

# March Newsletter

## 2012



**Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**  
9100 Highway YY Leslie, Missouri  
Parsonage 573-459-6432                      Church 573-459-6431  
Rev. William F. Zastrow, Pastor  
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## **From the Pastors Desk:**

### **A Lenten Journey to Jerusalem**

*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. **Mark 3:13-19***

In Jesus’ early days of ministry, John the Baptist was imprisoned. Soon after that, whenever he stopped to speak, teach, heal – wherever he went – the crowds grew larger and larger. Who were all these people? What did they want? Think of a large semi-circle. On the outer fringes were the curiosity seekers, and the non-informed-but-want-to-know folks. Mixed in with them were information-gatherers for the temple leaders and various other sects and movements. There were also some Jewish patriots present, hoping that Jesus would announce a revolt against Rome.

The next group closer to Jesus in the circle was much smaller, probably at any time not more than 75 to 100 people. These were folks who were seriously seeking to understand this new leader. They wanted to hear more of what he had to say. He challenged them in all of his teaching to become followers. Some did; and some didn’t.

But never in any way did he provide easy answers, or attempt to lull them into joining him on the way to the Cross. Again and again, he would conclude his teaching with the phrase “take up your cross.”

The third and closest-to-Jesus group numbered twelve men. They were hand-picked to be his closest group of followers and supporters. In today’s verses, Mark suggests there were two reasons why he picked them. The first reason was “that they might be with him.” They would become his family, his small group, and his companions on the journey. Second, he would send them out to preach. Jesus knew his time on earth was short. He knew he needed a dozen disciples – then eleven – to go out and multiply his efforts by the thousands, and then by the millions. The two “inside” groups, in most cases, tried their best to make sense out of what Jesus was saying. It wasn’t easy – no more so than it is for us today.

For a moment, think of Ebenezer Lutheran Church. There are these same three groupings today. Perhaps the numbers are different, but the attitudes toward Jesus are still the same. There are those who are totally in love with God, and their lives reflect Jesus. There are those who are warmed by the relationship, but aren’t “carried away” to any great extent. And there are always the fringe persons – still trying to figure it out. As we walk towards Jerusalem with these three groups, in which one do you find yourself?

**Prayer: Jesus, wherever I am, draw me into your inner circle of life and love. Amen.**

**We have received the following letter from Rev. Dr. Ray G. Mirly – The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Missouri District.**

February 8, 2012

Dear Members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) was formed by Lutheran congregations that determined that they were unable to conduct the work of the Christian church individually, especially in the areas of mission work and training of church workers (Pastors). Synod literally means “walking together.”

Today, the original handful of congregations that formed the Synod has grown to include more than 6,100 congregations. Together, we the member congregations of the LCMS have two seminaries, ten colleges and universities, and conduct mission work throughout the world. Indeed, together we are able to conduct the work of the Christian church with greater impact than any one congregation can do alone.

Your congregation is a vital part of the LCMS and the Missouri District. It is primarily through your prayer and financial support that the District and Synod are able to carry out mission work (through your district, 35 missions are currently receiving financial assistance), provide

students that are preparing for full-time church work with financial grants, assist congregations with their calling of pastors, teachers, DCE's and other full-time church workers, and assist congregations with many other requested services.

Thank you for your and your congregation's prayers and financial support this past year. I know that the current economic times are challenging. Your continued faithful support of the District and through the District of the Synod is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

I promise to continue to keep your congregation, pastor, staff and leaders in my personal prayers. God bless your ministry throughout the year.

In the Service of Jesus Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Ray G. Mirly

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**Update from Missionary John Strasen with Lutheran Bible Translators –**

Dear Ebenezer Mission Society,

Thank you for your recent gift to my ministry. I have recently learned from my supervisors that support for my ministry has improved to the point where I can now prepare in earnest for my new assignment in Botswana. I still have to wait for approval from the Bible Society of Botswana,

but my hope is that approval will be coming soon and I can plan on a departure date of March 31.

I will be working in the Shekgalagari language project in the southwest part of Botswana, near Kang. The Shekgalagari project was only begun in 2009, so it is still in the organizational stages. I would be assisting another LBT missionary who is already there. We will be working to help the Kgalagari people translate Scripture into their language.

Thank you for your continued support of my ministry. Please pray that approval for my departure will come in a timely manner and that my transition into this new culture will progress well.

Your friend in Christ,  
John Strasen

### **Usher Schedule for March, 2012**

- 1: Kevin Hoemann**
- 2: Eugene Scheer**
- 3: Don Kappelmann**
- 4: Albert Bade**
- 5: Matt Kassebaum**
- Alternate: Phil Pelster**
- Head Usher: Wilbert Baumann**

### **Altar Guild for March, 2012**

**Leola Deppermann and Margaret Zastrow**

## **Acolyte Schedule for March, 2012**

### **March 4**

**Cody Adams**  
**Brent Thurmond**

**Bell Ringer**  
**Corey Adams**

### **March 11**

**Brian Nelson**  
**Justine Huellinghoff**

**Jacob Nelson**

### **March 18**

**Cody Adams**  
**Brent Thurmond**

**Matt Kassebaum**

### **March 25**

**Brian Nelson**  
**Justine Huellinghoff**

**Jeff Hohlt**

*Please remember that we will also have Lenten services now, so your help as an Acolyte would be appreciated.*

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Immanuel Lutheran School – Washington Dinner Auction**

The 2012 Immanuel Lutheran School Dinner Auction will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012. Silent Auction at 5:00 PM followed by Dinner and Oral Auction. Proceeds from the Dinner Auction help fund capital improvements, tuition assistance and educational materials for the children of Immanuel. Please call 636-239-1636 for more information.

