



THE CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

February 2010

Volume 15 Issue 2

A Word From Our Pastor

We are now into the Sundays after the Epiphany. Just to refresh your memories I would like to say a little about these Sundays. Before Christmas came into existence in the fourth century, there was in the East an ancient festival, the Feast of the Epiphany, reported from the third century on. In the second half of the fourth century, Christmas was introduced into the East, and the Epiphany was introduced into the West -- maybe by way of Spain or Africa and came to be associated with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. We began with The Day of Epiphany then the First Sunday after the Epiphany we focused on the Baptism of Our Lord. This was a revelation of Jesus' divine sonship (Matt. 3:17), the anointing and appointment of Jesus to his messianic office at the beginning of his public ministry, a declaration of Jesus' solidarity with the sinful human race in undergoing baptism by John, and a baptism of the water to give the element power to cleanse from sin. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany will be the Transfiguration of Our Lord. This is a Lutheran contribution begun by the sixteenth-century reformers Johannes Bugenhagen and Veit Dietrich. The Baptism and the transfiguration are both epiphanies of Jesus as he is and as he will be and are therefore like the first manifestation of Jesus in Matthew's account, to the Magi. On this day we see a preview of his glory to come before descending into the shadowed valley of Lent and Holy Week. I will speak about Lent in our next newsletter and also about the Great Week and the Triduum (the holy three days -- one worship service).

In case you were wondering about where I get all of this, I pulled this out of an important book which the Worship and Music Team should use. The book is Commentary on the Lutheran Book of Worship: Author, Pfatteicher, Publisher, Augsburg Fortress.

Pax, Pastor Hugus

**ASH
Wednesday**

February 17th

(In the Pavilion)

7:00 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion

Wednesdays During Lent

Soup Supper & Lenten Worship will be at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea again this year beginning Wednesday, February 24th. Pastor Hugus will be assisting Pastor Mike Blaker with the Wednesday services. Soup Supper will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up on the sign sheet on the table near the bulletins and hymnals if you able to bring a pot of soup.

Four Chaplains Memorial Service

Sponsored by: The American Legion 5th District, Department of FL

February 7th, 2010, 2:00pm

Ocean/Beaches Post 129

1151 South 4th Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL

Pastor Hugus will participate in this service, it will be his fourth year. The guest speaker is CAPT Aaron L. Bowman, USN Commanding Officer, Naval Station Mayport. If you have any questions speak with Pastor Hugus.

Ministry Highlights

February 7	1:00 p.m.	Soup Kitchen/WoodyTeam
	2:00 p.m.	Four Chaplains Memorial Service
February 8	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
February 11	6:30 p.m.	Ladies Night Out/Bogey Grill
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting w/ Rev. Paul Lutze
February 17	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
February 21	11:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
February 24	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper at St. Andrews
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Worship at St. Andrews

Pancake Breakfast

The Pancake Breakfast was awesome last month, great fellowship and food. The breakfast will be the **3rd Sunday** in February (the 21st) in the Lord of Life Pavilion following worship.

Fellowship Event

Interested in going to see "Menopause the Musical" in April? The dates being considered are the 24th & 25th at the 2:00 p.m. matinee. There is also a 5:00 p.m. show, though we would rather go downtown in the daylight so we can find our way home ☺. The full ticket price is \$49.50, but if you order 6 tickets it's \$8 off, and if we get 12 or more tickets, the price is \$10.00 off. It's a very funny show and worth seeing again if you've already seen it. We could have lunch before or dinner after if anyone wants to, or just meet up and then go home. I'm trying to get an idea of interest as the ticket discounts are through the 31st of January. Of course men are welcome too and it doesn't just have to be people in our church! Invite a friend! If interested, contact Wendy Mowat at 273-8668.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies, come join us for an evening of great food and fellowship **Thursday, February 11th**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bogey Grill. The restaurant is located by Proctor Ace on A1A south of CR210. Let Deb Nye (716-8747) know if you plan to attend.



