

HE IS RISEN

The Tidings

April 2006

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Worship Schedule for Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 9

8:00 Worship

10:30 Contemporary
Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 13

7:00 p.m. Worship
with Holy Communion

Good Friday

April 14

7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday

April 16

8:00 a.m.

Worship/Communion

8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m.

Worship/Communion



Easter Morning Breakfast

Make plans to
attend our 5th

annual Easter Pancake
Breakfast on April 16 between
8:45-10:30 a.m. Proceeds from
this event will help support the
participants in
this summer's mission trip to
inner-city Chicago Lutheran
Schools and will be matched by
Thrivent Financial for Lutheran
up to \$800. If you would like to
donate food items for the
breakfast watch for the sign up
on the easel in the narthex.

Parent Quest

*Once-a-month Bible Study for
Parents of young children*

Pete Imlah our Youth &
Family Minister would like to
invite **parents of three-year-
olds through fourth graders** to
join him in the Sanctuary on
Sunday April 2 and again on
April 30 at 9:15 a.m. for a Bible
Study entitled "How To Raise
Spiritual Champions." Come
join us as we dig into God's
Word to discover our God-
given responsibilities as parents
and how we can raise our chil-
dren to be spiritual champions.
Bring your Bible!!



Lord,

Thank you for spending 33
years with us:

- = for announcing Love
from the high heavens;
- = for introducing Love in an
obscure manger setting;
- = for living Love in a family
framework;
- = for sharing Love with the
poor and deprived and
diseased;
- = for showing Love to the
unlovable and unloving;
- = for letting little children
feel Love in your arms;
- = for suffering on a cross
because of Love;
- = for loosing Love upon the
world to take up
residence in us;
- = for your Love that will
not let us go. Amen.

—Forrest Nees

TA-DA!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

The little boy came home from Sunday School on Easter Sunday very excited about what he had learned. He raced to the kitchen and shouted, "Wow, I learned what Jesus said when He burst out of the tomb on Easter morning!" His mom and dad were excited too, and they asked him, "Well what did He say on the first Easter morning?" The little boy ran up to them, threw his hands up in the air, and shouted "TA-DA!"

This is paraphrasing Jesus, but it still captures the essence of joy and celebration that were evident that first Easter morning. "TA-DA! Here I am! I am alive, just as I said!" As a result our lives are "TA-DA!" lives. We are able to enter each day in the confidence that Jesus is alive. Wherever we go, we give witness and bear testimony to the truth that Jesus is alive and ready to reveal Himself. Even in those days when the challenges are overwhelming, Christ stands ready to say to us, "TA-DA!" His resurrection gives us the ability to say with joyous defiance, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118:24.

Martin Luther expressed this peace and joy this way..."What could be more precious and nobler than an enlightened heart, a heart that knows God and all things, a heart that can judge rightly and speak truly in



all things before God? Where could there be a higher or greater joy than in a happy, secure and fearless conscience, a conscience that trusts in God and fears neither the world nor the devil?" (Luther's Works, Vol 14, p. 100)

No matter what Satan throws at us, no matter how unfairly the world treats us, we are able to

celebrate in Christ. He takes every wound, every hurt, every failure, and weaves them into the fabric of our life's story. Christ is ready to reveal Himself as the Victor. Easter is a "TA-DA!" day!

Together let us celebrate our Lord's Resurrection with renewed confidence and joy! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Your shepherd in Christ,
Pastor Mueller

"For I resolved to know nothing while with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

Where Is Jesus?

On the third day after Christ's death the Bible says, "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men." (Matthew 28:2-4)

As Mary looked into the tomb she saw "two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot." (John 20:12) Then one of the angels who was sitting outside the tomb proclaimed the greatest message the world has ever heard: "He is not here; he has risen" (Matthew 28:6). Those few words changed the history of the universe. Darkness and despair died; hope and anticipation were born in the hearts of men.

With those few words joy and new life now dawn in the hearts of all who believe. Don't leave Jesus in the manger...or on the cross...or in the tomb. He is alive, and even now He wants to walk beside you every day. Where is Jesus?

As we focus this Lent on who Jesus is and celebrate this Easter what He has done, I challenge each of you to seriously ponder the question from your own perspective: Where is Jesus? Is He your Lord and Savior? Is He the one who sits

upon the throne of your heart guiding and leading your way? Is He your strength, your hope, your friend? Or is He a distant acquaintance, a long lost friend, a pesky neighbor? The

“He IS risen; he is not here.”

MARK 16:6

manger is empty, the cross is empty, and the tomb is empty. *Jesus is Alive* and desires to be alive today in your heart. Welcome Him into your home, into your heart and into every aspect of your life. It's your call.

Peter R. Imlah
Youth & Family Minister



The Youth Page

TRUTH or DARE

TRUTH:

Over 30 million teenagers live in America today. Here are just a few statistics about current "Christian" teens (those who claim to have "a meaningful relationship with Jesus").

