

# The Messenger

APRIL 2009

## Our Mission

### Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshipping, learning and sharing.



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## A Journey to Easter...

**Palm Sunday, April 5:** We enter Holy Week as we remember how our Lord was greeted with cheers and waving palms. *Hosanna* is the Hebrew expression "Lord, save us!" shouted as Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. So it was that in Jesus God came to save us. Moments later we announce his humiliating defeat and death in our reading of the Passion Narrative in the Gospel of Mark.

### Maundy Thursday, April 9: Service at 7:30 p.m.

We are going to have a quiet meditative service in which we will hear the scripture and share the meal that our Lord shared with his disciples at the Last Supper. The congregation will be singing some simple melodies to help us remember what our Lord has done for us. At the end of the service the altar will be stripped symbolizing Jesus' humiliation by his Roman captors. It reminds Christians of the suffering Christ endured for us.

### Good Friday, April 10: Community Service at noon at Christ Lutheran.

Gather for an hour with our sisters and brothers from other congregations as we remember Jesus' suffering and death.

### Good Friday, April 10: Service at 7:30 p.m.

This year's Good Friday service is called *The Way of the Cross*. *The Way of the Cross* is an adaptation of the historic Stations of the Cross. This adaptation is offered with prayer and song as Jesus' walk to his crucifixion is viewed by the congregation. Your devotion to Christ will be deepened through reenactment of Christ's journey from Pilate's palace to the grave.



### Easter Saturday & Sunday, April 11 & 12:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Come and celebrate the risen Christ through worship and praise on Saturday, April 11, at 5:00 p.m. Easter services on Sunday, April 12, will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. An Easter breakfast will be served in the social hall at 9:00 a.m. Bring the whole



family to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit salad, and juice. There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday. Following breakfast children are invited to make Easter crafts in Sunday School Room # 5.

## ***FROM THE PASTOR...***

I remember coming home from the neighbor's house after dark. Between the Romp house and the Schlessman house was an alfalfa field. During the day red-wing blackbirds ruled over that field – diving to harass any that would come near their nests. At night who could tell what creatures lurked in the darkness?

I remember running and trying not even to touch the ground with my strides. Fear of the darkness. Fear of the night sounds. Fear of all that I could not see. Fear. Looking back I can tell myself that there was nothing to fear but when I was crossing that field I was afraid. All the dangers that are in this world seemed poised for me as I ran toward the glow of our yard light.

Living through these days seems much like crossing that field in darkness. Some of us have lost jobs, some of us are in financial trouble, each of us wonders what will be next. Even if the danger for you or me is only in our imagination we can live and act as if it is life-threatening.

Maybe I ran faster because of the fear – a shot of adrenaline propelled me onward. Had there been a lion chasing me that fear might have saved me but no lion was in that place.

Fear can wear us out. When we all let fear set the agenda for us the joy goes out of life. Everything is a threat. It is every person for himself or herself.

The same God that gave us bodies ready to

flee from the lion gave us brains to determine whether the danger is real. Had I walked home in faith and trust rather than fear I might be writing you now about the glories of the stars that God placed in the night sky.

Someday we will look back on this time. We will know then that we missed out on so much when we let fear be our Lord. We will give thanks for every moment we trusted in God.

Peace be with you.  
Pastor Schlessman

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## ***“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”***

This began as a Latin hymn that came from three 14th century manuscripts from Bohemia. It's first English translation had three verses and was published in “Lyra Davidica, or a Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns” by John Walsh in 1708. The fourth verse was added by Charles Wesley and comes from his “Hymns and Sacred Poems (1740)” and was added to the previous three verses around 1816.

The tune is called “Easter Hymn” or “Worgan.” It went thru numerous changes until it was published in the “Compleat Psalmodist” by John Arnold in 1749. It seems to be a popular tune, sometimes credited to “Dr. Worgan” and appears in several English and American collections.

*-submitted by Elsie Kral and the  
Worship Committee*





## *Lilies for Easter Worship Service*

Lilies have been ordered from Pandys Garden Center. The plants are white, 6" pots and cost \$6.00 each. To reserve your lily, fill out a flower envelope found in the gathering area, place your check, payable to **ANNA CIRCLE** in the envelope and place it in the box provided by *Palm Sunday, April 5*.

Plants may be taken home following the Easter Worship Service.

### **Confirmand's and Mentor's Ministry**

Each year our 8th grade Confirmands, with their Mentor, complete a ministry within our church or community. Our class has been busy again this year fulfilling this assignment with unexpected joy.

*Evan Paine* wrote: "Over Christmas I (with Randi Smarsh) helped at the Redeemer Crisis Center. I think that this was important because we need to help those who aren't as fortunate as we are. I have to say that I had more fun there than I thought I would."

