

# The Grapevine

Faith Lutheran Church

April 2008

## Clippings from the Vinedresser

*...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1: 8b*

**A**t a recent lectionary group, the group of pastors that meets every week to study the appointed texts for the upcoming Sunday, one pastor shared an article she had read in which the author argued that the WWJD (what would Jesus do) should really be WIJD (what is Jesus doing). Right on.

We are now in the season of Easter. Our texts and reflections centre on the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for the world, for us. The angels at the tomb say it best, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Jesus is alive. "He lives," we sing lustily each Easter morn. It follows that the appropriate question is, "What is Jesus doing?"

Pentecost, which we will celebrate on May 11, focuses our attention on the coming of the Holy Spirit, the breath of the risen Christ which is blown into us. As the Creator breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of the first created human (Genesis 2:7), so the resurrected Jesus breathed his Spirit into us (John 20:22). We are now more than just human beings; we have been empowered by the resurrection Spirit. Jesus lives in and through us, you and me.

What is Jesus Doing? To answer that question we need only look at what we are doing. What are we, individual disciples of the resurrected Christ, doing? What are we, as a corporate body of disciples of the resurrected Christ, doing? What is the ministry to which the Spirit of Christ is directing us? I suggest that those ministries are as varied as we are as individuals; those ministries are as unique as each local body of Christ is unique.

With a broad brush we can paint the outline of Jesus' work today. It involves breaking down barriers which keep people at bay. It involves opening our doors and hearts to those on the outside. It involves validating each person's uniqueness, each person's being, as creatures fashioned in the likeness of God the Creator. It means exorcizing the demons which possess the world: greed, hatred, prejudice to name but a few. It means laying our hands upon those who are sick, dying, lonely, grieving, addicted, and victimized and healing them. It means sharing the good news of God in Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all—so that all people may hear and see and believe. It means accepting not judging, loving not hating, openness not intolerance, sharing not hoarding.

The finer brush strokes are painted by us. In our lives as pastors, teachers, students, clerks, athletes, neighbours, spouses, children, how do we use the gifts that God has given us to

live as resurrected people? How do we infuse new life into the old which we encounter each day? In our life as a congregation, a collection of called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified children of God, with a unique collection of gifts, how do we live as resurrected people? How do we infuse new life into the old which we encounter each day?

What is Jesus doing? As much as we, the children of God are doing.

The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

## From the Lay Minister



With spring there are so many of God's gifts to be thankful for. Easter, being a celebration of our Lord bringing new life to the world by his conquering death on the cross. Each day gets longer and the sun brighter, warming the earth for the new life in crops to be planted. Our ministry at Faith Place continues to grow with new connections and friendships. Resident drop-ins keep my office door on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor open and chairs warmed with guests. The Wednesday Resident "Praise, Prayer and Hymn Sing" services have been well attended. Musicians have come alive for this event and volunteered to play for this gathering. Not to say that others would be gratefully welcomed. We start at 10:45 a.m., feel free to join us for our half hour worship. Hospital and resident visits continue through out the week. Attending Tuesday's bible study and Lectionary group, combined with other daily learning experiences keeps my mind active and growing.

Yes, the Faith Place Ministry has much to be thankful for and with God's help and your continued support this ministry too will spring forward.  
Peace be with you.

*Steve*

## Confirmation

This is an exciting month for the Confirmation Class. On Sunday, April 13, the senior confirmands, their parents and Faith council will gather to discuss all that the students have learned over the past two years. Following that grueling hour, all the confirmands, their parents, and the two confirmation teachers, John Molson and Pastor Dennis, will gather at East Side Mario's for the confirmation year end banquet.

On Sunday, April 20, the final joint confirmation class will be held at Christ the King, Whitby. It has been a good year meeting new friends, studying under different pastors, and generally, having a smashing good time.

But there is more. Confirmation Sunday is set for Sunday, April 27. Our four senior students, Patricia Albrecht, Josh Mayo, Katherine Patterson, and Travis Smith will be confirmed.

Keep these young people in your prayers as they get ready to profess their faith before God, the church, and their family and friends.

