

# APOSTLES EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter April 2009  
of Apostles Lutheran Church, ELCA

*The Mission of Apostles Lutheran Church  
is to be and make Disciples for Christ.*

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Deadline for the May Epistle is  
April 13th.

## *Holy Week Worship Schedule*

### *Sunday, April 5th Palm Sunday*

*Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion @ 8:15 & 11:15 AM*

*Contemporary Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 9:45 AM*

### *Thursday, April 9th - Maundy Thursday*

*Worship Service @ 7:30 PM*

### *Friday, April 10th - Good Friday*

*Worship Service @ 7:30 PM*

*Presenting the Drama "The Last Words"*

### *Saturday, April 11th - Vigil of Easter*

*Worship Service @ 6:00 PM*

*First Communion will be celebrated at this service.*

### *Sunday, April 12th - Easter Sunday*

#### *The Resurrection of Our Lord*

*Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion @ 8:15 & 11:15 AM*

*Contemporary Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 9:45 AM*

*Easter Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 AM - Noon*



## Pastor's Easter Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter is the season of resurrection and life. During these 50 days, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life we have in him. As we look at the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus one thing is abundantly clear, the risen Christ changes the lives of the people he encounters. That fact is not only recorded in scripture, it is recounted in the lives of faithful disciples throughout the ages.

With that in mind, the theme of the sermons during the Easter season will be *Life After Easter*. During the seven Sundays of Easter, we will look at how the resurrection calls us to live as the people of God. The sermon titles with synopses for each Sunday are:

April 12, 2009

### *Not the End But the Beginning of the Story*

As the disciples are invited to meet Jesus in Galilee, so are you and I. If we are looking to find the risen Jesus in this church on Easter morning, we may be looking in the wrong place. The risen Christ is never tied down to a specific place; he is always out there ahead of us waiting to meet us out in the world.

April 19, 2009

### *When in Doubt*

As we hear the story of Thomas and his doubt, there are two important lessons we can learn:

It is OK to have doubts as we struggle with our faith in the risen Christ.

The risen Jesus is present and makes himself known within the community of faith.

April 26, 2009

### *No Ghost Stories Told Here*

I suppose it is not surprising that the disciples react with fear when they first see the resurrected Jesus. We would probably react the same way if a friend who had died were to come into the room and stand before us. We likely would be terrified to hear the voice of our friend saying, *Hi there! How ya doin?* The disciples believe they are seeing a ghost. Sensing their doubts, Jesus takes some broiled fish and eats it right before their eyes. It is only then that their eyes are opened; it is only as Jesus eats the fish that they begin to believe and understand that Jesus is alive.

May 3, 2009

### *More Than a Quaint Little Story*

Whenever we hear Jesus described as the Good Shepherd, gentle pastoral images come to mind. We imagine a lush green meadow with sheep peacefully grazing under the watchful eye of a loving shepherd. But the narrative in John's gospel is far more than a quaint little story. It is a far more disturbing picture than the peaceful little idyllic scene that we conjure up in our minds. It is a scene filled with the profound proclamation of what Christ does to protect and defend his sheep.

May 10, 2009

*Bear Fruit or Get the Boot*

What good is an orange tree that bears no oranges? What good is a vine that bears no grapes? That's the imagery Jesus is putting before us when he says, *I am the vine and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.* Kind of scary, isn't it! As we look at our lives, are we bearing fruit, or are we in danger of being lopped off the vine?

May 17, 2009

*What Wondrous Love*

As we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he models and mentors us in selfless love. Jesus willingly bears the suffering of the cross that we might have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. As Jesus models this love for us, he invites us to live in this love.

May 24, 2009

*The Twelfth Man*

In college football, there is a tradition at Texas A&M University called *The Twelfth Man*. The tradition was born in January 1922, when an underdog Texas A&M team was playing Centre College, which was the nation's top ranked team. As the hard fought game wore on, the ranks of Texas A&M were becoming depleted. King Gill, a former football player, was called out of the stands, suited up, and stood ready throughout the rest of the game, which Texas A&M finally won 22-14. Although Gill did not play in the game, he accepted the call to help his team. In the reading from Acts, we see a bit of that *Twelfth Man* tradition among the disciples. When it becomes apparent to them that there is more work to be done than they can possibly do, they seek the consent of the church to choose a replacement for Judas. When the lot is cast, Matthias is chosen to be the *Twelfth Man*. Matthias accepts the calling and picks up the load helping the disciples carry out the work of the kingdom they have been called to do.

