

As we have done in the past 4 years, immediately following these services there will be an opportunity to share in a small group conversation which will last about 20 minutes. I hope you will consider using this opportunity to share with other believers, and to make some new friends, as we gather around coffee and dessert.

Holy Week schedule is as follows:

Palm Sunday	March 16	Regular worship times
Wednesday	March 19	Healing service, 7 PM
Thursday	March 20	Maundy Thursday Services (10 AM and 7 PM)
Friday	March 21	Good Friday Services at 1 PM and 7 PM
Easter Sunday	March 23	Regular worship times

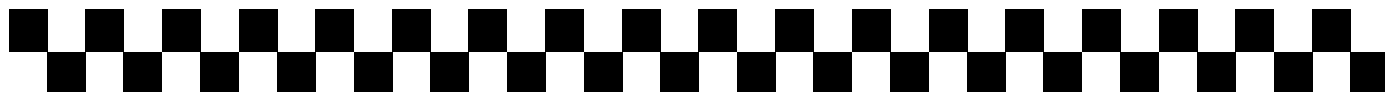
Once again the Evangelism Committee will be hosting a **Lenten Dinner** beginning at 5:00 in the fellowship hall. Cost is free. A free will offering will be received.

On Good Friday morning from 10:00 to 10:45 there will be a **children's activity** at church for ages preschool through (about) third grade. We will begin with an **outdoor Easter egg hunt** (if the weather allows). We will share an Easter craft, sing some songs, share a snack, and hear the story of Holy week and of Easter. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex several weeks ahead of time. Please sign up so we know how many children to prepare for. As always, friends are welcome and invited.

Lenten offering folders will be available to be picked up on the welcome desk in the church narthex beginning Sunday January 27th. No need to look for your name, simply take one. Please remember to write your name on the card when you return it.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jay



LENTEN SUPPER MENUS:

February 6	Grilled cheese, tomato soup, potato soup, cream of broccoli soup
February 13	Baked mostaccioli, Pasta ala Carey
February 20	Walking tacos, Spanish rice, beans
February 27	Hot dogs, sloppy joe, chili

Each meal will include salad and bread.

Desserts will be served after the service.



Q & A about Vicar Justin's Project

What is it?

Each year, the vicar (intern) is required to complete a project as part of educational goals of the internship experience. The goal of the internship project is to teach the intern about parish organization/development and to lift up various ministries within the congregation. My project: "Equipping the Saints for Ministry" will organize, train, and develop an Assisting Minister program here at St. Mark.

What is an Assisting Minister?

An Assisting Minister is a trained lay person (congregation member) who leads the congregation through the celebration of the church liturgy (worship service).

What is the rationale for the project?

Ephesians 4:11-12: *The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.* Every Christian has special gifts given by God. This project will identify the gift of lay liturgical leadership

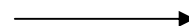
Martin Luther believed that through our baptism, all Christians are made priest in the church, the body of Christ. This is his understanding of the "priesthood of all believers." And as baptized priests, we are all called into ministry. Luther said that everyone who knows that she/he is a Christian should be fully assured that all of us alike are priests (*The Babylonian Captivity*).

Kelly Fryer: "The Bible makes it clear that ministry is not just the pastor's job; it is something *everyone* is supposed to be doing. Everybody has something to offer" (*Reclaiming the "L" Word*, 81).

Pastor Jay will take his sabbatical before I finish internship and this project will benefit the congregation, Pastor Jay, and me to have trained Assisting Ministers available to lead worship. Additionally, this program will identify and support the spiritual gift of lay liturgical leadership at St. Mark and be another way to serve God and the St. Mark family.

What is the plan of action?

I plan to seek out several individuals from each of the three worship services who are gifted in liturgical leadership (or interested in learning) and invite them to be trained over the course of 4-6 weeks as Assisting Ministers. I will then develop a preliminary schedule for the services and gradually introduce the training Assisting Ministers to the various parts of the service. They will have practice time with me and the pastor during a "live" worship service before Pastor Jay leaves for his sabbatical in June so they feel prepared and any questions/concerns can be addressed ahead of time.