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Connect with the Florida-Bahamas Synod on Facebook and Twitter

When you connect, you will receive exclusive updates and all the latest news as it happens, including:

- reviews of the latest FREE resources from the Synod Resource Center,
- real-time news and information from synod events including Synod Assembly,
- regular inspirational messages, prayers and scripture readings,
- access to early registration for synod events,
- and much more!

You can also post greetings, videos, photos, and share information about upcoming events in your area with the entire synod. This is a great place to connect with old friends throughout the synod while making new connections that strengthen our ministry together. So join our networks now!

If you don't have a Facebook or Twitter account you can still receive updates and news from around the Florida-Bahamas Synod by registering your email address online at www.fbsynod.com. Simply enter your email address in the box labeled "Follow us" on the right side of the page and hit "submit."

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response

Director Kevin Massey and Lutheran Services of Florida's Danielle Kearney are meeting military and commercial flights coming in to both Tampa and Orlando with injured Haitian evacuees and their immediate families.

Flights will begin arriving tonight in Tampa. Both LDR and LSF are asking Tampa congregations to assist in relocating family members during their time in the Tampa area. Sponsorships could be as long as three months in duration. Congregations or members willing to sponsor a family should contact David Yarborough at 813-210-3675 or the LSF Tampa Offices at 813-676-9513.

ELCA News Service

On a daily basis the Florida-Bahamas Synod website has been posting an ELCA News Service regarding Haiti. The older news service articles are available to read also.

A Word from Our Bishop

Epiphany Season 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

[Prayer of the Day, Second Sunday after Epiphany]

This has been a challenging year financially for our members, our congregations, our nation and the world. As may well be expected, the financial circumstances of our lives were also often reflected in the offerings received by congregations and the Mission Support shared by congregations with the greater church. The 2009 Mission Covenants were lower than previous years leading our synod and the ELCA churchwide expression of our church to adjust ministry plans accordingly. As a synod, we remain faithful to our practice of sharing 51.25% of all mission support received in 2010 with the greater church as a model of first fruits giving.

However, I do need to share with all the congregations of our synod that the financial support for the mission and ministry plans of this synod and the churchwide expression of the ELCA have fallen short of the hoped for goals set by congregations. As a result, many important missional endeavors around the world: Missionary support, efforts to fight malaria, support for schools and food to feed the hungry are underfunded. Closer to home we will be unable to meet our commitments to camp and campus ministries, grants to assist congregations and youth and family ministries to name a few.

I am writing to encourage all congregations to prayerfully consider whether additional end of the year gifts might be possible. Our fiscal year ends January 31, 2010.

To those congregations that have met or exceeded your covenants, I offer the thanksgiving and appreciation on behalf of those who put your good gifts to work in the name of Jesus. For those congregations that thus far have been unable to fulfill or meet your mission support goals, I offer the understanding and encouragement of your brothers and sister in Christ. I trust that you will do your best to fulfill your commitments.

To all congregations of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, I ask that you please consider giving a year end gift to our common ministry. I ask that you prayerfully consider special efforts to raise the level of mission support in this month of January in order to help us more fully support that mission being done in our Lord's name in this synod and worldwide on your behalf. As one pastor said “Mission Support is not giving to the Synod but through the Synod to serve all God's people.”

May God, who is the source of every blessing, richly bless your ministry and mission! And may God's Holy Spirit transform our lives and witness to God's love in the world!

In Christ and His Love,
The Reverend Edward R. Benoway, Bishop

A Note from BEAM

Hi BEAM Friends!

We received this handwritten note today and I thought you'd enjoy reading it:

I would like to thank BEAM and its volunteers for all the help you have given myself and my children for my mortgage, food, and most of all Christmas. We had no Christmas or gifts for me to give them. I cannot put into words what it has meant to us. BEAM is truly a Blessing and from the bottom of my heart I Thank you. Everyone at BEAM is pleasant and understanding and friendly. May God Bless you all and keep your families safe.

and we received this handwritten note before Christmas:

Dear BEAM,

Hi This is the ---- family and we are just letting you guys know that we all thank you for all you do for us and others. And you guys should really see what you people are doing. You are making a big difference for people who does not got it that good. and I hope God bless you all. And happy holidays and a New Year's and can't wait to open them [Christmas gifts].

