



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ANCHOR

MARCH 2008

REMEMBER ST. PATRICK

Because the early date of Easter this year causes St. Patrick's feast day this year to fall during Holy Week, cities across the country are moving their St. Patrick's Day parades to a day outside Holy Week. The Church's feast day for St. Patrick is March 17th, the traditional date of Patrick's death. Consider the writings of a man who spent the latter part of his life preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified to the people in Ireland. St. Patrick's writings provide an appropriate reflection during Holy Week as we consider the Passion of Jesus and His Resurrection.

In His famous *Confession*, St. Patrick wrote, "For there is no other God, nor ever was before, nor shall be hereafter, but God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, in whom all things began, whose are all things, as we have been taught; and his son Jesus Christ, who manifestly always existed with the Father, before the beginning of time in the spirit with the Father, indescribably begotten before all things, and all things visible and invisible were made by him. He was made man, conquered death and was received into Heaven, to the Father who gave him all power over every name in Heaven and on Earth and in Hell, so that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and God, in whom we believe. And we look to his imminent coming again, the judge of the living and the dead, who will render to each according to his deeds. And he poured out his Holy Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and pledge of immortality, which makes the believers and the obedient into sons of God and co-heirs of Christ who is revealed, and we worship one God in the Trinity of holy name."

St. Patrick was an ardent defender of the doctrine of the Trinity. He was also a zealous advocate of orthodox Christology. So in Holy Week, we consider our Lord Jesus, who, being fully divine, became fully human, as well. For us and for our salvation, He was born, lived, was crucified, and died. That's incomprehensible. How could God die? How could such a division happen within the eternal Trinity? It's inexplicable.

But thanks be to God that it did happen. We worship one God in the Trinity of His holy name, as St. Patrick said, because He has saved us from sin, death, and the devil. For this reason, St. Patrick wrote, "I do not trust myself as long as I am in this mortal body, for he is strong who strives daily to turn me away from the faith and true holiness to which I aspire until the end of my life for Christ my Lord."

"If at any time I managed anything of good for the sake of my God whom I love, I beg of him that he grant it to me to shed my blood for his name with proselytes and captives, even should I be left unburied, or even were my wretched body to be torn limb from limb by dogs or savage beasts, or were it to be devoured by the birds of the air, I think, most surely, were this to have happened to me, I had saved both my soul and my body. For beyond any doubt on that day we shall rise again in the brightness of the sun, that is, in the glory of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, as children of the living God and co-heirs of Christ, made in his image; for we shall reign through him and for him and in him." This is most certainly true.

In Christ's Service,

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

| | Divine Service/Lord's Supper | Sunday School | Adult Bible Class |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Jan27 | / | | |
| 3rd | / | | |
| 6 th | | x | x |
| 10th | / | | |
| 13th | | x | x |
| 17th | / | | |
| 20th | | x | x |
| 24th | / | | |
| 27th | | x | x |

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | 1/27 | 2/3 | 2/6 | 2/10 | 2/13 |
|----------|------|-----|-----|------|------|
| Envlp | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Plate | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| SS | \$ | \$ | | \$ | |
| DebtFnd | \$ | | | | |
| Missions | | | | | |
| Bibles | | | | | |
| Hymnals | | | | | |
| Flowers | | | | | |
| Imprvmt | | | | | |
| Memorls | | | | | |
| Rental | | | | | |
| Parking | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | |

| | 2/17 | 2/20 | 2/24 | 2/27 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| Envlp | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Plate | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| SS | \$ | \$ | | \$ |
| DebtFnd | \$ | | | |
| Missions | | | | |
| Bibles | | | | |
| Hymnals | | | | |
| Flowers | | | | |
| Imprvmt | | | | |
| Memorls | | | | |
| Rental | | | | |
| Parking | | | | |
| Other | | | | |

SERVING IN MARCH

Elders: Lead: Keith Baecht
Asst.: Larry Decker

Altar Guild: Ethel & Jerry Summers, Bryan & Lisa McKennon

Greeters

Mar 2: Ramona VanHooser & Sherri

Gaffner

Mar 9: Vince & Doris Sibley

Mar 16: Charles & Judy White

Easter Sunrise: Janet Gorecki Elke Monroe (9:30) Mary Ann Husmann & Dr. Husmann

Mar 30: Brian & Lisa McKennon

Ushers

Mar 2: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson

Mar 5: Dave Roth, Larry Decker

Mar 9: John Ficker, Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers

Mar 12: John Lyming, Tony Purcell

Mar 16: John Lyming, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers & Scott Summers

Mar 20: John Ficker, Len Straub, Rick Angel, Roy Young

Mar 21: Vince Sibley, Pat Summers

Mar 22:

Mar 23: (Sunrise) Randy Margeson, Herb Frazer, Marvin Frazer, Eric Trisler

(9:30) Rick Angel, Bill Ivers, Bryan McKennon, Tony Purcell

Mar 30: Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes

Mar 2: Erin Smith

Mar 5: Koty Rethorn

Mar 9: Trent Tucker

Mar 12: Erin Smith

Mar 16: Amy Straub

Mar 20: Aloera Montz

Mar 21: Koty Rethorn

Mar 22: Erin Smith

Mar 23 (Sunrise): Jordan Summers

Mar 23 (9:30): Amy, Jordan, Nick, Koty

Mar 30: Garrett Blasa

NEWS & NOTES

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day the continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