*Gina Rockas* said, "We (Gina and Kendra Cristiano) decided to help the younger children make Christmas cards for the people we went caroling for. We took the elderly people fruit and a card from one of the kids.



After we gave them the fruit and card, we sang Christmas carols for them. Then we came back for hot cocoa and cookies.

Please mark your calendars to join us in congratulating this class as they are confirmed on May 3rd. *Roberta Ekleberry*



## **Welcome to the Table**

*Jacob Gottshall  
Victoria Harper  
Alison McVay  
Debbie Owens  
John Skaggs  
Christina Stalla  
Sean Stalla  
Tiffany Stalla  
Carson Toy*

These fourth graders will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time on Palm Sunday, April 5. They have been receiving instruction for six weeks, making banners, and will participate in a Friday night retreat. At the retreat, they will visit Klingshirm Winery and meet with Doris Gaertner who will tell them about the altar preparations for communion and help them practice receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. Jean Duerk will also make the communion bread with them which will be used for their First Communion. Thank you to Cheryl Higley and Karri Stratton who have been teaching this class. After meeting individually with Pastor Schlessman, the students will be ready to receive their First Communion.

## *Outreach Ministry*

The Outreach Ministry committee will meet Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 pm. This group will look at our church benevolence organizations and our "Mission Partner" relationships. Please consider joining us for this important work of the church. If interested or if you have any questions please contact Cathy Mohney at 440-250-0686.



## *Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund*

The Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund is a fund designed to give interest-free loans to eligible college students who are members of Lutheran churches. The fund was initiated in 1994 by Dr. Ervin Pierstorf and his beloved wife, Florence (now deceased) and in loving memory of his brother, Clarence. All three family members devoted themselves to helping young people receive an education.

### **Who is eligible?**

The applicant and one parent or guardian must be active members of a designated Lutheran church. The applicant must be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. The student does not need to go to a Lutheran college or university. Seniors in high school may apply before their freshman year at college.

The student can download an application from the website [www.pierstorf.org](http://www.pierstorf.org) and submit an application for each and every year a loan is requested.



**Please pray for:**

**Joyce Tremain  
Avon Oaks**

**Ken Reiber (Lutheran Home)  
Scheduled to return home on 3/29.**

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## **T.O.R.C.H.**

### **Teen Out Reach through Christian Help**

Attention junior high and high school youth! We will be doing another TORCH event this April! This is a service opportunity that you won't want to miss. What is T.O.R.C.H.? It is a service program that teaches students the importance of servant work and how each of us is called to be Christ to others in need.

TORCH began with churches from the Berea area. It was a fantastic experience for the teens and adults who were involved in this outreach program. A sample Saturday looks like this:

- 12:15 p.m.** Meet at Christ Lutheran Parking lot
- 1:00 p.m.** Arrive at host church. Travel to Servant Site (various agencies and missions in Cleveland)
- 4:00 p.m.** Return to host church.
- 4:30 p.m.** Share stories of the day
- 5:00 p.m.** Dinner
- 6:00 p.m.** Approximate time of return to Christ Lutheran parking lot

Check the bulletin board for details. Next TORCH event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18, 2009**. Contact Teresa Reiner if you want to attend or have any questions.

## **VBS News**

**Save your empty 20 oz. Gatorade bottles!  
More info. to follow.**



## Coming Events

April 1: *Soup and Sandwich Supper*, 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Worship with plays at 7:00 p.m.

April 6: *Nursery School* cookie dough distribution, 3-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

April 7: *“Loving Jesus”*, 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

April 13: *Lydia/Naomi Circle* , noon in the Lounge.

April 14: *Anna Circle*, 7:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

April 18: *TORCH*, noon—meet at Church.

April 18: *Women’s Cluster* meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Meet at Christ Lutheran at 8:15 a.m.

April 19: *Praise Band* at 10:30 a.m. worship.

April 24: *Newsletter mailing*, 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room.

April 28: *Martha Circle*, 7:00 p.m. at Church.

April 26: *Book Club*, 7:00 p.m. (home of Doris Gaertner). Discussion will be *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan.

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**Newsletter deadline April 15**  
***Please have all articles and/or events, to be posted in the May newsletter, to the church office by this date.***

The next **Women’s Cluster** meeting will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Memphis Avenue, Cleveland, on April 18. Meet at Christ Lutheran at 8:15 a.m. and we will carpool if we get enough drivers.

Registration: \$7.00 includes lunch  
\$3.00 if not staying for lunch

9:00 A.M. Registration begins with fellowship and refreshments.

9:30 A.M. Business meeting begins

***Featured Speaker:***  
*Chaplain Kendall Lancaster*

See brochure on church bulletin board regarding special love offering and in kind gifts.

