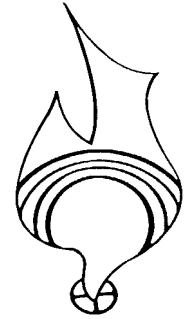


THE PROMISE



The Monthly Newsletter of
Covenant Lutheran Church—ELCA
April 2010



HOLY WEEK

- March 27 – Saturday, 5:30 pm Worship
- March 28 – Palm Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
- April 1 – Maundy Thursday, 11:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship
- April 2 – Good Friday, 1:15 & 7:00 pm Worship
- April 3 – Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm Worship
- April 4 – Easter Day, 6:30, 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
Easter Breakfast, 7:30-10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 9:15 am

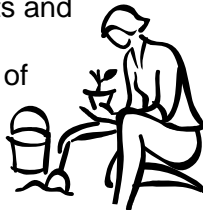
* We invite folks to bring bouquets of fresh flowers to any of the Easter morning services. These flowers will be placed in the cross up front.

Ministry of the Month

Landscape

The Landscape Committee has worked in partnership with the Property Committee for the past four years. Current committee members include Penny Vodak, Michelle Osterhaus and Denise Pigarelli.

The Landscape Committee aspires to create and maintain an inviting, welcoming exterior for Covenant, with plants and procedures that are environmentally tested and sound. Our desire is to sustain the beauty and care of Covenant's landscape for years to come. And just as it is said it takes a community to raise a child, it takes many eyes and minds and muscles to care for Covenant's landscape.



Over the past five years, landscaping projects at Covenant have included: (1) the church sign garden, (2) the garden along the walkway from the parking lot, (3) the garden to the right of Covenant's front door which continues around the fence and along the west-facing, "Van Buren wall" and wraps around to the courtyard gate, (4) the courtyard, (5) the hosta garden at the Fellowship Hall exit + the small garden between the east wall of the Education Wing and the sidewalk, and (6) the Memory Garden along the steep incline by the Education Wing. Covenant's Landscape Summer Helpers (from the Time & Talent survey) and many additional Covenant members have contributed much energy to site preparation, planting and landscape maintenance, and the Landscape Committee is thrilled and thankful for so much participation. [Please note that sixteen people worked all summer



of 2009 to keep the landscaping looking fabulous.] The Landscape Committee is deeply indebted for financial support from the Covenant Endowment Foundation, Gifts & Memorials and special gifts from Covenant members, family and friends.

2009 landscaping project details:

1. The railing: The beautiful, lighted, custom-made railing was finished and installed along the sidewalk from the parking lot to Covenant's front door.
2. The Memory Garden: It began simply, with a discussion in January 2009 regarding the safety of mowing the steep hill by the Education Wing, behind Crane #2. In September 2009, the crane and surrounding hill got a complete make-over. The crane sculpture was made by Bill Anderson in memory of his sister and mother. The cornerstones and marker are reminders of the union of former Our Savior's and Central Lutheran congregations. The granite bench from Martin Luther Christian Day School was a gift of appreciation for the use of our Education Wing for five years. Three hydrangea trees remind us how Glen Gauper tenderly cared for this area for many years. This spring we will see waves and waves of perennial plants, (10 varieties - 90 plants in all), tenderly bedded in mushroom compost, and yards of new top soil and fresh cedar mulch. Twenty-five bushes (four varieties total) were planted to "hold the hill". The final touch was a wind chime near the bench which daily reminds us of God's presence here. [Special thanks: Preparing a site for planting is the hardest part of the job. Heartfelt thanks to the people who did a yeoman's job of removal, amending and replanting on very steep, difficult terrain.]
3. The Courtyard: The courtyard entrance received a facelift and the plants inside the courtyard were reconfigured in fall 2009. A new stone bench, two stone pots and assorted ornamental grasses were purchased to complete the area outside the courtyard gates.
4. Spring and fall outdoor clean-up days: Thanks to Michelle Osterhaus for coordinating and to all who participated in the clean-ups.

For 2010, no new projects are planned; the focus this year will be maintenance of our beautiful landscaping. The Garden/Prayer Walk will be updated to include the Memory Garden and courtyard entrance, and Covenant members and friends are encouraged to "pray with your feet" as you borrow the Bible and garden walk booklet located in the beautiful holder above the outdoor bench at Covenant's main entrance. (Please return these items after completing the Garden/Prayer Walk so others may use them.)



