

The Marin Lutheran Bridge



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

February 2010

Is preparing for Lent all about sadness and feeling sorry?

Lent this year begins February 17th with Ash Wednesday. Does this mean we get ready for six weeks of dreary music and feeling sad? When I was growing up, even when I first became a pastor this was the emotion of Lent. Is this what comes to your mind when you think of Lent? In a sense, it's not surprising that we feel this way. Consider the most common question regarding this season: "What are you giving up for Lent?" Yet isn't there something counterintuitive about this attitude at a time when days are getting longer, buds are appearing on trees and wild flowers start blooming? Isn't all this seriousness a bit of a put-on?

It helps to remember that the word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for spring, and the purpose of this season is the recharging of our lives through the recalling and enlivening of our baptismal identities---individually, but also as a community. "Feeling sad" is neither here nor there, but turning around and starting anew, gives the longer days and the greening grass a deeper meaning than the approach of the school year's end and the drying up of our lawns and hills.

This Lent pray for renewal and put yourself in a position to experience rejuvenated life, a renewed understanding of who you are as a baptized child of God, a recharged relationship with God—through any number of spiritual practices such as worship, bible reading, fasting, prayer, service to those in need, or simply pausing and being quiet for some time each day. God bless all of us in this coming season of recharging and renewal. Amen.

Pastor Tom

Join Us in Worship this Month

Sundays

The following are the thoughts and themes that come from the readings for these Sundays.

February 7, 2010 / The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal the glory of the Lord. "Who will go for us?" queries the voice of the Lord...

February 14, 2010 / The Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday / Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see the glory of the Lord in the word and in the supper....

February 21, 2010 / These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus.

February 28, 2010 / Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure.



Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday: February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. Ash is marked on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. This cross is an echo of our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are our beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal. We bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive. We repent - we turn back towards God. We come home.

Mid-week Evening Worship:

Every Wednesday during Lent
(February 24 / March 3, 10, 17 & 24)
Soup Supper and Service
Come for a simple soup supper at 6:15 p.m.
Then we will worship with
Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Mid-week Noon Worship:

Come and renew your spirit in the middle of the day during the season of Lent.
Every Thursday during Lent, we'll gather for a brown bag lunch. (Certainly if we get volunteers - we could have a nice soup instead of our bag lunch!)
Dates: February 25 / March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Lunch at 12 Noon
Worship from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

During these worship services, Pastor Kathryn will walk us through Luther's Small Catechism. We will look at the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and Confession. For over 500 years, the church has been using this little book to help people along in their faith journeys. Lent is a good time to examine our faith lives, consider the ways we are connected with God and pray with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

MARIN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (WELCA)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Marin Lutheran Church Women met on January 7th for Bible study, a general meeting and lunch. The following decisions/changes were made at this General Meeting with the Board approval.

1. Continue monthly check to a person in need.
2. Our two circles will be combined, reducing the number of circle meetings to 1 per month. This meeting will be held at church in the conference room from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. the 2nd Wednesday of every month.
3. Serve & Share will continue on the 3rd Thursday from 9:00a.m. to 12:00noon The extra hour will allow us to have a 45 minute Bible study which will be facilitated by Pastor Kathryn as a training session for those leading the following month's Wednesday study. Anyone who is not able to attend the Wednesday study is invited to attend this leader's session. The remainder of the time will be devoted to various craft and service projects: kitchen refreshing, visiting, knitting prayer shawl s and warm up rectangles 7" by 9" or things for your favorite charity, or if you prefer just come and socialize.
4. New constitution for the women was presented and ratified by the group.
5. A copy of *Lutheran Women Today* and the Leader's Guide (for the Bible study) will be kept in the church office for reference.
6. Continue holding a fund raiser on the 2nd Sunday every other month beginning in February. The purpose of the fund raiser is to move ahead during 2010 with refreshing the kitchen in the Parish Hall.
7. The present Board will remain in place for the time being but would like to be replaced and is looking for anyone interested in serving in these leadership positions. Feel free to speak with Jane or Janet regarding your interest.

