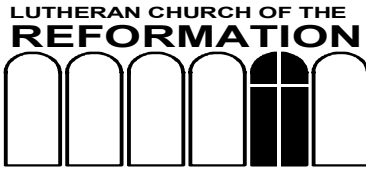


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HERE AND NOW

Volume LI April 1, 2010 #4



April

- 2 Tom Mundahl
- 4 Davis Albert Anderson
- 9 Mary Kathryn Fynn
- 11 Samia Lokenye
- 19 Keven Johnson-Glassel
Al Krogh
- 24 Steve Anderson
- 29 Rachele Anderson

Collaboration Toolkit: How Congregations Can Work Together for Mission

On Saturday, May 8, from 9-2 the Minneapolis Area Synod will host a workshop on "Church Collaboration" at Bethel Lutheran Church, 42nd Street & 17th Ave S, Minneapolis. Following a keynote opening by Rev. Jerry Wahl of the Florida Synod, workshops will focus on collaboration that includes –sharing church space, working with new emigrant groups, suburban-urban partnerships.... Registration is \$10 each and will include a catered lunch (maximum \$50 per congregation). Among the featured partnerships will be the LCR-Upper Room collaboration.

Thank You LCR for your cash contribution of \$206.92 that STEP received on 3/11/2010. Your support is greatly appreciated by the families and individuals we serve, our staff, volunteers, and the St. Louis Park community.

Palm Sunday

March 28 — Sunday of the Passion at LCR, 10:00 a.m.

The Three Great Days

April 1 — Maundy Thursday at LCR, 7:00 p.m.

April 2 — Good Friday at LCR, 7:00 p.m.

April 3 — Vigil of Easter at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, 7 pm

Highway 7 and Baker Rd., Minnetonka

Easter Sunday

April 4 — The Resurrection of Our Lord at LCR

8:45 a.m.— Egg Hunt

9:00 a.m. — Breakfast

10:00 a.m. — Holy Communion



SOMETHING HAPPENED

What is Easter? Is it the single Sunday of the church year when we turn up the volume so high with 'enforced joy' that the integrity of the roof is challenged and new decibel records are set? Is it the time when we know that, despite what is really happening in our lives, we must be 'happy' because of the good and loud news?

Or, is it the beginning of a whole season of celebration on the part of God's people. Does it offer the shared space to praise God for defeating the very power of death and evil so that we may live in hope, and, by our actions anticipate the new creation that is promised in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ?

N. T. Wright puts it well:

But my biggest problem starts on Easter Monday. I regard it as absurd and unjustifiable that we should spend forty days keeping Lent, pondering what it means, preaching about self-denial, being at least a little gloomy, and then bringing it all to a peak with Holy Week, which in turn climaxes in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday...and then, after a rather odd Holy Saturday (the Vigil—because it technically begins at dark on Saturday, is really in the biblical marking of time, on Sunday), we have a single day of celebration.

Yes, it takes at minimum a seven-week season to get our feet wet in resurrection. That is fine. For we have already been drenched with Easter in baptism! In the very story and water of that mysterious sacrament, we participate in death and resurrection, landing squarely in the community of hope and new creation that the world depends on. We affirm that **something happened!**

Even though we are not good at describing this great mystery, yes, something happened. Fearful disciples trying to 'save their skins' became messengers of hope and love. Women, whose testimony was not trusted in their culture, became the first and greatest truth tellers. Communities were formed in space and time stretching even to St. Louis Park, MN, in 2010. It was and is that powerful. Something happened...and it continues to happen whenever we gather, learn, and serve. Alleluia.

Pastor Tom

Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through February 2010

	2010 Budget	January Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	160,493.80	14,699.62	26,664.31	17%
Total Income	120,466.00	10,102.00	21,014.21	17%
Surplus (Deficit)	(40,007.80)	(4,597.62)	(5,650.10)	14%

LCR Worship Attendance

2/28	36	3/14	31
3/3	85	3/21	36
3/7	35		
Average: 47			

Upper Room will be having an experiential service of Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 4—7 pm. Lutheran Church of the Reformation folks are welcome to participate.

“Deepening the Welcome: After Churchwide 2009” Since the decisions of Churchwide 2009, many congregations have sought ways to be more faithful to the scriptures to fulfill the welcome of Jesus Christ. This workshop focuses on how congregations can intentionally choose to become more welcoming to all persons, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) Lutherans. This workshop will be Saturday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Edina Community Lutheran Church, 4113 West 54 St., Edina. It is sponsored by the Joint Synod Committee for Inclusivity of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods and the Reconciling in Christ Team of Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities. For more information contact Justin Lind-Ayers at bethanyrev@att.net or by phone 612-332-2397.

“A Reason For Hope” presented by Dr. Jane Goodall will be on April 19, 7:30 p.m. at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26 St., St. Louis Park. As a UN Messenger of Peace, Dr. Goodall will share her reasons for hope in these complex times and offer ways in which each of us can make a difference every day. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you will not want to miss and will always remember. For more information and tickets, go to mnzoo.org/janegoodall or call 952-920-3512. In addition, a special private reception with Dr. Goodall is offered before she speaks. This reception will be limited in size and will include an opportunity to be photographed with Dr. Goodall. Wine, hors d’oeuvres and dessert will be served. Participants will also receive a special MN Zoo presentation, a signed copy of her book, “A Reason For Hope” and premium assigned seating for Dr. Goodall’s presentation at 7:30 pm.

14th Annual Ole & Lena Dinner is set for April 17 to be held at Richfield Lutheran Church, 60th & Nicollet Ave S., Minneapolis. Social Hour and Silent Auction will begin at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Donations will fund Luther Park Camp Scholarships. For information or tickets call Millers at 612.869.4997 or email smiller6712@msn.com

Groceries at half the cost - Fare For All is a food distribution that happens every 4 weeks in St. Louis Park. It’s open to everyone and anyone— no income guidelines or geographic restrictions. Packs of produce and meat are available and the more people that use it the better the deals. This is a great way to support those in the community who really need the help by using your purchasing power to get all of us better deals. The next Fare For All food distribution is Tuesday, March 30th from 4-6 pm at Lenox Community Center. For more information, go to: www.STEPslp.org/fareforall.

Peace Coffee—A reminder that we are serving and selling Peace Coffee. Our coffee comes from Nicaragua and is organically shade grown and fairly traded. No pesticides or fertilizers are used, and no rain forests are cut down to be replaced by coffee plants. This means that coffee beans take longer to mature and ripen, increasing flavor. Also, coffee is sustainably grown, leaving habitat for humans, birds and other wildlife. You can read more at our coffee display table in the Commons. Ground Nicaraguan and Decaf dark roast are available. The list is on the table. Whole bean coffee and other flavors may be ordered through Nancy Lund at 612-374-5847.

Luther College Jazz Orchestra is presenting a concert at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 North 4th St, Stillwater, MN. Conducted by Juan Tony Guzman, the ensemble will perform a range of repertoire from Early Jazz to contemporary compositions and arrangements. Freewill offering. For more information, call 651-439-7400.