

The Announcer

The Official Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
March 2010

MUSINGS

"How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"
1 John 3:1

In the movie *Pan's Labyrinth*, people are searching for another life, a better life, than the one they are currently in. It is set in the time of the Spanish Civil War, when Fascist strongman Franco is solidifying his grip on power. There are still pockets of resistance, trying to turn back the oppressive grip. They long to live free, and will even die for the cause. Enter Carmen, the widow of a tailor who had sewn the uniforms of the fascist commander, is now remarried to Vidal, the stern, sadistic Captain of Franco's guard who is determined to smash the resistance in this district. She is also carrying the Captain's child. The only thing Captain Vidal wants more than the defeat of the resistance, is this son she is carrying. That appears to be the only family Vidal seems to care for. And then there is Ofelia, the shy, highly imaginative daughter of Carmen. She refuses to call the Captain "father," insisting that her father is the tailor. Immersed in a harsh world, she retreats into a haunting world of fantasy and fairy tale, convinced by a faun that she is the mythical princess of an underground kingdom, the long-lost daughter of a king and queen. This gives her courage to face three trials, eventually standing up to man who demanded that she call him father, in the promise of the one whom she knew, deep-down, was her father.

Of course this is a very sketchy plot summary, though I have learned in the past that I ought not get too specific with movie plots, lest I become a spoiler. I'll tell you this much: I loved the movie, and though the cruelty of Captain Vidal was hard to watch, the gentle, slight, yet strong Ofelia was such a captivating character. Stuck in a world that was not of her making, she learned to cope as best she could – by allowing herself to not be "too old" for realities beyond this pain-filled world, and an indomitable faith that she was not a child of this world. The adults around her chided her, "Aren't you too old for such things?" But for Ofelia, they were life in a dying world.

Our world is filled with harsh realities. Bad economy, joblessness, homelessness, financial systems teetering between excessive greed and flat out foolish management. What a wilderness we must walk through.

Ofelia reminds me that though we are immersed in a terrible world, there is indomitable, irrepressible hope. Assured confidence that we are not just children of this world – we are children of God. This world is not our home. Our home is with our heavenly father, the King of all things. Don't let people put you off of God's word, saying it is just a bunch of fairy tales that you should have outgrown. There is more to this world than the senses can see, touch, hear, taste, smell. Life can be so very hard. Yet in the midst of this hard life we get little glimpses that give us hope, and inspiration, and courage to go on. We know that at the end of this hard journey, there is new life, resurrection. And we shall see Jesus just as he is—face-to-face. It will not be a dream, or a fantasy. "How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14



⇒⇒⇒ *Spring ahead!*

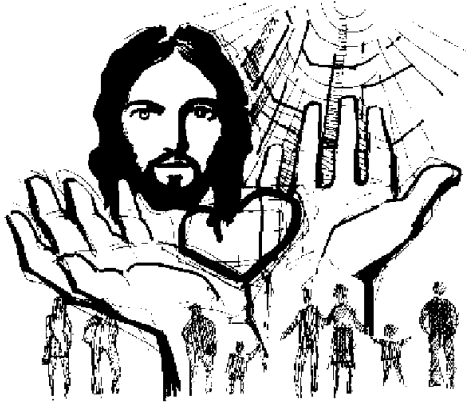


The Sign of
Jonah

A series of special services for Lent

Easter Breakfast!!! Worth getting up early for!

Breakfast on Easter morning is a tradition that is as old as the first Easter Sunday when the disciples were out on their boat fishing when they saw Jesus on the shore. Jesus hailed them and invited them to come ashore and have breakfast with him. Our tradition here at Pilgrim has evolved into kind of a "pot luck" affair, with folks bringing in doughnuts, coffeecakes, breads, juices, and...well, you get the idea. Also, there's usually someone in front of the griddle pouring and flipping pancakes, or frying sausages or bacon. Come along and join us, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (You can come earlier looking for the "first-fruits" but I warn you, you might get an apron tied around you!) The sign up board is posted in the Martin Luther room. Plan to attend! Make this an Easter day with fond memories and full bellies!



The Hearts For Jesus Mission, Mission India, is the Ohio District's choice for the 2010 annual focus

on a mission to learn about and support. They alternate between a local Ohio District Mission and a broader mission project every other year. The Sunday School and the church have so far collected over \$100 in coins and bills to send the children to Bible clubs, adults to literacy classes which use the Bible, and men of India to be able to start new churches. Our district president, Terry Cripe and vice president, Jack Davidson and others from the district have been on mission trips with Mission India and agree the Mission Field is ripe in India for the Gospel to be shared. Mike Mayo, principal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Hamilton, was on a trip there this winter and we will get information on his trip to share. Our extended families have even been collecting, joining in the mission work. We will collect money until March 14th. Thank you, all those who have supported the project for the Gospel in India! We plan to end the campaign with a blessing of the monies in the worship and a celebration at Social Hour on this same Sunday, March 14th. -Lee Ruff, Deaconess of Education

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

Psalmody: Psalm 85

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-20

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalmody: Psalm 32

First Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday, March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalmody Psalm 126

First Lesson Isaiah 43:16-21

Second Lesson Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Luke 20:9-20

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Psalmody Psalm 118:19-29

First Lesson Deuteronomy 32:36-39

Second Lesson Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Luke 22:1-23:56



From the Education Deacon

Sunday School – We have continued in our Walk Through the Bible lessons, learning to use a Bible atlas and what the Old and New Testaments are. Our Memory Work has been adding to our knowledge of the list of books of the New Testament. We use our 'four foot long' shelf of the books for a fun game. We also spend a lot of time on "life application," that is, working on questions about what the Bible stories mean for our lives. What a challenge for a teacher (and theologians!) And what a joy to have children so interested in life with God! So there are ongoing subjects we talk about.

Guild Notes

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. We need volunteers to serve and to offer devotions for the group. Ruth and Mary need your thought on a Mother-Daughter Banquet this June. Please let Mary know your thoughts and ideas, because planning needs to begin very soon.

The Easter Lily sign-up sheet is posted. The lilies are \$7.50 each. Please pay Mary Traicoff. Orders have to be in no later than March 8.

Altar Flowers

We need donors for altar flowers, with a lot of openings in the coming months. Share your special day. Put flowers on the altar. They are \$12.00 for both vases.



The Sign of Jonah

A series of special services for Lent

When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with News of God's prodigal grace. This series of special services continues on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**, exploring the meaning of "the sign of Jonah" as we follow Jonah on his journey...and Jesus on his way to the cross.

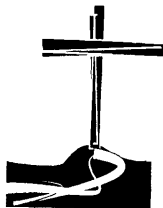
March 3 • Our Providing God (Jonah 1:1-17)

March 10 • Praying from the Belly of the Great Big Fish (Jonah 2:1-10)

March 17 • The God of the Second Chance (Jonah 3:1-4)

March 24 • About Face (Jonah 3:5-10)

Holy Week and Easter



Schedule

March 28 – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

- Blessing and Procession of Palms,
- “Readers Theater” Presentation of the Passion narrative from Luke;
- Holy Communion

April 1 – Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

April 2 – Good Friday

Classic Tenebrae Service

April 4 – The Resurrection of our Lord / Easter Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. -- Breakfast – bring your favorite breakfast item!
- 9:30 a.m. -- Children’s activities
- 10:30 a.m. – Easter Celebration Worship
Holy Communion

Thanks Extended

Our Senior Warden, Mike Fisher, will be writing you separately. However, I wanted to write as well to thank the people of Pilgrim Lutheran for their extraordinary generosity. One of the joys of living and working in this community is the support we all receive. At our Annual Meeting yesterday [February 7], I told the people here of your gift—an announcement greeted with celebration. Yours in Christ, Stephen Applegate



We cannot begin to thank you for your kind and generous gift toward the restoration of our historic building.

Restoration of an historic structure always brings new challenges as the project proceeds, and we are certainly seeing that in our building!

The support of the community to the restoration work has been overwhelming. We realize that not only are we blessed with this wonderful, historic structure, but we are blessed also with good, kind, and thoughtful Christian neighbors. The Holy Spirit is alive and doing great things in the world!

Sincerely,

Michael Fisher, Senior Warden; Mark Moller, Junior Warden

You are Invited

The Warner family is pleased to invite the members and friends of Pilgrim to a **graduation celebration** on Sunday, March 21 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in honor of their dear friend Karmen Crouch. It will be held at the church downstairs in the Martin Luther Fellowship Room.

