



Table Talk

Fairbanks Lutheran Church
1012 Cowles (across from the public library)
Sunday Service Times: 8:30 & 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am

February 2010

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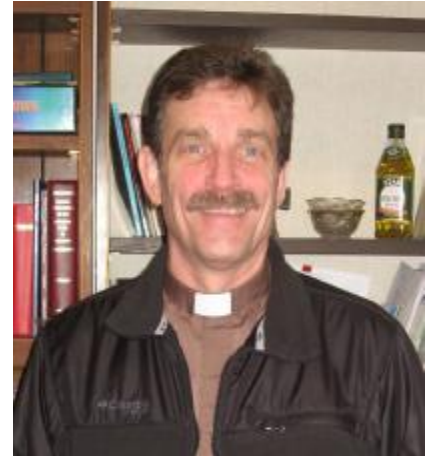
Email articles to: fairluth@gci.net

www.fairbankslutheranchurch.org

From the Pastor's Desk:

pastorfairluth@gci.net

Just in case you need a reminder, LENT is just around the corner. Perhaps because Lent is so different from all the other seasons in the church calendar, it seems to sneak up on us and then to pounce when it is least expected. What makes it even less obvious is that there are no special decorations in the streets or windows, no seasonal greeting cards in the stores, not even a regular starting date fixed in our calendars to warn us of its coming.



The season of Lent originated in the fourth century of the church, and spans the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Saturday before Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized. In fact, the entire community and those who had been separated from the Church were also invited to make similar preparation. Today, the Church still uses this period of time to invite believers to spend time in introspection, self-examination, and repentance, in preparation to celebrate Easter.

The season of Lent, then, gives us the opportunity to reflect on our lives and to correct the course we may be taking. I don't know about you, but I need this opportunity, this discipline. Every year I need it. In his book, *Listening to your Life*, Frederick Buechner wrote these words, a similar kind of invitation:

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"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

Buechner's insight reminds me that we can listen through the more traditional means, such as prayer or devotional reading ... but challenges me to imagine that we can also "listen" through reflection on our hopes ... our sorrows and anxieties ... our loneliness and relationships ... or our work and leisure. We can listen by naming what we love and what we fear, by opening up both the heights and depths of our lives before the very heart of God. And always, in all these reflections, what we are really listening for is nothing less than awareness and assurance of the presence of God, who has been listening to us all along, and now takes this invitation of our attentiveness to respond. Again quoting Buechner: *"(God's) message is not written out in starlight ... rather it is written out for each of us in the humdrum, helter-skelter events of each day ... Who knows what he will say to me today ... Not knowing is what makes today a holy mystery as every day is a holy mystery."*

May God bless you with time to listen to your life during this season of Lent ... to listen to the holy mystery of each day.

In His Name,
Pastor Bill Ottum



Wednesday, February 17th
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesdays, Feb 24th - Mar 24th
6pm Soup Supper, 6:30pm Worship w/Eucharist

Passion Singers Needed

Consider celebrating Lent by singing for the Lord. Director, Lucas Clooten and the Passions Singers Community Choir will sing a beautiful musical arrangement of the Passion of Our Lord according to St. John this Lent.

Singers are needed from all over the community. Practice will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on three Sunday afternoons in Lent: March 7, March 14 and March 21, from 4-6pm.

A benefit concert will be held at Sacred Heart, 4pm on Palm Sunday, March 28. Concertgoers will be asked to bring non-perishable food items to benefit the Immaculate Conception's Soup Kitchen. Call 455-4584 for further details.



The Ladies of Katie's Table invites you to attend a Bible study on the Psalms. Meetings are held on Monday nights, 6:30pm at the church. This is a 7-week course lasting until Lent. This study covers a full range of human trials and triumphs taken from the book of Psalms. All women are welcome to Katie's Table for lively discussion and friendship. If you have any questions, please see Lois Heine or Joe Shepherd.

From the Reception Committee:

Thank you to everyone who helped with June Carlson's Memorial Service reception. We would also like to thank the Women's Bible Study Group for donating a 55 cup coffee pot. This will be a great addition to our kitchen for many years to come.

We would also like to say "Thanks!" to Lenny Ayotte for repairing our 2 leaking coffee pots.

Anyone interested in joining the reception committee, leave your name in the church office or contact Arlene Orbeck. Meetings are held just twice a year!



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to... Our Thrivent Financial "Care in Congregations" Program Coordinators:

Terry Hartman and Arlene Strandberg for their dedication. Thrivent Financial will be acknowledging both of these outstanding women for their service with a letter of appreciation and a small gift. In the meantime, be sure to thank Terry and Arlene personally for serving us as our congregational coordinators.

It's a Jungle Out There! The number of plants in the narthex is increasing!

If you donate a flowering plant for the altar, please take it home with you after it stops flowering, as we have room for only so many plants. Then, in the spring, donate your plant to the Youth Plant Sale or to Hospice for their annual plant fundraiser. Many thanks and should you have any questions, contact Barbara Matthews, the "Plant Lady."

Next Step Ministries is returning to Fairbanks this summer!