## ELW

**A**t our February meeting the program consisted of an interesting discussion of "The Holy Eucharist." A series of letters written by various bishops and pastors on this subject was presented to assist in the discussion. The majority of the writers felt that Holy Communion should be celebrated every Sunday. One comment was that if we sing the hymn of praise "This is the Feast," only to find - thirty or so minutes later - that the feast is not to be celebrated; at least not on this day, maybe we ought to be singing, "Where is the feast of victory for our God?" Further discussion on this subject will take place at a future meeting.

In the near future, the ELW will be distributing a questionnaire to the ladies of the congregation asking for your input on what types of things you would like to see happen at ELW meetings and what topics would be of interest to you. We look forward to your response to assist us in future planning.

The Toronto Conference ELW Spring Event will be hosted by the ladies of Christ the King Whitby and held on Saturday April 26, 2008.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2008 beginning at 7:00 p.m. All ladies are welcome to join us!

## Introduction to Holy Communion

**L**ooking ahead into May, we will be having an Introduction to Holy Communion, on Sunday, May 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Augustana Hall. If you have a child whom you believe is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion and has not had instruction, please contact the pastor so we can have material ready. We set an arbitrary minimum age limit of grade 2, but it really is up to the parents and the child to decide. (Remember: there is no age limit set in scripture about this practice; tradition is what we go by).

## Bible Study

**T**he morning Bible Study is methodically working its way through the Gospel of Luke. Many great discussions have taken place and many more are sure to occur. We gather every second Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. to study this important New Testament document. Why not join us? In April our study dates are April 8 and 22.

## Synod Communication Committee

Pastor Dennis will be in Kitchener on April 11-12 to attend the meeting of the Synod Communication Advisory Committee.

## Choir

**O**ur choir is growing. As you may have noticed, our “little” choir which began with eight singers, has grown to fourteen singers and a pianist. Wow! But we don’t consider our choir a closed group. If you like to sing, join us. We practice every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. See you there.

## Presentation from FaithLife

**O**n Sunday April 13, Joanne Jehu of FaithLife will be here to present us with a cheque for \$1000.00 which is for the matching grant we applied for last winter to help with our Little Ark Toy Drive.

## Pint with the Pastor

**W**e are struggling to find a day that fits with the regularly scheduled activities in the church and at the Monk. Tuesday doesn’t work because they have an event which takes up many of the tables. Wednesday doesn’t work because of choir. This month we will go back to the original Thursday evening. So join us for conversation and fellowship at the Thirsty Monk, on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

## Annual Meeting

**T**he annual meeting of Faith Lutheran Ministries goes Sunday, May 4 immediately following the morning worship. Those preparing reports, please submit your report by April 6 to either the pastor (in person) or by email, [office@faithlutheranministries.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranministries.com) (Subject name: flm annual report). And lest you are thinking about skipping out on this meeting consider this: no one has yet to faint, catch any disease, get bored out of their minds, or any such malady at our congregational meetings to this date. Also, coffee is served, so stay. Grab a coffee, settle into your chair and participate. This is our church, your church and mine. Why not have a say in how it is run?

## Membership Sunday

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran Church, please talk with Pastor Becker. We are tentatively setting a membership Sunday for May 18.

**Acolytes:**

6 - Travis Smith  
13 - Gregory Molson  
20 - Nick Jacobowski  
27 - Justin Stefan

**Readers:**

6 - Rick Mayo  
13 - Angela Hauke  
20 - Donna Jennings  
27 - Elke Rosneau

**Ushers:**

6 - Ione Warden, Eve Reid  
13 - Werner and Olga Schroth  
20 - Ginnie Pasurka, Donna Jennings  
27 - Phil and Janice Plath

**Communion Assistants:**

6 - Steve McGuire, Kathy Habec  
20 - Vickie Goddard, Irv Linkie  
27 - Gert Rosenau, Julie Plath

**Communion Setup:**

6 - Ingrid Maier, Ginnie Pasurka  
20 - Carol Plath, Tammy Claridge  
27 - Laurie Molson, Ione Warden

**Coffee:**

6 - Tammy Claridge  
13 - Donna Jennings  
20 - Vivian Roth  
27 - Carol Plath

**Flowers:**

6 - Live Plants  
13 - Elke Rosenau  
20 - Olga Schroth  
27 - Confirmation Class

**Counters:** Donna Jennings, Charlotte Wolfenberg

**Food Cupboard** donations in April will support **Gate 3:16**.