***If you would like to attend please RSVP Doris Klement by April 9.***

\*\*\*\*We are in need of drivers and if you are interested in driving please contact Doris Klement at 440-933-6742.





## Summary of Council Minutes March 5, 2009

Attendance: Tom Reiner, Russ Roth, Bob Olds, Pastor Schlessman, Mike Muir, Roberta Ekleberry, Tom Ballintine, Cathy Mohney, Chuck Heindrichs, Kris Simecek

The meeting was called to order by Tom R. at 7:00 p.m. with an opening devotion and prayer led by Pastor Schlessman. Minutes from the February Council meeting were approved.

### Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindrichs

Chuck noted in order to meet our budget, Contributions needed per month is \$20,500, and actual Contributions at this time amount to \$17,500, leaving us with a shortage of approximately \$3,000 per month. Our monthly payment for the Building Fund is \$4,600 per month; actual year-to-date donations to the Building Fund (both Jan. & Feb.) is \$4,400 total.

Graphs were then distributed by Chuck that showed a decline in Contributions compared to 2008.

Pastor did note that our giving at this time of year is actually above the same time last year. He also noted that worship attendance was down this year as compared to last year. Mike suggested we encourage new members to attend our church; Roberta suggested we reach out to members who have not come to church lately.

### Pastor's Report – Pastor Schlessman

Pastor will be on vacation from April 14 through April 19. Representatives to the Lutheran Home are needed – Tom B. made a motion, seconded by Chuck, to give Pastor Schlessman authority to appoint those representatives. Motion passed.

Judge Darrel Bilancini of the Avon Lake Municipal Court has sent letters to churches in Avon Lake asking for support of a Helping Hand Project. Members of area churches will be called upon to assist citizens in Avon Lake who are in need of help with code violations and other needs. Council thought this was a good idea.

### President's Report – Tom Reiner

Our nursery school has won the first step of the "Step Up To Quality" achievement award from the state of

Ohio, awarding them grant money to be used on improvements for the nursery school. Administrator Terri Pienoski is to be commended for all of the work she did to help the nursery school win this award.

A letter has been received from Anita Hlava from Martha Circle requesting work be done in the church library. Tom B. will obtain a list of these projects from Anita.

Anita also requested that the secretary's old office become part of the library. Motion made by Chuck, and seconded by Roberta, to limit the library to one room; the library cannot be expanded into the secretary's old office. Motion passed. Mike mentioned that the crayons and coloring books available for the young children of the congregation is a nice feature of the library, and Council noted that the library is a well organized and pleasant area.

### Property – Tom Ballintine

A request has been made to get motion-activated lights installed in the short hall coming from the office area and also some of our restrooms – Tom is working on that request. Tom is also checking into the possibility of recycling by our church and will report on that at the spring Congregation Meeting.

The roof repair is an ongoing project that will be undertaken by Brad Smith Roofing once the weather warms up. The church received a letter dated February 4, 2009 from COPS Monitoring Co., the alarm company that monitors our alarm system, which stated their service will soon be discontinued; we then received a letter dated February 11, 2009 which stated the original letter had been sent in error.

### Worship & Music – Ryan Smarsh (reported by Tom Reiner)

A sign-up sheet for the Soup & Sandwich dinner to be hosted by Church Council on March 18 was distributed. Chuck made a motion, seconded by Tom B., that any proceeds from that evening's supper be given to the youth who will be attending the Mission trip. Motion passed.

### Stewardship – Mike Muir

Mike is checking into a new sign for the church – a 2-sided LED sign – which he believes can be purchased for a reasonable cost. The church will be hosting a golf outing for Family Promise sometime in June or July. Mike may also plan a youth ski trip sometime next winter.



**Evangelism – Roberta Ekleberry**

Roberta reported that the Evangelism Committee voted not to advertise in The Journal and The Press newspapers; it was felt that the cost of the ads would not benefit the church. There will be a Coffee & Cookies reception held after the 10:30 service on 3/29.

**Christian Education**

A report prepared by Sue Schlessman was distributed noting the dates of upcoming Lenten activities. Cathy made a motion, seconded by Tom B., to accept the recommendation of the Christian Education Committee to charge the following fees for children attending Vacation Bible School this summer: \$10 per child, \$25 maximum per family, no charge for a family if an adult is a volunteer for the week of VBS. Motion passed. Vacation Bible School will be held this year June 15-19, 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

**Outreach Ministry – Cathy Mohney**

Cathy reported on behalf of Eric that planning for the Mission trip is going well. There will be five students attending from our church, travelling with students from Bay United Methodist Church. Our students have been involved in workshops, training and fundraising for the trip. Cathy will be having a meeting soon for her committee; she is looking for more members. Pastor Schlessman asked Cathy to contact Pastor Glenn Zimbelman of the new Spirit of Joy church in North Ridgeville.

