

# APOSTLES EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter March 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 April Epistle is  
March 15th.

## Wednesdays in Lent at 7:30 PM

**March 4**

**Mark 12:13-14**

### *Giving God His Due*

Person of the Passion: the Pharisees

**March 11**

**Mark 12:41-44**

### *The Gift That Brings God Joy*

Person of the Passion: the widow making her offering

**March 18**

**Mark 14:43-50**

### *Judas, the Busted Gut Disciple*

Person of the Passion: Judas

**March 25**

**Mark 14:66-72**

### *Talkin' Smack . . . Pullin' Back . . .*

Person of the Passion: Peter

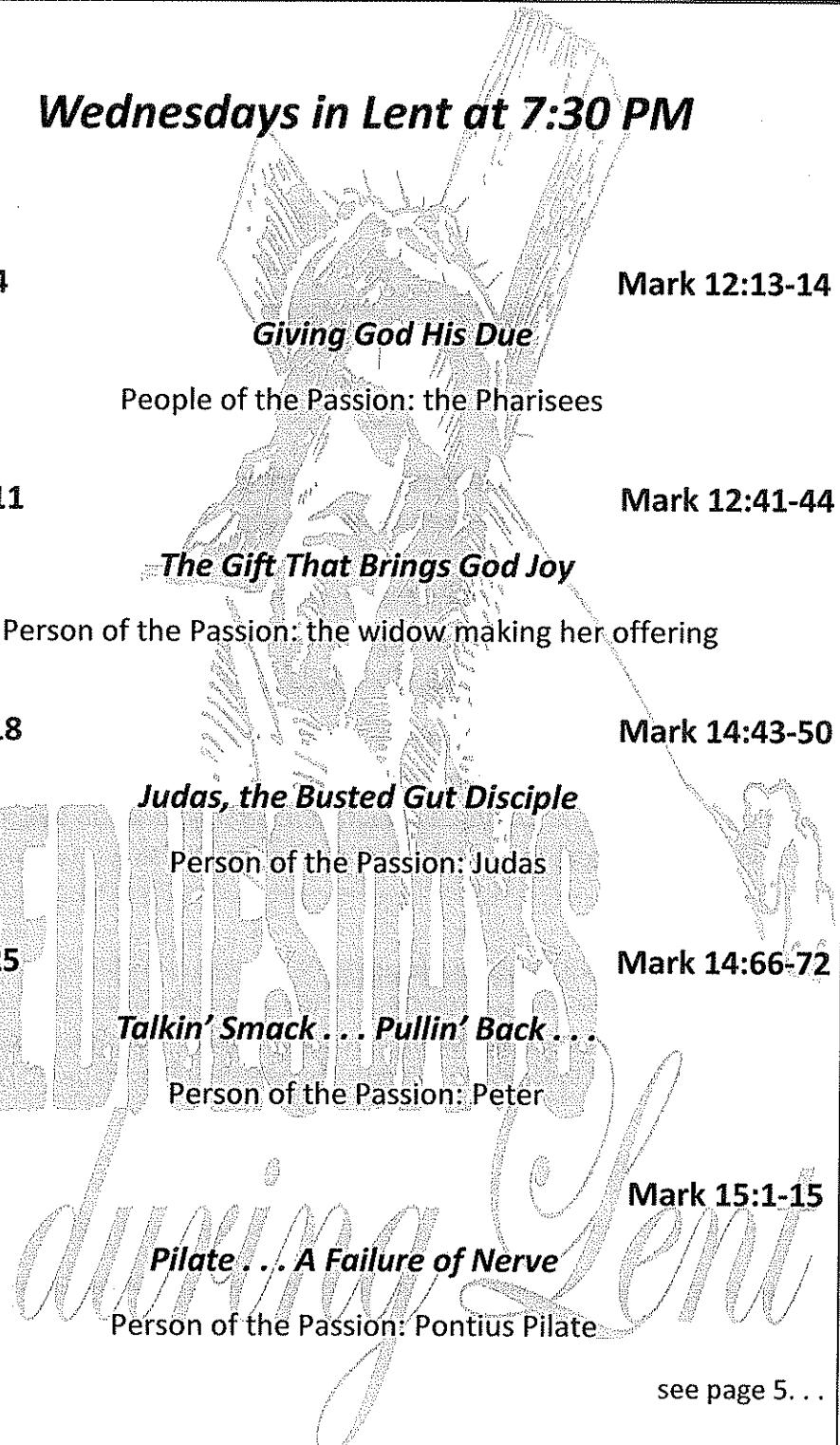
**April 1**

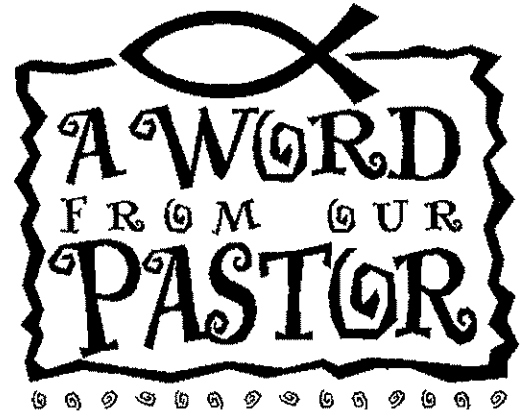
**Mark 15:1-15**

### *Pilate . . . A Failure of Nerve*

Person of the Passion: Pontius Pilate

see page 5 . . .





Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February 25<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, begins the Lenten pilgrimage to the cross. Ash Wednesday, which gets its name from the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of the faithful, is the second most solemn day in the church year. The ashes remind us of our mortality. Their imposition in the shape of the cross mirrors the cross traced across our foreheads in baptism. Thus, in addition to reminding us of our mortality, we are reminded of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Throughout the 40 days of Lent, we take time to focus on our Lord's journey to the cross and the sacrifice he makes on Golgotha to atone—pay the debt—for our sins. Because of this focus on the sacrifice of Jesus, it is customary for Christians to enter into the journey to the cross with Jesus by engaging in the disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love. While most Christians no longer embrace these disciplines, there are some remnants of them that continue in the church, including Lenten Mid-week services and special offerings to assist the church in its charitable work.

The observance of Lent is a time of preparation; it is a time that gets us ready to celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord at Easter. Without the Lenten journey to the cross, we miss out on the magnitude of the gift of God's love given to us in the resurrection of Christ.

This year, our Lenten services will prepare us well as we make the journey to the cross with Jesus. On the Sundays in Lent, our theme will be, *On the Road to Redemption*. The theme of our mid-week services on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. is *People of the Passion*. A detailed list of the themes for each of the services is provided in Worship Matters on page ? of this issue of *The Epistle*.

Beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, a new feature will be added at worship. An image will be projected on the wall during the sermon at all services. Each image will capture the essences of the message that is being shared in the sermon. To avoid distraction, there will be only one image projected each week. Also, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent will mark the return to the more familiar ELW Setting 3 of the Liturgy.

For those who have grown a little lax in their practice of the faith, Lent is a good time to reconnect with Christ and join him in the journey to our redemption. As we see the incredible love he has for us, we are inspired to offer him our love, our faith and our devotion.

Peace and Joy in Christ,

Pastor V

P.S. A Note of Clarification:

Over the past few weeks, it has become clear that there is a misperception among many members of the congregation regarding the worship surveys that were taken several months ago. The initial survey did not begin as an attempt by the staff or the council to cut out one of the Sunday traditional services. The surveys were a response to requests by several members to combine the traditional services in the hope that by combining the two traditional services more people would be present making the service more uplifting.

Because the results of the first survey were inconclusive, the second survey was a *forced choice*. It was hoped that the second survey would give us more helpful information, but neither survey provided information that would help us propose a worship schedule that would be satisfactory to the congregation. The common denominator was, *You can discontinue the other service but don't expect me to change*.

The lack of definitive results was the cause for the delay in holding small group meetings for members to discuss the implication of making a change in the worship schedule. In light of the concerns expressed by the congregation, Council has decided that there will be no change in the worship schedule in the foreseeable future. Our Sunday services will continue to be Traditional Worship at 8:15 & 11:15 and Contemporary Worship at 9:45.

#### Drivers for Lenten Services



This Lenten season Apostles will celebrate Wednesday evening worship at 7:30 PM only. There will be no Noon services. Many of our Apostles family are not able to drive at night but would still enjoy attending Wednesday evening worship. Would you be willing to pick-up and drop-off worshipers on Wednesday for worship? We are currently gathering a list of names so we are able to match drivers with those that live in the same area.

Call Liz at the church office, 689-2571, if you are called to serve in this way.

## Worship Matters

### Lenten Themes

#### Sundays in Lent:                    On the Road to Redemption

March 1            Lent 1            *Our Worth on the Road to Redemption*

What is your life worth? To our employer, we are valued only for what we can produce. To God, we are valued simply because God loves us. On the cross, Jesus stretches out his arms in death so that we might be given life.

