

The Celebration

of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church

www.cclutheran.com



March 2012

Greetings all,

From time to time, all of us need a reality check. If for no other reason it's often better to know the truth than live in a fantasy. I found this out recently when I decided to join the Y.

Before I started going back to the gym regularly, I thought I was in pretty good shape. While I'm nowhere near the athlete I was in college, there's never been a pickle jar I couldn't open. At least that's what I told myself. Since going back however I've been confronted with a startling truth: I'm not nearly as strong or as in shape as I thought I was. It was an eye opener to say the least to discover that gravity, unlike my friends, would not speak kindly to me. And while my ego took a pounding, getting real about my body's strengths and weaknesses was the impetus I needed to keep going back to the gym. This kind of self-discovery – the kind that leads to positive change and not self-absorption has turned out to be a good thing.

Similarly, Lent can be a time when we come face to face with the strengths and weaknesses of our spirituality, and we might find that in this exposure our egos take a necessary pounding. This "getting real" is not necessarily a bad thing. However, we need to be cautious here. While there are some superficial similarities between physical and spiritual training, there is one huge difference that can't be overlooked –

While my health assessment prompted positive action on my part, what we discover during Lent in terms of our spiritual weaknesses prompts passionate action on God's part.

So an obvious question here might be, "If God is always doing all the heavy lifting anyway, then why bother with Lent at all?"

Here I think the simple answer is gratitude and joy.

Another analogy may be useful at this point. After a long fast, there is an almost indescribable wave of gratitude, verging on joy that washes over me when I take a bite out of an apple slice. It's not that this post-fast apple is somehow magical or better than any other apple. At least I don't think it is. It's more the fact that the fast itself has worked some kind of change in me that makes me a slightly different person. Literally and figuratively, I'm less full of myself, and more prepared in some way to receive the blessing that is the apple.

Now I think it's safe to say that God's grace – as revealed in Jesus Christ's victory over death – is infinitely greater than a slice of apple; um – duh. Yet even so, all of us can fill ourselves up with so much other stuff (e.g. me, me, me, me, me and well, me), that this grace just doesn't seem all that interesting or even appealing when we encounter it daily. This is where Lent comes in.

The gift of Lent is that it's a time when we are invited to give ourselves over to the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit – through the Lenten disciplines – who then, little by little, empties us of all this me-fullness. In time, God's work in us changes us. We are turned inside out. In time, "Taste and see that the Lord is good!" becomes less of a polite invitation **to us** of God's grace and more like a proclamation **to all** of indescribable gratitude, verging on joy.

May Christ's presence in your life be unmistakable today and throughout this season of Lent.

~ Pastor Chris

Sunday Morning Opportunities:

THE ART AND THEOLGY OF FORGIVENESS: Pastor Chris is leading a class on forgiveness. The class will run through the end of March. The class is currently viewing and discussing a film "Amish Grace". Starting March 18th discussions will be around themes from the book *Free of Charge*, by Miroslav Volf, it is not necessary to purchase the book to participate. This class meets in the chapel.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: A new member class is in the organization stages and will start meeting on April 15th and will conclude with New Member Sunday in May. If you are a frequent visitor and would like to become a member of Cross and Crown this class is for you. For more information contact Pastor Chris at pastorchrisc@cclutheran.com or Yvonne Stewart at yvonne.stewart@comcast.net.

Avoid Costly Social Security Mistakes

Social Security is the largest source of income for the majority of people ages 65 and over. We invite you to hear Jim Caulder, known as "Mr. Social Security," whose entertaining, informative and timely presentation will help you avoid costly Social Security mistakes and understand your benefits. This event is hosted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the financial representatives serving the Indianapolis area.

(Jim Caulder is not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The views expressed in this presentation by Jim Caulder are his own and not necessarily those of Thrivent Financial or its affiliates. Neither Thrivent Financial nor its affiliates or representatives provide legal or tax advice. You should consult with your attorney or tax advisor for specific advice.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit www.thrivent.com/disclosures. No products will be sold at this event.)

