

# The Light



Volume 54, Issue 4

**April  
2011**

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## Lenten Opportunities Continue



Because Easter is late in April this year, midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship will continue April 6 and 13. Join us at 6 p.m. for Soup and at 7 p.m. for Taizé worship.

Following worship, we are continuing our look at the Book of Faith study, *Seven Wonders of the Word*.



## *Holy Week and Easter Worship Opportunities*



Palm Sunday	April 17	8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	April 21	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	April 22	7:00 p.m.
Vigil of Easter	April 23	7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday	April 24	8:45 & 11:00 a.m.



### **Annual Easter Breakfast**

7:30—11:00 a.m.

Free-will donations will be accepted to help fund this summer's Youth Mission Trip to Belize.

### **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

10:30 a.m.

We will have designated areas divided into age groups. Kids from birth through 6th grade are welcome to join the hunt.



## From Our Pastor

The Gospel text for April 3<sup>rd</sup> this year is the story in John's gospel where Jesus heals the man who was blind from birth. As I was preparing for my own sermon I ran across this blog written by Rev. Rick Morley who is the rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. What he wrote touched my heart and I want to share it with you.

### ***dirt 'n spit 'n life***

*I don't know why, but human nature is consumed with building ourselves up and tearing others down. Part of the reason why Christianity, as Jesus taught it, is so at-odds with the world is that Jesus was all about building the 'other' up, and willing to be torn-down himself. That's the Way of Christ. It's the Way of the Cross. It's the Way of Lent.*

*It absolutely startles me that when the disciples see a man, afflicted with blindness from birth, their first thought is about sin. Did HE commit a sin? What, at birth? In the womb? He committed some horrific sin as a zygote and was therefore punished for life?*

*Are they joking? Or, did his parents sin? As a father of two young daughters, I don't even want to ask the questions that follow that line of argument. They see a man who has never seen a flower, a sunrise, the sea, his parents, or the place he called home - and they start wondering what he did wrong. They aren't reflecting on their OWN sin, of course. It's not a "oh-gosh-I'm-not-living-the-way-I-ought" sort of moment. It's a "oh-the-poor-slob-I-guess-he-got-his-due" sort of moment.*

*And it's at this point in the encounter that Jesus shines a Light on the Way as he lives it. He doesn't look at him as a sinner, he sees someone to lift up. And so the Son of God, Prince of Peace, Lord of All, and Creator of the Stars of Night, reached down into the dirt of the ground, spit into his own hand, and slathered a paste onto the man's eyes. He didn't just look on him with sorry pity. He touched him. He got down in the dirt. He heals him. He lifts him up. Because that's what Jesus does.*

*Now, I know that this story of giving sight to the blind, like all the stories of Jesus giving sight to the blind, is about God giving spiritual sight to all of us who are spiritually blind. It's about God showing all of us the way with new eyes, and a fresh look onto the Universe that God made. But, that also means that Jesus comes to us. And digs in the dirt. And spits in his hand. And slathers us with paste. So that our new eyes may behold the Light of the World. I can't shake the poetic links to God digging in the dust of the ground in Eden, and giving us his breathe that we might live. God lifted us out of the earth in the Beginning, and Jesus is still in the business of lifting us up. And opening our eyes. And bringing us Life.*

*And, as the Way of Jesus, it is meant to be our way too. There are a lot of broken lives out there that need picked up. Whole countries of lives, in fact. Japan. Libya. Sudan.*

*Let's not look on people like they're poor slobs, and wonder at how blessed we are. Let's reach out - into the dirt - if we have to. Let's dirty our hands. And let's bring the Life that Jesus brings.*

As we continue our Lenten journey, Father Rick's words are a reminder of who we are and an encouragement to be Christ's hands in our world.

In Christ,  
Pastor Janelle

## Mission Endowment Board Asking for Ministry Proposals

The mission of the MLC Mission Endowment Fund is to fund “expanding ministry in Spiritual Growth, Education, and Outreach”. Over the past 12 years, the Fund has distributed nearly \$66,000 to such projects as Habitat for Humanity, Milwaukie Nutrition Center, Camp Lutherwood, Backpack Buddies, and our own Scholarship program.