What are the project objectives?

To have trained Assisting Ministers lead worship before, during, and continuing after Pastor Jay's sabbatical.

To have more lay involvement in the Traditional Lutheran liturgy service and the Contemporary Praise services

To allow a rotational of worship Assisting Ministers so that the services are not led by only the pastor and vicar (intern).

What is the time frame of the training for the project?

Training will be for 4 to 6 weeks beginning in March and will include background, resources, class practices, and "live" worship practice. **Training will be held on Sundays at 4:00 - 5:30pm, March 2, 9, 16, April 6**, (13 & 20 if needed). Integrating the Assisting Ministers into the worship services will follow the training sessions.

How will the project work during Pastor Jay's sabbatical?

During the sabbatical, the Assisting Ministers will lead worship whenever Vicar Justin is scheduled to preach and if a former vicar is scheduled to preach and Vicar Justin is out of town.

What kind of commitment will be involved with the project?

Assisting Minister will be asked to commit to attending every training session and to be present and prepared to lead worship on her/his scheduled Sunday(s).

Why is Vicar Justin telling us all this?

Since my project directly impacts every member of the congregation in the area of worship, I want to present information to the you before the training and implementation of the project so that the congregation will be aware of my project, individuals can discern if God is calling them to this particular ministry, and to ask for the congregation's prayers and support as this project begins.

Let us pray . . .



For Connie Kleingartner, Bob Higdon, the Charles Fiepel family, Dianne Chicoine, Jan Elsass, Calvin Porter, Ron Skold, Martha Weber, Claudia Manzello, Lillian Kirpec, Debbie Bartosik, Hazel Trygstad, Ann Starr, the Woike family, Dan Wenk, Iris Bullion, Bishop Mark Hansen, and Bishop Wayne N. Miller.

For the homebound including Laurretta Brinkman, James Nichols, Lorraine Roshnagel, Fred Dietrich, Donna Gutierrez, Wally Huscher, Marie Augito, Dorothy Gavens, Bob Floral, Bonnie Stoffregen, Diane Anetsberger, Crystal Kuk, and Jean Neubauer.

For those serving in the military including Andrew Elsner, Christopher Freitag, Luke Bialcyk, Alvin Dixon, and Ron Brasel.

SABBATICAL MEMORY

This is the second installment on the holiness of memory. I realize this article is a little thick, but I invite you to trudge through and wrestle with it. As always, if you have any questions or would like to further discuss any *Vicar's Voice* themes, my door is always open.

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*Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. – Exodus 20:8*

“This I do in quiet ways, that on your lonely path, you may not walk alone.” – Howard Thurman

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The Sabbath day, or Shabbat as it's called in Hebrew, was honored in ancient Jewish-Christian tradition when God rested at the end of the Genesis 1.1-2.2 creation story. On the Sabbath, the seventh day of creation, God looked over what had been created and called it good. Then God blessed the Sabbath and made it holy because it was the day God rested. In Sabbaths throughout time, humans have followed God's lead by pausing, resting, relaxing, and remembering the good things that were created and God's divine work in them. Dr. Vitor Westhelle, professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), says that in the Sabbath we are called to observe not our own work, but God's divine work in the world around us.

In the gospels, the Sabbath is also remembered as the day of mourning that was observed by the women who were preparing to anoint Jesus' body after the crucifixion. On this *crucifixion* Sabbath, they remembered what happened between “Good Friday” and “Easter Sunday.” Their remembering Jesus on that heartbreaking Sabbath was important for the early Jesus-followers because it was a way to remember the stories of their beloved leader, teacher, and Lord. Despite the pain and sadness they must have felt after his crucifixion, these women kept alive the memory of the God who they felt had abandoned *them* on the cross; however, they remembered Jesus as their Savior on the Sabbath against all odds.