Thursday, April 26, 2012

The Fountains Banquet & Conference Center

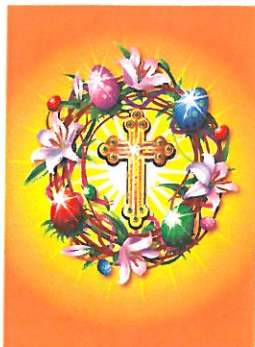
502 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel IN 46033

Complimentary buffet: 6:30 – 7:15 PM

Complimentary desserts and presentation: 7:30 – 8:30 PM

Seating is limited and reservations are required by April 20th.

To RSVP: Call Kristin Clouse @ 317-215-2296 or email kristin.clouse@thrivent.com



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY	APRIL 1	SERVICE @ 10:30AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY	APRIL 5	SERVICE @ 7:00PM
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 6	SERVICE @ 7:00PM
EASTER SUNDAY	APRIL 8	BREAKFAST @ 8:45–9:45 EASTER EGG HUNT 10:00 SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

Ken Wichman	March 6
Darla Werner	March 8
Fred Lusk	March 9
Fred Miller	March 10
Peter Stewart	March 11
Kelly Mielke	March 16
Robert Johnson	March 17
Megan Sculthorp	March 17
Debbie Barnett	March 21
Sydney Marette	March 21
Roberta Pioch	March 21
Carol Hounshel	March 23
Caleb Campbell	March 26
Chris Lantz	March 26
Jack Campbell	March 27



Steve & Yvonne Stewart
March 1

Jeff & Holly Horn

Chubby Sunday Wrap-up

Another successful Chubby Sunday was celebrated on February 19th.

The cake walk collected \$50 to be donated to Lutherwood.

The King and Queen of Chubby Sunday was Drew Conrad & Abby Maguire.

Thanks to Rob Sculthorp for coordinating this fun event.

2012 Church Council

Lynn Ryan	President
Ken Wichman	Vice President
Anndi Maguire	Secretary
Mike Berry	Treasurer

John Beltz
Ray Smith
Amy Joss
Julie Slavens
Jack Stocks



WEDNESDAY SERVICES
MARCH 14, 21, 28

PITCH IN DINNER AT 6 PM

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AT 7 PM

WE WILL BE TAKING A FREE WILL OFFERING AT THE WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES. ALL MONIES COLLECTED WILL BE DONATED TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF FOR ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT TORNADOS.

Please pray for those who have been included on our prayer chain:

- **Continued healing & recovery:** Brent Johnson's friend who recently had surgery; all who were affected by the recent severe storms; Bob Sculthorp, father of Rob Sculthorp.
- **Praise and thanksgiving:** on the recent birth of Asher, first grandchild for Jan Gray; for a new job for Kevin Ahearn
- **Peace and comfort:** Don Hein and family on the recent passing of Judy

If you have a prayer concern or would like to receive the prayer requests please send an email to prayers@cclutheran.com.

WE ARE MAKING PLANS FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMP!

The kids will be going to Spring Hill Summer Camp which is a non-profit Christian camp located in Seymour, IN. The camp is for kids who have completed grades 1-12 and is a full week of fun and adventure. We will choose the week to attend based on when everyone is available. For more info on the camp check out the website www.springhillcamps.com/IN/summercamp/.

If you are interested please contact Cindi Berry at michaelandcindib@gmail.com or 574-9683 by 3/26.



C & C FALL CAMPOUT: Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual C & C Fall Campout to be held at Starve Hollow State Recreational Area from September 21-23. Those who wish to camp will be able to reserve a spot later in March since reservations can only be made 6 months in advance. A reminder to reserve your spot will be placed in the bulletin and Connection later in March. For more information please contact Ron or Chris Lantz at 259-4134 or calantz2@comcast.net.

Mailing Address:

***Cross & Crown Lutheran Church
5233 E. 79th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250***

Office Hours:

Closed on Monday
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30—3:30
Thursday: 9 am—Noon

Phone: 317-849-4500 Fax: 317-849-5384

Pastor: Pastor Christine Wulff (pastorchris@cclutheran.com) (Ext. 25)

Parish Administrator: Chris Lantz (chris@cclutheran.com) (Ext. 21)

Choir Director/Organist: Lucinda Paul

***ChristQuest* Director:** Holly Horn

Peter Panda Preschool Director: Holly Andress (Ext. 28)

Wedding Coordinator: Jenny Walthers 356-3376

Prayer chain contacts: prayers@cclutheran.com

March
2012

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



From Bishop Bill Gafkjen

New Vision for a New Day
Listen Deeply. Think Creatively. Act Boldly.

"Let anyone with ears listen!" [Jesus, a bunch of times]

Lent can be a time to open our ears and hearts to listen in ways that we do not usually listen...to God, to each other, to the world.

Our days are often overwhelmed by the clang and clutter of so much to do, so much information to absorb, so many concerns to address, so many worries and wonderings and wanderings that we lose track of who we are, whose we are, and what the world really needs from us as God's people. Lent can be a time to lay aside some of the clutter, to turn our attention away from the clanging cymbals of our days and listen deeply to the rhythms and rumblings of God's Spirit.

Some of us do, in fact, see Lent as a time to listen deeply, mostly to God's work in our own lives, much like the great writer Frederick Buechner suggests:

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."
[Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation]

This is important and good, a beginning step toward listening deeply to God's Word and work in our lives.

But what would happen if we also took time this Lent to listen to others' lives more deeply? What if we found ways to set the clutter aside for forty days of listening to the people around us – our family, our friends, the folks at coffee between worship, the server at the coffee shop – to listen deeply for their hopes and fears and the presence of God's Spirit for, in and through them?

And, what if we found ways to listen more deeply to our world? We are inundated with information, so much that we can't absorb or process it all. What is the deep need underneath the news, the emails, the blogs, the tweets, the Facebook statuses? What is our neighborhood crying out for? How is creation waiting with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the very gifts we have to share?

Listen! Listen!
God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.
[ELW #513]



Bishop William O. Gafkjen

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Around the I-K Synod: 2012 Synod Assembly Service Project

June 7-9, 2012 ♦ Covington, KY



New Vision for a New Day
Listen Deeply. Think Creatively. Act Boldly.

Each year, individuals from each congregation in the I-K Synod participate in the annual assembly service project. This year, we ask that congregations collect items for two service organizations that help individuals and families lead better lives. There will be a designated collection area at the assembly for items from the lists below.

The Clearinghouse is a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, rent, and utilities to financially challenged families. Located in Aurora, IN, volunteers serve an average of 1,306 clients on a monthly basis. Items for congregations to collect and bring to assembly:

- Walmart and Kroger gift cards
- canned meat, fruit, vegetables, soups, powdered milk
- boxed meals, macaroni & cheese, pastas
- infant needs (diapers, baby food, cereal, formula)
- Ziploc bags, toilet paper, paper towels
- soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items

Safe Passage, Inc. is a domestic violence prevention and intervention service located in Batesville, IN. For more than 14 years, Safe Passage, Inc. has provided domestic violence victim services throughout Southeastern Indiana, and is dedicated to helping individuals and families live strong, safe lives that are free of violence. Items for congregations to collect and bring to assembly:

- Post it notes, steno pads, pens
- Scotch tape refills or dispensers
- antibacterial hand soap (dispensers or refills)
- heavy duty/straw brooms
- Regular or business size white "security" envelopes
- notebooks (single subject)
- Dawn dish detergent
- PineSol® or other household cleaner

About Your Synod: Collaborative Weaving Project: Bound together and tightly woven together in love

The I-K Synod worship committee has invited all ten synod conferences to participate in an initiative to illustrate how God is at work, weaving together the diverse ministries, contexts, energies, and passions of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod's congregations into a rich and colorful tapestry bound together by God's love and grace.

Each conference will facilitate a collaborative weaving process that will result in 10 three-foot-by-50-foot woven panels. Linda Witte Henke, the liturgical artist within our synod who designed the project, will join these panels together into a single tapestry that will define our 2012 I-K Synod Assembly space and provide a reminder of how God weaves together the Church's diversity into a calling of shared ministries.

The completed tapestry will debut at the 2012 I-K Synod Assembly, scheduled for June 7-9 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, KY. After that, the tapestry will be available for use throughout the Church, including congregations of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

2012 I-K Synod Events & Opportunities

Want to know more about the Collaborative Weaving Project?