Every woman who attends MLC is a member of the Marin Lutheran Church Women. I hope that you will be able to attend one of two Bible studies scheduled for this month, Feb. 10th & Feb.18th. The topic for the Feb. 10th study is entitled, *Does God keep promises?* We use the magazine LWT available from Augsburg Fortress. 1 year/10 issues costs \$12.00. Call 800-328-4648, or write, LWT subscription order center, Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730, or visit, subscriptions@augburgfortress.org.

Jane McKenzie

February Celebrations

Birthdays

	18	Jane McKenzie	26	Magda Potter
		Ron Jacobs		Mo Kawajiri
1		Ricky Cunliffe	28	James Myhre
2		Rebecca Shunk		Nikolas Gable
	22	Nicholas Bischoff		
3		Karen Clinton		
4		Kevin Fickenscher		
6		Kylene Fickenscher		
	23	Kevin Fickenscher Jr.		
10		Thelma Stai		
14	24	Sophie Zlatunich		
	25			

Anniversaries

4	Carol & Hal Sherley
10	Marie & Ron Jacobs
12	Janet & Fred Foster



Marin Lutheran Children's Center

Happy New Year from the staff and board of MLCC. We are excited that we are in our 15th year of operation. That's long enough to have watched some of the first children enrolled in our center – Caitlin Jacobs and Robert Allen – grow, mature and enter high school. There are many, many other kids now in all grade levels, enrolled in many different schools across Marin who had their start at MLCC. The staff is thrilled to have the newest member of Marin Lutheran, Logan DiDonato, at MLCC.

As with the church, 2009 was a difficult year financially for MLCC. The economic downturn affected a large number of the families at MLCC last year, and had a widespread effect, decreasing the need for childcare across the county. As our economy improves, the business side of the child care center will fare better as well. It was announced at the annual meeting that the MLC Council will be forming a task force to review the operations, mission and the ongoing viability of operating the center. The MLCC Board supports this idea and looks forward to working with the task force.

The other day I was asked why I supported MLCC. I am glad to have the opportunity to share my reasons for supporting the center. First, a church exists to provide for the spiritual needs of its “family” in a community setting, allowing for establishment of relationships and for the care of that “family.” But I also strongly believe that a church is all about helping others, serving our neighbors and serving our community. Marin Lutheran excels at this, by going out into our community and renovating a Days Inn room for a needy family, providing meals and food for the homeless, leading worship for those in extended care and much, much more. But we also serve not only by going into the community but also by inviting them to come to us. By opening the doors of the children's center five days a week, we provide a service right in our “house.” These open doors are a manifestation of MLCC's mission of service and outreach to the community. Come visit the church during the week: it is alive with activity as we serve Marin's young families!

Bev Kamphoefner



Save the Dates
for VBS
August 2-6

Each day the children will gather at the baobab tree – an African symbol for community, and learn of God's unconditional love.

VBS Staff: Stay tuned for a meeting in March

Worship Resource

Each Sunday morning there will be a red binder on the usher's table containing **large print** copies of the hymns and liturgical music that do not appear in the large print bulletins. If you would like to use this please ask the usher for it. Do not hesitate to use this binder. If we find we need more than one per service we will get additional binders.

Stewardship



In this new year, the Stewardship Board will continue to encourage you to live out your faith by giving of your resources: money, time and talent. Mark Allen Powell talks about the Duty and Delight of financial stewardship. Someone else has suggested a similar two-part tagline: Extra-Ordinary! I like it! We have our regular, “ordinary” giving, and also extra gifts for special needs. I’ve had a few discussions this week about whether people do—or should—receive a sense of personal joy and satisfaction from their giving. Well, I know I do, and I hope you do too. I’ve found it is the *extra* gifts that give the most joy.

Whether you have given regularly to Lutheran World Relief or ELCA Disaster Response in the past, now would be a good time to give an extra gift (see the next section for more details). The need is great, but our resources and capacity to give are extraordinary.

Jim Kamphoefner

Disaster Relief

An earthquake with devastation as occurred in Haiti on January 12th draws our attention to the excellent relief agencies that are a part of the worldwide Lutheran Church: ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Federation.