May you enter into the joy of the resurrection and experience the transforming power of the risen Christ in your life as you encounter him at worship in the community of the faithful.

Peace and Joy,

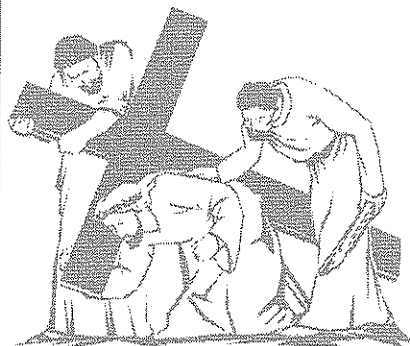
Pastor V

**Apostles Village Service of Dedication**

The service of dedication for Apostles Village will be held Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

A number of local, state and national officials have been invited. Thus far, The Rev. Edward R. Benoway, Bishop of the Florida Bahamas Synod, and County Commissioner Al Higginbotham, have accepted and will join us for the service of dedication. As others dignitaries accept their invitations, we will make that known.

### Worship Matters



### HOLY WEEK

Holy week is that special time in the Church Year where we focus our undivided attention on the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Beginning with Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the great Triduum, the great Three Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday—everything points us to the cross. This focus on the cross prepares us for the outburst of joy that follows on Easter morning.

The worship schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

April 5 <sup>th</sup> 8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 AM	Palm Sunday	<b><i>Tableaus of the Passion</i></b>
	Tableau 1 Tableau 2 Tableau 3 Tableau 4	<i>The Triumphal Entry</i> <i>The Fig Tree</i> <i>Jesus Cleanses the Temple</i> <i>The First Commandment</i>
April 9 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday	<b><i>The Feast of Redemption</i></b>
	The Upper Room, The New Commandment and The Lord's Supper	
April 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM	Good Friday	<b><i>Life Changing Love</i></b>
	The crucifixion of our Lord Monologues of people around the cross	
April 11 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM	Holy Saturday	<b><i>The Great Vigil of Easter</i></b>
	We anticipate the dawn of a New Day with Baptism and First Communion	
April 12 <sup>th</sup> 8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 AM	Easter	<b><i>Not the End But the Beginning of the Story</i></b>



**FLORIDA  
BLOOD  
SERVICES**

# Give The Gift Of Life.

As students and their families prepare to enjoy time off for spring break and the Easter weekend approaches, we are reminded that the need for blood **does not** take a holiday. The seasonal increase in our population has put a strain on our community's blood supply. At the same time, many donors have been ill with colds and flu preventing them from giving.

If you are healthy, age 16 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds, please share your "Gift of Life". There will be a Blood Drive here at Apostles on Palm Sunday, April 5th from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Florida Blood Services Mobile Unit will be out in the parking lot. Please plan now to donate on that day.

**Remember: When you give blood you change lives - starting with your own.**

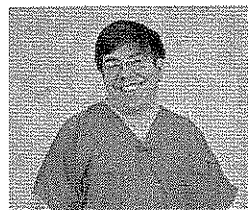
### To my Apostles Family:

Thank you for sending the monthly Epistle and other information from the church. I enjoy reading it and keeping up with what is going on at church since I can't be a part of it. Many thanks to Pastor V and SueAnn for their many calls and concern on my behalf.

Betty Vanderkarr

We would like you to meet Shriners Hospital Volunteer of the Month for February.

Why? He is Apostles very own David Hernandez!



As a child, David was treated for Cerebral Palsy at Shriners Hospital for Children. As an adult he wanted to give back to Shriners. David volunteered in the Orthotics and Prosthetics department. This department provides braces and other devices that are needed to help children reach their full potential.

Now David is accepting new challenges; he is working in Registration and Scheduling as well as Security. David was recognized for his contributions by being named **Volunteer of the Year for 2008**. David is not only a volunteer, he is an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations, David!

**On Easter Sunday, A-Men will provide a delicious breakfast in Theisz Hall from 8:00 AM - Noon.**



There will be pancakes & French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, coffee, pastries and more. The free-will offering will go to help our Apostles' Angels Relay for Life Team raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

So come to Worship, enjoy a yummy breakfast and help support cancer research. What better way for us to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord.