You can find contact information for conference deans at www.iksynod.org. Click on **Contact Us** and then **Conference Officers**. She/he will know the coordinator for your conference in charge of volunteers to assemble and weave the panel. You can also read, download and print the instructions at www.iksynod.org. Click on **What's New**.

Your conference's woven panel is one of several elements in this initiative. Please send your panel to the I-K Lutheran Center by **April 25, 2012**.



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

BiblePlaces.com

This is a cool Web site and a great resource for Bible studies, Sunday School, or just your free time when you want to surf the Web!

BiblePlaces.com features photographs and descriptions of sites in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Greece with an emphasis on biblical archaeology, geography and history.

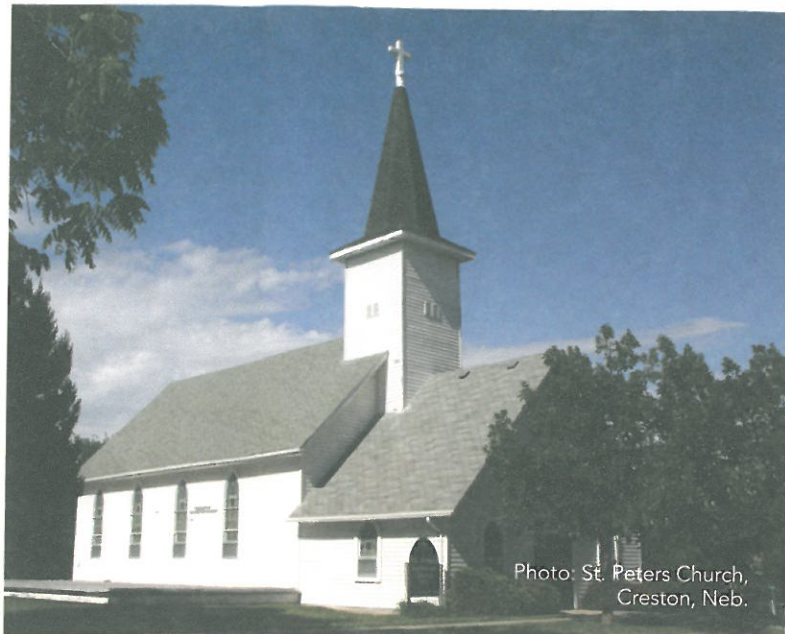


Photo: St. Peter's Church,
Creston, Neb.



Photo: All Saints Congregation,
Big Sky, Mont.

Mission Support Giving 2011

.....thank you.....

To the members of

10686 Cross & Crown Lutheran Church

from the

Indiana-Kentucky Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In grateful appreciation for giving