How can we help the people of Haiti? By supporting these agencies who are already working in Haiti or have partner agencies working in Haiti. The immediate and quickest forms of help we can provide are our prayers and our money. Over the next months and years, we can help by providing such things as Health Kits (as we did this past fall), School Kits, Quilts, etc.

Right now we simply ask you to donate to one of these agencies for Haiti relief:

ELCA Disaster Response: www.elca.org/disaster

Lutheran World Relief: www.lwr.org

If you are a *Thrivent* member, please visit their website: www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti to have your gifts matched \$1 for every \$2 donated. Thrivent has pledged one million in matching funds.

You may also write a check payable to **MLC** and note “Haiti” in the memo line and we will immediately forward 100% of your donation to the appropriate organization.

People around the world are responding to the need in Haiti no matter what their own circumstances, with the belief that their situation is better than that of millions in Haiti. John Nunes, the president of LWR shared the following story about the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) in Sierra Leone. LWR had designated a shipment of 30,000 quilts and 6,500 health kits for Sierra Leone. After the Haitian earthquake, the disaster coordinator called the bishop of the ELC in Sierra Leone to ask whether they could reroute the above shipment to Haiti. The bishop thanked LWR for this. They had wanted to help Haiti, but without resources did not know what they could do - he thanked LWR for providing them a way to give.

The relief efforts in Haiti are only part of the work these agencies are doing around the world. Relief efforts are ongoing in India, El Salvador and Malawi, where recent flooding, cyclones and earthquakes have killed hundreds and left millions homeless. Please support all these relief efforts.

kids *of the* kingdom

We continue our learning rotation, *Doubting Thomas* through February. The teachers have wonderful learning activities planned for your children. We hope you can join us at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We begin with everyone together for welcome, music and prayers. Then we break into the following group stations for the activities.

Date	Group 1 Pre-K – 2nd graders	Group 2 3rd – 5th graders
1/31	SCIENCE (Mary Creigh)	GAMES (Michele)
2/7	COOKING (Carol)	SCIENCE (Mary Creigh)
2/14	DRAMA (Tamara)	COOKING (Carol)
2/21	GAMES (Rebecca)	DRAMA (Tamara)
2/28	VIDEO (Michele)	

If you would like to help with our KOTK please let me know. We appreciate any amount of time you can share with us. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings.

Michele Jacobs

3rd – 6th Grade Retreat

Jesus Meet Us . . . When Life Lifts You Up, Where the Wild Things Are, at the Giving Tree



The Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee is hosting this retreat:
Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp (Santa Cruz mountains)
February 26 – 28
Cost – \$125

One adult will be needed to stay the weekend with Pastor Kathryn. Depending on how many kids come, we may need additional drivers to take us down on Friday or pick us up Sunday.

Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 7th: 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Overview of the Old Testament

Sunday, February 21st: 5:00-7:00 p.m. – King David

Families are needed to bring dinner for both these classes. Please let Pastor Kathryn know if you would be willing do this.



Holy Communion: Fed & Forgiven

A night of learning more about this sacrament with our children.

Friday, March 5th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

For children in kindergarten - 5th grade and their parents.

We'll enjoy dinner together first, and then learn about Holy Communion.

Led by Pastor Kathryn



Come with your children to an evening about Holy Communion. Whether your child communes now or you want them to wait a while longer, this is an opportunity to share our faith, learn more about this sacrament yourself and enjoy fellowship.

Please let the church office know if you will be coming, so we can plan for the dinner.
924-3782 or marinlutheran@sbcglobal.net

SENIOR HIGH DINNER AND GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

MEET AT BRYAN WULZEN'S HOUSE IN SAN ANSELMO AT 7:00 P.M.

WE'LL ENJOY DINNER, AND AN EVENING OF FUN!

BRING JUST YOURSELF OR COME WITH A FRIEND.

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW THAT YOU ARE COMING SO THE WULZEN'S CAN PLAN DINNER.

Adult Education in February

First Thursday of the Month

February 4th meet at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at church. Pastor Kathryn will lead the class on: *Lutheran Interpretation of the Bible*

Sunday Mornings

2/7: Our New Member Class raps up with a review of the mission and ministries of Marin Lutheran Church. We will hear from the Pastors as well as a few of our congregational lay leaders.