- 92% own a Bible...11% read it daily
- 87% do not believe in all of the Ten Commandments
- 61% believe that "premarital sex is not morally wrong"

Source: *The Day America Told the Truth: what People Really Believe About Everything That Really Matters* by James Patterson and Peter Kim.

Shocking. No? It should be. It is absolutely essential that we live as members of God's kingdom. The world has a way of making wrong look like right and vice

versa. This is where renewing our minds through God's Word is so important. Are you struggling to know God's identity for your life? Good! You're on the right track. This verse gives you the answer. Read your Bible. "Test" and see what happens when you obey God.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

DARE:

If you find yourself struggling with where to begin in God's Word, try the Psalms. The life of David covers nearly all the highs and lows that we still experience today and it's easy to identify with David's emotions. When you read, make it more than just a cold-hearted habit. Stop when

something hits home and ask God to reveal Himself. Awesome! Combine reading the Bible with prayer. It's a two-fisted power combination that never fails to connect you with God. He stands ready to teach you when you take the time to listen. C'mon. What can be more important than spiritual communion with the omnipotent ruler of the universe?

D.Y.K.? (did you know?)

King David was completely sold out for God. But when his wife saw him leaping and dancing in the streets of Jerusalem, she felt humiliated and said, "The king of Israel has distinguished himself today... as any vulgar fellow would!"

But David replied: "I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this."
(excerpted from 2 Samuel 6:16-22)

Peter R Imlah
Youth & Family Minister

SoulFire Youth Ministry (6:00 p.m. Sundays)

- April 2 Faith FULL Living - How to Tame the Tongue - James 3:1-12
- April 9 Faith FULL Living - How to be a Wise Guy - James 3:13-18
- April 16 No Youth
- April 23 Movie Night
- April 30 Faith FULL Living - How to Win the War Within - James 4:1-10

Cross/raining

- April 5 6:00pm The Call in Our Lives
- April 12 OFF
- April 19 6:30pm Truth
- April 26 6:30pm Sacrament Review



High School Visiting Day at CUW

Calling all **high school juniors and seniors** to Visit Day at Concordia University Wisconsin on Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come check out first hand what CUW is all about. During the visit you will: tour the campus, learn more about financial aid, have opportunities to ask questions of a panel, meet with the faculty in your major, and enjoy lunch in the dining hall. This is a great way to see what CUW has to offer! To sign up please call Kristin Gies, Visit Coordinator, at 262-243-4560 or email Kristin.Gies@cuw.edu



Stewardship Corner

Jesus said to His disciples, "A new command I give you: love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." An identifying characteristic of a Christian is commitment demonstrated through love. Christ-like love is not gold crosses around the neck or clever bumper stickers - it is consistent, committed Christ-like love. Christ has demonstrated His love with His blood and resurrection. How shall we respond to this love at Bethlehem? We pray you will respond in love and committed

service when asked to be involved in His ministry!



LWML Spring Rally

Here's a special way to break that cabin fever! Join in the fun at the upcoming LWML Spring Rally on April 22 at Monona Lutheran Church. Pastor Bill Pekari will welcome everyone and conduct a Bible study. Pastor Reinke from Lutheran Deaf Ministries will talk about his mission work and how the LWML has helped him expand his mission and ministries around the world. Pastor Reinke has just returned from another mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. He is a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker and you will all enjoy hearing about his travels. We will close the day with a brief business meeting and share all the great things LWML is doing. Then there's time to fellowship and meet new friends during the lunch provided by Monona Lutheran's LWML.

Registration and coffee are at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. Questions? Need Directions? Call Zone 21 Pres. Jana Hoffmann at 244-5154. We look forward to seeing you all on April 22!

Quilts are Flying!!

Our quilting day on Saturday March 18 was a great success! Twelve ladies came at 9:00 a.m. and tied 4 quilts, made 7 quilt tops and laid out a number of tops to be sewn along with much cutting and ironing. Our

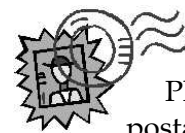
next quilting day will probably be in May.

Women at Bethlehem meet monthly on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to do special projects which benefit mission programs world-wide. Our next meeting is April 3 when we will mark Bibles for prisoners at the Dane County Jail. All women and confirmed girls are invited. **Contact Person:** Gerry Olson 608-241-0885.

Save your mites! Based on the Biblical story of the widow's mite, the mite box is intended for contributions above and beyond to church or Synod. Pick up a mite box or label that fits an empty frosting can at the cookbook table.

Knit or Crochet Bandages

We have an ongoing project to knit or crochet simple cotton bandages for tropical ulcer patients (size 8 needles or H hook). Pick up directions on the cookbook table by the mite boxes.



Stamps for Missions

Please save used postage stamps from your everyday mail for Mission projects. You may drop them in the box by the Sentry receipt basket in the hall. Stamps should have 1/9 to 1/4 inch of envelope around them.

Commemorative stamps, high value stamps and all foreign stamps are desired. These should all have the border around them.



Coming UP Pie Auction

June 4, 2006

A Relay for
Life Benefit



Women's Leadership Institute Equipping Women for Christian Leadership

MAY 19-21, 2006
CONFERENCE

Radisson North Shore (formally
called the Manchester East Suites)
7065 N. Port Washington Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217
414.351.6960 for reservations

Women: Making a Difference

"Many of the people from that
town believed in Him because
of the woman's testimony."

John 4:39

Sectional Tracks Include:

"Christian Women in Service to
Christ in the Church and the
World"

"Christian Women in the
Workplace"

"Christian Women in Christian
Families"

"Christian Women Teaching the
Faith"

Speakers & Topics for the Sectional Tracks Include:

Dr. Mary Hilgendorf "*Our
Daughters/Our Sons: What We
Teach Them about Women*"

Dr. Marlys Taege "*Learning from
Women Leaders in Scripture*"

- Evaluate their own attitudes about women in leadership
- Exchange ideas with other women and forge new friendships
- Be encouraged and equipped to better meet the challenges they face in the church, home, and workplace

Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola "*Please
Lead us in Prayer: Learning to
Pray Aloud*"

Ruth Koch, M.A., NCC "*Dealing
with Male-Female Relationships*"

Dr. Elizabeth Goodine "*The
Working Wife and Mother*"

Dr. Barbara Brunworth
"*Caregiving*" and "*Responding to
Abuse*"

Jill Schumann, MBA,
"*Influencing Our World and
Community*"

Karen Lippert "*Teaching the
Faith*"

Keynote Speakers Include:

Lois Voeltz speaking on
"*Women in a Biblical Perspective*"

Dr. Elizabeth Goodine speaking
on "*Historical Portraits: Women
in Early Church and Beyond*"

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann with a
special message on "*LCMS
History and Perspective on
Women*"

Conference Purpose and Outcomes...

Women who attend will:

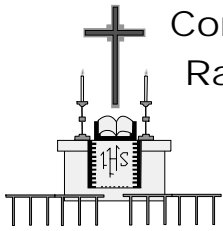
- Appreciate the legacy of women who have "gone before"
- Witness women and men working as partners for the good of the church

Cost: \$95.00 (which includes meals and the conference events). Plus \$72.00 a night (special conference rate) to stay at the Radisson North Shore

Please Note that if you would like to stay at the hotel **YOU** are responsible for making your own reservations. You can call the Radisson at (414) 351-6960; please remember to mention that you are with the CUW WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE in order to receive the special rate.

Brochures with reservation forms are on the bulletin board across from the Purpose Place in the hallway at church.

This conference, sponsored by the Women's Leadership Institute of Concordia University Wisconsin, is open to ALL people regardless of synod or occupation. The conference is for women desiring to make a difference in their home, their workplace, their community, and the world. Women will spend time with influential speakers and will be uplifted, energized, and informed.



Communion Rail Carving

The communion rail inset was designed and carved by Jim Isaacson, following the original church rail design by our sanctuary architect, Knute Villand. You will find a Dragon Style pattern going back to the medieval period of Northern Europe interrupted with fourteen symbols of the early Christian church.

The Dragon or Stave Church Style of carving is perhaps Norway's greatest contribution to the carving world. Found primarily on the magnificent wooden churches built between 1050 and 1350, Dragon Style carving encompasses a number of stylistic variations.

The intent of these carvings is to enhance the worship experience of our congregation, noting the joy, conquering of death, and written Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
300 Broadway Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

www.bethlehemlc.org
bethlehem@bethlehemlc.org
608.837.7446, fax 608.825.2268

Worship
Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:10 a.m.

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor
Mr. Peter Imlah, Youth & Family Minister

Alzheimer's Assn. Legal & Financial Planning Seminar

Tuesdays, April 11 & 25, 2006
5:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Hospital
707 Mills St., Madison
Assembly Hall, Bay 5

A two-part workshop for families that provides a general overview of legal and financial issues for anyone caring for an older adult. (Pick up a brochure at the *Purpose Place*.)

A \$5 donation per session to cover cost of materials is appreciated. Light refreshments & handouts provided.

To register call the Alzheimer's Assn. South Central Wisc. Chapter at 232-3400 or 800-272-3900.

Volunteer Opportunities

At Oakwood Village East
5565 Tancho Drive, Madison

Contact Volunteer Services
Coordinator Kim Viney
at 230-4238 or email at
kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net

Volunteer Drivers

Volunteers needed to help take Apartments or assisted living residents to weekday medical appointments or on personal errands, Mon-Fri a few times a month. Volunteer needs to use their own vehicle and monthly mileage reimbursement provided.

Independent-Living Apartment Resident Craft Group Instructors

One or two volunteers needed to develop craft project ideas for and lead weekly resident craft group Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning or afternoon. Volunteers with experience and interest in a wide variety of crafts beneficial, and good organizational skills needed. Day and time negotiable and flexible based on volunteer's availability.

Oakwood Village East – Plant Sale Assistant

Volunteers are needed to assist East Gardener Chris Neumann with digging up and dividing plants to be sold as part of the Oakwood Service League spring plant sale. Bending, lifting and digging capability necessary.