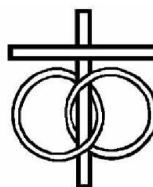
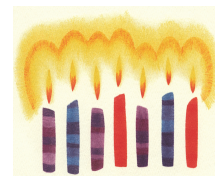
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Golden Voice and Symphonic Band
from Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan
will be presenting a concert
at St. John's Lutheran Church in Marysville
on Wednesday, March 17 at 7:00pm.

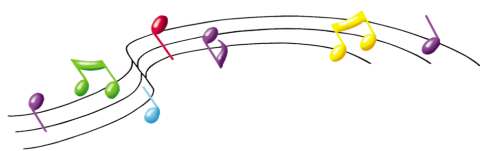
Directions: From Highway US-33, Take the Scottslawn Rd exit. Travel south on Scottslawn Rd/CR-105 for three miles. Turn RIGHT onto OH-736. Travel 0.6 miles, St. John's Lutheran Church is on your left at 12809 State Route 736.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rodney Coakley	3
Joyce (Warner) Wolber	5
Allen Brown	7
Jesse Wolber	8
Regina Waite	26
Catharine Ellis	29
Connor Wright	31



Jacob and Sabrina Warner 16



A New start for a Choir!!

Do you have a God-given desire to sing? Then do we have news for you! Our Choir is **now rehearsing on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** We are gearing up to sing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Come help us make a joyful to the Lord. Under the direction of Randy Ruffner

LCMS continues outreach to Haiti quake survivors

By Sarah Schafer

Even as the death toll in Haiti was expected to reach 300,000 and with an estimated 1.2 million Haitians living on the streets, the Synod continues its collaborative efforts to reach out in mercy to its partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH).

As of Feb. 24, LCMS members, churches, and schools from across the nation raised almost \$4 million and donated semi-truckloads of material donations for the LCMS response in Haiti. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched gifts to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, raising \$215,000.

"I thank God for the generosity of the people of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in contributing over \$3 million for relief

efforts in that stricken country," said Synod President Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. "I also thank God for the collaborative work of many individuals and agencies in our Synod who are working together to bring help and hope to people in Haiti, especially Lutheran pastors and people, particularly the pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti All are motivated to give and to serve, constrained by the love of Christ, who gave His life that we might have life."

At press time, \$800,850 had been distributed for Haiti relief: \$85,315 of that supported medical, pastoral care, and assessment teams that served in Haiti in the weeks following the earthquake.

More than \$104,981 was awarded directly to the ELCH, and \$175,154 to LCMS World Mission, the bulk of which allowed the Dominican Republic mission team to purchase and ship more than 220,000 pounds of food, water, hygiene items, 150 tents, and medical goods for distribution at ELCH church compounds in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince, and in outlying areas.

An additional \$185,400 in Haiti relief donations were awarded by LCMS WR-HC to LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) and Haiti mission societies, \$100,000 going to MISSION: HAITI to ship 13 containers of donated material goods to Haiti. LCMS WR-HC will also award grants to Orphan Grain Train to ship two containers to Haiti. Lutheran Church Charities also collected five semi-trucks of material goods for shipment to Haiti.

LCMS WR-HC also announced a \$250,000 grant to the pan-Lutheran organization Lutheran World Relief, in Baltimore, which will focus efforts in northern Haiti.

"Within 10 days of the earthquake, the LCMS had food, medical supplies, tents, and personnel on the ground in Haiti," said Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response with LCMS WR-HC, who credits LCMS donors, mission societies, RSOs, and particularly the assistance of LCMS World Mission and its Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission -- including Rev. Ted and Rebecca Krey, Danelle Putnam, and Brazil's Rev. Walter and Ana Ries -- for the Synod's ability to offer such quick response. Barb Below, director of Social Ministry Organizations for LCMS WR-HC, provided logistical services for volunteers and staff in Haiti from the LCMS WR-HC office in St. Louis.

For a period of time, LCMS World Mission re-deployed missionaries -- including Dr. Jorge Groh, regional director for Latin America from Panama and five others from the Cayman Islands and Panama -- to provide logistical and ministerial support to the missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

"If anyone has made a significant impact on the lives of Haitians, it's been the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission. They have risen to the occasion, providing assistance far and above what was ever expected," said Merritt.

LCMS WR-HC and LCMS World Mission staff met with ELCH President Rev. Marky Kessa Feb. 16-17 to outline the next six weeks of intermediate disaster response efforts in Haiti. The ELCH plans to send a five-member assessment team in early March to document the earthquake's effects on members and every church or school building in its eight districts. Once the assessment is complete, an ELCH Disaster Relief Committee will review grant requests from affected congregations and schools, and distribute aid received from the LCMS and other sources accordingly.

In the meantime, LCMS WR-HC will continue to focus on providing temporary shelter to homeless Haitians, improving water and sanitation in places where the homeless are gathering, and continuing to supply food and hygiene items.

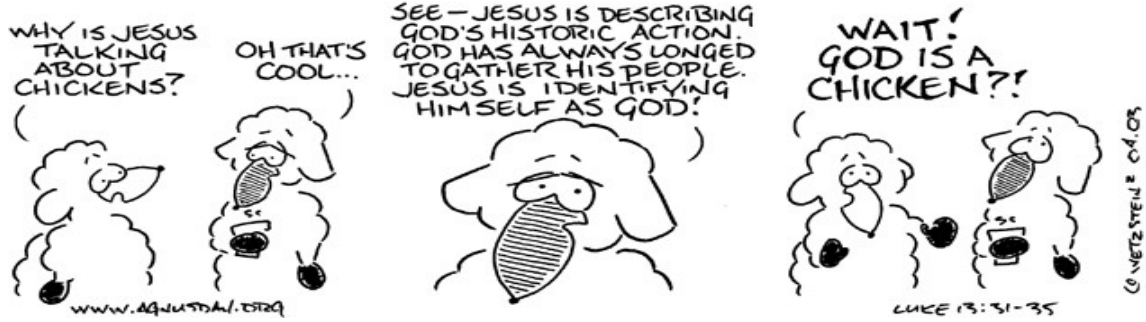
Already, four Mercy Medical Teams (MMTs) have seen hundreds of critically ill patients in Jimani, along the Haiti-Dominican border, and 1,200 more patients at clinics in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince. Kessa requested ongoing medical care in the intermediate stage, particularly as poor sanitation causes disease and sickness in refugee camps and as Haiti's rainy season nears. A March 11-21 team was scheduled prior to the earthquake to be the first MMT in Haiti. The team of 17 will continue efforts at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church compound in Port-au-Prince.

Two pastoral care teams and an assessment team traveled to Haiti in the weeks following the earthquake. "President Kessa expressed his heartfelt thanks to the LCMS for sending people and emergency aid," said Dr. Albert B. Collver III, LCMS WR-HC executive pastoral assistant and a pastoral care team member.

As of Feb. 24, when this story was posted, Kieschnick was preparing to travel to Haiti March 1 to see the damages firsthand, visit and pray with those affected, and encourage the work of LCMS staff and volunteers. Planning to join him are Merritt; Groh; Dr. Douglas Rutt of Concordia Theological Seminary; and James Neuendorf, communications specialist missionary in Latin America with LCMS World Mission.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, who traveled to the affected areas twice, said, "Those of us who have been on the ground in Haiti have been deeply traumatized. Yet we have suffered but the tiniest particle of what Haitians are suffering. I bury my thoughts in Christ's cross, the place I see the purpose of suffering most clearly. Haiti will remain Haiti. But I want the people of the Missouri Synod to know two things: 1. We have wonderful and capable Haitian Lutheran brothers and sisters serving others mightily with our help; and 2. Through specific strategic choices (in large measure by LCMS World Relief and Human Care), the LCMS today has tremendous capacity to reach out in love in time of disaster. Amid all the weakness and suffering, this is a great moment for the church. I'm proud of the LCMS."

Sarah Schafer is communications project manager for LCMS World Relief and Human Care.



At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" — Second Sunday in Lent, Series C

The Announcer is the monthly publication of Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Granville, Ohio.

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Newsletter submissions are welcome and encouraged; due by the 23rd of each month. All submissions may be subject to editorial revision.

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Note: Treasurer, Fiscal Officer, Deacon of Education, 2 elder positions are currently unfilled