\$ 18,703.67

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

William O. Stapp

Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

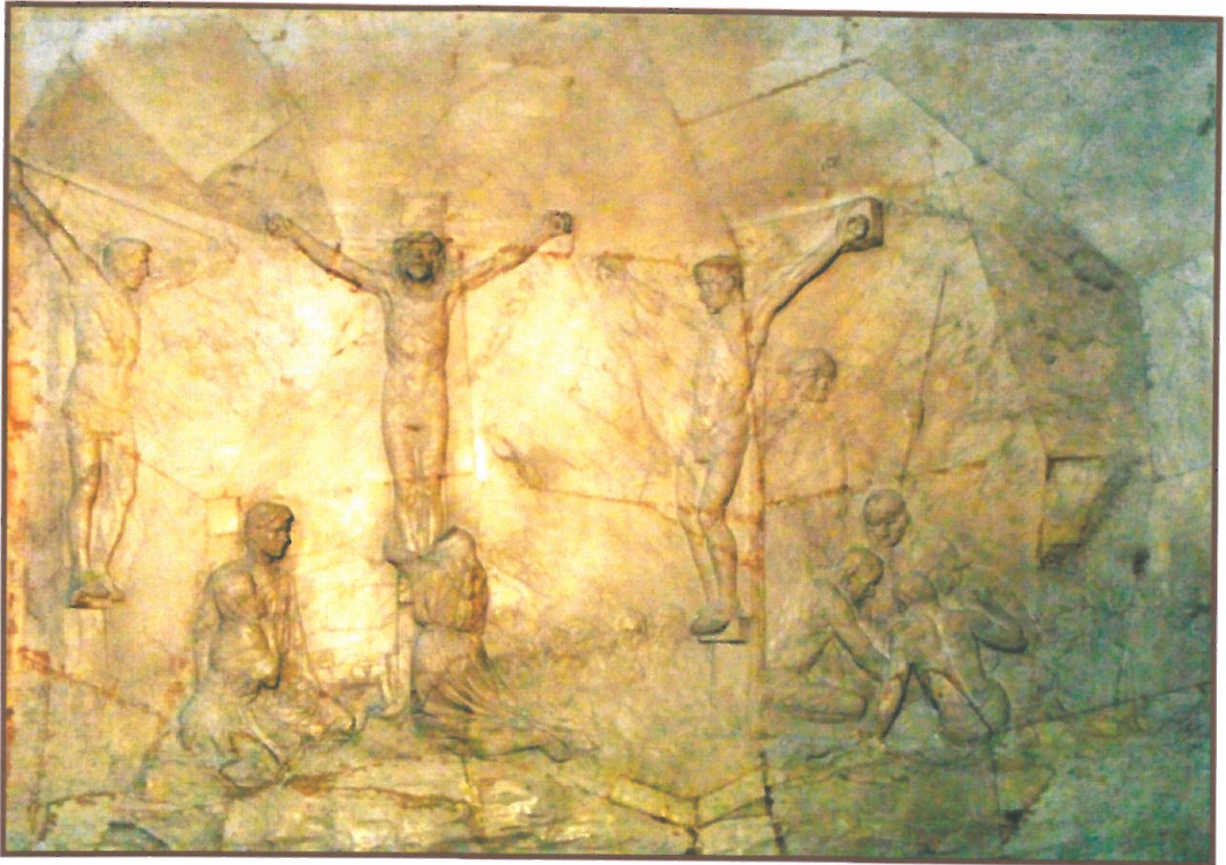
Jack S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

German Language Good Friday Service



From Nikolaikirche in Leipzig, a 1905 Alabaster Relief by F. Pfeiffer

Friday, April 6, 2012 at 10:00 AM

**This communion service is offered entirely in German at
Zion Evangelical UCC**

**603 North New Jersey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202**

**For more information call the church office at
(317) 639-5411.**

**The bulletin will provide both
German & English translations of the service.**

Treasurer's Report **January, 2012**

	January Actual	January Budget	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Contributions					
Member Contributions	\$21,352	\$17,184	\$21,352	\$17,184	\$225,000
Visitor and Cash Plate	\$767	\$346	\$767	\$346	\$8,000
Total Contribution Income	\$22,119	\$17,529	\$22,119	\$17,529	\$233,000
Other Income					
Cross and Crown Foundation	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$1,200
National City Bank - Interest Received	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission Investment Savings - Interest Received	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building Usage Fees	\$0	\$2	\$0	\$2	\$25
Other Income	\$0	\$42	\$0	\$42	\$500
Total Other Income	\$201	\$44	\$201	\$44	\$1,725
Total Income	\$22,319	\$17,573	\$22,319	\$17,573	\$234,725
Expenses					
Pastoral Ministry	\$3,826	\$5,495	\$3,826	\$5,495	\$65,940
Office Personnel	\$4,434	\$3,961	\$4,434	\$3,961	\$47,527
Administrative Expenses	\$6,917	\$9,526	\$6,917	\$9,526	\$87,558
Faith Development	-\$701	\$267	-\$701	\$267	\$3,200
Outreach	-\$349	\$500	-\$349	\$500	\$23,500
Congregational Care	\$51	\$33	\$51	\$33	\$400
Worship	\$1,635	\$2,017	\$1,635	\$2,017	\$6,600
Total Expenses	\$15,814	\$21,798	\$15,814	\$21,798	\$234,725
Income Less Expenses	\$6,506	-\$4,225	\$6,506	-\$4,225	\$0