March 8            Lent 2            *Hope on the Road to Redemption*

In trying times, it is amazing what an infusion of hope can do. On this day, we hear the promise of God and the audacity of hope it inspires. Trusting in God's promise leads Abraham into new realities he could never imagine in his wildest dreams—a 99 year old man and an 89 year old woman conceiving a child and giving birth to a son becoming the forebears of a great nation.

March 15          Lent 3            *The Foolishness of God on the Road to Redemption*

The cross as a symbol of life and hope is foolishness in the eyes of the world, and yet in the foolishness of God this instrument of death and forsakenness becomes our symbol of life and hope.

March 22          Lent 4            *Grumbling on the Road to Redemption*

Just because we are people of faith does not mean we are exempt from the hardships of life. God does not wrap us in *Bubble Wrap* because we are Christians. In the lesson from Numbers, we hear the Israelites grumbling in the wilderness. Even as they are experiencing the redemptive work of God in their lives, they complain about the shortage of food and the hardship of the journey,

March 29          Lent 5            *Seeing Jesus on the Road to Redemption*

When people see all the hurt and pain in the world, they often ask, *Where is God?* They want to know how a loving God can permit people to suffer. Through our acts of compassion and love, people have the opportunity to see Jesus.

April 5,            Palm Sunday *Tableaus of the Passion*

Tableau 1        *The Triumphal Entry*

Tableau 2        *The Fig Tree*

Tableau 3        *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

Tableau 4        *The First Commandment*

## *People of the Passion – Centen Wednesdays, 2009*

### *Come and see!*

Apostles' Drama Ministry team will depict the scene as the scripture is read – feel the emotion of the Word!

### *Come and hear!*

Hear the spoken reflection on the scripture, helping us to understand how that person of the Passion is like us today!

Hear the sung Word – both contemporary and traditional – music that helps us reflect on the spoken Word.

### *Come and remember!*

Reflect on the love shown to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – God's gift to us. As we humbly reflect on God's tremendous love for us, may our hearts be open, be yearning, to come closer to God in our life's journey.

All Wednesday services begin at 7:30.\*

Feb. 25 (Ash Wed.),     ***Heart and Soul, Not Show and Tell***     **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

People of the Passion: the crowd gathered to hear Jesus proclaim the kingdom.

March 4                   ***Giving God His Due***                   **Mark 12:13-14**

People of the Passion: the Pharisees

March 11                 ***The Gift That Brings God Joy***             **Mark 12:41-44**

Person of the Passion: the widow making her offering

March 18                 ***Judas, the Busted Gut Disciple***           **Mark 14:43-50**

Person of the Passion: Judas

March 25                 ***Talkin' Smack . . . Pullin' Back . . .***       **Mark 14:66-72**

Person of the Passion: Peter

April 1                   ***Pilate . . . A Failure of Nerve***           **Mark 15:1-15**

Person of the Passion: Pontius Pilate

### **First Communion Class – March 29<sup>th</sup>**



**First  
Communion**

First Communion class is offered at Apostles twice a year – before Christmas and before Easter. The class is open to children age 7 or in second grade and up. Pastor V and SueAnn will lead the class for children and their parent(s) on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. First Communion will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

A sign-up sheet is located outside the narthex on Sundays or you can call or email SueAnn at 689-2571 or [aim@apostleslutheran.net](mailto:aim@apostleslutheran.net). Painting a chalice as a remembrance of their First Communion is part of the class. Please sign up as soon as possible to insure that we have a chalice for every student.

## APOSTLES - A BOOK OF FAITH CONGREGATION

The *Book of Faith* is a five-year ELCA Initiative, launched in August 2007, that invites this entire church to become more fluent in faith's first language—Scripture. The initiative was approved by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

In May 2008 our Florida-Bahamas Synod adopted a resolution to encourage all congregations to become a Book of Faith congregation. This meant that congregations would explore new opportunities for engaging in Bible Study, send members to synod events for training Bible Study leaders and include biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups.

In January 2009 Apostles' Congregational Council resolved to declare itself to be a Book of Faith congregation. Our Synod has been informed of our decision and we have offered our facilities for training of Bible Study leaders.

In this Book of Faith Initiative, Scripture is read from four perspectives: devotional reading, historical reading, literary reading and Lutheran Theological Reading.