Blessings to all,
The Covenant Landscape Committee



Pastor Mark's
Reflections

Amen!

We wrap up the “40 Days of Prayer” with a loud “Amen” followed by an even louder “Alleluia” on Easter Day. What have you learned about yourself over the past 40 days? Have any of your prayers been answered?

The central words in the Lord’s Prayer – Father, name, kingdom, will, bread, forgive, trial, evil – are shorthand, symbols that convey worlds of meaning for people who prepared devotions for us this year. I would like to thank each and everyone who helped us live the Lord’s Prayer through their life experiences.

Amen is the last word in God’s Word – it is true – the bible ends with an Amen! Martin Luther wrote:

Amen means yes, it shall be so. We say Amen because we are certain that such petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven and are heard by him. For he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.

In a few days we begin Holy Week and during this week of worship it becomes apparent that we say our “Amen” through Jesus who is the “true Amen.” Jesus is the final Word of God that lays claim to victory in the resurrection. When we sound the “Amen” Jesus is present.

My brother Joel called today and mentioned that he attended an educational event in Baltimore. The speaker highlighted the importance of recognizing and remembering teachers who discover learning disabilities in their students at a very young age. At that moment Joel remembered Mrs. Fries who discovered a learning disability in his son when he was in the first grade; over twelve years ago. It dawned on him that he never thanked her for the discovery. His son Connor is now studying at the University of Cincinnati, a milestone he may not have achieved without the discovery of a teacher named Mrs. Fries.

Later in the week my brother had a parent-teacher conference at the same school with his daughter Alayna. On the way over to the school he found himself entering Barnes and Noble to buy a gift certificate and “thank you” card for Mrs. Fries. When he arrived at the school office and inquired about the teacher, the staff looked a little awkward and said: “she is on leave of absence, and we are unaware of her return.” So, he requested her school email address and placed the gift and card in her mailbox. Back at his office he emailed a thank you to Mrs. Fries and co-copied the email to the school principal.

When his wife Jodi returned home that evening she told my brother that the principal of the school stopped her and informed her that Mrs. Fries had been sick and this morning when Joel stopped with a gift she was in surgery. During this exploratory surgery they found out that she has cancer. Jodi’s eyes filled with tears and then asked my brother, “What led you to remember her today?”

This is a God-incidence! Joel was given a little tug on the heart and he responded – do you hear the Amen? He was sounding the Amen at just the right time, God’s time for Mrs. Fries. When Joel told me this story he concluded by saying, “I responded this time, but how many times have I missed other precious encounters?” Joel sounded the “Amen” in the life of a teacher.

How do you place a value on such insight or what salary is appropriate for such a gifted teacher as Mrs. Fries? She made a huge difference in my nephew’s life. Every school district deserves this kind of quality education, including the Stoughton’s schools. The teachers that I know in our congregation are top-shelf educators. I want to keep it that way, so in the upcoming referendum on April 6 I will be voting “Yes” twice; which means that together with Peggy we are committing to vote with our pocketbook for a quality education for all the “kids” of Stoughton.

In the end, we pray that God sounds the “Amen” through our lives in this community and thank God that we can boldly sound the victory of our Lord every time we worship!

Let the people sound the Amen!

Pastor Mark

Easter Egg Hunt!!

Easter Morning – April 4th – 9:15 am



All young children (through 3rd grade) are invited to join us Easter morning for our 6th annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children older than third grade are invited to come as helpers. We will gather in the Quilter's Room for devotions and instructions, and then we'll hunt!

just visiting with pastor george...KEEPING CONNECTED!

Some words of Jesus become more meaningful to me as I read them and hear them again. During his last days with his disciples (like our last days of Lent), Jesus told them, *"I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live."* (John 14:18-19) I hear Jesus tell them and us that he wants to keep connected with us, that he does not want to abandon us or leave us alone or forget us.

Keep connected. After my Mom died in 2004 and my Dad in 2008, my three brothers and my sister told each other we want to keep connected.

My wife Solveig went to a residential high school near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She and her classmates forged strong bonds. Many of them keep connected.

In his life and ministry Jesus did all he could to re-connect people to the God who created us in love. As he drew near to his death, he told his followers he would not leave them orphaned. One of the things he said on the cross touches me deeply. He looked at his Mom there at the foot of the cross and one of his beloved disciples standing beside her; he told her, "Here is your son." And to the disciple he said, "Here is your mother." He wanted them to keep connected. Do you see our sisters and brothers in Covenant as gifts from God, people Jesus has given us so we can keep connected both to God and to the body of Christ?

Whenever we worship, the Word of God intersects our lives through scripture, sermon, and song to help us keep connected. When we participate in holy communion, we receive the body and blood of Christ in the bread and wine, touchable and tasteable gifts from Jesus to keep us connected.

Soon Covenant Lutheran will launch Care Team Ministry (see the article in this newsletter). Members of Covenant will make friendly visits to other members who are homebound and may feel forgotten or isolated or disconnected. Care Partners will go with the sole purpose of helping those visited know how precious they are to all of us at Covenant and that we want to keep connected. "Here is your son...here is your mother."



LAUNCHING CARE TEAM MINISTRY

Care Team Ministry will help Covenant keep connected with members who may feel isolated or forgotten or disconnected from our faith community. Care Team Ministry will organize Care Team Members into teams of two or more to make regular visits to Care Receivers.

Care Team Ministry welcomes people (singles, couples, families) to serve who have the following gifts:

- ...compassion
- ...caring heart
- ...listening skills
- ...two or three hours each month

An OVERVIEW AND EXPLANATION SESSION will happen Thursday evening, April 8, 7:00-8:00 pm, facilitated by Lynda Koivunen of Catholic Charities. All who wish to serve on the Care Team, those who are undecided, and those who want more information are encouraged to attend. Pastor George has information and welcomes questions anytime (576-4916).

Together we will help all members of Covenant keep connected!

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

In memory of Eleanore Nygaard

Oyvind & Jane Wikum

In memory of Sandra Linnerud

Mary Ann Ahner

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

LAMB OF GOD will meet on Thursday, April 8, 1:00 pm, at the home of Carol Swangstu.

LYDDA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, April 19, at 1:00 pm.

JOY CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, April 27, 1:30 pm.

From Mark Doll, Minister of Faith Development
 As I write this, spring has begun. I love spring, the new growth in the trees and on the ground, the freshness in the air, the cool mornings that quickly give way to warm afternoons, the knowledge that even if there is another snowstorm to come, the snow will melt away quickly. There are simply some things that are inevitable about spring: water running off (hopefully not into basements), trash to be picked up (see Adopt-a-Highway on the Youth page) and soccer tournaments starting when, while it may be fine outside for kids who are running all the time, it's way, way too cold for parents to sit and watch.

Another inevitability about spring, which actually starts way before spring, is that Sunday school attendance drops. Not just at Covenant, but at most churches. I don't know why, but I know that it makes me uncomfortable. Not uncomfortable just because we have teachers who are continuing to put lots and lots of effort into creatively teaching and journeying with are children on their faith walk. Not uncomfortable just because each year we tie up money in resources that go unused. No, I'm uncomfortable for two completely separate reasons: 1) How are the kids, on their faith journey, going to get nourished, guided, and how are they maintaining their relationship with God, and 2) What message does it send to the children if we tell them that Sunday school and worship are optional?

I have long been a proponent of the idea that, if you're going to choose one or the other for your family and your children, between worship and Sunday school, you should always choose worship. Worship is the center of our faith lives, and I believe it is critical that we make an effort to get children into worship, even at a young age. But I also know that for some, bringing children to worship is challenging, as they may get bored, they may not understand much of what is happening, they may have no interest in the message – just as it was for us when we were children! And I know that as spring gets into full swing, there are events on Sunday mornings that sometimes keep families from worship and Sunday school. Some suggestions:

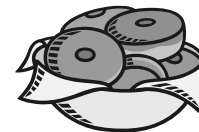
- ✚ Worship and attend Sunday school and adult education whenever you can on Sundays. It is critical!
- ✚ If sports leagues or other activities are becoming more invasive to Sunday mornings – talk with the league/activity

organizers. Tell them you are uncomfortable and unhappy with this. If enough people talk, they will listen.

- ✚ When you know that you're not going to be available to worship/attend Sunday school on Sunday, worship on Saturday evening. If you haven't tried the Saturday evening style of worship, I encourage you – you might find it to be just what you need!
- ✚ If you're not able to do any of the above, consider worship where you're traveling. I know of families who traveled most weekends, or at least many weekends, with sports teams, but everywhere they traveled, they made the effort to take in a worship service. It can be done.

Sunday mornings are a great time to be together ... especially with your family ... your family of faith.

COVENANT'S EASTER BREAKFAST! DO YOU LIKE TO EAT?



If not, you don't need to continue reading. If you do enjoy food occasionally, and don't mind some fellowship along with your food ... please join us for our Easter Breakfast! (Some of the food pictured above may even be on the menu!)

- Who: Everybody!! – Hosted by the West Virginia Mission Trip participants
- What: Breakfast – eggs, sausages, potatoes, cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, juices, milk and of course, coffee, lots of coffee
- When: Easter Morning – April 4th, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
- Where: Fellowship Hall
- Why: You kept reading – we know you like to eat.
- How Much: There is no charge. A free will donation will be accepted, with proceeds going towards Mission Trip expenses.

Come and See! Come and Eat!

YOUTH and FAMILY NEWS

FRIDAY, APRIL 9th! **It's a Double Feature** **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!**

In the Covenant Cinema, we will be showing the newest Disney Classic – **"The Princess and the Frog"**. In the 8th grade room, we'll be showing **"The Blind Side."** In the Youth Room, we'll be playing ping-pong, foosball and Wii.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall between 6:30 and 7:00, and the movie always starts in the Covenant Cinema at 7:00 pm. Popcorn and lemonade are provided, and there is never a charge – IT'S ALL FREE! Bring your whole family, bring your friends (they don't have to be members of Covenant), but get here early – the best seats go fast!

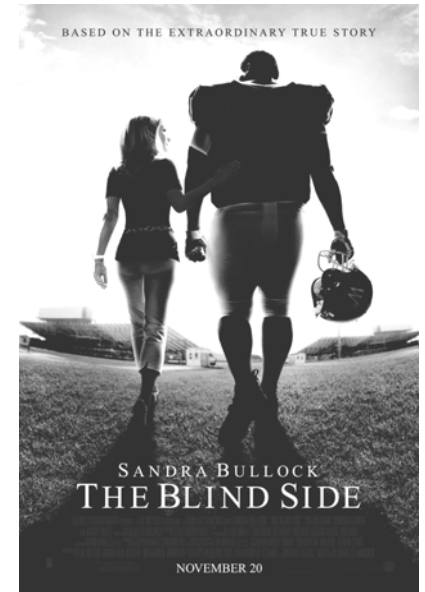


The Princess and the Frog

A modern day retelling of the classic story The Frog Prince. The Princess and the Frog finds the lives of arrogant, carefree Prince Naveen and hardworking waitress Tiana crossing paths. Prince Naveen is transformed into a frog by a conniving voodoo magician and Tiana, following suit, upon kissing the amphibian royalty. With the help of a trumpet-playing alligator, a Cajun firefly, and an old blind lady who lives in a boat in a tree, Naveen and Tiana must race to break the spell and fulfill their dreams.

The Blind Side

"The Blind Side" depicts the story of Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential. At the same time, Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own. Living in his new environment, the teen faces a completely different set of challenges to overcome. As a football player and student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle.



Adopt-A-Highway – April 17th

God has blessed us with this beautiful Earth. It's our responsibility to help keep it that way. Covenant Youth has adopted a portion of Rutland Dunn Town Line Road west of Stoughton. Our next clean up date is scheduled for April 18th at 9:00. We will meet at church and go ride to the clean-up together. All youth, interested adults and families are welcome and encouraged to participate – "many hands make small work."

Note: Mango County Mission Trip participants are expected to be at this service event – please plan to attend the clean-up, then join us for a late breakfast and meeting back at church.





West Virginia Mission Trip Update

We're filling out forms, making travel arrangements, and raising funds. Please support the mission trip by participating in the Easter Breakfast, and look for information about how you can sponsor mission trip participants. Over the next couple of months, we will be participating in more fund-raising events, and more fun-raising events to help us become an incredible team. If you have questions for our team (what we will be doing, when we'll be going, where we'll be going, or anything else), please don't hesitate to ask us! The Mission Trip participants are:

Youth

Emma Bahnson	Jaime Krage	Tom Richards
Datlef Bahnson	Magen Krage	Lindsay Schleppebach
Matt Doll	Brianna McBroom	Kaylee Stringham
Amy Hansen	Tim Melland	Kelsey Vance
Jared Herman	Hailey Prein	Lauren Wendt
Dorie Janssen	Sam Richards	Tyler Wendt
Aaron Knudtson		

Adults

Bird Bahnson	Mark Doll	Sue Richards
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Sponsorship of Children Through Compassion International

We continue to sponsor three children through Compassion International. Please see information regarding these children on the youth bulletin board, including letters from the children. Contributions can be placed in the piggy bank on the table near the church office – by the Social Justice bulletin board. \$38/month is what it takes to sponsor a child, and it makes an incredible difference in a child's life! Please contribute!

2010 YOUTH WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE AUGUST 4 – 11



We still have several openings, youth and adults, male and female. We will need to close off registration when we reach 18 people. If you haven't experienced the BWCA, now is the time.

This is offered as a youth event for 8th grade through High School ages in the Boundary Wilderness Canoe Area for one week. We are limited to a total of 18 – 21 people (male and female). This trip leaves on Wednesday, August 4th (very early); with a night's stay at our outfitter before entering the BWCA on Thursday - Tuesday. We will return August 11th early in the evening. This wilderness experience includes two days of travel and six days (five nights) canoeing, portaging and backpacking. Cost is around \$350.00 per person and includes transportation, permits, canoe and equipment rental and food. We will spend winter and spring preparing in small groups. All meetings will be in the Cinema Room, unless otherwise specified. The preparation highlights include:

- April 11, 11:45 am: Equipment, dos and don'ts of what to bring. Examples will be shown. Route and Group assignments, fishing equipment discussion. Permission slips and medical forms due. Second \$100.00 payment is due.
- May: Spiritual Directors from each group will meet with Pastor Mark.
- June 20, 10:15 am: Equipment training, cooking and safety. Preparing first aid kits, handling saw and axe in the wilderness. What happens in case of an emergency?
- July 24, 8:00 am: Canoe training day – how to paddle the canoe, portage a canoe, getting into a swamped canoe and provide helpful suggestions on spending a week in the wilderness. Packing Day: Packing your duffel bag for the week. (Final Payment is due.)
- August 1: Drop off all packed gear.
- August 4, 6:00 am: Departure.

Are you interested? Contact people are: Pastor Mark 873-7494, Dennis Hilgendorf 279-1655, Greg Pigarelli 873-0296

Social Justice



Pasta Dinner

Treat mom to an early Mother's day gift! Come join us after Saturday's service on May 8th at 6:30 pm. TEAM Haiti is sponsoring a delicious spaghetti dinner to raise funds in support of Covenant's mission trip to Haiti in November, 2010. The goal is to raise funds that will cover living expenses and the cost of purchasing tools that will be used for construction projects while in Haiti. The tools will be given to Gladys Mungo for future construction projects. If you'd like to help out with set up/serving/clean-up for the dinner, please see the sign-up sheet posted on the Hospitality bulletin board in the back of the church. Please note: Confirmation students who volunteer to serve the dinner will receive 1-2 service notes for 1-2 hours of your time.

Syttende Mai Run/Walk/Lil' Run

A number of Covenant members will be participating in the Syttende Mai Run/Walk or Lil' run on May 15th, 2010, and we are asking for assistance from other Covenant members. How can you help? Please pledge us! We are running/walking to help raise funds in support of Covenant's mission trip to Haiti in November, 2010. Any amount of support you can provide would greatly be appreciated. Please see the easel in the narthex/gathering area for the list of individuals who are participating in the Run/Walk/Lil' run. Next to this list is a column where you can pledge a runner/walker or the whole group. Another way to support Team Haiti is by purchasing a "Hustle for Haiti" t-shirt (which Team Haiti will be wearing for the Syttende Mai run/walk). T-shirts will be available for purchase after church service starting May 1st. THANKS for your support!

Care For Creation Event

During the weekend following Earth Day (Saturday, April 24th and Sunday, April 25th), the Social Justice Ministry Team will have a display set up in the Narthex with various items of interest to those interested in green living. A representative from our group will be on hand after services on those days to address questions regarding Covenant Lutheran's Care for Creation Ministry.