2/14: This Sunday begins our review of the work of the Constitution Task Force. Come and find out what this group has been doing. They eagerly desire your input, your questions, your comments and your suggestions. Today we will hear a bit about the process and some background information related to the process.

2/21: No Adult Education Class: A break—take some more time getting to know folks during coffee hour.

2/28: The Constitution Task Force Presentation Continues.

Meeting Highlights

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 17th

- Approved minutes of 2009 congregational meetings
- Extended thanks for those who are leaving the council for their years of service
- Welcomed the new council members
- Pastor, Board, Organization & Council Reports shared – all written reports are included in the Annual Report. Copies are available in the narthex.
- Reviewed 2009 financial statements. Both MLCC and MLC ended the year with a deficit (MLCC -\$14,739 & MLC -\$38,982). Though this was not taken lightly, it was felt that the recession had a direct impact on this year's finances.
- 2010 Budgets for MLCC & MLC presented, discussed and approved. Voted to unrestrict all but \$50,000 of the Tulloch Fund.

Council Meeting

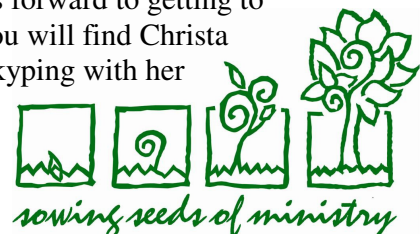
January 19th

- Welcomed new folks to council
- Orientation and review of council expectations for new and current members completed
- Goals for 2010 outlined by Jeff:
 - Completion of Constitution review by task force, followed by congregational forums to explain changes and vote on new constitution
 - As MLCC is in its 15 year of operation, establish task force to review its operations and mission
 - Continuing emphasis on Stewardship
 - Welcome new members to our church and integrate them into congregational life

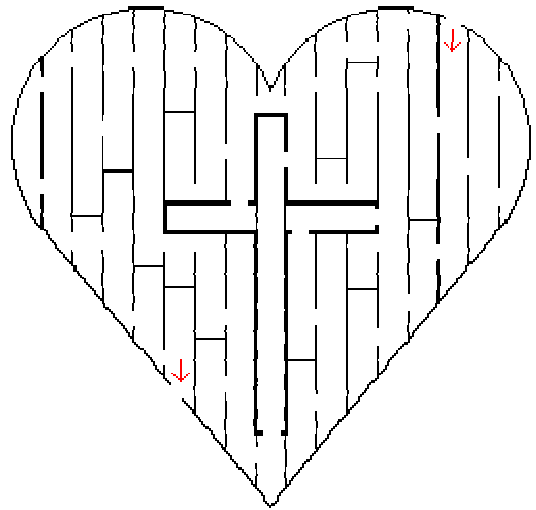
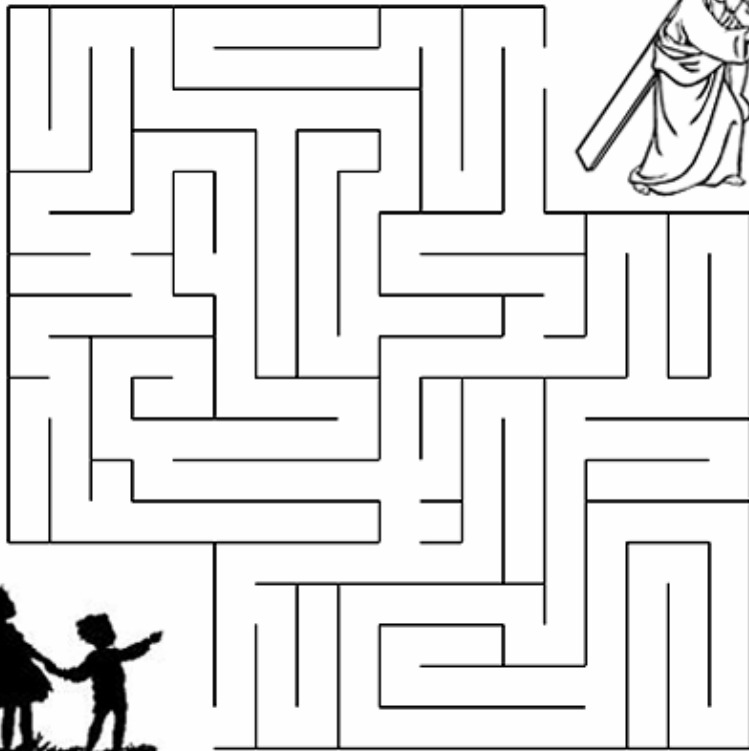
Teaching Parish Student