- Acts 2: 42-47

YOUTH

The Youth at Hope Lutheran Church are always busy with something. In February, the youth group held a Dinner for Two event where the kids transformed the church basement into a fine dining experience. The youth will use the money they’ve raised for activities this summer—stay tuned.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Everyone is welcome to come to adult bible class on Sunday morning before church. While the kids are in the nursery or Sunday school, you can participate in Bible study with your church family. Challenging questions are always welcome. Currently the class is studying the book of Romans. No advance preparation is necessary, and no memory work or homework is required. Bring a bible along if you have one and come check it out at 8:30 in the large classroom in the southeast corner of the building.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

All men are welcome to join the ongoing study of the book of Colossians on Wednesday mornings from 7-8 a.m. to study the book of Colossians.

Morning Prayer, for everyone, is on Wednesdays from 6:45-7 a.m. Morning prayer is a very short, simple, quiet service in the sanctuary, and a great way to kick off your Wednesday mornings.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for pre-school through high school meets at 8:30 on Sunday mornings. Do you have any questions about what class your child would be in or what the kids are studying? Please call the church office or just come on Sunday.

NEW WEBSITE!

Have you visited our website? There are more changes to come, but see what’s up so far at www.hopelcms.com You’ll find a calendar, helpful links, church history, past sermons, contact information, and more. If you have an idea for the website, let Pastor Hemmer know!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

☺ FREE SOUP SUPPERS

Come and eat with your church family before the Wednesday night services 3/5 and 3/12. 5:30-6:30.

Holy Week Services

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Holy Monday vespers | Mar 17, 7:00p |
| Holy Tuesday vespers | Mar 18, 7:00p |
| Holy Wednesday vespers | Mar 19, 7:00p |
| Maundy Thurs. (Div. Svc) | Mar. 20, 7:00p |
| Good Friday Tre Ore Svc | Mar. 21, |
| | 7 services, 20-25min ea. 12:00-3:00p |
| Good Friday Tenebrae | Mar. 21, 7:00p |
| Easter Vigil | Mar. 22, 7:00p |
| Easter Sunrise (Div. Svc) | Mar. 23, 6:00a |
| Easter Day (Div. Svc) | Mar. 23, 9:30a |
| Annunciation (Div. Svc) | Mar. 25, 7:00p |

**LIVE AND LEARN:
GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE SERVICES**

This year, Hope Lutheran Church will host a Tre Ore Service beginning at noon on Good Friday, March 21. A Tre Ore Service is a traditional somber service commemorating the final three hours that Jesus hung on the cross. The three-hour service is broken down into seven different twenty-minute parts, with each part focusing on one of the seven last words of Christ on the cross through hymns, readings, and preaching. Seven different preachers will each share with us a brief homily on those phrases throughout the afternoon. There is a five-minute period of quiet meditation between each 20 minute part, during which you may come and go, if necessary. The services will conclude at 3 p.m. (the ninth hour of the Passion account), when Christ gave up his life.

“It was now about the sixth hour and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.” - Luke 23:44 (NIV)

12:00 -12:20 p.m.

Text: Luke 23:33-34

“Father forgive them...”

Preacher: Pr. Matt Gehrke

1:40-2:00 p.m.

Text: John 19:28-29

“I thirst.”

Preacher: Sem. Bob Lail

12:25-12:45 p.m.

Text: Luke 23:35-43

“Today you will be with me in paradise”

Preacher: Pr. Steve Jacobsen

2:05 – 2:25 p.m.

Text: John 19:30

“It is finished.”

Preacher: Pr. Peter Kirby

12:50-1:10 p.m.

Text: John 19:25-27

“Behold your son”

Preacher: Pr. Rueben Ankney

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Text: Luke 23:44-46

“Into your hands, I commend my spirit.”

Preacher: Pr. Les Mitkos

1:15-1:35 p.m.

Text: Matt. 27:45-46

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Preacher: Pr. George Gude



The News From Unity

March 2008

4200 Caseyville Road • East St. Louis, IL 62204
Office (618) 874-6605 • Fax (618) 874-7564 • Email: pm7951@yahoo.com

THEY SAID IT

The following quotes were recently overheard at Unity.

"I would tell them all about Jesus!" Marshaun, Kindergarten, when asked on the 100th Day of School, what he would do if he had 100 friends.

"So, Mr. Miller, is Jesus really black, or is he white?" Marshaun, Kindergarten, later the same day during a discussion at the lunch table.

"Would you like a heart? It will remind you of Jesus." Nijay, Grade One, asking Mr. Miller if he would like a small red heart stamped on the back of his hand.

"What's the best book in the world, besides the Bible?" "None!"

"That's what everyone says!" A discussion with Reginae', Grade One, as the students were getting ready to go home.