- **Devotional** reading focuses on reading the text as a meditation. The practice of meditative or devotional reading has a long history in the church and has taken many different forms. The oldest of these approaches is the *Lectio Divina*, which means *sacred reading*.
- **Historical** reading begins with the recognition that we cannot understand the plain meaning of the text without understanding something about those people, places, and times. We want to know about the original situation of the text and the intentions of the author. We want to understand the historical and social world of the text. Then we work by analogy to understand how the text addresses us in our time. We are invited to concentrate on who, what, why, and where questions.
- **Literary** reading pays attention to how the text is written, how the text conveys meaning, and how the text was and is heard. Is it a parable or a psalm? Prophetic literature or part of a letter?
- **Lutheran Theological** reading. We also come to our study with certain convictions, insights, and expectations that rise particularly from our Lutheran heritage. As we are encountered by the Bible, we expect to hear God and Christ speak to us directly. We ask: In what ways do we hear this text as law and in what ways do we hear this text as Gospel?; What shows forth Christ?; and How does Scripture interpret Scripture?

The above tools are used to develop truthful and honest reading that frees the text to deepen faith and understanding, to spark faithful questions, to inspire works of justice and mercy, to speak law and gospel, and to drive us toward Christ.

*The Holy Scriptures require a humble reader who shows reverence and fear toward the Word of God, and constantly says, 'Teach me, teach me, teach me!' The Spirit resists the proud."*

*Martin Luther*

**THREE Opportunities for YOU . . .**

**The Book of Faith 40-Day Lenten Journey with the Lord's Prayer** is offered this Lenten Season. A book that includes the daily Scripture readings, questions to focus on, points to ponder and more can be purchased for \$8.00. SueAnn will facilitate a weekly discussion group focusing on the topic for the week. The discussion groups are offered twice each week beginning on Monday evening, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 in the Harmony room or at noon on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, in the Worship Center. The Wednesday noon time is offered in lieu of the noon Lenten worship service.

**A Book of Faith Training Event** will be offered on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** from **9:00-12:30 PM** at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** in Tampa. The training event is for congregational leaders, teachers of Scripture, rostered leaders and anyone who feels challenged to teach. There is no cost. If you are interested, please register by Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at [irenef@fbsynod.org](mailto:irenef@fbsynod.org). Not sure if you want to facilitate a Book of Faith study group? Well . . . just come and see and listen and then pray about it!

**An adult Bible study group meets every Thursday morning at 10:00 in N. Theisz.** We are currently studying the Gospel of John using the Book of Faith approach. All adults are invited to attend. We are not on any "schedule" but spend the hour learning together as we journey through Scripture.

*The final wrap-up on . . .*

## *The Boar's Head Festival of 2008*

Throughout the preparation for Boar's Head 2008, we encouraged all cast members to remember **Soli Deo Gloria** – to God alone be the glory. Cast members of all ages reflected this mindset in their actions and performance – giving a deeper and more meaningful experience to them and all who attended .

Now that all of the bills have been paid, our profit for 2008 is \$6,550.93. This means that Apostles Meals on Wheels program and the youth who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July of 2009 will each receive half – or \$3,275.46. Our Boar's Head designated fund is now at \$0 and we will start all over again next fall!

Comments from children, youth and adults indicate that many are looking towards 2009 and see themselves in various roles. Kindergarten student Kayla asked for a flute for Christmas so she could be a "piper" next year! Third grader Caitlynn wrote a wonderful paper for school explaining why the Boar's Head play was her first reason of why she enjoys Christmas. Adrianna is looking forward to being a Merry Maker as she will be in middle school next year. And so it goes – in a large intergenerational production, we grow into new parts and all ages learn from each other.

Leanne Klumb, Wendell Rogers and Diane Fox created a beautiful hard cover book filled with pictures and script from the 2007 production. If you have not seen this book, it is displayed in SueAnn's office. If you would like a book for your home or would like to just order one page, you may contact Leanne Klumb for details on how to purchase.

Plans are already "in the making" for the 2009 performance. "Boar's Head" is a dynamic, ever-changing ministry – Soli Deo Gloria!



# 2009

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) Am. Sewing Guild Hallelujah Quilters (NT) Book of Faith Study (WC) Brass Rehearsal (WC) Confirmation (TH) Stephen Ministry (Library) Lenten Worship (WC) Gloria Dei Choir Ichthus - Rehearsal	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study - (NT) <b>11:30 AM</b> Lunch w/ Pastor - (TH) <b>6:30 PM</b> Good News Ringers - (WC) <b>6:30 PM</b> Stephen Minister Training - (SR)	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts Troop 881 - Pre-school <b>7:30 PM</b> First Friday Circle - (TH, NT) <b>8:00 PM</b> A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)	O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR) <b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>8:00 AM</b> A-Men Breakfast & Bible Study - (NT) <b>9:00 AM</b> Diakonia (HR) <b>9:00 AM</b> Princeton Review (Library)9-1 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> Pinochle
	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) Hallelujah Quilters (NT) Book of Faith Study (WC) Brass Rehearsal (WC) Confirmation (TH) Lenten Worship (WC) Gloria Dei Choir Ichthus - Rehearsal	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study - (NT) <b>1:30 PM</b> Rebecca's Circle Quilting Group (TH/NT) 1:30-4:30 PM <b>6:00 PM</b> Juniors - GS Troop 888/ Brownies - GS Troop 36(TH/NT) <b>6:30 PM</b> Good News Ringers - (WC) <b>6:30 PM</b> Stephen Minister Training - (SR)	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts Troop 881 - Pre-school <b>8:00 PM</b> A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)	O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR) <b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:30 AM</b> WELCA Sewing Day for Project Linus (TH & All Classrooms) <b>9:00 AM</b> Diakonia (HR)
	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) LifeLine Screening (TH) Hallelujah Quilters (NT) Book of Faith Study (WC) Brass Rehearsal (WC) Confirmation (TH) Stephen Ministry (Library) Lenten Worship (WC) Gloria Dei Choir Ichthus - Rehearsal	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study - (NT) <b>11:45 AM</b> Keenagers <b>6:30 PM</b> Good News Ringers - (WC) <b>6:30 PM</b> Stephen Minister Training - (SR)	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts Troop 881 - Pre-school <b>8:00 PM</b> A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)	O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR) <b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>9:00 AM</b> Diakonia (HR)
	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) Hallelujah Quilters (TH) Book of Faith Study (WC) Brass Rehearsal (WC) Confirmation (TH) Lenten Worship (WC) Gloria Dei Choir Ichthus - Rehearsal	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study - (NT) <b>6:00 PM</b> Juniors - GS Troop 888/ Brownies - GS Troop 36(TH/NT) <b>6:30 PM</b> Good News Ringers - (WC) <b>6:30 PM</b> Stephen Minister Training - (SR)	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts Troop 881 - Pre-school <b>8:00 PM</b> A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)	O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR) <b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>9:00 AM</b> Diakonia (HR) <b>4:00 PM</b> Powers Wedding (WC)
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) Am. Sewing Guild Hallelujah Quilters (NT) Book of Faith Study (WC) Brass Rehearsal (WC) Confirmation (TH) Stephen Ministry (Library) Lenten Worship (WC) Gloria Dei Choir Ichthus - Rehearsal	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study - (NT) <b>11:30 AM</b> Lunch w/ Pastor - (TH) <b>6:30 PM</b> Good News Ringers - (WC) <b>6:30 PM</b> Stephen Minister Training - (SR)	<b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>7:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts Troop 881 - Pre-school <b>7:30 PM</b> First Friday Circle - (TH, NT) <b>8:00 PM</b> A.A. (TH Sun/SR Fri)	O.A. Tues 7:30p/Sat 10:30a (GR) <b>6:30 AM</b> A.A. (M-Sat.)- (SR) <b>8:00 AM</b> A-Men Breakfast & Bible Study - (NT) <b>8:00 AM</b> GS Powder Puff Derby (TH) 8-5 PM <b>9:00 AM</b> Diakonia (HR) <b>6:30 PM</b> Pinochle

**Pinochle at the Hamel 's**

We took February off but now are back! We will play cards Saturday, March 7th beginning at 6:30 PM. This fun evening is open to all card sharps, I mean pinochle players. Hope to see you at the Hamel 's on the 7th.



**Join Pastor V** for lunch on Thursday, March 5th, 2009 at 11:30 AM in Theisz Hall. There will be a light lunch and time for questions and to have Pastor update us about Apostles, Apostles Village and the church worldwide. See you in March.

Lunch with  
Pastor



Keenagers will meet in Theisz Hall Thursday, March 19th at 11:45 AM for a luncheon to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Lillian Davis and Mena Ryan are hostesses for this month.

Please bring one of your favorite St. Paddy's themed side dishes to go along with the lunch as well as your own tableware.

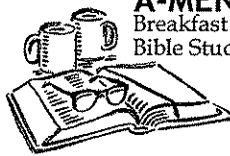
Keenagers is a group of men and women age 50 and over who meet the third Thursday of each month for socializing, potluck lunches, or going to local restaurants for lunch. You do not have to be a member of Apostles to attend. Some months is all fellowship, food and fun! (and a short business meeting).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



The next church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th 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 7th @ 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!

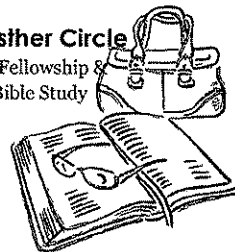


women's  
Night Out

**Sunday, March 1st at 6:00 PM**  
**is Women's Night Out**

If you would like an evening of good food, "girl"ship and fun (with no dishes to do afterward!) the place to be March 1st is Sabor A Mexico, 706 E. Brandon Blvd. Call Debbie Nickeson if you would like to be added to the reservation count. (813) 684-8587

**Esther Circle**  
Fellowship &  
Bible Study



**Esther Circle will meet March 24th @ 10 AM in the Garden Room. All women are welcome! Bring your favorite devotional to share with the group. Hope to see you on the 24th.**

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

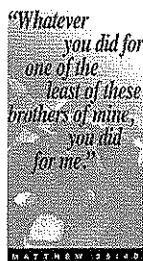
A Relay for Life meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1st at 11:15 AM in Theisz Hall. During the meeting we will get all interested persons registered and plan Relay fundraisers. While camping overnight, Relay participants celebrate cancer survivors and raise money for cancer research. During the event, teams take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

The theme for this year's Relay is zoo animals!

**Parents, this event is chaperoned.**

If you have any questions or are interested, contact Dave or Megan Berg at 684-1931.

*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.

**Book of Faith Training Event**  
**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 12:30 PM**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tampa**

This training event is for congregational leaders, teachers of Scripture, rostered leaders and anyone who feels challenged to teach.

Register by Thursday, March 12 at  
[irenef@fbsynod.org](mailto:irenef@fbsynod.org)



Apostles is currently supporting two Outreach community organizations; *ECHO and the Hunger Free Mission*. Hunger Free Mission's barrel will be in the Narthex during the month of March.

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

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

**Albertsons Community Partners Program**

Through Albertsons' Community Partners Program, Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of Florida receives cash donations from Albertsons, if we use our Community Partners key tag, every time we shop. Don't have a key tag? No problem! Just email Katie McClay at [katiem@lomfla.org](mailto:katiem@lomfla.org) and she will be happy to send you as many as you and your family and friends need. This is a great way to support Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of Florida.

Hawthorne Inn, 859 W. Lumsden Rd. , Brandon, invites us to join them for their last in the series of "Getting Older" Coffee Breaks.

"Being Happy!"

March 18th at 10:30 AM

Call 813-661-8998, ext. 401 for reservations.

**Citrus Drop**

On Saturday March 28th, a large trailer truck will drop **48,000 pounds** of oranges on the parking lot of Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Temple Terrace. People from our community will bag the fruit and send it to churches, food pantries and other food programs in the Tampa area to help feed people that are hungry. Anyone in the community is invited to help in this major hunger project .The event begins at 8:00 AM and will last until 12:00 PM. The Thrivent Chapter will provide lunch in Christ Our Redeemer's Fellowship Hall.

Congregations with a food pantry or other program for the hungry are encouraged to contact Pastor Dick or Sara Hafer (813-984-8821) or the staff at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (813-988-4025) if they would like to receive fruit for their local program.

This event is being co-sponsored by the East Hillsborough Chapter of Thrivent for Lutherans and the Society of St. Andrews.

**LifeCare of Brandon. . .**

is in urgent need of diapers! All sizes are needed, especially 3-5. Most of our clients are in low-income situations and rely on the baby supplies they receive from us. We are so grateful to all of you who help us reach out to hurting women and families in the Brandon area! We know that God has called us together to make an impact for His Kingdom!

We know these are tough times right now but please consider helping restock the "diaper closet".

We thank you again for your prayers and support. You are a blessing to us! May God bless you abundantly!

LifeCare of Brandon  
 122 N. Moon Ave.  
 Brandon, FL 33510  
 (813) 654-0491

**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 are 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. In an effort to raise funds, the group will be selling Apostles shirts again after Easter and have planned a Mardi Gras Dinner with a Silent Auction for May 9<sup>th</sup> in Theisz Hall. More information about this event is coming!

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH VOLLEYBALL MARATHON**

The annual LOMF volleyball marathon is scheduled for April 3-4 in Tampa. The Apostles team has won this event in years past and this is the year we hope to claim victory again. (and even if we don't we have a great time of fun and fellowship!) Sign up for this event will begin in March.



**MARDI GRAS DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION!**

This event is a fundraiser for the 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!!