We are pleased to let you know that beginning later this month (February), we will have a Teaching Parish Student from PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) working with us. Her name is Christa Compton. Once she arrives, please introduce yourself to her and spend time getting to know her. She will be with us for the next 18 months. Christa has shared a snapshot of herself with us:

A native of Lexington, South Carolina, Christa is currently a first-year student in the M. Div. program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Christa is the oldest of three daughters and the proud aunt of two-year-old Addison. After graduating from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in English and a Masters in Teaching, Christa began her career as an English teacher at Richland Northeast High School in Columbia, S.C. (She still loves to talk about books, so be sure to tell her what you're reading.) Christa came to California in 2002 to pursue a Ph.D. in Stanford University's School of Education, which she completed in 2007. From 2002-2009 she worked in the Stanford Teacher Education Program, where she served as a supervisor and course instructor for people entering the teaching profession. However, the call to ordained ministry kept growing stronger over time, and a year ago Christa decided to answer that call by applying to PLTS. She is delighted to be a Teaching Parish student here at Marin Lutheran Church and looks forward to getting to know this community of faith. In her rare moments of free time, you will find Christa doing a craft project, heading to a movie theater, reading a book, Skyping with her family, or catching up on the latest episodes of "Mad Men" and "Friday Night Lights." She is also a music lover and is excited about the musical offerings here at MLC.



Kids' Page



Groundhog Puzzle

Find the words in the rubric, then read the leftover letters to read a secret message about Groundhog Day.

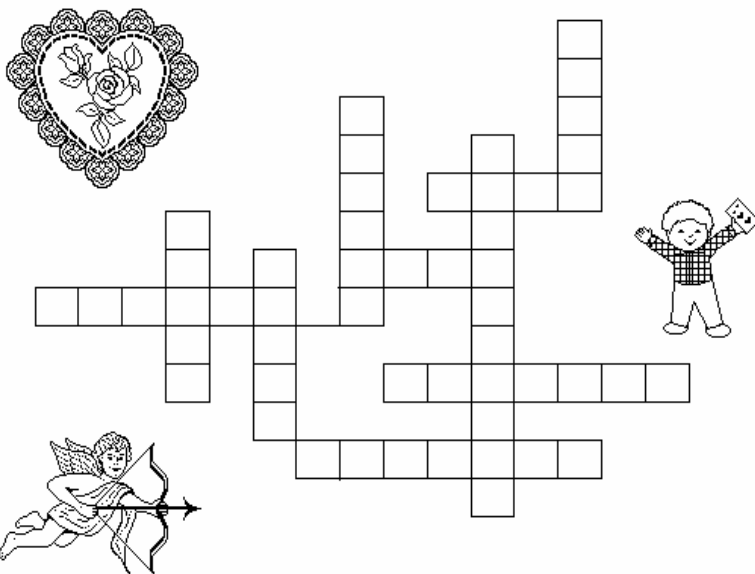
W O O D C H U C K
 O P E N N S Y L L
 R V A S H A D O W
 R E H T A E W U N
 U W I N T E R D I
 B A P R E D I C T
 G R O U N D H O G

Burrow	Shadow
Groundhog	Weather
Cloud	Winter
Predict	Woodchuck

Secret Message:

Valentines Crossword

3



VALENTINES	ARROW	LOVE
HAPPY	CARD	FRIENDS
FEBRUARY	FAMILY	CUPID
FLOWERS		

Name the Presidents