Taking the time to observe Sabbath, like God and the gospel women, does not require us to pause only one day a week, but rather invites us to stop and remember God, creation, and other people every day of our lives. The daily Sabbath moves us to remember creation and other people in a way that lifts them up and brings them into our hearts and minds. When caregivers care for others, especially elderly adults who struggle with memory loss, the Sabbath is kept holy when forgotten stories are remembered against the odds of memory failure and when those stories are celebrated. This remembrance of their memory honors the grace that God has given them throughout their lives. When we remember those who forget, we are gracing them and realizing (making real) God's unfailing memory of them.

Joy Philip, Ph.D student at LSTC, suggests that Sabbath is a time of *disruptive* remembrance, which opens up the possibilities of change in our perspectives because remembering the Sabbath reflects the past, which speaks to the present, and informs the future. Remembering the memories of those who forget their own story gives justice, dignity, and respect to the lost memories and the person(s) themselves. This sabbatical memory remembers the “other” who suffers with illnesses and who is often forgotten by a community when they forget. Sabbatical memory opens the storehouse of memories, creates the way for justice to take place, and stands in solidarity with our shared history.

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# LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

The St. Mark LYO would like to thank all those who purchased sub sandwiches for Superbowl Sunday. The profits from this fundraiser will go toward the trips and retreats that we have scheduled this year. Our first trip of the year will be a ski trip to Wisconsin on February 22-24. Your support is greatly appreciated as we encourage Christian fellowship among our young adult members.

AND to 7th-12th Graders: Please don't forget our meetings– **February 10th & 24th from 5:00—7:00 P.M.** See ya there!!

FELLOWSHIP (Let's get together, Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!)

The Fellowship committee is sponsoring a FREE movie/discussion/pizza night on Saturday, March 1st. The pizza will arrive about 5:00 P.M., after which we will gather in the sanctuary to watch the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. This will be followed by a discussion period. *Finding Nemo* will be shown downstairs at the same time for the kids. There is no cost for this event.

**STEWARDSHIP is an attitude. It is the giving of our TIME, talent and treasures as a reflection of our faith in the promises of God.**

**Sometimes we get so caught up over “Stewardship” meaning just money or financial resources that we lose sight of the reality that God has given to some of us more TIME or more talent than He has given treasure. Whatever the case, God's will for our life is that we devote it to God as good managers.**

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Dear Kingdom Weekend Alumni,

It will soon be time to begin thinking about Kingdom Weekend 2008. The facility has been reserved, the money put down, and the weekend of **April 11-13** has been reserved. Rich Otto will be our fearless Kingdom Leader for the weekend. **Team training will be Wednesday nights at 8:15PM beginning Wednesday Feb. 27.** I'm very excited about what the Spirit can do in people's lives as we make ourselves available to Him. Please check the appropriate lines below and bring your card back to St Mark where there will be a “kingdom box” available to receive your filled out card in our narthex. (or if it's easier just call the church office and ask for me.) I hope you will say yes to the nudging of the Spirit as He calls you to serve in this life changing ministry.

Yes, I'm in. I will do whatever is needed!

Yes, I would be **willing to serve on the kingdom team** in whatever capacity I'm needed.

No, I can't serve on the team, but I will make food, write support letters, and pray for the team and participants.

This is a busy time in my life. Count me out this time.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jay



**BOOK REVIEW.** Need something to do on these cold winter nights? Consider reading a good book. Such as:

*The Bible for Dummies* a compendium of EVERYTHING about the Bible. Written by Bible scholars Jeffrey Geoghegan and Michael Homan this will answer almost any question about the Bible you can imagine and even some you never thought of.

*The Secret Things of God* by Henry Cloud, a Christian psychologist. This book outlines ways to better and closer relationships with others and with God.

These items can be obtained from your local library and are usually available in different formats such as large type, CD, or paperback. If your library does not own them, the staff will be more than happy to request these materials from another library at no cost to you. Enjoy!