**Drama Ministry**

**LENTEN TABLEAUS!**

We are still looking for people who would love to participate in our Lenten Tableaus. There are no speaking parts, the cast simply acts out the scripture reading. If you are interested in this ministry, see Michele Van Epps or send her an email at [MVanEpps@apostleslutheran.net](mailto:MVanEpps@apostleslutheran.net).



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

**GOOD FRIDAY DRAMA**

The drama "The Last Words" will be presented during the Good Friday Worship service. This drama depicts the seven last words of Jesus and is told by various people who Jesus touched in some way. Come and experience these powerful stories on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

**Children, Family & Education Ministries**

Kit O'Rourke, Coordinator

**Children/Cherub Choir for Palm Sunday**

We invite your child/children to be part of the Palm Sunday drama/music ministry at all 3 services through being part of the Children/Cherub Choir. There are 2 songs the children will learn; "Enter His Sanctuary Singing" and "No-Fig Big Byte". James Carmichael composed "No-Fig Big Byte", which is sung "rap" fashion, especially for the children. It is based on the Scripture of Mark 11:12-14, 20-23. The music and a CD recording of the songs are available so the children can learn the songs easily.

**Rehearsal Schedule**

Sunday, March 8, 11:00-11:20 in the Harmony Room

Sunday, March 15, 11:00-11:20 in the Harmony Room

Sunday, March 22, 11:00-11:20 in the Harmony Room

Sunday, March 29, 12:30-1:00 in the Worship Center

For more information or if you have any questions, please see or call James, Kit, SueAnn or Dawn Podaril.

**F.I.G.S.**

(Faithfully in God's Service)

We meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 in the PreSchool. F.I.G.S. is an intergenerational service group and we are 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 you will be happy to have new ideas.

## 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.

### Living Christ's Love

This month we will continue to collect food for various pantries supported by our church. Each week we are asking the children to bring certain nonperishable food items, but any contributions will be accepted. We will collect the donations at the beginning of Children's Church.

The requests are as follows:

March 1: Pancake mix/syrup

March 8: Soups

March 15: Condiments ( ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, relish, BBQ sauce etc.)

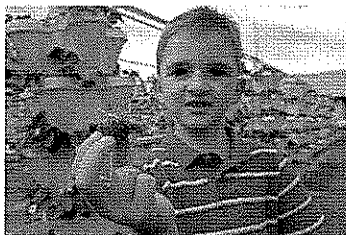
March 22: Desserts (cake mixes/icing, brownies etc.)

March 29: Rice (yellow, white, brown or wild)

Of course we are glad to accept any donations.

### Strawberry Picking Update

On Sunday, February 22nd kids 5th grade and younger (they even took along some parents) went strawberry picking at Hydro Harvest Farms.



We all had a blast and talked about what fun it was. The grower, John, had burgers and hot dogs for everyone. Then . . . (and this was a favorite for all) we finished off our lunch with yummy, homemade strawberry shortcakes topped with ice cream and whip cream!

We can't wait to see what Miss Kit has in store for our next outing!

## Opportunities

### Beyond Survival:

#### Planning for year-round stewardship ministry.

Join us for an exciting new approach to Stewardship Ministry on Sunday, March 8th here at Apostles from 2:00 - 5:00 PM!

The workshop will include a discussion of the most constructive approach to the nation's current economic woes on congregational ministry and giving.

- Learn about various "best practices" for managing the funding of the congregation's ministry program;
- Understand the connection between these practices and the overall health of the congregation;
- Learn about resources for your congregation's stewardship program;
- Begin to plan for the coming year's program, including the approach you will take to your annual response program.

Contact Ms. Joyce Cain for questions at 813.876.7660 ext 232 or [joycec@fbsynod.org](mailto:joycec@fbsynod.org).

## ECO QUEST



Date: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Place: Alafia River State Park, Lithia

Time: 8:00 am to noon

Event: Adventure/Fitness races

Come choose your own adventure at this beautiful and lush area on the Alafia River. More choices are available this year for ECHO's 4<sup>th</sup> annual ECOQuest:

Two mile Nature walk/run

Two mile Mini-quest (1 mile run, 1 mile bike, obstacle course)

Original ECO Quest (4 mile run, 6 mile bike, 1 mile kayak/canoe, obstacle course)

Ultimate Challenger (4 mile run, 10 mile advanced bike, 1 mile kayak/canoe, obstacle course)

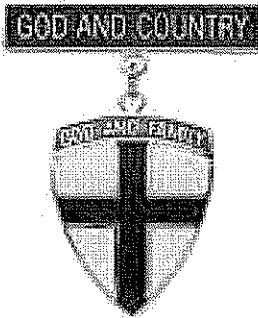
To enter a race, participants are asked to obtain donations and/or sponsors to cover the minimum registration fee. New this year is a raffle for the grand prize - an American hand-built custom mountain bike frame (value over \$2,000 courtesy of Quijano Bicycle Company). Qualify for the raffle by collecting \$500 or more in donations.