Fairbanks Lutheran will once again team up with Next Step Ministries to serve the Fairbanks community and help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our church will host students from Next Step Ministries (a student missions ministry from Wisconsin) for five weeks starting the beginning of July.

For more information about Next Step, check out their website at www.nextstepministries.com.

A Note from Sharon, our Youth, Family & Education Director:

It has been my pleasure to work for God and Fairbanks Lutheran Church. The outpouring of love and encouragement that flows from our members is just incredible! I am continually reminded of the face of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as I look into the eyes of those around me. Thank you so much for sharing yourselves with me, and others, as the need(s) arose.

I am going to be changing my position here at FLC. How it all works out, I'm not quite sure yet, but I know I will be staying actively involved in Youth Group and Sunday School as a parent. I was recently hired to teach Speech and Drama at Ryan Middle School. Trying to do both jobs will not work, as I always strive to do my best, and I can't possibly do that with both positions. I have informed our Church Council, and now we just need to work out the details. Thanks for all your love and support!

Sharon Lockwood

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING and YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, February 7, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Once again, our Youth Group will be participating in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. We will set up the football field and try to make our goal of 1000 non-perishable food items and cash donations for the Fairbanks FoodBank. Please remember to wear your Souper Bowl of Caring t-shirts this day! For more information about the Souper Bowl of Caring and to see what is going on nationally, visit their website at www.souperbowl.org.

We will also take an active part in the 11:00 am Worship Service. We will be meeting during the Sunday School hour (9:45 – 10:45 am) in the Youth Room to determine who is doing what. Please contact Sharon if you are interested in doing the readings so you can prepare ahead of time.

ALL ALASKA LUTHERAN YOUTH GATHERING

Friday, March 5 – Sunday, March 7

The All Alaska Lutheran Youth Gathering for youth in grades 9 – 12 will be held at Victory Bible Camp. We will meet at church at 8:30 am on Friday, March 5th to drive down for a weekend of fun and faith filled activity.

The registration deadline is Sunday, February 14th. All registration forms and registration fees of \$75.00 (FLC will cover the other \$70.00, transportation and lunch expenses) need to be turned into the church office by this date, and preferably before. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board. For additional information, please contact Sharon at 452-3425.

Needed – Adult chaperones who love youth, having a great time and want to go to Victory Bible Camp!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is a class for everyone! The Sunday school hour is conveniently held between the 1st and 2nd services from 9:45 – 10:45 am each Sunday! Please join us!

Adult Class meets between worship services (9:50-ish) in the classroom at the bottom of the stairs. We are now reading and discussing the first letter of Peter. Come and join us ... no previous experience needed!

Pre-school through 3rd grade will be using our past VBS called Arctic Edge in February. Bring a Friend to Sunday school is February 7th.

Godly Play (4th – 6th grades) will be hearing a different parable each week in February.

SAVE THE DATE : VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !

June 7 – 11, 2010

EGYPT – Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This Sunday, January 31st, Fairbanks Lutheran will hold its annual meeting after the 11 am worship service.

New Council members, Alaska Synod Delegates and Nominating Committee members will be elected. The 2010 budget will be presented for approval.

All of this will follow a potluck meal served in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Call Committee has invited 2 pastoral candidates to visit with us.

Pastor Glenn Bickford and son, Andrew from Minnesota will be here Thursday – Sunday, Feb. 4-7. We will have a dessert potluck on Saturday, February 6 from 4-6pm for the congregation to meet the Bickford's. Pastor Glenn will be our speaker for Sunday, February 7th services.

Then, on the following weekend, Pastor Paul Bodin from Washington will conduct our services on Sunday, Feb. 14. We will have a potluck meal after the services to visit with Pastor Paul and his wife, Cherie.



Lutheran Social Services of Alaska



Easter Baskets - It is once again time to think about Easter baskets as we get close to the start of Lent and then Easter on April 4th. Each year LSSA has partnered with you to provide Easter baskets to children of the families we serve in our food program. Whatever is appropriate for your children or grandchildren is appropriate for a child of the agency. Distribution of the baskets begins four weeks before Easter Sunday since our families only visit the food pantry once a month. Please include the message of the resurrection of Jesus – either in the form of a storybook or a coloring book.

Remember to **Pick, Click, Give** to the LSSA when completing your on-line PFD application. There is an option "The Gift to Give" and simply **pick LSSA** as your charity of choice, **click** on the option and **give** as we can continue to minister to those in need.

Fairbanks Lutheran Church
1012 Cowles Street
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<http://www.fairbankslutheranchurch.org>

Communion Bread Recipe:

3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups whole wheat flour
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups white flour
2 tsp salt
2 tsp baking powder
2 Tbsp oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups water

Mix together ingredients. If it is too dry, add more water. Grease 4 pie pans. Divide dough into 4 equal pieces. Press into pie pans. Bake in pre-heated oven at 350 for 12-15 minutes. When cooled, put them into plastic, label as communion bread, and date it and place them into the church kitchen's refrigerator freezer.

*And is not
the bread that
we break
a participation
in the body
of Christ?*



1 Corinthians 10:16