**Fellowship – Bob Olds**

This summer's camping trip will be held July 10, 11 & 12. Dinners for 8 will be organized soon.

**New Business**

Chuck distributed copies of the Memorial Fund Policies and Procedures which had been developed by a committee of church members. After discussion, some minor changes were made to this draft including the statement that a list of donors did not need to be given to the congregation each year. It was also noted that Council has to appoint three members to the Memorial Fund Committee, and they need to be voting members of the church. Chuck also noted that a new category for Memorial donations has been made for his Treasurer's Report entitled "Restricted Pending". This means that money has been received by the church as a memorial donation, however we are waiting to hear the family's wishes for the donations. Chuck mentioned that the procedure for Memorial donations is as follows: As memorials are given to the church, a letter is sent to each donor, thanking them for their gift. After a short

time, a letter is sent to the family that lists all of the donors with a total amount of money donated. A list of possible projects and gift ideas will also be sent to the family at this time. Motion made by Pastor Schlessman, seconded by Mike, that we adopt the Memorial Fund Policies and Procedures as revised. Motion passed.

Building use procedures were then discussed. Chuck distributed copies of Building Use Layouts which gives suggested table and chair arrangements for groups of various sizes. After some discussion, four revisions will be made to the "Facility Use Guidelines" and "Application for General Use of Church Facilities" documents. They are:

- New language will be added to the Guidelines which will allow the church office to rent or reserve building space to members of the church. All other groups will need to follow proper procedures.
- New language will be added to the Application which states that reservations will be confirmed upon receipt of payment in full.
- Remove reference to the "Tables & Chairs Form" – it was felt this form was not needed; our church secretary, Kathy, will keep track of requests for church members to borrow tables and chairs. (Also, Tom B. will soon be marking the tables that can be borrowed by members so Kathy knows which tables can be borrowed and which tables need to stay in the church.) Remove reference to a "Wedding Guide" that was to be distributed. Any couple who wishes to be married in our church needs to meet with Pastor Schlessman who will distribute any pertinent wedding paperwork.

It was also felt these guidelines, application and room layouts should be uploaded onto our church website. Cathy made a motion, seconded by Tom B., that we approve these documents as amended. Motion passed.

The following Council members are up for re-election this spring; all have agreed to serve another term: Bob Olds (Fellowship), Mike Muir (Stewardship), Tom Ballintine (Property), Russ Roth (Vice President) and Kris Simecek (Secretary). It was noted that we still need to fill the Christian Education Council position.

After saying the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Simecek  
Secretary



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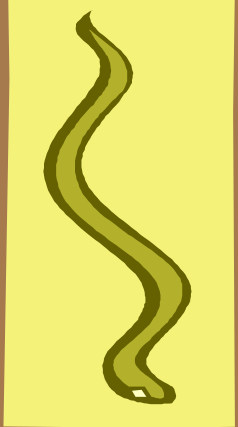
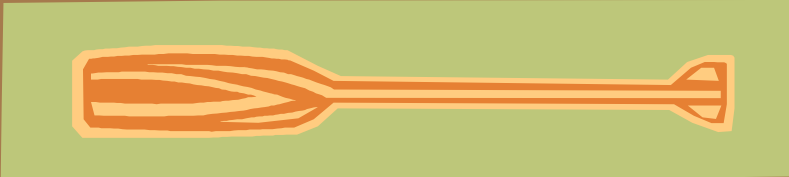
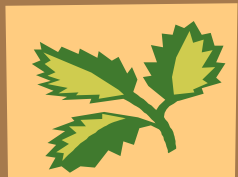
Lynn R. Schlessman, Pastor  
Sue Schlessman, Christian Ed. Director  
Kathy Greene, Secretary



**Worship Opportunities:**  
*Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.*  
*Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*  
*Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.*  
*The Nursery is available during  
the 10:30 worship service.*

*We're on the web!*  
[www.celcal.org](http://www.celcal.org)

*1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given*



***Were going CAMPING AGAIN!!!***

Come join the Fellowship Committee at Long Lake Campground July 10th, 11th, and 12th in the beautiful Mohican Valley. Last year we fished the lake, road the trail on horseback, and sat around the campfire enjoying each others company. This year I'm planning on a canoe trip and some hiking in the State Park. A big potluck dinner for Saturday night is also in the works.

Contact Bob Olds 440-522-2615 if you want to go, or sign up on the board in the church hallway. I have to let the campground know how many to expect by June 20th, so mark your calendars now, and come join the fun.....