"Is that really true?" Fourth Grader Tiyon, after appearing aloof and uninterested in Ms. Oberdeck's reading of the Bible story about Jesus raising the son of the woman of Nain.

"Belong To Jesus Time is my favorite part of the day!" Fourth Grader DeMarco Neal, while riding in Ms. Oberdeck's car. She was giving him a ride home after school.

AN ANSWERED PRAYER!

We joyously learned last week that the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis accepted our grant proposal for \$300,000! These funds will be used for matching incentives. Beginning March 1, all contributions to the Time To Build Capital Campaign will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$10,000 per person. We have two years to reach the \$300,000 limit.

Many of you have been praying with us that the Lord would move the Foundation to grant our request. He has answered His people, for the sake of the future of the students at Unity. Thanks be to God!

NEW PASTOR AT UNITY

Dr. Willie Stallworth has recently been assigned to Unity Lutheran Church as a DELTO Vicar. Dr. Stallworth is the husband of our Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Claudia Stallworth, and serves the LCMS Board for Black Ministry as Education Executive. He has been involved with Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School since the beginning stages, and is particularly interested in outreach through a Lutheran School.

Dr. Stallworth will be installed at a special service on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 3:30pm. All friends of Unity are invited to attend.

BUILDING LOCATION

Although we work daily in the search for a building site for our new school, we are still waiting for God's direction. There are several apparent possibilities, but no clear-cut answer. We know God has a plan, and we'll be excited when He shows us the way. Please keep praying!

GRADE FIVE TEACHER

We are now praying and accepting nominations for a Teacher of Grade Five. If you or someone you know is a mission-minded Christian educator, please let us know soon.

WISH LIST

Reams, or cases, of plain white copy paper.
Boxes of Kleenex.
64-ounce bottles of liquid hand soap.
Pencil Erasers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for:
God's direction for a Fifth Grade Teacher for next year.
250 guests at our Time To Build Dinner.
A suitable building site for our new school.
Our students as we learn about the events of the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Paul Miller, principal at Unity Lutheran Christian School in E. St. Louis will speak to our Bible Class Sunday, March 9. Join us to hear what exciting things God is doing through this mission of the Southern Illinois District!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” –Romans 13: 8-10

PRAYER PARTNERS

This month, we pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Week of March 2:

Martha & Ronald Eberhardt, Kelli, Kaci, & Ronnie; Stacey & Tony De Witt & Taylor

Week of March 9:

Erinn & TJ Elledge, Blake, Jordan, Hayleigh, & Paige; Opal Ervin

Week of March 16:

John & Ruth Ficker, Steve & Karen Ficker & family; Carrie & Brian Marshall, Ben Funk

Week of March 23:

Herb & Kim Frazer, Callie, Maggie & Emily; Marvin Frazer; Janet Gorecki

Week of March 30

Gary & Sheri Gaffner, Darlene & Ed Gowin; Nancy Green; Danny Green

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 Cara Tinkle
- 3/5 Aspen White
- 3/6 Ruth Cook
- 3/7 Fred Blasa
- 3/12 Tim VanHoveln
Rev. Leslie Mitkos
- 3/13 Marilyn Rogers
- 3/19 Jordan Greene
- 3/20 Danny Margeson
- 3/21 Emily Frazer
- 3/23 Jennifer Rethorn
- 3/27 Callie Frazer
- 3/29 Kaci Eberhardt
Dennis Smith
- 3/30 Kourtnee Hall
Eric Trisler
Michael Williamson

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/2 Bob & Bette Hall
- 3/4 Paul & Marilyn Rogers
- 3/5 Keith & Becky Baecht
- 3/26 Jeff & Cori Blasa
- 3/30 Joshua & Nicole Neal

*“Show proper respect to everyone:
Love the brotherhood of believers,
fear God, honor the king.”*

1 Peter 2:17

MARCH 2008

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Laetare 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service | 3 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis | 4 | 5 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 5:30-6:30p Free Soup Supper 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00p Lenten Service | 6 6:00-7:00p Youth Group | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Passion Sunday 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service | 10 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis 6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts | 11 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline | 12 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Sunshine Circle 5:30-6:30p Free Soup Supper 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00p Lenten Service | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| ----- HOLY WEEK ----- | | | | | | |
| 16 Palm Sunday 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service | 17 Holy Monday 7:00p Vespers | 18 Holy Tuesday 7:00p Vespers | 19 Holy Wednesday 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00p Vespers | 20 Maundy Thursday 7:00p Divine Service | 21 Good Friday 12:00-3:00p TreOre Service 7:00p Tenebrae Svc | 22 Holy Saturday 7:00p Easter Vigil Service |
| 23 Easter Sunday 6:00a Easter Morning Sunrise Service 7:00a Easter Breakfast 9:30a Easter Day Divine Service | 24 | 25 The Annunciation Of Our Lord 7:00p Divine Svc | 26 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Sunshine Circle 6:00-6:45p Private Confession | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Second Sunday of Easter 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service | 31 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis | <i>April 1</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |