

# Commitment Sunday – March 21<sup>st</sup>

*“Incarnate Word: In Christ...In the World”*

As you may have seen, this is the theme of this year’s Stewardship emphasis. Much of our focus these past many months has been on the three year Capital Appeal which commences on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The gift of the capital appeal is its focus on the long term future of our ministry in the gospel.

But as we know, the immediacy of our day-to-day ministry continues. Worship and education remain as the twin pillars of our faith; programs for young and old are implemented; hospitality to the stranger is extended; the sick and homebound are visited and our outreach to the city and larger church grows, as together in Christ we embody God’s becoming enfleshed with us.

**On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate God’s abundant grace and our continued mission in the world by inviting you to return the pledge card you received in the mail a few short days ago.

Before filling this card out however, we invite you to prayerfully examine how God has abundantly and generously blessed you and how you in return can live out that graceful abundance by growing in your own generosity. God has given us much to do in the vineyards of His Kingdom and together we will do amazing things.

What better time to look at our lives of commitment to God and His Church than in this season of Lent? A season of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. What better time to examine our response to God’s love than in the season of Lent in which we remember Jesus’ passover from death to life, and look to our life in Christ being renewed?

In our continued and growing generosity may each of us have a hand in passing on a vibrant and relevant congregation to future generations as we labor together bearing witness to a God who, as our name implies, became flesh and dwells among us in the city and beyond.

Blessed to be a blessing,  
Pastor Doug  
Pastor Joanne

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## **Second Sundays... Plus!**

The Music Series of the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word continues in the month of March for a **Service of Organ Vespers for the Season of Lent**. The historic 1869 organ by Pennsylvania builder Samuel Bohler has been a part of Incarnate Word since 2006. As part of the Lenten season, the sweet and vocal sounds of the instrument will lead in the singing of hymns and psalms, along with solo music for the season by Johann Sebastian Bach and others. Michael Unger will join with other local organists for this event. All are welcome to attend on **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.!**

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## **LYO Pancake Breakfast**

On **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** you can come to church to have both your soul and your belly fed! The LYO will be serving a pancake breakfast before worship, beginning at 8:15 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, and all of the goodies will be served. Mark you calendars - you won’t want to miss it! Proceeds will benefit the LYO trip to Washington D.C. this summer.

**February 2010**

Volume 32, Issue 2

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## Pastor's Corner – A Dusty Remembrance

*“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”*

Perhaps the most difficult words I have ever spoken. For in them lies the reality that permanence is a myth. In these words of dust, spoken in the context of ashes, I am reminded that life itself as I know it will one day come to an end. Those I love will die. I will die.

I am okay with this in my head, but my heart tells a different story. In my heart, I do not want this ashen reminder of your mortality and mine. In my heart, I do not want to be reminded of life's fragility. In my heart I want to know that you and I will gather together again in worship like we have done in the past, week after week and year after year. I do not want you to return to dust. I want you to stay here with me singing hymns and sharing prayers. Week after week, I want to declare to you God's forgiveness in Word and Sacrament; I want to sing glorious hymns with you that confess God's unswerving majesty and I want to walk with you into the darkest of valleys as together we bear the light of Christ: The light no darkness can overcome.

But I have imposed ashes on your forehead. And in that liturgical act, I have acknowledged that life does not play

by my rules. One day I will shed tears over your death or you will shed tears over mine. But in any event, death will rear its ugly head and break our hearts.

Into that brokenness, ashes are imposed not as random smudges in need of wiping off in polite company, but in the shape of the cross, upon which Christ took away death's victory once and for all. In those words of dusty remembrance, I am reminded that death may win the battle, but it cannot win the war. Cancer or heart disease might draw the last breath from my body between now and next Ash Wednesday, but it will not stop me from standing in the presence of God and enjoying the sight of God forever.

So the next time you and I have the privilege of gathering together in worship on Ash Wednesday and you see me getting a bit choked up when I impose ashes on your forehead, know that my tears not only reveal my sadness at life's temporal ending, but my joy that in the Cross of Christ, you and I have been pledged a glorious inheritance: Life with God and all the saints who have gone on before us forever and ever.

Peace and Love,  
Pastor Doug

## Chili Cook-off – Helping Those Who Hunger

The chilies prepared for the Upstate New York Synod World Hunger fundraiser cook-off were delicious and even more delicious. Seven cooks participated and the recipes varied from hot to moderately spiced, from dark red to white. It was difficult to choose the utmost yummiest, but the final count of votes revealed Barbara Sullivan's chili the winner.

We raised a total of \$639 consisting of income from 34 tasting fees, the sale of extra chili and corn bread and raffle sales of a Cooks' World gift certificate. This event was arranged by the Word in Action core group.

Our contribution will be channeled to the needy via ELCA World Hunger. The most urgent need at the moment is earthquake reconstruction in Haiti. ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief are both acting on this project.

Earlier this month the ELCA committed \$600,000 to three partner organizations working on the ground in Haiti: The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF/DWS), based in Geneva; Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore; and Church World Service (an ecumenical disaster response organization), New York.

To learn more you may want to join the event, advertized below.

## Hunger Gathering: Food for Thought

Join us on Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church in Rochester for a workshop on fighting hunger both locally and globally.

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, will be with us to talk about the work we do as a church. He will also be able to give us the latest details on the work we are doing in Haiti to help in their time of crisis.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Eila Harkönen-Hart, [e.harkonenhart@gmail.com](mailto:e.harkonenhart@gmail.com) or 389-1995 by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Building Our Future

The various Building Our Future teams continue hard at work preparing for our appeal campaign.

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, arrangements were made for a guided tour of the new welcoming area and gathering space at Asbury First Methodist Church. Having been designed by the same architect at Bero and Associates that we are working with, this was a great opportunity for our members to walk through an impressive space that is similarly proposed for our congregation. We saw firsthand the enhanced fellowship and sense of community that was their goal.

From February 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> Rev. Glenn Schoonover of Kairos Associates was with us. He led Adult Forum where he taught us all that the upcoming appeal is NOT reactive, fundraising or intimidation; but that IT IS faith-forming, proactive stewardship and invitation. He also had meetings with our pastors, the Communications Team, the Visitation Team, the Appeal Advisory Team, Church Council and members of Word Supported and the Endowment Board. A very full few days of listening, evaluating and advising.

At this time brochure pictures and text are being readied, a DVD script has been drafted, and “shooting” begins in early March. Also in the coming weeks, each component of our proposed building project will be highlighted for discussion after Sunday worship.

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Renovated Kitchen space

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:** Dedicated Choir space

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** Renewed Education space

**Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:** Gathering space

This is an exciting time for our congregation and all are invited to prepare for moving towards the revitalization of our building with a renewed excitement for service to our city and the world. If you lead, coordinate, participate in or are served by an Incarnate Word ministry or activity, now is the time to evaluate and share ideas. Each of us has a role in this faith-filled synergy!

## Lenten Soup Suppers and Centering Prayer Continue Throughout Lent

Join us as we **celebrate** Lent by gathering for a time of renewal, refreshment and growth. On Sunday evenings throughout Lent, you are invited to Soup Suppers. These will be times of fellowship, conversation, followed by a time of study and discussion. **The Soup Supper begins at 5:30, but this year will be preceded by a time of Centering Prayer at 5:00 in the Sanctuary** for all who are interested in a quiet, guided time of meditation and prayer.

Please plan on being a part of this celebration of our life together in Christ as God’s beloved children. This Lenten season, may we all grow together so that we too may blossom and flourish in the newness of the season.

## Sunday Forum

**Meets each Sunday at 11 a.m. near the stage area in the Auditorium:**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Week 2 of Pastor Joanne’s Lenten Series

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** – Week 3 of Pastor Joanne’s Lenten Series

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Week 4 of Pastor Joanne’s Lenten Series

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday – No Forum

## Book Discussion Group

The next Book Discussion Group meeting will be on **March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** at church. We'll discuss the novel *A Way from Home* by Nancy Clark. Available at the library, in bookstores or there are copies available in the church office for \$2.50 each.

## Council Highlights

- Pastor Schoonover presented an in-depth overview of our upcoming capital campaign, led discussion, answered several question, and spoke very encouragingly, all of which was very informative and helpful. He reminded Council members of their responsibility and opportunity to take leadership roles in “Building Our Future.”
- Council reviewed and discussed the proposed engineering drawings which relate to the replacement of underground drainage piping. This is intended to prevent the large puddling in the parking lot, as well as leaks into the church building.
- Council approved the projected work and bid schedule submitted by the architects for the roofing replacement and front entrance masonry repair projects. It anticipates work to begin on April 12, 2010.
- ▶ Council approved, with minor modifications, the Job Description/Covenant for the position of Director of Music, as submitted by the search committee.

## January Financial Report

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2010  | January    | % of Budget |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Income (pledged Unified income + non-pledged income + interest)           | \$23,230.  | 84.58%      |
| The monthly balance is partly offset by transfers in from the Endow. Fund | \$7,917.   |             |
| Expenses  | \$41,600.  | 90.43%      |
| Total Income Less Expenses  | -\$10,453. |             |

**Year-to-date (through the end of January) Unified income** is at 62.15% of the annual budget and **total year-to-date income** is at 60.33% of the annual budget. We are through 2/3 of our budget year, therefore if all months were equal we should be at 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %.

**Year-to-date expenses (through the end of January)** are at 59.07% of budget. We are through 2/3 of our budget year, therefore if all months were equal we should be at 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %.

## Community Arts Academy News

Community Arts Academy is pleased to announce that “An Evening at Community Arts” will be held on **Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**. This will include our **GIFT BASKET RAFFLE and SILENT AUCTION**. This has become a very popular Fund Raiser for Community Arts and with your assistance it can be "even more amazing" and profitable.

### How can you help, you ask:

- ▶ Clean out your unwanted empty baskets taking up space in your closets and donate them to CAA. We will fill them with fun stuff.
- ▶ Make up your own gift basket to donate. We have ideas and guidelines available.
- ▶ If you have a favorite restaurant, candy store, hair cut, coffee, flowers, plants, liquor store or other business you frequent perhaps the store might contribute a gift card or items for a gift basket. We have letters and other information to help.
- ▶ Come and enjoy the evening. The food is great and there's lots of youthful energy.

Any support you can offer is greatly appreciated. Questions – call the CAA office 473-7187. Hope to hear from you!

## Equal Exchange

**Equal Exchange Fair Trade Sale** – fair trade coffee, tea, hot cocoa mix, pecans, almonds, cranberries and chocolate bars will be for sale **during Sunday Fellowship Hour on March 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**. All proceeds help support the D. R. Healthcare Project.

## Women's News

WOMEN OF THE ELCA , Genesee Valley District [contact Cynthia White (247-2968) if you have any questions]

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – World Day of Prayer** - at 9:30 a.m. at 12 Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 Winton Road South.

“Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God. \$3 registration at door, bring a brown bag lunch (drink & dessert provided)

**March 20<sup>th</sup> – Communion Brunch** at Transfiguration Church, 3760 Culver Road

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring Assembly** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> – Synodical Convention 2010** “Camp of the Woods” in Speculator, NY

We continue to collect items for **HYGIENE KITS for the Outreach Project** (to be completed by October to give at the Convention). Please see the WELCA bulletin board in the Auditorium for a list of supplies.

## Parish Notes

### OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

- The family of **Eila Salminen** who passed away on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### INCARNATE WORD E-MAIL LIST

**A reminder** to contact the church office (if you haven't already done so) if you are willing to be part of a membership list that can be notified via e-mail of events and information more quickly and efficiently. **Even if we have your e-mail address, please send us an e-mail at [www.iwlc@frontiernet.net](mailto:www.iwlc@frontiernet.net), requesting that you be put on this list.**

## March Worship Assistants

| Date                        | March 7<br>Lent 3   | March 14<br>Lent 4  | March 21<br>Lent 5  | March 28<br>Palm Sunday   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Scriptures</b>           | Isaiah 55:1-9<br>I Corinthians 10:1-13<br>Luke 13:1-9         | Joshua 5:9-12<br>2 Corinthians 5:16-21<br>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32                     | Isaiah 43:16-21<br>Philippians 3:4b-14<br>John 12:1-8                   | Isaiah 50:4-9a<br>Philippians 2:5-11<br>Luke 22:14-23:56                                |
| <b>Deacon</b>               | Margret Roberts   |   | Jonathan Trost  |   |
| <b>Lector</b>               | Donna Bott  | Ray Rock  | Christel Thielmann  | Sharon Southard   |
| <b>Prayers</b>              | Joanne Lembach  | Christel Thielmann  | Donna Bott  | Lisa Frauens  |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Monika Andrews, Bill Andrews, Margret Roberts, Jonathan Trost | Melissa Hansen, Sue Rock, Ashley Tate, Barb Tate                                  | Gretchen Rehberg, Donna Holtz, Joanne Lembach, Lisa Frauens             | Doug Uhazie, Ethan Madden, Richard Byers, Ann Cefalu                                    |
| <b>Acolyte</b>              | Kirsten Frauens   | Jonathan Madden   | Elsa Lindboom   | Ian Stewart, Lizzie Stewart   |
| <b>Crucifer</b>             | Doug Uhazie   | Lizzie Stewart  | Jessica Byers   | Scott Bagley, Claire Dickerson  |
| <b>Bread Baker</b>          | Monika Andrews  | Kelley Madden   | Ingrid Mikk   | Deb Wahl  |
| <b>Communion Preparers</b>  | Margret Roberts, Ellen Dean                                   | Arlene Gashlin, Sue Rock  | Karen Gagie, Rosemary Strohmeyer  | Dana McIver, Maxine Nelson  |
| <b>Hosts</b>                | Judy Jones, John Matteson                                     | Robert Davis, Ingrid Mikk   | Jack Pickering, Steve Spring  | Maxine Nelson, Margret Roberts  |
| <b>Ushers</b>               | Sue & Ray Rock, Monika & Bill Andrews, Marcia & Bob Lewis     | Bill Schencke, Jim Fuehrer, Karen Gagie, Alexander Grassl, Gary & Teresa Caldwell | John Callard, Jim Gashlin, David Uhazie, John Matteson, Michael Frauens | Jill O'Mara, Jack Pickering, Steven Spring, Carol Harrington, Jonathan Trost, Kim Watts |
| <b>Council in Office</b>    | Elva Mikk   | Jonathan Trost  | Catherine Smith   | Jonathan Trost  |
| <b>Fellowship Hour</b>      | Kim & Richard Byers   | Sue & Ray Rock  | Jean & Bill Weber   | Sue Gerber, Steve Spring  |

The Rev. Joanne Stewart, Pastor  
The Rev. Douglas Stewart, Pastor  
The Rev. Robert J. Wennerstrom, Pastor Emeritus  
Michael Unger, Interim Director of Music

## MARCH CALENDAR

### Monday, March 1

7:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

### Tuesday, March 2

1:00 pm CAA Steering Committee Mtg.

### Wednesday, March 3

12:00 pm Appeal Advisory Team Meeting

7:30 pm Senior Choir

### Thursday, March 4

5:30 pm SPIRIT

6:30 pm *Crossways*

### Friday, March 5

10:00 am Wellness

### Saturday, March 6

### Sunday, March 7 (Lent 3)

9:30 am Holy Communion

10:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Adult Education

3:30 pm Nile Lutheran Service

5:00 pm Centering Prayer

5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper

### Monday, March 8

6:45 pm Devotions

7:00 pm All Committee Night

### Tuesday, March 9

7:00 pm Handiworker's Meeting

7:00 pm Property Team Meeting

### Wednesday, March 10

12:00 pm Appeal Advisory Team Meeting

7:30 pm Senior Choir

### Thursday, March 11

5:30 pm SPIRIT

6:30 pm *Crossways*

### Friday, March 12

10:00 am Wellness Center

### Saturday, March 13

### Sunday, March 14 (Lent 4)

9:30 am Holy Communion

10:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Adult Education

11:00 am Renovation Discussion

3:30 pm Nile Lutheran Service

5:00 pm Centering Prayer

5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 pm Music Series

### Monday, March 15

7:00 pm Church Council

### Tuesday, March 16

7:00 pm Book Club

### Wednesday, March 17

12:00 pm Appeal Advisory Team Meeting

7:30 pm Senior Choir

### Thursday, March 18

5:30 pm SPIRIT

6:30 pm *Crossways*

### Friday, March 19

10:00 am Wellness

### Saturday, March 20

### Sunday, March 21 (Lent 5)

#### Commitment Sunday

8:15 am Pancake Breakfast

9:30 am Holy Communion

10:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Adult Education

11:00 am Renovation Discussion

3:30 pm Nile Lutheran Service

**\*\*Scroll Deadline\*\***

### Monday, March 22

### Tuesday, March 23

### Wednesday, March 24

12:00 pm Appeal Advisory Team Meeting

7:30 pm Senior Choir

### Thursday, March 25

5:30 pm SPIRIT

6:30 pm *Crossways*

### Friday, March 26

10:00 am Wellness Center

### Saturday, March 27

### Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday)

#### All Congregation Communion

9:30 am Holy Communion

10:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Renovation Discussion

3:30 pm Nile Lutheran Service

5:30 pm Confirmation

### Monday, March 29

### Tuesday, March 30

### Wednesday, March 31

12:00 pm Appeal Advisory Team Meeting

7:30 pm Senior Choir