All registered participants will receive a T-shirt. Proceeds from this event will benefit ECHO in annually assisting over 10,000 people.

Online registration is available at [www.echofl.org](http://www.echofl.org).

**From Boy Scout Troop 110  
February 2009**

*On Sunday February 1st  
the following  
Pack 110 Webelo Scouts were  
presented with the  
God & Family Award:*



*Drew Darnell  
Christopher Forkey  
Isaac Goff  
Matthew Hicks  
David Mitchell  
Logan Wilson*

*Congratulations to them all!*

**Hello Everyone,**

As I promised, I would keep you informed about important advocacy initiatives for Haiti. This one is imperative. Please make a call. The link has a lot of information about Haiti's history with debt. The "What's on Your Heart?" campaign is a good way to get congregations involved. Jubilee USA network works closely with the ELCA Advocacy office. Please pass this on to members of your congregation and community as soon as possible.

Peace & Blessings,

Mary Delasin  
ELCA World Hunger/Advocacy  
Florida Bahamas synod



**What's On Your Heart?**

Our new *What's On Your Heart Campaign* asks you to write to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and share with him the issues on your heart about global debt and economic justice. The Treasury Secretary plays a central role in determining US economic policies on debt and global poverty. We recognize that times are hard and many Americans are suffering and going forward we will be the voice reminding Secretary Timothy Geithner that throughout the global south countries already hit hard by the food crisis, such as Haiti, are now struggling to face the financial crisis as well.

**Together we can remind the new Secretary that while dealing with the economic crisis at home, he cannot allow the needs of the world's most vulnerable to be pushed aside.**

If you would like to tell Treasury Secretary what's on your heart visit [www.Jubileeusa.org](http://www.Jubileeusa.org) for more information.



Registration for the 2009-2010 school year at Apostles Lutheran Preschool opened February 17, 2009 to current students, members of Apostles and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Registration will open to the community on Monday, March 2, 2009.

Any child that is four by September 1, 2009, is eligible to enroll in the Florida state sponsored VPK program.

We will also be accepting applications for our 3 year old program. This program operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. **Spaces for this class are VERY limited; register early!**

# March Birthdays

- 2. Joe Bolton
- 3. Karin Stone  
Abigail Hough
- 4. Elizabeth Carpenter  
JoAnne Whale
- 5. Melinda Lair  
Courtney Thomson
- 6. Allen Mitchell  
Jeff Cooper
- 7. Carol Riggsbee  
Ed Norstrem
- 8. Linda Edwards  
Rose Alford

- 8. Jonathan Karthaka
- 9. Skyler Sarmiento
- 10. Stephen Muehlendyck  
Jordan Welty
- 11. Kristen Smith  
Lois Burbey
- 13. Dottie Yoder
- 14. Thomas Nowik  
Maria Mitchell  
Eric Shokes
- 15. Jim Thomson
- 17. Tom Ellison
- 18. Kristina Ellison
- 19. Chris Robinson  
Bria Ward  
Jacob Brown  
Brad Rahr
- 21. Pam Cunningham
- 22. Eykka Gundlach

- 23. Dan Runge  
Tracey Pritchard
- 24. Richard Dixon  
Michelle Bokenkamp
- 25. Deborah Carrino  
Laney Sornson
- 26. Dee Bovee  
Matthew Clark
- 27. Leanne Klumb
- 29. Nancy Horn
- 30. Brenden Phelps
- 31. James Gray  
Jonathan Ellison



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 January 2009

**Baptisms:**

- Tristan Michael Boyd - 1/11/2009
- Abigail Bostiana Levin - 1/11/2009

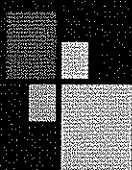
**Removed:**

Max Smith

### 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 Beisecker	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
Corrine J. Lund	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.**

March 2009

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

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Tampa, Florida

Apostles Lutheran Church  
200 Kingsway Road  
Brandon, FL 33510  
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Fax: (813) 653-4919  
Email: [office@apostleslutheran.net](mailto:office@apostleslutheran.net)  
Website: [ApostlesLutheran.net](http://ApostlesLutheran.net)

These ministries are undertaken  
in faith TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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