

STAFF

Pastor

Gregory Isaacson

Children's Choir Director

Kathy Hardy

Church Secretary

Nancy Jandro

Custodian

John Boyum

Custodian

Eddie Clymer

Children's Ministry

Jan Winkler

Youth & Family Ministry

Jessica Harris

Finance

Scott Prunty

Organist

Neil Lubke

OFFICE

Monday - Thursday

9 AM to 3 PM

Friday

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Telephone: 651-436-1138

Fax: 651-436-7267

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:30 AM

E-Mail: office@memoriallutheran.org

Website: www.memoriallutheran.org

MARCH/APRIL 2010



LENT 2010

Midweek Gatherings

Wednesdays – March 3, 10, 17, 24

- 5:30 Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM Lenten Worship - Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, March 28th

- ❖ 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship
- ❖ 9:30 AM Palm Sunday Brunch
- ❖ 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM Easter Journey

Maundy Thursday, April 1st – 7:00 PM

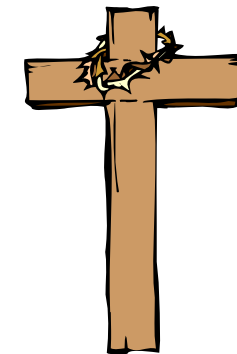
Experience a live presentation of Da Vinci's Last Supper

Good Friday, April 2nd – 7:00 PM

Service of Mourning & Expectation

Easter, April 4th

- ❖ Sunrise Worship – 7:00 AM
- ❖ Festive Worship – 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



NOTE FROM PASTOR

Dear Friends,
I read an article the other day by M. Craig Barnes. He wrote, "Whenever someone starts talking about relevance, the focal point is always on the self. The individual is the one, and the only one, who gets to decide if something is relevant."
We have all heard preachers and churches promote that they have a 'relevant' message. The implied subtext is that other churches and preachers are 'not relevant.' I often take offense at that language. 'Relevant' usually means that someone has to determine what is and is not of importance. 'Relevant' tends to put the needs and expectations of an individual to the forefront. 'Relevant' tends to minimize God's Word (or portions of it) in ways that fails to acknowledge God at work in seemingly 'irrelevant' ways. We are on our Lenten journey as we focus, together, on AGAPE, God's love for us. During these weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter, the Biblical texts are already appointed for us, waiting to be gleaned for the truth of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. While the texts speak a Gospel hope they can also be confrontational in matters of faith and practice. It is God working on us to transform us into people who

are loved by the Lord and are told to share that love with the world. The scriptures are always relevant as they serve to proclaim the promise of the risen savior and give us new life. The music is relevant that leads us from emotions of sadness and heartache to restored hope and joy. The prayers are relevant as we lift up our concerns in sincere appeal to a God who promises to listen. The sacraments are relevant giving us this risen Lord to touch us and to make us whole. All these things point us to something that is beyond ourselves, to a God whose love is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Relevant because God chose to enter our world in this way knowing we would all reject him yet offering forgiveness and new life. Please join us for the many opportunities to experience this 'relevant' God in what the Lord has prepared this Lenten season. Palm Sunday begins triumphantly with the waving of palm fronds only to end with the story of Jesus' crucifixion. Maundy Thursday invites us to the intimate setting of Jesus' sharing his most holy supper. Good Friday calls us to grieve and to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death. Easter astounds us with the glorious proclamation of a risen Lord. We are surrounded by the beauty of

music and flowers, banners and shouts, families and friends. Can it get more relevant than that?
See you in church,
Pr. Isaacson

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



Volunteers Needed

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 service will include the "Last Supper" re-enactment by members of Memorial Lutheran. If you are interested in portraying a disciple of Jesus, please sign up on the sheet posted outside the library door. There will be a rehearsal on March 31 at 6:30. Contact Kathy Hardy if you would like more information.

SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE



We will once again be holding Soup Supper at 5:30 PM, followed by our worship service at 7:00 PM. Our Soup Supper schedule will be:

March 3 Chancel Choir
March 10 Youth
March 17 Cursillo
March 24 Men of Memorial

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWZ!

Can't wait for SPRING!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Introducing the new TREASURE BOX!



We're adding another ELEMENT OF FUN to our Sunday School Program with the new TREASURE BOX! We'll be having "BIBLE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS" that kids can take home and bring back answered the following week in order to win something out of the TREASURE BOX. Kids may also be rewarded for Bible Memory (like the LORD'S PRAYER, special verses, etc.) or for bringing a friend to Sunday School, etc. COME CHECK IT OUT!

Our AMAZING BIBLE HEROES series continues on with MOSES! After Moses, we will celebrate with some special EASTER lessons, then finish the year off learning about SAUL/PAUL and the amazing way God took an enemy and made him one of his greatest helpers! Come join us for awesome stories, games, activities, and crafts, each Sunday at 10:30!


SPECIAL THANKS to Bill and Marit Bjork, Jenny Lee, and Tina, Alex, and Mitchell Rabideau, plus ALL THE YOUTH who helped with Openings, Shepherding, Skits, etc. for the DAVID rotation!

EASTER/SPRING PLANT SALE



Children's Ministry Committee will be sponsoring an **EASTER/SPRING PLANT SALE** to provide plants to beautify our Sanctuary at Easter and to raise money for Camp Scholarships and other special Sunday School events. Please see the **ORDER FORM** in your Sunday bulletins or contact the Church Office for more information. We appreciate your support!

CAMP SUNDAY – Time to register for CAMP WAPO!



A representative from **CAMP WAPO** will be joining us on Sunday, February 28th, for Camp Sunday! This year's camp theme is "JESUS SAID... An Adventure in the Book of John!" Our dates for camp are July 18-23 for 4th grade and up, and July 16-18 for the Seeds weekend (Grades 2-3). Pick up a flier or see Jess or Jan if you have questions – registrations are due in March. **SCHOLARSHIPS** are available for those attending camp – please speak to Bill Walker if your camper is 6th grade and under or Jess Harris if you have a camper older than 6th grade.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES AND RETREAT!



Breanna Boe, Riley Anderson, and Scott Beane and their parents are learning about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during special Sunday School classes and a fun **RETREAT**. They will receive their **FIRST COMMUNION** on Sunday, March 7th. Special thanks to Rick Hardy for leading this class again this year! May God continue to richly bless these young people in their faith journey!

MOUNTAINS OF MEALS –



Making a difference for our neighbors in need!
MARCH is Food

Pantry Month and the Sunday School youth will again be **CHALLENGING** the **OLDER YOUTH** and the **REST OF THE CONGREGATION** to see who can donate the most money and/or food pantry items for the **VALLEY OUTREACH Food Shelf!** With the economic climate these days, the food shelves have been very busy, with more and more people needing their services! **THANK YOU** for sharing God's love by providing for our neighbors in need!

EASTER JOURNEY – Palm Sunday, March 28th!



– *Fun for the WHOLE FAMILY!*
Be sure to be in church on **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH**, for our special Easter celebrations! Kids will **PROCESS IN WITH PALMS** at the 10:30 worship service and share special music. **AFTER WORSHIP**, the annual **BRUNCH** will be served by the Youth, followed by our **EASTER JOURNEY** with crafts, drama, marketplace displays and demonstrations, treats and **MORE** for the **WHOLE FAMILY!** Please plan now to attend **ALL** of these special activities on Palm Sunday!

EASTER JOURNEY HELPERS NEEDED!

It takes **A LOT** of **PEOPLE** to put together the Easter Journey and we'd love your help if you are able! We'd like to have displays for **BAKING, JEWELRY, MUSIC, STORY-TELLING**, and more. If we have enough people, we'd like to present Jesus' Walk Through Holy Week in drama form!

If you have ideas or can help, please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or winkler.janice@gmail.com **SOON!** The **EASTER JOURNEY** is set for Palm Sunday, March 28th after the Congregational Brunch. We appreciate your help!

BIRTHDAY BAGS for Valley Outreach



The Sunday School youth will again be collecting birthday items and gift bags to make **BIRTHDAY BAGS** for Valley Outreach. We'll kick-off this project on Sunday, April 11th and finish on **PRAYER SUNDAY, May 16th**. Cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles, gifts, gift cards and more are needed! **THANKS** to Michelle Bjorkman and Claudia Josephson for their help with this special project again this year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED – Sun., March 21

We're planning a **SPECIAL EASTER LESSON** on Sunday, March 21st, at 10:30 a.m. If you can help or have any ideas for activities and program, please let Jan Winkler know. **THANKS!**

POOL PARTY – Sunday, April 18th – 1-3 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and **MAKE A SPLASH** at our **FAMILY POOL PARTY** on Sunday, April 18th, at the motel in Hudson! We'll meet at the pool and enjoy swimming and a pizza party afterwards. Cost is \$5 per person, with a family max of \$15.

Anyone who can help chaperon or provide pop and/or snacks for this event, we'd LOVE your help! Please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or winkler.janice@gmail.com. THANKS!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN FORUM UPDATE

On Sunday, February 7th at 9:30 a.m., we held an Open Forum for anyone interested in discussing the possibility of moving Sunday School to between services (9:30 a.m.) starting in Fall 2010. There were about 15 people in attendance and discussion was shared openly. At the end of the meeting, a survey was distributed for people to share additionally any feelings they had concerning this possible change. The survey was also sent home with Sunday School kids that morning and is available on the table in the Entryway at church.

The Sunday School Committee met the following Wednesday evening to discuss the Forum and the sentiments shared by the people both in attendance at that meeting and who had made comments to us through personal, phone, and e-mail contacts. While no official decision has been made at this time (we want to be sure we have all of the surveys back), it would appear that we will NOT be recommending that Sunday School

move from its current 10:45 time slot next year. There IS a possibility, however, of ADDING A SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTION (which would parallel the regular Sunday School rotations but would be with ALL AGE LEVELS together) that would occur from 9:45 – 10:20 each week. Please feel free to share your feelings at any time with Jan Winkler or anyone on the Children's Ministry Committee. We appreciate your input very much!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

DRIVE-IN THEATER MOVIE

PARTY – THANKS to all of the parents and kids who missed the big Vikings game to enjoy this Family Movie Event! We had a good turnout and the "cars" were AWESOME!

WINTER PARTY (Sledding, crafts, and more!--Sun., Feb. 21st – 1-3pm

That's ONE ADVANTAGE to all of the SNOW we've had this year! The sledding hill was GREAT! Thanks to everyone who came, brought friends, and helped with this fun annual event!

"LEARN ABOUT ME" SUNDAY – February 28th

Talent abounds at Memorial Lutheran, and we enjoyed seeing a taste of that talent from the people who set up displays at our "Learn

About Me" Sunday! Thanks for sharing!

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR

MARCH

5 (FRIDAY) FIRST COMM.

RETREAT – 6-9 p.m.

7 MOSES 4 / FIRST COMMUNION RECEIVED at 10:30

BENEFIT CONCERT – 3pm

14 (TIME CHANGE) HOME WEEK

21 EASTER SPECIAL UNIT/ COOKIE SUNDAY

28 (PALM SUNDAY) SS KIDS PROCESS W/PALMS & SING AT 10:30

EASTER BRUNCH/ EASTER JOURNEY–11:45am – 1:30pm

APRIL

4 EASTER SUNDAY (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

11 SAUL/PAUL 1 / BIRTHDAY BAG KICK-OFF

18 SAUL/PAUL 2 / COOKIE SUNDAY

POOL PARTY – 1-3pm

25 SAUL/PAUL 3

MAY

2 HOME WEEK

9 (MOTHER'S DAY) HOME WEEK / COOKIE SUNDAY

16 SS TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION BRUNCH – 9:30am

PRAYER SUNDAY / SS KIDS SING – 10:30am

23 T.B.A.
30 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERYONE'S WELCOME! – INVITE A FRIEND!

QUESTIONS ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL? Please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or winkler.janice@gmail.com

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Mentor Ministry Mentor pairs will continue to meet Wednesdays March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6-7:00pm for conversation and soup supper, and then attend Lenten worship together from 7-8:00pm. You may choose one week to take off for a Spring Break. Please contact Jess if you are unable to meet with your mentor at this time and we'll make alternate arrangements.



Summer Trip Meeting Sunday, March 7 from 11:30am-1:00pm. Lunch will be

provided. If you are planning to join us on our Mission Trip to Montana this summer, please attend this meeting. Info about the trip and upcoming fundraisers will be discussed. Parents welcome and encouraged to attend as well. Also, mark your calendar for a group dinner outing on

Wednesday, May 5 from 5:30-8:30pm.

Soup Supper Help Needed



Wednesday, March 10. The Youth are responsible for providing and serving soup, and we need

your help! If you are willing to help in any way, please email Jess at youthdir@memoriallutheran.org. This could be a fun activity for you and your mentor—and it counts as your time together for that week!

Junior High Water Park of America Trip



Summer is right around the corner, but let's pretend it's here now! We'll spend the day sliding and swimming and having fun at the Water Park of

America in Bloomington. We will meet at church to depart at 9am on Saturday, March 27 and return by 5pm. The cost is \$25. Bring a suit, towel, and money for lunch. Friends are welcome! Open to all students in grades 7-9. Please talk to Jess if the cost is a concern for you and your family. Sign up by Wednesday, March 24.

Back to Confirmation as Usual

beginning Wednesday, April 7. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm; *Large Group Opening at 6:30; Done by 8:00.* Please remember to be on time. Our *last Wednesday will be April 28th* as we meet to welcome our 6th

Graders and celebrate the Confirmation of our 9th Graders.

Senior High Dinner and a Movie Night



Join us Friday, April 9 from 6pm-12am for dinner and a movie with your friends (old and new) from Memorial! Your friends who don't go to our church are welcome as well...as always! The cost for the movie will be \$8.50. Please bring your own money for dinner and any snacks at the theater. This event is open to youth in grades 10-12 only.

Confirmation Banquet



Thursday, April 22, 6:00pm. 9th Grade Confirmands and their families and sponsors are invited to join us to celebrate this milestone through a meal and the sharing of Faith Statements.

7th/8th Grade Families are asked to serve at the Confirmation Banquet, Thursday, April 22. *7th Grade shift=4:30-6:30; 8th Grade shift=5:30-7:30 (and then stay to hear the 9th graders' Faith Statements).* Please let Jess know if you have a conflict and need to switch shifts.

Affirmation of Baptism Service

will be held on Sunday, April 25 at the 10:30am service. Please join us as we celebrate this moment with our 9th grade youth and welcome them as adult members

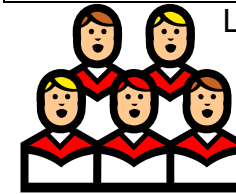
of our congregation. 9th Grade families please watch your mailboxes for information regarding gowns, faith statements, photography, banquet reservations, and other arrangements. *Cards may be left for Confirmands in the fellowship hall beginning April 11.*

Camp WAPO



registration forms are available! See Jess if you are interested in attending camp this summer. Youth Camp (Grades 7-9) is July 18-23—Cost=\$365. \$100 Scholarships will be given to anyone who signs up for a week of camp.

CHANCEL CHOIR



Last month I found a few moments to read Noah Adams' *Piano Lessons: Music, Love & True*

Adventures. Adams used to host NPR's *All Things Considered*, and his book takes us through a year of his life in music. You see, at age 52, he decided to do something he'd always dreamed of--learn to play the piano.

After buying an expensive Steinway, he realizes it's not as easy as it looks, especially with all the other demands of his life, and just when he's about to give up, he

signs up for piano camp in Vermont. At this camp there are all levels of musicians, from the beginner like Noah, to the accomplished Karen from North Dakota, but they all have to perform at a recital in one week.

Noah, who is still a bit confounded by his scales, wants to play Schumann's "Träumerei," or Reverie, a lyrical piece with four "voices" and rhythmical challenges, to say the least. His teachers tactfully persuade him to work it up for Christmas instead of for the recital, but what is most amazing about this camp is the utilization of every student in teaching the others. No matter how little Noah knew, he could be called up in front of a class to demonstrate a technique, and everyone learned from it, becoming a better musician. It made me want to enroll!

Choir at Memorial Lutheran is a similar experience for me. We have some members who have been singing for decades and have performed in various groups; other singers, like myself, have been involved for just a little over a year. Some of us read music and some of us don't, but at each rehearsal we learn something new about phrasing or timing, for example, from each other. Some of us have strong voices, and some of us are "blenders," but as a group we produce some rather marvelous

moments where you can just feel the music in our hearts.

The Christmas of his 52nd year, Noah Adams stunned his wife with the gift of actually playing "Träumerei," complete with candles and a tux. It's an experience neither will forget, and there's always room for more voices to share in the choir's great experience of collaboration and song. Drop in some Wednesday night, and see where the Spirit takes us!

Kathy Halgren

XYZ'S (Extra Years of Zest)



X YZ Club, for seniors 55 years and older, meets every Tuesday morning at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. Cards will be played at 9:00 AM with a coffee break at 10:00 AM, followed by more card playing until noon. Programs will be announced as they develop. For information, registration or cancellation, call Laura Fritsche at 651-730-1076 by 9:00 AM on Mondays.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Morning Bible Study and Fellowship, March 9th, 9:30 AM, at Rhoda Connors home, 8100

Galway Road, Woodbury 55125, 651/731-4014

April 13th, 9:30 AM, at church, Dana Nelson hostess, 651/351-7251

Evening Bible Study and Fellowship, March 22nd, 7:00 PM, at Mona Cappuzi's home, 1965 Quinlan, Saint Croix Beach, 651/436-7335

April 12th, 7:00 PM, at Lori Bjorkman's home, 651/998-1013

April 16-17 Saint Paul Area Women's Synodical Convention at Saint Paul Lutheran in Stillwater. Nancy Johnson and Arlene Swenson have information.

April 29th, 6:30 PM, East Central Cluster Meeting at Memorial in Afton, all women invited, poster with information is on board outside church office.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
Last year we sent quilts, layettes, health kits and school kits to LWR. Our women, Sunday School children and congregation are always very generous. Last July LWR sent out a plea for health kits. We responded and collected items which were delivered to the LWR warehouse. Since the earth quake, LWR has been sending containers of supplies to Haiti. They need health kits. Our women will be collecting items for the

kits in March and until April 11th. There will be a container in the fellowship hall. ITEMS FOR HEALTH KITS (only items listed please)
One hand towel, dark color recommended
One washcloth, dark color recommended
One bath- size bar (4-5oz.) of soap, any brand in original wrapping
One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
One sturdy comb, remove packaging
One medal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for file)
Six Band-Aids (or similar brand), preferably 1/2 or 3/4"; secure together with a rubberband

Bring all or any of these items to church and place them in the bin provided. Women will assemble the kits. THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY!

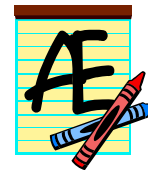
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Memorial will host their annual 2010 American Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, **March 1st** from **1:00 to 7:00 PM**. It is open to the public as well as a complete scheduled sign-up. Our

congregation is giving of our time and service in a variety of ways and invites you to help out if your schedule allows. Here are ways you can help:
Upload/Set-up
No show callers
Refreshment Servers
Food donations
Loading/Take Down
For more information please contact Elise Winter at 651-367-4145. For food donations please contact Marion 651-436-7742.
Thank you.

AFTON PRESCHOOL FALL REGISTRATION



Afton Preschool will accept registrations starting February 1 for our Fall 2009 combined

age morning class. Children must be 3 or 4 years of age by September 1, 2009. The school, located at Memorial Lutheran Church, has been providing quality, licensed preschool education since 1968. It is not church affiliated. For more information, please call Cindy at 651-436-8557.

NOTES FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As I start my third year on the Church Council, and my first as

President, I want to thank outgoing President Sharon Hanson for her leadership and contributions over the past three years, as well as Al Bataglia, Steve Berg and Cathy Gjerme for their commitment and dedication to the mission of Memorial Lutheran Church of Afton. We have been able to move forward because of the time and talents that these four people have unselfishly given.

I also want to thank the congregation for its support at the Annual Meeting. As Sharon and Pastor Isaacson stated, the Council spent many hours discussing the 2010 budget and made the decision to ask the congregation to temporarily reduce our benevolence and to approve a deficit budget. Without the congregation's support, we would have had to look at staffing cuts, and this would not have helped our objective to grow.

Looking to the year ahead of us, the Council has four objectives to keep in mind in the decisions that we make. At the same time, we need each member to help us achieve these objectives:

Increase worship participation and retention of MLC members to create a more active congregation thus increasing the giving of time, talent and monetary contributions.

Increase visibility of MLC to attract visitors and potential new members, with a new member goal of 20 families for 2010-2011 and 20 families for 2011-2012, thus proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors through God's word, the sacraments and loving service.

Structure the Youth and Sunday School programs to engage, nurture and educate children in faith practices, including worship, and also create an environment of learning within MLC for all ages.

Maintain a general fiscal awareness in all matters of MLC.

The second objective is a very aggressive objective, and as a Council we cannot achieve this without the help of the entire congregation. We need everyone's help to spread the word about Memorial Lutheran Church. We are more than the little church on the hill. We are a community of faith with so much to offer our friends and neighbors. All we ask you to do is invite them to join us just once. We truly believe that if they come, they will like what they experience.

During Lent, don't forget to join us for our soup suppers and Wednesday services. I'd also like to remind you to take part in the AGAPE Family Home Practice that Pastor Isaacson has talked about.

You can start at any time. It's about taking a few moments each day to simply "be," focusing on each other and Christ's presence

I am looking forward to the year ahead. No doubt there will be challenges and changes, but challenges and changes that we can all face and deal with through prayer and the help of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I look forward to working with all of you.

In Christ,
Rick Hardy

THANK YOU'S

Thank you so much for the gorgeous necklace and to the staff for the beautiful picture, also for the pretty cake and all the cards from everyone. Thank you, I really appreciate it. Love, Marion Glasbrenner

On Valentine's Day, during coffee hour, I was pleasantly surprised to have four gentlemen stop by and sing to me and they left me candy and a rose. This was all planned by Steve Berg. Thank you Steve, it was a lot of fun.

On Sunday afternoon, March 7th, at 3:00 PM, these same gentlemen, plus more, will be at church to present a concert, the proceeds going to Valley Outreach. Marion Glasbrenner



Palm Sunday
March 28th
8:30 & 10:30 AM
9:30 AM Palm Sunday
Brunch
10:30 – 1:30 PM Easter
Journey



Maundy
Thursday
April 1st
7:00 PM
Experience a
live
presentation of
Da Vinci's Last
Supper



Good Friday
April 2nd
7:00 PM
Service of Mourning &
Expectation



Easter
April
4th
Sunrise Worship
7:00 AM
Festive Worship
8:30 & 10:30 AM