Calling All Green Thumbs

The Social Justice Ministry Team has been looking into the feasibility of running a community garden on Covenant Lutheran Church's property. In short, a community garden is a garden operated by and for a community. Based on people's interest, this type of garden could be divided into individual plots so that each participant is responsible for his/her part, or parts or all could be done in common. A community garden could grow produce, flowers, or a combination of both. We would like to gauge the interest of the congregation in this endeavor, so please let us know if a community garden would be of interest to you by contacting Peter Bahnson or Curt Hedman by April 25th. We will have information on community gardens and an opportunity to sign up to show interest in having one at Covenant at our upcoming Care For Creation Event being held on April 24th and 25th. If we obtain enough interest, the plan is to obtain approval to plant a test plot this summer, and to fully implement a community garden in the spring of 2011.



The River Pantry:

To Bring a Message of Mercy and Hope to Those in Need!

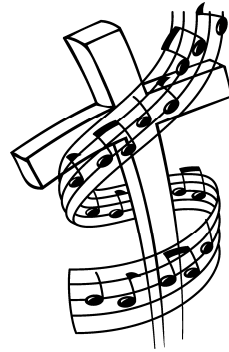


The last Friday of every month (or 4th Friday) a few members of our congregation encounter a mission trip to **The River Pantry** to serve people in need. This pantry and meal site is designed to primarily serve all of the low income neighborhoods concentrated along Northport Drive and the north-east side of Madison but is open to all Dane County residents. They provide pantry assistance, hot, nutritious meals and clothing. No family should go hungry, just because they cannot afford to buy food. We can impact so many lives by giving them hope. Serving the people at The River became an exchange of grace offered to us serving food - in that moment Christ ministered to us through the families that greeted us! Those who go and serve say they want to do it more often, so we offer rides for those interested. We leave the parking lot at 4:15 pm on April 23rd. If we have too many for one vehicle, you may be asked to drive.

THANK YOU!

**A Special Thank You to all
who make a Joyful Noise at Worship**

***¹O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation! ²Let us come into his presence
with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful
noise to him with songs of praise! Psalm
95:1-2***



This past Sunday I was moved by the Senior Bell Choir piece prior to the message and it filled my heart with thanksgiving for all the music at Covenant (This isn't the first time one of our choirs made the hair on my arms stand on end!). This is a busy time in the worship life of our congregation and we are blessed with folks who gather every week to practice, sometimes more than once – so that our service is meaningful to those who gather for worship. We can sometimes forget how much work that goes into preparing a piece of music.

I would like to say thank you to our Choral Director Beth Gardner and members of the adult choir for your joy, passion and enhancement of our worship.

I would like to say thank you to our Senior Bell Choir Director Phyllis Hein and members of the adult bell choir for your ability to ring in thanksgiving and joy.

I would like to say thank you to our Youth Choral and Bell Director Robin Wendt and youth members of both choirs for their joy and energy in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

I would like to say thank you to the women who love to harmonize – Meghann Fougrousse, Karen Boehme, Karen Shilts, Robin Wendt and Chris Melland – thank you for the harmony you bring to our worship.

I would like to say thank you to Wayne Duddleston and Michelle Osterhaus who lead the congregation and choir week in and out with such quality and delight.

I would like to say thank you to Mark Doll, Denise Pigarelli, John Surrell and the Sabbath Singers who truly take pleasure in leading our worship on Saturday evenings and the music is filled with joy.

I would like to say thank you to all those individuals inside our congregation and outside of our congregation who have offered to play an instrument or sing to enhance our praise of God.

We have been truly blessed with a music program that honors God!

Take time with me over the course of the next two weeks to share your thankfulness with those who weekly plan, prepare and make a joyful noise to our Lord!

Pastor Mark

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY STUDENT RECOGNITION

On April 18, 2010 we will take time at the 10:30 am Sunday worship to recognize Robin Wendt who successfully completed the two-year Lay School of Theology program through the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. This will be a moment of prayer, commissioning and celebration following the message of the day. Afterwards the congregation will serve cake with coffee as we extend our congratulations and hospitality.