Funds are now available for distribution from 2010 earnings. If you know of a mission opportunity that you would like the Board to consider funding, please contact one of the current Board members or the church office for guidelines regarding your funding request.

All funding requests should be received by June 15, 2011. The Board will then make its determination of the projects to be funded.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following Board members: *Bob Lease, Gretchen Miles, Tom Giese, Glen Hess or Don Wilsey.*

## Journey Through Grief

Journey through Grief is a series of six sessions designed to help participants understand the grief process, ask questions, and share experiences that can lead to growth and healing.

Journey through Grief is offered by Providence Hospice and will be held at Providence Milwaukie Hospital on Fridays, April 22—May 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Mother Mary Teresa Room

Pre-registration is required. For information or to register, call: 503.215.2273. Information is also available at Bereavement@ Providence.org

## Collecting Items for Refugees

Have you noticed the big box sitting among the red tubs when you were walking from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall? We are collecting household items for refugee families through Lutheran Community Services NW. ***Things needed, either new or gently used are bedding—linens such as pillow cases, sheets, towels, washcloths; blankets; kitchen items—silverware, dishes, pots and pans, miscellaneous kitchen items, dishtowels, dishcloths, sponges, etc.; items for cleaning like brooms, mops, laundry detergent; toiletries; items you may think of that would help in setting up a household from scratch. The only things required to be new are pillows—that is a state regulation.*** If you are downsizing or getting rid of some of your things that are useable, then bring them to the box. These folks have brought nothing with them to America.

## Global Mission Emphases for Lent/Easter

In addition to our monthly Hunger Appeal, the Global Mission Ministry Team is gathering funds for the ELCA Disaster Response to Japan. All monies collected for the Disaster Response will be used to help those in desperate need in Japan following the massive earthquake and tsunami. Clean up and rebuilding will take a long time and need is ongoing. You may give directly to the ELCA online or make checks payable to Milwaukie Lutheran with a note in the memo line for Japan Disaster Response and place in the offering plate.

For April, there is an ingathering of donations to buy chicks for farmers in developing countries. Chicks cost about \$1 each and are given to farmers to create a family and community income by their raising of the chicks to become egg-layers and then selling the eggs for profit. Checks may be made payable to Milwaukie Lutheran and put “for chicks” in the memo line.

## Health Ministry

### Health Ministry Luncheon

The next Health Ministry Team luncheon and lecture will be on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Sandy Dancer, a Providence Hospital stroke nurse. She will speak about strokes, prevention and care. We hope that you will plan to attend. Please RSVP to: Connie Jackle 503-654-5113 Patty Shilling 503-654-8525

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### Insomnia

A good nights sleep is one of the keys to good health. Sleep is the third leg of good health. Along with diet and exercise, the three together are essential to good health. Long term sleep loss can be a risk factor in several health issues. These include heart disease, diabetes, cancer and weight management. Research is showing that your body is put into a state of stress when you don't sleep enough. This raises your stress hormone levels and your blood pressure leading to a greater risk of heart attacks or strokes. Lack of sleep can cause mood changes such as irritation, difficulty concentrating, and irritability. Older adults require 7-9 hours of sleep a night. Insomnia can be caused by side effects of medicine, illness, and poor sleep habits. Consult your physician if you feel that you have insomnia. Your physician will advise you on what you can do to improve your hours of sleep. There are several medications that can be prescribed to help you sleep better.

### Preschool News

Milwaukie Lutheran Preschool is now taking registrations for the 2011-2012 school year. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1. Three year olds attend school from 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tues/Thurs. and four year olds from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mon./Wed/Fri. Contact Barbara Johnson at 503-659-9881 for more info.

Annual Plant Sale—Forms are available on the bulletin board by the library. Orders are due no later than April 12 and will be delivered on May 4. Questions? Contact Barbara at 503-659-9881.

### Women's and Men's Dinner Out

Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Dinner Out will be held at Tebo's on McLoughlin. The Men's Dinner Out will be at Buster's BBQ...also on McLoughlin. The time to gather is 5:30 p.m. All are invited to join together for good food, fun and fellowship.

### MLC to Host Youth Choir

Sonrise Singers, of Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin TX, is undertaking a Northwest tour, with a stop in the Portland area on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, and request that families in our church open their homes and host 2 to 4 individuals overnight. The group, consisting of 32 girls and 9 boys and traveling with 9 adults (5 women, 4 men), would also need one meal provided for them on the evening of the concert, which is tentatively set for 7 PM. They are fully self-funded, but would appreciate a free-will offering at the concert. With their personnel numbering about 50, and families hosting 2-4 people (no singles), about 20 to 25 families would need to step forward. If interested, please email Owen, [owenjames101@gmail.com](mailto:owenjames101@gmail.com), and indicate how many people you can house, and whether your home is more suited to girls, boys or adults.

### Light News Deadline

Submissions due by April 15 at noon. Please submit news items to [editor@milwaukielutheran.org](mailto:editor@milwaukielutheran.org) or place in the "mailbox" on Sheryl Ann's office door.

## Thank You

Young at Heart,

Thanks for your generous donation to our Mission Trip to Belize. We really appreciate the support.

~The Senior High Youth

A big thank you to those who attended the recent Young at Heart luncheon fund raiser for MLC's Senior High youth trip to Belize. Through your generosity we raised \$60.00 for their use. The funds have been credited to their account.

\*The next Young at Heart event will be the Annual Summer Picnic in August.\*

~Paula Krewson and Deanne Vegge

March 2011

Dear Friends,

This may be a little late, but I want to thank you for all your prayers and support during the Christmas holidays. All that families that came to the Christmas program were provided with food, clothing, shoes, toys and lots of love from all of you. There were many volunteers of all ages who came to help out with the carrying, loading and just running to get the toys for us. Everyone was fed a meal of hot dogs, chips, cookies, candy and beverages. No one left hungry.

Some of the pastors that came out actually enjoyed the hard work and always smiled as another family passed by to pick up their provisions. It's always a great time when we can do this together and be a blessings to so many.

**Total number of Households that received assistance: 887**

**Individuals served: 4028**

**Children served: 1329**

All this was made possible through your love and generosity, thank you and God bless you!

You are always in our prayers,

~Marta Garcia, House of Zion.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the church clean-up on March 12. These people braved the rain to spread bark dust, pressure wash sidewalks and wash windows: Andy Quale, Guy Altman, Jay Lillie, Dennis McDermott, Jeff Braun, Jeff Johnson, Melanie North, Barbara Johnson, Gary Dale, Gordon Edington (from our Boy Scout Troop) and Bob Lease.

## Prayers

Marta G, Grace A, April R, Earl J, Trudy H, Barbara C, Marilyn D, Myra C, Dick P, Vi H, Palmer L, children in crisis, Marilyn K, Audrey M, David S, Todd K, Ernie R, Sarah and Peter B and family, Faith C, Darlene, Doris B, Bill P, Bethany H, Bob S, Marianne W, Andre B

**The Grieving:** Cecilia Schwanke, Tim Schwanke and family, Marianne and Carl Lewis on the death of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Wilton.

**General Prayers:** The President of the United States and our elected officials, the people of Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Somalia, New Zealand, Australia, Japan. All people around the world in military service for their country.

**For those serving Christ around the world:** Marian Hungerford-Cameroon; Pastor Steven Ray - China

**Milwaukie Lutheran Church**

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**Kari Liebert.....Bell Choir Director**  
**Carolyn Schoenemann ..... Bookkeeper**  
**Patty Shilling ..... Parish Nurse**

**Milwaukie Lutheran Pre-School**

**Phone: 503.659.9881**  
**Barbara Johnson ..... Preschool Administrator**

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God's work. Our hands.