P. S. The ----- Family

by ---- ----

age 13

Thank you

Thanks for all you do for our neighbors at the beaches!

Vivian Southwell

Executive Director

LSF Helping Haitians Arriving in Florida after Earthquake

By Thomas L. Weitzel

LSF Communications

20 January 2010

Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) staff and volunteers are working around the clock to assist in the processing of Haitians arriving in Florida following the devastating earthquake that struck the nation's capital on Jan. 12. About 25,000 Haitian Americans holding dual citizenship in the United States and Haiti are expected to arrive in the next week, mostly in Florida, according to Eric Tillich, Vice President for Agency Advancement at LSF. "People are coming here basically with nothing except maybe a backpack," said Tillich, "after losing everything in the earthquake."

LSF staff and volunteers are currently assisting at Orlando Sanford International Airport by providing interpreters who speak Creole, helping with processing, and seeing that those arriving get food, water, provisions and any needed medical attention. Children are being given Mickey Mouse stuffed toys to provide some level of comfort. In addition, LSF is partnering with the Florida Children's Coalition to coordinate volunteers from other agencies serving children and families. "We are coordinating this volunteer effort on the ground," said LSF CEO Samuel Sipes, "and we are grateful for the support and assistance of our partner agencies that are also sending staff and volunteers."

That effort by LSF staff, volunteers and partners is a 24 hour effort, "because planes from Haiti are arriving 24 hours," said Tillich. "LSF is truly on the front line of assistance." LSF staff and volunteers are also gearing up to assist with the processing of Haitian Americans coming into other areas of Florida if needed as well, he said.



"Prayers are very much needed for these people and for our staff as we work to help bring some much-needed assistance to those arriving in Florida," said Tillich.

Donations are also needed for the response effort going on in Haiti. To make a donation, click on this link for the [Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod](#); or this link for the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#). Thrivent Financial For Lutherans is also offering a \$1 match for every \$2 donated to either of these church fundraising efforts if you give your gift through <https://www.Thrivent.com/HelpingHaiti>.



Dear Friends,

It's been a week since the devastating [7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti](#). In that time you have showed your overwhelming support for the people of Haiti with [cash donations and prayers](#).

Please know that LWR is putting your gifts to good use. We've been working with partners on the ground to ensure that the people of Haiti get access to food, water and shelter.

Many of you have asked what else you can do to help. I am writing today to alert you of an opportunity.

Today, along with partners at Church World Service, we sent a shipment of health kits and layettes to Haiti. That shipment depleted our stock of health kits in the Maryland warehouse. And we will need many more to fulfill needs in the coming weeks and months.

Will you help us fulfill the need for health kits, quilts and school kits? We want to bring relief and comfort to the people of Haiti, but we also need to continue to fulfill requests from around the world. To do this, we need your help. Here's how:

- Continue to [give generously](#).
- Make [health kits](#), [quilts](#) and [school kits](#). There are several ways to [get them to our warehouses](#):
 - Drop your items off at one of our warehouses, or one of the year-round collection sites:
 - [LWR Warehouse in South St. Paul, MN](#)http://lwr.convio.net/site/R?i=MVIHk0I2MYdYyZ_cLwUPqw..
 - [LWR Warehouse in New Windsor, MD](#)
 - [Urban Servant Corps office in Denver, CO](#)
 - [Church of the Brethren office in Elgin, IL](#)
 - Bring your items to one of the spring Ingathering collections – [check here](#) to find out if there's one in your area.
 - [Mail your items](#) to one of our warehouses.

Thanks for being God's hands and heart to those in need in Haiti and across the world. I look forward to sending you more reports on how your love is helping to restore lives.

Another update:

On Monday, January 25, LWR's first shipment of health kits and layettes arrived in Haiti. We are grateful to our partner Church World Service for helping expedite this process. And we are planning even more shipments. You can help by [making quilts and kits](#). These immediate supplies provide much-needed relief to the people of Haiti, but we are also keeping our eye on Haiti's future. LWR is making long-term plans to help the people of Haiti rebuild their lives, especially those in rural areas who are left particularly vulnerable because most aid is concentrated in the capital city. And even communities that did not sustain physical damage in the quake need support, since they are now dealing with an influx of people leaving the destroyed capital, putting a strain on their already limited resources.