SPRING CONCERT

The Stoughton Festival Choir will be performing here at Covenant on Sunday, April 25th at 4:00 pm. This spring concert, directed by Covenant member Meghann Fougrousse, features songs written and arranged by female composers. Some titles include "How Can I Keep From Singing," Natalie Sleeth's "Joy in the Morning," and "Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal." Some seventh graders will be joining in with sign language for the final number, "We Are." The concert will also feature Covenant's Senior Bells and Mark Doll on his guitar. Many other Covenant members have worked hard to learn these pieces, so you don't want to miss this free concert!

EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation Resumes

Confirmation resumes on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 pm.

Confirmation Interviews

All third year confirmation students please sign up along with your parent(s) for your confirmation interview. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Pastor Mark's door the week after Easter.

Friday Night Bible Study

Book of Daniel Bible study – We have begun an informal study of Daniel. We simply read and discuss, using whatever study helps and aids we have available. We're excited about exploring this fascinating, prophetic book. This month we will look at Chapter 3.

Please note that we will meet the second Friday of April, due to Good Friday falling on the first Friday. We will start at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 9, in Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome, and feel free to "drop in" anytime! For questions, please contact Beth Hilgendorf, 279-1656.

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE!!!

Spring isn't the only thing around the corner.... so is
Celebration Sunday!!!

Everyone is welcome as we celebrate another wonderful year of Christian education for all!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 6, 2010!!!** The summer worship schedule will be in effect so our celebration will be **following the 9:00 am Service.**



AUGUST 2nd-5th

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010
"HERO HEADQUARTERS"

At Hero Headquarters, kids will:

- be introduced to Amazing Bible heroes and a life focus
- explore how to be heroes for God
- work at creative Power projects and activities that will help them remember to take action for God
- play Action games that work on their hero skills
- have Super hero fun

More information coming soon. Stay tuned ...

SPRING INDOOR/OUTDOOR
CLEAN UP DAY
Saturday, April 24
(Rain date is May 8)



We are asking folks to join us at 8:00 am as we take care of the gifts that God has given us in our beautiful facility and grounds. Inside there is dusting, cleaning pews, washing windows, walls and trim, etc. Outside we will be trimming back plants, raking leaves, cleaning garden beds, cleaning the courtyard, etc. Gloves, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, brooms, pruning shears would all be useful. Please bring a snack to share, if desired.

COVENANT LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Please join Covenant's Council and staff on the morning of April 10th.

WHAT: Visioning for Covenant's future
WHEN: April 10, 2010, 8:00 am – Noon
WHERE: Covenant Lutheran Church
WHO: All of Covenant's Great Leadership

If you are able to join us, please email AnnMarie Oakland at annmarie14@tds.net so we can be sure to have enough materials.

Please submit 2-3 visioning ideas by March 31st to Scott Dirks at scott.dirks@gmail.com.

WALK FOR BREAST CANCER

On June 5th and 6th, Meghann Fougousse will join thousands of others in Chicago to walk 39.3 miles in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. As part of this commitment, she has agreed to raise at least \$1,800 for the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade. That money is used for medical research, clinical care, support services, education and early detection programs. Please take this opportunity to honor the women you love by donating to this worthy cause. There are donation coupons (for tax credit) on the table in the narthex. Chris Doll will collect donations if Meghann is not around to receive them.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is hosting a Region 5 Gathering in Brookfield, WI beginning Friday evening, April 16 through Saturday, April 17th. LMM is an independent organization closely affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA. Registration options allow for Friday and/or Saturday attendance.

This event will be held at St. John's Lutheran, 20275 Davidson Rd., Brookfield WI 53045. Region 5 includes IL, IA, WI & the UP. The Gathering Poster and Information/Registration brochure in pdf format are on-line at www.lutheranmen.org <<http://www.lutheranmen.org/>> in the Regional Gatherings page of the Events tab.

There are registration options for Friday Only, Saturday Only or Both. Friday night will feature Bob Colquhoun and Ralph Mierow. Pastor Larry Clark will be Saturday's main speaker, along with Doug Haugen. Saturday will also include a variety of break-out sessions with topics of inspiration and idea sharing, including Building Men for Christ, Reaching Younger Men, Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Build and Water for Your Soul. These sessions are designed to help men have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry. Watch for Gathering and Breakout Session updates on the website.