**He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

**On Sunday, March 15th we welcomed the following people into our Apostles family:**



David & Lori Forkey and their son, Christopher

Nancy Goodwin

Bob & Liz Ledoux

Welcome Our New Members Cindy & Corey Levin. Their children, Tristan & Abigail were received as members at their baptisms

Sergio & Lisa Vera and their children, Christian & Noah



# WOMEN OF THE ELCA



## WELCA at a glance

**April 3rd**                      **1st Friday Circle**  
 Devotions & Sewing for Project Linus, 7:00 PM in  
 Theisz Hall

**April 9th**                      **Rebecca's Circle**      Theisz  
 Hall @ 1:30 PM

**April 18th**                    **Spring Gathering**  
 Apostles Lutheran Women are **Responsible for**  
**BREAKFAST**

**April 28th**                    **Esther Circle**  
 In the Garden Room at 10:00 AM

**May 1st**                        **1st Friday Circle**  
 Devotions & Sewing, 7:00 PM in Theisz Hall

**May 7th Church Women United Friendship Day**  
 Take the time to call a friend you haven't been in touch  
 with lately.

**May 14th**                      **Rebecca's Circle**  
 Theisz Hall @ 1:30 PM

**May 23rd**                      **Church Women United**  
 Scholarship presentation at Hope Cumberland Presby-  
 terian Church  
 825 S Miller Rd, Valrico @ 10:00 AM

**Nov 13-15**      **Lake Yale—Women's Retreat**

## Which Circle fits your Schedule?

**Esther Circle** - Meets the 4th Tuesday, 10:30 AM in  
 the Garden Room.

They are currently each bringing in a devotional to  
 share with the group.

**1st Friday Circle** - Meets the 1st Friday of the  
 Month at 7:00 PM in Theisz Hall.

This group has devotions and sews the evening  
 away.

**Rebecca Circle** - Meets the 2nd Thursday of each  
 month @ 1: 30 PM in Theisz Hall.

This group begins with devotions then sews the  
 afternoon away.

**Mark your CALENDARS for all  
 the upcoming Events!**



## \$ SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE \$

The local chapter of Church Women United has  
 a scholarship available. This scholarship is for  
 young women who are high school seniors.  
 (Apostles' WELCA is affiliated with this unit of  
 Church Women United). Please call the Church  
 office @ 689-2571 or Brenda Doggett for  
 additional information. Postmark deadline is  
 April 19, 2009.



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA



### *Spring Gathering*

*Saturday, April 18th*

*Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters" from Amos 5:24a*

This wonderful program is right around the corner. Please take a moment to consider joining us for a day of connecting with other women in the Tampa Bay Area. Experience a day filled with Bible Study, NEWS of what the Women of the ELCA are working on throughout the US and around the world, fellowship & Lunch.

#### Things Happening at the Spring Gathering:

1. **Spaghetti Sauce Challenge:** At the 2008 Spring Gathering, it was voted to continue with this special offering. This is a wonderful cause and we look forward to continuing with this ministry. We were able to collect \$1,463 last year and received special recognition at the Fall Gathering in Lake Yale. This offering is our gift of love and our investment in future seminary students in the form of a scholarship by the WELCA, Florida Bahamas Synod. Please make your checks payable to SWO - Florida Bahamas Synod. **One Dollar, JUST \$1.00** a month for a year (per person) will go a long way to help our future church leaders.

2. **2010 Spring Gathering:** We will be looking for a home for the 2010 Spring Gathering.

3. **Election of Conference Officers:** It is time for Election. (Brenda Doggett has served 4 1/2 years as our conference president). We will need to elect a President and Secretary. Please take a moment for prayer and reflection to see if you are called to serve in this way.

4. **Charity:** The Women at Calvary Lutheran Church have selected the Southeast Guide Dog Assoc. as their charity. They will be collecting any monetary donation you would like to give.

The women from Apostles who attended last year voted to bring a **HOT Breakfast** again. We will be looking for volunteers for breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice and breads.

