

The Announcer

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

May 2010

Musings

This is what the LORD almighty says: "In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land." Haggai 2:6

"In a little while..." I'm trying to figure this one out. Jesus told his disciples that "in a little while you will see me no more." This meant either less than twenty-four hours (his death and entombment) or perhaps his ascension (about 44 days later). In any case this is just peanuts in the scope of eternity. When a voice out of eternity says "in a little while," what are we supposed to think? 5 thousand years, or 5 minutes from now? The only answer that comes to me is, we can't know. So if we can't know, then we can't plan, and if we can't plan then we can't put off, and if we can't put off, then we better be ready all the time.

But how can we be ready...be ready for what...exactly?

"I will **once more** shake the heavens and the earth..." OK, God's gonna shake things up. And it sure seems like things are being shaken up a good deal. How many tsunamis in the last couple years? Earthquakes? Hurricanes? Tornadoes? Wars? Is this what the prophet was talking about?

I'm not so sure. These happenings have been happening since before Jesus' time, back in the prophet's time, and way before that. Maybe we're taking that "heavens and the earth, the sea and dry land a little too literally. "Heavens and earth, sea and dry land" is our world; our boundaries in which we live out our days and years. The very boundaries that remind us that we are *creature*, not *Creator*. That we, no matter how much we like to tell ourselves, do not make the rules and set the boundaries. Earthquakes, tsunamis and storms (O my!) happen to us and shake us out of our tidy little complacency and arrogance. We are no match. All we can do is pick up the pieces after.

Haiti had a devastating earthquake. Why? What did the people of Haiti ever do to deserve that? Sorry Mr. Robertson, you are wrong. They did nothing to deserve that kind of suffering. No more than the rich and comfortable USA. We probably deserve it more because of our callous disregard for the needs of people like the survivors of Haiti. Oh, we are quick to try to be their savior and pick up their pieces and mug for the cameras. This nation will have much to answer for when the roll is called up yonder. How we sold our soul to consumerism and materialism and militarism and greed and control (and I could name some more, but I tire myself).

God is going to shake up our world. Maybe the catastrophism of 2012 lunacy. Or maybe God will shake up our world by letting our economy and our way of life fail. Or maybe God is just going to shake us out of our complacency so that we will stop trying to be gods ourselves, and begin to act in our lives for larger issues, for unself-serving values, to live in the *kenosis* of Jesus, emptying our own lives so that we may be filled with the will and purposes of God.

Now **that** would be a shake up.

Denison University Commencement

Sunday, May 16, 12:30 p.m.

Some Parking Considerations

The 2010 graduation ceremonies are going to take place across the street from us on "the green" at the above-mentioned date and time. This means you will most probably run into some street closings on your way to church. Don't let them stop you. The village assures me that passage will be open as far as the church parking lot, so come on through and don't let the sign keep you away. Also, though we will put up signs asking commencement-goers not to park in our lot until after 10:30, some will still park here before that time, so parking might be a little tight. Here's an idea. Come to Sunday school and sit in with us. Then your parking place will be assured!

Remember. . . Mother's Day is May 9!

Keep on your calendars!

Church Outdoor Worship and Picnic – **July 11th, Sunday, same time, 10:30 a.m.** At **Wildwood Park shelterhouse**, Granville. If there's rain we go back to church for worship and indoor picnic. It's always a good time. We could play some games, maybe win some prizes.

Lectionary Readings: May

Sunday, May 9 – Easter 6

Psalmody: Psalm 67
 First Lesson: Acts 16:9-15
 Second Lesson: Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27
 Gospel: John 16:23-33 -or- 5:1-9

Thursday, May 13 – The Ascension of our Lord

Psalmody: Psalm 110
 First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11
 Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23
 Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 16 – Easter 7

Psalmody: Psalm 133
 First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26
 Second Lesson: Revelation 22:1-20
 Gospel: John 17:20-26

Sunday, May 23 – The Day of Pentecost

Psalmody: Psalm 143
 First Lesson: Genesis 11:1-9
 Second Lesson: Acts 2:1-21
 Gospel: John 14:23-31

Sunday, May 30 – The Holy Trinity

Psalmody: Psalm 8
 First Lesson: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
 Second Lesson: Acts 2:22-36
 Gospel: John 8:48-59

May Birthdays

Sabrina Warner 8
 Debra Warner 19
 Betsy Milleman 21



May Anniversaries

John and Lisa Frase 22
 George and Mary Traicoff 29

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.

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio – Urgent Needs – Outreach Ministries

Through servant events, two distribution centers and case management services, Outreach Ministries supports Appalachian families and individuals facing hardships. Sometimes, however, our distribution centers run low on needed items. Each month we will be highlighting an urgently needed item. If you would like more information on how you can help, please call Mary Woodward, director of Outreach Ministries, at 740-732-6700 or email her at mwoodward@lssco.org.

You may drop off items at our distribution centers at 810 Main St. in Caldwell and 31860 Claypool Hollow Road in McArthur. Donations may also be delivered to the Outreach Ministries trailers at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 34 E. Stanton Ave. in Columbus and Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Clark State Road in Gahanna.

May's Urgent Need

Children's Clothing
 Building Materials and Supplies
 (Lumber, tools, etc.)

Food Pantry

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has been serving the hungry since 1927. Our choice food pantries serve the community by providing food to individuals and families in need. However, the shelves at the pantries sometimes run low on much needed items. Therefore, each month we will be highlighting the current urgent need items for the pantries. If you would like to help replenish our urgent need items, please call Dave Drumm, food pantry manager at 614-443-5130 or email him at ddrumm@lssco.org.

You may also drop off your items at our Champion Ave. Choice Food Pantry at 1460 S. Champion Ave, or any of our food pantry locations.

May's Urgent Need

Tea and Coffee
 Personal Care Items

LSS Day with the Clippers 2010

Saturday, July 24

Special price Admission – \$5.00
 Family Pack (6 Tickets) – \$26.00

6:00 p.m. Gates open for LSS Day participants.
 Food and Fun begin at Huntington Park

7:05 p.m. PLAY BALL! Columbus Clippers vs. Pawtucket Red Sox

A fireworks display will light up the sky following the game!

Order tickets by calling Pastor Dan, or leave a message at the office. Your advance ticket orders benefit LSS Central Ohio.

Thrivent Support our Troops Join Hands Day project 15 May 2010

Thrivent Chapter 30776 will be "supporting the troops" again this year for a fifth year. The project has been a blessing for our men and women serving in the U.S. Military. The project is done in memory of Marine Lcpl. Devon Seymour, KIA in Iraq June 9 2005. Devon was confirmed here at Pilgrim, and was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Newark. The project makes a difference, and gives a little piece of home to personnel far from home.

Here's how you can help:

- Collect items listed to the right of this column and place them in the collection box.
- Write letters of encouragement, make cards, draw pictures
- Send pictures of your class or congregation
- Seek names and addresses of soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan so they may receive a care package.

All items will be boxed on Saturday, May 15 at the "Look Up Center" at 50 O'Bannon Ave., Newark. They will accept donations from 9 a.m. To 10 am and fill boxes until 11:30 a.m..

Support our Troops

A partial list of Items Needed

Personal care products

Sanitary hand wipes (individually wrapped)
Emory boards/nail clippers
Kleenex Tissue (travel size)
Q-Tips (small sizes)
Deodorant/antiperspirant
Travel size body wash, toothpaste
Vitamin C drops
Zinc Tablets (Cold-eezz and throat lozenges)
Dental floss
Disposable Razors
Lotrimin for athlete's foot
Insect repellent (no aerosols)

Food/Snacks

snack size pringles/Tostitos/Cheese Nips and the like
Cheese crackers/peanutbutter crackers
Trail mix (no chocolate (it melts)
Beef and turkey Jerky, Slim Jims (NO PORK ALLOWED)
Pop Tarts
Nuts
Pop-top Canned fruit
Cereals and Instant Oatmeal Dried Fruit/Fruit Rollups
Other items-- please see full list in the Church Bldg.

Cannot accept – large/family sized items, home baked goods, glass containers, aerosol containers.

Sunday School Notes

We continue study of the Bible in "Bible Walk" Lessons, reviewing Law and Gospel last month, memorizing more books of the New Testament.

On Easter we had an Egg Hunt to find eggs filled with candy and stickers with symbols of Easter and new life. Then we talked about the Easter story and made a craft. This month we made Crosses of shiny polished rocks. Also, we enjoyed a "Chalk Talk" drawing out the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel as the people made two sacrifices, one to God and one to the false god, Baal. Elijah had them do this to see who is really God, and so they would follow the real God. Even though the people shouted and danced to Baal the whole day, he did not answer and send fire to the waiting sacrifice. But when Elijah asked God once to show he was God and send fire to burn the sacrifice made to him, wow, the fire burned the meat, the wood, the stones, the water surrounding the altar, and the ground there too! They said, "The Lord, he is God!"

We continue to learn to sing "Jesus Loves Me," "Our God is an Awesome God," and "The B-I-B-L-E." We will study how God promises to keep us safe, and gives us all we need, and we can always trust in Him. When you reach 3 years old please join us in Sunday School. And if you are any age older than 12, join the Bible Class upstairs in the Education Building to get spiritual questions answered and grow your knowledge of God's Word.
-Lee Ruff, Sunday School Teacher

Guild News

The May meeting of the Guild will be on Monday, May 10 at the Church. Sylvia Bast is serving as hostess.

We are planning the 30th Annual Bazaar for October 8 and 9. Workshops will be starting shortly. Plan to come if you can. We welcome all.

Money from the 2009 Bazaar was allocated to the following causes:

Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) US
LAMP Ministry, Inc.
St. Jude's
Stop the Suffering
Food Pantry Network of Licking County
Jacob Ruff/El Salvador Mission Trip
LWML
MMS Aviation
Lutheran Hour Ministries
Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio
Heartbeats of Licking County
Lutheran Bible Translators
Foster Children

Our Bazaar benefits many organizations. The Bazaar enables us to look beyond our own borders and make a difference in places both near and far.

Notes of Distinction

- Congratulations to John Frase, who has been promoted to the rank of Master Chief in the U.S. Navy! John has 20 years service, having joined just after High School, a Gas Turbine Systems Engineer. Congratulations, John. We are proud of you!
- Thank you! Bob and Debbie Warner offer their sincere thanksgiving to God for you all for the kind prayers, cards, and food delivered. This has all meant so much during the ordeal, and the support and love shown has lifted them up!
- Dear Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Thank you for opening the Church for my graduation. It was very special to celebrate my graduation with my family and friends. I appreciate the warm welcome from everyone when I come. Sincerely, Karmen Crouch

Trustees Report

Busy. Busy. Busy. That describes the work that has been going on these past months.

- Painting inside in various parts of the buildings.
- Drainage repairs with moving the tree, and downspout re-routed to the storm drain. A section of sidewalk was replaced with a section of drain grate to help carry drainage away from the Narthex.
- Most of the outside doors have been replaced. and painted.
- All of this work has been done during the Lenten and Easter season!
- Did you notice the old steeple cross positioned at the entrance? The area will be seeing more work in the future.

Report on "Soup-er Bowl Sunday" -

Pilgrim was presented with an award on May 4th, during worship by the head of the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantries, Barbara Packer, for the largest donation given on Soup-er Bowl Sunday to fight hunger per baptized member of any church in central Ohio.

Get a look at our trophy-- it is a football helmet! Yes, Pilgrim, may be small, but we have a BIG heart!! Thank you to all who are helping those who right now have tough times!

Parish Communication Workshop

How do we do a better job of working together, and of sharing the great mission and message we have been given?

One word. Better communication. No wait...that's TWO words. Oh well, you see the problem--what we think we are saying and what we end up actually saying. Confusing.

This workshop should help.

On Saturday, May 22, the Rev. John Hohe will lead us in a workshop designed to help us better express, and more efficiently take our message to the outside world. The workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. Until 12:00 noon. Please come!

The Hearts For Jesus Mission Project

Mission India, was the Ohio District's choice for the 2010 annual focus on a mission. They alternate between a local Ohio District Mission and a broader mission project every other year.

The Sunday School and the church have collected over \$147 in coins and bills to send the children to Bible clubs, adults to literacy classes which study the Bible, and men of India to be able to start new churches. The Mission Field is ripe in India for the Gospel to be shared.

We saw a slide presentation on the area in which this ministry is carried out in March. It was very interesting to see slides of places and the people God loves there that live in difficult circumstances. Also, we saw how our collection will further spread God's Good News to them while helping them learn to read and be able to preach to new areas there.

Thank you, all those who have supported the project for the Gospel in India! We ended the campaign with a blessing of the monies in the worship and a celebration at Social Hour with a taste of India- Chicken Korma, and the common spices Indians cook with. -Lee Ruff, Deaconess of Education

Vacation Bible School – "Let's Build an Ark!"

July 12-16, 9-12 noon.

for age 3 – 6th grade.

"Let's build an Ark!" is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School week. Guess who we're going to be learning about! You got it!

"Old Noah, he built himself an ark, there's one more river to cross. He built it out of hick'ry bark, there's one more river to cross."

"The Lord said to Noah, 'There's gonna be a flood, floody...'"

PLUS! We all get to help build a six-foot Ark.

So mark the dates, get your kids and grand-kids, and the neighbor-kids and any others you can round up

We need teachers to share the faith and enthusiasm of a little child! The classes will be divided this way: Pre-K, K, and 1st grade; 2nd and 3rd; and 4th through 6th. So 3 teachers or teacher teams are needed, also, T-shirt makers, snack makers & servers, games leader, decorators, crafts leader, sign makers, and helpers for teachers or helpers to make and copy class materials. We need 5 more staff, adult and teenage to put on this highlight of the summer at Pilgrim. VBS helps "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it," a real job worth doing!

Please ask Lee Ruff where you can help or how to help in preparing for that week, 740-587-3453. Sign up children and their friends now by calling Lee at 740-877-4192, or the Church Office, 587-0345. Thank you, God always blesses the work done to share His Word with the children!