You're making quilts and kits to provide immediate relief, and you've made financial gifts to support both immediate and long-term efforts in Haiti. But you've told us you still want to do more. We know you're been praying for those in Haiti. Now you can also show your care and support by sharing your prayers through LWR's ["Prayers for Haiti" board](#).

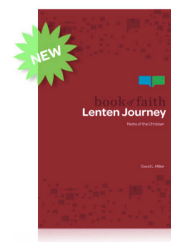
Lutheran World Relief and our brothers and sisters in Haiti are blessed by your tremendous support and generosity.

In Christ,
John Nunes
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief

P.S. And remember, you can help Haiti **right now** by texting **LWR** to **40579**. A \$10 donation to LWR's relief efforts in Haiti will be added to your phone bill. Tell your friends!

A New Lenten Journey for 2010

This new *Lenten Journey* takes you through Romans 12, in which the apostle Paul identifies marks of the Christian life.



This new devotional book contains deep reflections and insightful questions that will be your guide as you explore how your life is "marked" by Christ and consider how you live the marked life for the sake of the world

You are invited to a 40-day journey exploring Romans 12. In this chapter, the apostle Paul calls us to new life in Christ and identifies marks of the Christian life. The deep reflections and insightful questions in this book will help you explore how your life is "marked" by Christ and consider how you live the marked life for the sake of the world.

You can take this journey on your own or with others. Consider getting together with a family member, friend, or small group to discuss the questions.

Availability: This item is not yet available. You may order this item now and it will be shipped to you as soon as it is available, the cost is \$9.99. Call 1-800-328-4648 or go online at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Please order your copies by February 5, 2010 to make sure you have them in time for Ash Wednesday!

Birthdays

2/06 Karin Campbell
2/10 Bob Orth

2/24 Andrew Campbell

Anniversaries

None this month



Remember in our prayers those with special concerns, including:

Homebound/Assisted Living Facilities: *Alma Ainsley (Vicar's Landing, PVB), Lucille Halstead,*

Disciple in the Military *James Saurman (USMC), Christian Tanton (US Army)*

Disciples *Dorothy Archer, Mark Archer, Karen Bianchi, Moira Catches, MaryBeth Henningsen, Amelia Orth, Erik & Ryan Sander, Vivian Steinbach, Natalie Taylor, Joey Waple, Sarah Williams*

Relatives & Friends:

All the people & workers of Haiti

Ann's brother (Amelia Orth)

Julia (Amelia Orth)

Evan & Brent Baker (Dorothy Waple)

Rochelle Boyer (Deb Nye)

Todd Blake (Mario Bianchi)

Connor Bos (Leann Wiggins)

Alvina Braatz (Brenda Braatz)

Georgia Braddock (Hilda Markantonatos)

Aleatha Brantner (Hilda Markantonatos)

Frieda Carillo (Hilda Markantonatos)

Vickie Centeno (Dorothy Waple)

Nancy Chojn (Leann Wiggins)

Juan, Johnny, Shannon Colon (Hilda Markantonatos)

Adrian & Olivia Colon (Dorothy Waple)

Margaret Darty (Bill Darty)

Carol Davis (Nancy Connors)

Marlie Didson (Kristen Bankert)

Ethan & Evan Elfsey (Lindsey Larrimore)

Terry & Tracy Fahr (Deb Nye)

Alicia Gonzalez (Hilda Markantonatos)

Jan Holcomb (Smith & Dolly Holcomb)

Brenda Jewell Grafton Garner (Hilda Markantonatos)

Marita and Terry Greene (Dolly Holcomb)

Nancy Goodale (Roy Lewis)

Anne Hager (Hilda Markantonatos)

Jerry Hale (Jean Bankert)

Rev. Vicki Hamilton (St. Johns Lutheran)

Arnie Henningsen (Marybeth Henningsen)

Dona Horsley (The Bianchi family)

George Inman (Wendy Mowat)

Carmen Jimenez (Hilda Markantonatos)

Juan Jimenez (Hilda Markantonatos)

Sharon Jobbs & family (Brenda Braatz)

