

Happy anniversary wishes to

Bob Foley and Carolyn Johannsen-Foley 3 years on March 7th
 John and Margaret Mogk 7 years on March 11th
 John and Muriel Cronin 44 years on March

Directory

A Directory for 2007 is on the desk at the church entrance. It has the names/addresses/e-mails and phone numbers for members and the names/phone numbers/e-mails for students. They have a blue cover. Pick yours up this Sunday! (Also, we are aware that numbers/e-mails change frequently. Please update yours whenever they change. Thanks!!)