Location: Calvary Lutheran Church, Ruskin, Florida

8:30 AM—Breakfast is served

\$7 per person

*(carpooling will be available)*



**A BIG THANK YOU.** . . . to all those who helped make sewing for Project Linus, on Saturday, March 14th, a success. We had a total of 16 people (some from other ELCA churches in the Tampa Bay Area) who came together for this wonderful day. We were able to complete (or almost complete) 5 quilts. These quilts will be on display in the Narthex for viewing sometime this month. Watch "Inviting All" for the dates.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<p>29</p> <p><b>(3) WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15, 9:45 &amp; 11:15</b></p> <p>Confirmation Class - (NT) 8:30am-9:30am or 9:45am-10:45am</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday's A-Live - (Sunday School)</p> <p>12:30 PM No-Fig Big Byte Rehearsal (HR)</p> <p>1:00 PM 1st Communion Class (NT &amp; HR) 1-3 PM</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Book of Faith Lenten Study (HR)</p> <p>7:00 PM O.A. 7:00pm - (GR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 110 Cub Scouts (TH)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR)</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM M.O.W.</p> <p>7:30 PM BSA Troop 110 (TH)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM Am. S</p> <p>9:30 AM Hal</p> <p>12:00 PM Bo</p> <p>6:00 PM Bras</p> <p>6:30 PM Stej</p> <p>7:30 PM Leni</p> <p>8:00 PM Glor</p> <p>8:00 PM Icht</p>
<p>5</p> <p><b>(3) WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15, 9:45 &amp; 11:15</b></p> <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Blood Drive (Mobile Unit)</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday's A-Live (TH) 9-10 AM</p> <p>6:00 PM Women's Night Out</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Book of Faith Lenten Study (HR)</p> <p>7:00 PM O.A. 7:00pm - (GR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 110 Cub Scouts (TH)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR)</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM M.O.W.</p> <p>7:30 PM BSA Troop 110 (TH)</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>HOLY WEEK - DO NOT BOO!</b></p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:30 AM Hallel</p> <p>12:00 PM Boc</p> <p>8:00 PM Icht</p>
<p>12</p> <p><b>(3) WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15, 9:45 &amp; 11:15</b></p> <p><b>THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD</b></p> <p>Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast - (TH)</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>Easter Monday - Office Closed</b></p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM O.A. 7:00pm - (GR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 110 Cub Scouts (TH)</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spiritual Growth (HR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR)</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM M.O.W.</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting (HR)</p> <p>7:30 PM BSA Troop 110 (TH)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:30 AM Hallel</p> <p>6:00 PM Bras</p> <p>6:30 PM Conf</p> <p>6:30 PM F.I.G</p> <p>6:30 PM Scra</p> <p>6:30 PM Seni</p> <p>6:30 PM Step</p> <p>7:00 PM Goo</p> <p>8:00 PM Icht</p>
<p>19</p> <p><b>(3) WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15, 9:45 &amp; 11:15</b></p> <p>Confirmation Class - (NT) 8:30am-9:30am or 9:45am-10:45am</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday's A-Live - (Sunday School)</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM O.A. 7:00pm - (GR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 110 Cub Scouts (TH)</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship Planning Mtg. (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spiritual Growth (HR)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR)</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM LifeLink Interviews (HR &amp; GR) 9-5PM</p> <p>9:00 AM M.O.W.</p> <p>6:00 PM J.A.K.E. 6-7:00 PM (SR)</p> <p>7:30 PM BSA Troop 110 (TH)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM Lifel</p> <p>9:30 AM Hallel</p> <p>6:00 PM Bras</p> <p>6:30 PM Conf</p> <p>6:30 PM F.I.G</p> <p>6:30 PM Scra</p> <p>6:30 PM Senic</p> <p>7:00 PM Good</p> <p>8:00 PM Icht</p>
<p>26</p> <p><b>(3) WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15, 9:45 &amp; 11:15</b></p> <p>Confirmation Class - (NT) 8:30am-9:30am or 9:45am-10:45am</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday's A-Live - (Sunday School)</p> <p>11:15 AM Youth Gathering Devotions (GR)</p> <p>8:00 PM A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>7:00 PM O.A. 7:00pm - (GR)</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 110 Cub Scouts (TH)</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spiritual Growth (HR)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR)</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM M.O.W.</p> <p>10:00 AM Esther Circle - fellowship &amp; Bible Study (GR)</p> <p>7:30 PM BSA Troop 110 (TH)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 AM A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR)</p> <p>9:00 AM Hallel</p> <p>1PM</p> <p>6:00 PM Bras</p> <p>6:30 PM Confi</p> <p>6:30 PM F.I.G</p> <p>6:30 PM Scra</p> <p>6:30 PM Senic</p> <p>7:00 PM Good</p> <p>8:00 PM Icht</p>



**Pinochle at the Hamel 's**

We will play cards Saturday, April 4th beginning at 6:30 PM. This evening is for those who enjoy good food, friends, and playing cards. Hope to see you at the Hamel 's on the 4th. If you need directions, call the church office @ 813-689-2571.

**What are you doing Thursday, April , 2nd?**



Pastor's  
Lunch

How about joining Pastor V for lunch at 11:30 AM in Theisz Hall? There will be a light lunch, Pastor will update us about what is happening at Apostles and time for your questions. See you on April 2nd.



Keenagers will meet in Theisz Hall Thurs., April 16th at 11:45 AM for a luncheon to praise the arrival of Spring!