Covenant Lutheran Church
1525 N. Van Buren St.
Stoughton, WI 53589
Phone: (608) 873-7494
Fax: (608) 873-9821
Email: covluth@chorus.net
Website: www.covluth.org
Worship Schedule

Saturday – 5:30 pm *Come As You Are* Worship w/Holy Communion
Sunday – 8:00 am Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion
Sunday – 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am to Noon
Monday-Thursday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Articles for the May Promise are due by April 15th

Pastor Mark Petersen
Pastor George Carlson
Mark Doll, Minister of
Faith Development

SATURDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE 2010

April 3, 8:00 pm – Easter Vigil

Usher/Communion Assistants: Kahl Usher Team/Bird Bahnson & Chris Doll

April 10, 5:30 pm

Usher/Communion Assistants: Steve & Susie Swenson

Lector: Monty Brekken

April 17, 5:30 pm

Usher/Communion Assistants: Kathy Olson & Beth Hilgendorf

Lector: Don Warren

April 24, 5:30 pm

Usher/Communion Assistants: Tom Nelson & Nelson Raisbeck

Lector: Tom Nelson

May 1, 5:30 pm

Usher/Communion Assistants: Deb Oakland & Lynn Tews

Lector: Lynn Tews

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE 2010

April 4 - Easter

6:30 am **Communion Assistants:** Karen Shilts & Chris Doll

Lector: Karen Shilts

Greeters: Chris Doll

Usher Team: Fossen

8:00 am **Communion Assistants:** Julie Rice & Jennifer North

Lector: Andy Toso

Greeters: Shirley Kiesling

Usher Team: Nissler

10:30 am **Communion Assistants:** Jennifer Cannady & Cassi Ott

Lector: Greg Vodak

Greeters: Marcia Trentz

Usher Team: Heil

April 11

8:00 am **Communion Assistants:** Karl Nissler & Julie Rice

Lector: Robin Wendt

Greeters: Mike & Mary Grenie

Usher Team: Soehner

10:30 am **Communion Assistants:** Sue Richards & Tom Richards

Lector: Sue Richards

Greeters: Don & Genevieve Miller

Usher Team: Herbst

April 18

8:00 am

Communion Assistants: Mike Soehner & Bill Eversoll

Lector: Bill Eversoll

Greeters: Mike & Mary Soehner

Usher Team: Olson

10:30 am

Communion Assistants: Dawn Mulcahy & Scott Dirks

Lector: Kaylee Stringham

Greeters: Ed & Karen Ott

Usher Team: Fossen

April 25

8:00 am

Communion Assistants: George & Lois Craig

Lector: Eileen Nelson

Greeters: Shirley Kiesling

Usher Team: Nissler

10:30 am

Communion Assistants: Bruce & Julie Pankow-Helland

Lector: Verjean Sime

Greeters: Bruce & Julie Pankow-Helland

Usher Team: Kahl

May 2

8:00 am

Communion Assistants: Monty Brekken & Richard Shilts

Lector: Wilma Baumbach

Greeters: Mark & Diane Hartel

Usher Team: Soehner

10:30 am

Communion Assistants: Confirmation Class

Lector: Confirmation Class

Greeters: Mary Ann Ahner

Usher Team: Heil

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE—April 2010

- Sunday, April 4** **6:30 am** Wyatt Midthun / Lauren Wendt
 8:00 am Reghan Anderson / Max McHone
 10:30 am Alexandra Yates / Jacob Yates
- Sunday, April 4** **8:00 am** Taylor Olson / Christian Doll
 10:30 am Tom Richards/Benjamin Schleppenbach
- Sunday, April 18** **8:00 am** Dan Egan / Ashley Olson
 10:30 am Claire Schmaling / Rachel Hedman
- Sunday, April 25** **8:00 am** Sarah Opheim / Kailyn Prein
 10:30 am Kaylee Stringham / Kelsey Toso
- Sunday, May 2** **8:00 am** Emma Bahnson / Jace Carlson
 10:30 am Quintin Purves / Braden Poirier

If you are unable to fill your scheduled time, please switch with a friend. Please call the church office (873-7494) so names can be changed in the bulletin. Thank you!

APRIL Altar Guild: Alaine Johnson

APRIL Communion Committee: Gloria & Mike Hirsch