Pat Kaminshi (Pat Darty)

Samantha Kelley (Cathy Wiggins)

Beulah Landon (Deb Nye)

Linda Larrimore (Kevin Larrimore)

Delia Loupee (Nancy Chojn/Leann Wiggins)

Kevin Mahoney (Dolly Holcomb)

Mark Markantonatos (Hilda Markantonatos)

Andres Marquez (Hilda Markantonatos)

Madeline Moore (Amelia Orth)

Robert & Cheryl Meyer (Hilda Markantonatos)

Bertha Neeson (former member)

Mandy Ohorodnik (Nancy Connors)

Dorothy Orth (Bob Orth)

Bruce Pinover (Bankerts)

Liza Rochelle (Kevin Larrimore)

Dee Roberts (Jean Bankert)

Chrystal Rhude (Nancy Chojn)

Robert Schlobohm (Dolly Holcomb)

Kimberly Severson (Hilda Markantonatos)

Connie Shaffer (Kristen Bankert)

Diane Smith (Deb Nye)

Sherrill Sullivan (Kristen Bankert)

Turner family (MaryBeth Henningsen)

Riley Turner (Nancy Connors)

Deb Willifor (Wendy Mowat)

Anna Wroblewski (Sarah Williams)

Michael Zich (Sarah Williams)

Rita Zich (Sarah Williams)

Families Mourning Loss:

Ed Archer (member)

Patrick Dooley (Aaron Nye)

Rick Tobias (Brenda Braatz)

Evelyn Weyandt (Karen Bianchi)

Phillip Jackson (Deb Nye)

Family of Prayer Partners are: Karen Bianchi, Amelia Orth, Jackie Woloscheck, Jim and Vicki VanHorn.

To Put Someone on the Prayer List: you can either call the office at 285-5347 or email the office at lordoflife2@juno.com.

About Our Church...

Our Vision is to be the body of Christ, proclaiming God's love to all in a broken world and connecting the people of Ponte Vedra Beach and surrounding communities with the healing power of hope and peace brought by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Mission is to gather as a community of believers empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread God's Word and love as His caring people.

Our Guiding Principles:

Jesus is our Lord and Savior
leading and encouraging Christ-centered lives
(Philippians 2:9-11)

Everyone is Welcome

all are forgiven at the foot of the cross
(Luke 15:1-2)

Providing Sanctuary in a Broken World

sharing Christ's message of peace and hope
(1 Peter 2:9)

Serving Others with Compassion

letting the love of Christ flow from us into the world
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Returning our Gifts for God's Work

growing good stewards of the environment,
and our time, abilities and financial resources
(2 Corinthians 9:8)

Teaching and Modeling Christian Values

nurturing new, renewed and deeper discipleship
(2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Partners in Ministry

Assistant to the Bishop
Rev. Paul Lutze

FL-Bahamas Synod
www.fbsynod.com

ELCA website
www.elca.org

Lutheran Social Services
www.lssjax.org

Lutheran Outdoor
Ministries of FL
www.lomfla.org

Staff, Officers, Church Council

Interim Pastor	Rev. John Hugus
Parish Secretary	Deb Nye
Lead Musician	Katie Bonfanti
President	Kevin Larrimore
Vice President	Sarah Williams
Cong.Secretary	Karen Bianchi
Treasurer	Cathy Wiggins
Financial Secretary	John Sievers
Council	Jean Bankert
Council	Nancy Connors
Council	Smith Holcomb
Council	Wendy Mowat
Council	Leann Wiggins

Ministry Team Leaders

Discipleship	Leann Wiggins
Fellowship	Jean Bankert
Finance	Kevin Larrimore
Mutual/Staff Support	VACANT
Outreach	Kristen Bankert
Property	VACANT
Stewardship	John Sievers
Youth	Wendy Mowat
	Cathy Wiggins
Witness	VACANT
Worship & Music	VACANT

Building Ministry Team

Wendy Mowat	Deb Nye
Bob Orth	Floyd Wiggins

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m.

Holy Communion celebrated

Stay Connected with Us!

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Web Site: lordoflifepvb.org

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION
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To our friends...