Bring a side dish that celebrates the renewal of creation and the return of our beautiful, warm weather.

(Don't forget to bring your own tableware.)

Keenagers is a group of men and women age 50 and over who meet the third Thursday of each month for socializing, potluck lunches, or going to local restaurants for lunch. You do not have to be a member of Apostles to attend. Some months is all fellowship, food and fun! (and a short business meeting). Other months there is entertainment for your enjoyment.



**Worship Planning**

The next Worship Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, April 20th at 7:00 PM in the Social Room.



The April church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM in the Harmony Room.

**Adult Bible Study Group**

Thursday mornings at 10:00 in N. Theisz  
Facilitator: SueAnn Collinge  
We invite all to come and join our current discussion of the Gospel of John.



**A-MEN**  
Breakfast &  
Bible Study

**Saturday, March 4th @ 8:00 AM**

The men of Apostles—A-Men—meet the first Saturday of each month in North Theisz at 8:00 AM for a breakfast meeting, Bible Study and prayer. All men 18 and over are invited to join us for good food, fellowship and just to get together for 'man talk.'. Hope to see more of you there. Feel free to bring a friend. . . and your appetite! Call or see Greg Prince or Howard McNair if you have any questions.



**Women's**  
**Night**  
**Out**

**Sunday, April 5th at 6:00 PM**  
**Women's Night Out**

This month we are going to Shrimp Boat Grill, 716 Lumsden Road, Brandon this month. Grab a friend and come to enjoy this evening out with the "girls"!

Call Debbie Nickeson if you would like to be added to the reservation count. (813) 684-8587



**Esther Circle**  
Fellowship &  
Bible Study

**Esther Circle meets April 28th @ 10 AM in the Garden Room. All women of Apostles (and their friends) are welcome! Bring your favorite devotional to share with the group.**

Hope to see you on the 28th.

**Apostles Angels Relay for Life News**



On Palm Sunday, Apostles' Angels & Apostles' Disciples (our Relay for Life Teams) will hold a Relay for Life Fundraiser from 8:00 AM to Noon. They will serve hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda. Come to church with a big appetite and support Apostles' relay team.

Then on April 12th, enjoy delicious Easter breakfast down in Theisz hall with your family. A freewill offering that benefit the American Cancer Society through Apostles' Angels.

Thank you for your support! He is Risen!

**Relay for Life**  
**Brandon High School**  
**April 24th and 25th.**

*Living Christ's Love*  
*We bear one another's burdens*



In these uncertain economic times none of us is immune to difficulties. That is where our Christian family is able to step up and live out their discipleship. That is what we, at Apostles, are doing through the ministry of Living Christ's Love. There is a food pantry available to those who worship as part of Apostles family.

If you are experiencing any hardships please call Linda Long at 335-9258, SueAnn Collinge or Liz Jimenez at 689-2571.



Apostles is currently supporting two Outreach community organizations; *ECHO and the Hunger Free Mission.*

Apostles has also started an "Inreach" program that meets the needs of members of Apostles worshiping family; *Living Christ's Love.* The basket for Living Christ's Love will be in the Worship Center each week.

Here is a little information so there is better understanding of the programs Apostles is supporting. This month's focus:

**Hunger Free Mission**  
7824 24th Avenue South  
Tampa, FL 33619  
813-465-0111

[hffc@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hffc@tampabay.rr.com)  
[WWW.Easttampacc.net](http://WWW.Easttampacc.net)

Their Mission Statement is to provide food, clothing and biblical counsel to all that want it; teaching them to put God first and to treat your neighbor like yourself.

They hold a "come as you are" Worship Service every Tuesday morning followed by a hot meal. Then families or individuals are given food, clothing and other necessities for the week.

This program primarily helps people that are homeless.

On Mondays and Thursdays the Mission supplies 5 temporary labor services each with 2 large boxes of food and spiritual tracts. These are distributed to people from low income families to help supplement their incomes.

The Mission is supported by food and clothing that is donated from area restaurants, caterers, convenience stores, food markets, individuals and churches.

**Next Month: ECHO**

Thank you for your continuing and faithful support of these wonderful and necessary programs.

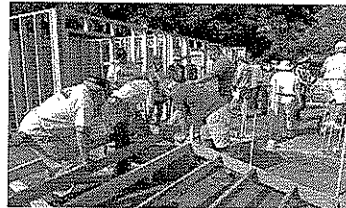


Apostles Preschool is still accepting registration for the 4 year old-VPK program. There are currently 3 openings available. (The 3 year old class is FULL) If you or someone you know is interested in a quality, Christian education for a little one, call Sandy Sornson at 813-689-2571.

**Apostles Little Angels Summer Camp is coming to Apostles this summer!**

Beginning this year, Apostles will offer a summer camp for children ages 3-8 years old. This program will include learning, arts & crafts, outdoor time and fun themes. The teachers for camp will be Miss Sandy and Miss Alicia. Watch in "Inviting All" and the May Epistle for more information concerning registration and fees!

**THRIVENT BUILDS with HABITAT for HUMANITY**



On March 21 we built on faith and a firm foundation! After a brief ceremony, all Lutheran volunteers from Apostles (including Don Desmarais and Jim Gray), Calvary, Christ Our Redeemer, Grace and Our Savior, joined the Habitat staff and volunteer crew leaders to raise the walls, nail on wall sheathing boards, and put up the roof trusses.

The new homeowner worked alongside us that day! She had put in many hours helping build other Habitat homes. Each homeowner must serve 500 hours of "sweat equity" to qualify. They need good credit, a minimum income, and a definite need for safe housing. Habitat selects families and offers them financial counseling and homeowner classes.

Lutheran Churches in Hillsborough County will contribute 10% of the cost of the home and lot, which is \$17,500 this year! We have \$3000 in Thrivent's Bank from the 2007 build and \$6000 in pledges so far. Please talk to our church's Habitat "Champions", Don Desmarais or Jim Gray to find out how to help us reach our funding goal. Please pray for us as we make plans and schedules, carpool to the build site, work in the Florida sunshine, eat a hearty lunch, and give thanks at the end of a long workday.

**Apostles Build Days are April 18th & May 16th.**

See or call Don Desmarais or Jim Gray if you would like to be part of this wonderful community outreach.

**Youth, Young Adult & Drama Ministries**

Michele Van Epps, Coordinator

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/SENIOR HIGH**

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING, 2009**

The youth who are attending the National Gathering in New Orleans are very busy preparing for their trip in July. Our youth attending are:

Azia Hill, Paige Ward, Kimi Bredbenner, Michael Whitehead, Maggie Gundlach, Eykka Gundlach, Allison Alford and Megan Berg.

Each month these kids hold a devotional meeting to prepare their hearts for this trip. In an effort to raise funds, the group will again be selling Apostles shirts after Easter and will hold a Mardi Gras Dinner and Silent Auction.

Keep these youth in your prayers and support their fundraisers so they can receive all that God has for them in this wonderful experience.



**LOMF VOLLEYBALL MARATHON**



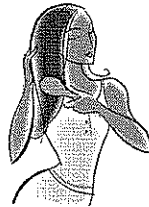
**Volleyball Marathon**

The Volleyball Marathon is coming up on April 3-4<sup>th</sup> at St Matthews in Tampa. The marathon takes place from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am! The money that is raised goes to support Luther Springs Retreat Center. Apostles has won this marathon in years past and hopefully we will regain the championship this year!!

**RIVER RAT RAMBLE RAP-UP**

We had 22 participants attend this year's River Rat Ramble, which is sponsored by LOMF. They enjoyed a day of canoeing down the Little Manatee, along with a BBQ lunch and some great fellowship! This year the weather was beautiful—sunny and warm!

**SPA NIGHT FOR SENIOR HIGH GIRLS**



This will be a fun night of learning about skin & hair care, make-up, plus facials and nails, etc. You get the picture! Coming in June!! Watch for more details!

**Drama Ministry**



**"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."**  
LUKE 23:34, KJV

**"THE LAST WORDS" GOOD FRIDAY DRAMA**

Please join us on Good Friday as our Drama Ministry performs the Tenebrae drama "The Last Words." This drama is based on the seven last words of Jesus and consists of seven monologues from people who were touched in some way by Jesus, during his ministry. The Gloria Dei choir will perform musical selections between each monologue.

**Come see this powerful drama on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.**



**MARDI GRAS DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION**  
Saturday, May 9th!  
Theisz Hall

This event is a fundraiser for the all youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July. The dinner will feature authentic food from the New Orleans area, a silent auction plus a whole lot more.

Keep watching for more information!!

**APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> IS EARTH DAY!**



Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. This day is celebrated worldwide and helps us to remember that we are responsible for the care of the earth. What are you doing to conserve our natural resources? Do you recycle? What else could you do to clean up our planet? To reduce global warming?

**LENTEN TABLEAUS!**

Have you experienced our Lenten Tableaus this year? The Lenten services are held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. We have many congregation members who have participated this year and have acted out the scripture as it is being read. This helps the scripture "come alive" as it is being read. The Gloria Dei choir and Ichthus are also a part of this service. Please join us!