## MEMBER PROFILE: Bob Floral

Robert Floral has answered to many names throughout his life: “Whitey” as a child when his blond hair was bleached pure white by the sun, “Mr.Clean” (he put Felix Unger to shame), Robert to his siblings, Bob to his friends and “Little Bob” to his co-workers at Wal-Mart. His favorite names, by far, were Dad and Grandpa (and “Papa Meow” as Sara used to call him when she was little). He spent his life giving memories to his children and grandchildren. He was not a community volunteer as a younger man, but he was at home playing board games, playing “school” and he could make a trip to the grocery store turn into an adventure at the park. He baby-sat his grandchildren after school, played the *same* board games with them, chauffeured them to activities when their parents couldn’t and took care of everyone’s pets while they were on vacation. As he spent more time within the St. Mark family, he became involved with PADS, often taking the overnight shift or filling in for a double when someone could not be there. He really enjoyed the camaraderie within the group of workers each evening he spent there.

Unfortunately he now suffers from Lewy Body Dementia (a very progressive type of dementia very much like Alzheimer’s but with hallucinations) and usually only answers to Robert, as he remembers his years as a young man and not much else. We are grateful when he connects with us when we visit him at his nursing home, even if he doesn’t remember who we are. He doesn’t know it, but he’s still making memories for us-like when he sees Sara and calls her “Steve”-and I will never be able to sing “Silent Night”, his favorite Christmas song, again without tears as I remember him singing at his nursing home Christmas party after everyone else had finished.

To many he was a friend, to others so much more; but to all he’s Robert Floral a loving, cheerful family man who worried about everybody before himself.

Submitted by Kim Novak

# HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!



3 Mary Martin, Sara Provost, Marni Muersch, Julia Trygstad, Claire Kleczkowski

6 James Rambert



7 Ethan Larson

8 Mike Oblak, Karin Pfluegner, Brian Gajeski, Dawn Zabaty

9 Hailey Pizur



10 Ernest Ambrose, Amy Malinowski

11 Alma Young

12 Maxine Kucala

13 Gloria Melnyk

14 Judith Alvis, Dianne Chicoine

15 Cody Larson



16 Leonard Engburg, Kim Gentry, Germaine Ferry

17 David Kuecher

18 Charles Alvis, Lore Mannion, Barbara Young, Brian Janko, Timothy Kuecher, Kevin Quigley

19 Jason Gentry

20 Pam Giera



21 Debbie Sernus

23 Hope Brewer, Kaylee Gajeski

25 Timothy Young

26 Joseph Vuskjo



27 Jean Stephenson, Carol Norton, Donna Rauter

28 Emily Paroubek, Norm Elder, Daniel Starr, Breanna Otto, Matt Disabato



*Thank you,*

*Thank you,*

*Thank you*

Thank you for all the kind thoughts, cards, prayers, and especially the hugs these past three weeks. They have been greatly appreciated. Mom's homegoing was a peaceful one, and she is now singing in the heavenly choir.

Your sister in Christ,  
Margaret Hanson

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To our Partners in Mission:

Ever faithful . . . Ever consistent . . . Ever in His care . . .

Just to let you know how much your continued thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. Thank you on behalf of our clients and their families from the volunteers at the United Methodist Church Worth Food Pantry. Your very generous Sept.-Dec. missions offering will feed 120 hungry souls this week when we combine it with our USDA government and FEMA staples. Thank you one and all for your desire to feed God's children.
Matthew 25:34-39.

(The Worth Food Pantry is need of the following items: Any and all kinds of tomato products, mac & cheese boxes, pasta-all shapes and sizes, cans of chili/sloppy joe, hash, juice-all flavors, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, and all varieties of cereals.)

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Dear Mrs. Voegele,

On behalf of the women and children served through the Crisis center for South Suburbia, thank you for your donation of 6 beautiful hand-crafted baby crib quilts and 29 tote bags with goodwill cards for the residents of our emergency shelter. Your thoughtful contribution was a big hit.

The Crisis Center provides emergency shelter and other related services for victims of domestic violence. During FY2007, the Crisis Center provided 25,980 hours of services to 2,256 victims of domestic violence.

More important than the numbers are the lives of individuals who have survived the trauma of domestic violence. Thank you for helping us reach out to families with immediate and pressing needs, helping them on their journey to freedom from abuse and violence.

Sincerely,

Edward Vega, Sr.

Executive Director