## Children, Family & Education Ministries

Kit O'Rourke, Coordinator

**F.I.G.S.**  
(Faithfully in God's Service)

F.I.G.S. will resume on Wed., April 15th after a Lenten break. We meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 in the Preschool. F.I.G.S. is an intergenerational service group that is always in need of more hands and creative service ideas. All ages are encouraged and welcome to join hands to work "faithfully in God's service". If you have ideas for service projects see Kit O'Rourke. We are happy to have new ideas.



On Sat., April 11th children 5th grade and younger will celebrate at the **Easter Eggstravaganza**. There are some great activities planned and this is a day that all the kids (and grown-ups) love.

Helpers are needed for set up, egg stuffing & hiding, traffic control, clean up, etc. Also, if you would like to donate small items and **non-melting** candy for the eggs, Kit will certainly accept them.

Look for the sign up sheet outside the Narthex, or you can email Kit at [N2thefaitth@yahoo.com](mailto:N2thefaitth@yahoo.com) if your family would like to attend.

**Confirmands:** This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours. See Kit O'Rourke if you would like to help with this fun activity.

## AKALOO

The **Sundays A-live** (Sunday School) classes for age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are offered from 9:15-9:45 - they begin and end promptly. Apostles is blessed to have dedicated teachers, an excellent curriculum and great kids! We encourage all kids to Akaloo with us and also to explore the online Akaloo.org site that is open to all. If you would like to have access to this website see Sue Ann or Kit and they will be sure that you are able to log on for the wonderful educational tools that are offered.



## Family Picnic at Medard Park

On Sunday, March 15th, several Apostles families went to Medard Park for a picnic.

Everyone had a great time. We all got to go on a boat ride and we even saw some great BIG alligators! The weather was lovely and so was the fellowship. It was a beautiful day!

## Living Christ's Love

Each week we have been asking the children to bring certain nonperishable food items for the food baskets here at Apostles. This month we are adding toiletries and other household necessities.

Of course, any contributions will be accepted. Offerings will be presented at the beginning of Children's Church or placed in the basket in the Narthex.

The requests are as follows:

- April 5: toilet paper/paper towels
- April 12: toiletry items; toothpaste, shampoo, etc.
- April 19: pasta & pasta sauce (this goes fast)

## Opportunities

At Apostles' May Congregational Meeting there



will be an election of Council Members. There will be at least 3 vacancies to fill. Please pray to see if God is calling you to serve your church in this area. If you would like to be considered for election to the Council or have questions or concerns please speak with Council President Allen Mitchell or Pastor Vige.

## Florida Lutheran Auxiliary Stamp Project

Dear Friends at Apostles,

Thank you for the envelope of cancelled stamps that we recently received. Your support of this project is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Lindberg

The auxiliary can use any canceled stamp. They also use computer stamps; especially personalized ones. There should be many on Christmas cards. Leave 1/4" envelope paper around any stamp you save for them.

## HOPE

### Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality

**Apostles has been a member of HOPE since last year.** We believe that as Christians we are called "to do justice". Justice is different than mercy. Mercy is like a band aid; easing a situation for the moment. Justice is the cure; many people working together to identify and resolve problems so there is no need for the band aid.

Examples of HOPE's successes are: Hillsborough County School's implementation of the ATOSS Program; extended bus routes and times to facilitate working people to get home from work at night; and the 2008 programs for aiding people that are homeless to get ID's so they are able to work.

For 2009, they have identified available after school supervision for Middle School children as the problem area.

**On Monday, April 27th at 6:30 PM, Nativity Catholic Church, Brandon there will be a HOPE Nehemiah Action.**

This is when we as a unified people will ask our community leaders to a call to action to address this problem.

**Apostles has committed at least 75 people to the action.**

**Won't you please plan to spend 2 hours to help bring justice to our community?**

### HOPE's Mission and long range goals are:

The Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE) consisting of multi-racial and interfaith congregations is committed to winning a greater degree of justice in Hillsborough County through the power of a united voice.

Based on the spiritual values of justice, fairness, and dignity of persons, HOPE's primary mission is to empower low to moderate income persons to identify community problems and effectively encourage public officials to take action to resolve those problems.

1. Successfully address community problems identified by the members through relationship building processes.
2. Strengthen the member congregations and their ability to influence the quality of life in the community.
3. Enhance the public skills of members to publicly hold accountable the political and economic systems responsible for ensuring justice and fairness.
4. Reduce the effects of historic racial and economic discrimination.
5. Correct inequities in education, public services, neighborhood infrastructure, housing, employment, health care, police protection, and traffic safety.

### The Parable of HOPE

There once was a great city with a large river running through it. One day the member of a congregation was walking beside the river and heard persons in the middle of the river calling for help. The member dragged many persons to safety before collapsing exhausted on the bank. While the member lay panting upon the bank, many other persons were swept out to the sea and drowned. The member took the tired, wet, and sick persons she had rescued to the congregation where they received much care.

The congregation sent more people down to the river and found that every day persons were falling into the river. The other congregations in the city also helped pull persons from the river. They worked together to care for those rescued. All this took a lot of energy and soon the rescuers and their resources were exhausted.

One day the congregations held a joint meeting to discuss the situation. One of the members said, "We have worked hard and rescued many persons and that has been good. But, it will be an endless task until we go upstream and find out why persons are falling in".

**Going upstream to the source of the problem  
is the task of HOPE!**

# April Birthdays

1. Jay Therkilsen Jacob Bukaweski	7. Bill Foelker	Todd Amaden
2. Ron Croone Ruth East Robert Fields Jesse Hough	8. Mary Ann Foelker	Barb Hehr
3. Greg Prince	8. Jonathan Karthaka	Lilyann Belcher
4. Michael Whelan Sandie Zwygart Blake Bredbenner Britta Gundlach	11. Janine Schoenning	21. Darien Santmyer
5. Sarah Rentz Chris Bredbenner Brian Flynn	12. John Ionoff	23. Don Konen Carole Rink
6. Dawn Gundlach Lisa McNew	13. Dave Berg	24. Joe Ammerman Demetra Olson
	14. Ed Musgrave Chris Rogers Don Lovering David Schwarz	25. Rudy Pein April Bonner
	16. Jennifer Schommer	27. Toni Carey Pat Granger Harriet Raschke Thomas Desmond Ally Louden
	17. Matt Brooks Rudy Pein Elijah McNew	29. Richard Olson Rita Croone Wally Lowry
	18. Dave Valleri Kham Loraamm	30. Daniel Gasiorek
	20. Joel Rentz Pete Keinath	

If we missed your birthday, or if there are any corrections, please call the office at 813-689-2571. We may not have all the information we need for our membership records. Thank you.

### Membership Changes for February 2009

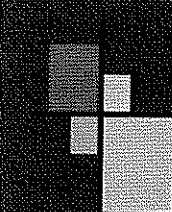
**Baptisms:**

**Removed:**

### Apostles Member's Businesses



Express Oil Change & Service Center  
321 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Seffner, Florida 33584  
(813) 681-5152  
Bill & Mary Ann Foelker, Owners



Renaissance Kham, Inc.  
Kham Loraamm  
President  
Artisan in granite, tile, trim, paint  
Interior home improvement  
813-362-2067  
Renaissance\_kham@yahoo.com

Please support Apostles member's businesses!

**OFFICE STAFF**

C. Handlee Vige	Pastor
Dr. Neal Brown	Pastor for Spiritual Direction and Formation
SueAnn Collinge	Associate in Ministry
Kit O'Rourke	Coordinator for Children, Family & Education Ministries
Michele Van Epps	Coordinator for Youth, Young Adults & Drama Ministries
Ron Belsecker	Parish Administrator
James Carmichael	Organist and Choir Master
José Rivera	Music Director for Contemporary Worship
Sandra Sornson	Pre-School Director
Liz Jimenez	Office Sec'y/Receptionist
Liz Jimenez	Editor of the Newsletters and the weekly bulletins.
Greg Prince	Sextons
Mary Mealy	
Ron Beisecker	Synod Deacons
Coleman Hill	
Joel Rentz	
Bert Seibert	
Bill Whitehead	

Catch the Excitement!  
Witness the Joy!  
**Shape the Vision!**

**Our Vision**

**The Vision of Apostles Lutheran Church is to:**

- 1) Introduce people to Jesus Christ**
- 2) Disciple members, and**
- 3) Serve the needs of people in our community and the world.**

April 2009

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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These ministries are undertaken  
in faith TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Apostles Lutheran Church  
200 Kingsway Road  
Brandon, FL 33510  
Phone: (813) 689-2571  
Fax: (813) 653-4919  
Email: office@apostleslutheran.net  
Website: ApostlesLutheran.net

Address Label Here

Sunday Worship Services  
8:15 am Traditional  
9:45 am Contemporary  
11:15 am Traditional  
Education Programs provided  
from 8:30 am – 12 noon