## March Birthdays

<b>Kathy Scheer</b>	<b>3-2</b>
<b>Blake Alexander</b>	<b>3-3</b>
<b>Amber Helling</b>	<b>3-6</b>
<b>Rube Deppermann</b>	<b>3-11</b>
<b>Deborah Donatti</b>	<b>3-11</b>
<b>Barbara Kassebaum</b>	<b>3-12</b>
<b>Tom Anderson</b>	<b>3-13</b>
<b>Teresa Ragan</b>	<b>3-13</b>
<b>Trent Huellinghoff</b>	<b>3-14</b>
<b>LaRayne Brune</b>	<b>3-15</b>
<b>Lorra Gleitz Harty</b>	<b>3-15</b>
<b>Corey Kasman</b>	<b>3-15</b>
<b>Kyle Kassebaum</b>	<b>3-16</b>
<b>Gregory Scheer</b>	<b>3-18</b>
<b>Matt Kassebaum</b>	<b>3-18</b>
<b>Paige Thurmond</b>	<b>3-18</b>
<b>Ada Groppe</b>	<b>3-20</b>
<b>Dorris Bade</b>	<b>3-27</b>
<b>Jase Pitzen</b>	<b>3-29</b>
<b>Diane Luechtefeld</b>	<b>3-30</b>

## March Anniversaries

<b>Gerald &amp; Lydia Groce</b>	<b>3-2</b>
<b>Greg &amp; Kara Scheer</b>	<b>3-30</b>

**We wish all of you God's Blessings on your special day!**

*If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not at all, please let Mary know.*

**Thank you** – Thank you to all who came to the Chili and Soup Dinner on Sunday. About 85-90 people enjoyed good food and lots of fellowship. The final donation amount was \$800. With the \$200 from Thrivent, Leslie Tripantry will receive \$1000.

Thank you to those who helped to prepare the chili and soup on Saturday, to serve it on Sunday, and help clean up after the meal on Sunday. All the help made the job go smoothly.

A special THANK YOU to the cooks who made all the delicious desserts! They were enjoyed by all. One of the guests told me that if we ever decided to have a dessert bar and tea, I was to make sure to invite her!!

Thanks again for everyone's help. It made for a very successful fundraiser!

Karen

**We have received the following message from Mary Nienhueser of the Leslie Food Pantry regarding the chili dinner last Sunday:**

“I'm speechless. I never thought it would add up to that much money. Thank you so much for putting this on and letting us be a part of your generosity. We are blessed to have you as supporters of the Food Pantry. You really made a lousy day really good!!!!!!.”

**Recycle Update** – Recycle for missions is slowly growing. We have added another \$47.75 to our recycle aluminum total and \$33.90 for recycle paper from Central Paper Stock. This brings our recycle aluminum total to #3,330.20 and the recycle paper total to \$539.01. The grand total for

all recycle money collected to \$4,514.90. We have received receipts from LCMS World Mission for our \$1500.00 that was sent to support Mike and Cindy Rodewald, John Strasen, and Robin McCoy. Thanks to everyone for your support of our ongoing recycle for missions project.

**Ebenezer Mission Society** – The Mission Society met Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for their regular meeting. Before the business meeting we made 56 rice warming bags for the childbirth center at Mercy Hospital. We are currently collecting underwear and diapers for Orphan Grain Train for domestic and overseas use. Devotions were led by Mary Sprick and Jenny Huellinghoff. Our next scheduled meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>. All ladies are welcome!

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Hermann, Mo**  
A Journey to the Cross will once again be presented by members of Shepherd of the Hills, Hermann on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. You will be walking through the life of Christ in the week preceding His death and resurrection, as portrayed by costumed actors in scenes depicting the events. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us.

**Basic Christianity Classes** – Pastor will be having the Basic Christianity Classes on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM and again on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Please plan to join in on one of these interesting classes in March.

**Daylight Savings Time begins March 11<sup>th</sup>. Saturday services will begin at 5:00 PM on March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Lenten Journey with Jesus. Please come to our Lenten  
Worship Services held on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and  
7:30 PM. The theme for our worship is “A Lenten  
Journey With Luther’s Catechisms”**

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday**

**The Greatest of These Is Love: The Ten  
Commandments**

**February 29**

**This I Believe: The Apostles’ Creed**

**March 7**

**Our Father Who Is In Heaven – The Lord’s Prayer**

**March 14**

**We Have Received The Washing of Regeneration: Holy  
Baptism**

**March 21**

**We Are Forgiven: The Office of the Keys**

**March 28**

**We Eat A Holy Supper: The Sacrament of The Altar**

**April 5 – Maundy Thursday**

**On The Night When He Was Betrayed**

**April 6 – Good Friday**

**Tenebrae**

**Orphan Grain Train Notes** – Dorothy Schaser of Orphan Grain Train is collecting underwear and diapers for Orphan Grain Train until March 18<sup>th</sup>. They must be new, as used underwear cannot get past customs in some countries. If you wish to donate, you can leave your items in the Church basement in the box marked Orphan Grain Train. Mrs. Schaser is in need of good new or used zippers, 9 inches or more. They will be used for zipper pencil pouches on school book bags. She has sent us instructions for making the bags. These instructions are on the yellow sheets on the table near the Church entrance. Mrs. Schaser will be taking the bags to Uganda by March 9<sup>th</sup>, however more bags will be taken later, so it's not too late to make some. There are some very nice bags that have already been made and donated on the table in the basement.

### **Monthly Treasurer's Summary**

January 2012

Beginning checking balance	\$21,742.40
Receipts	\$9,665.29
Disbursements	\$12,159.09
Ending checking balance	\$19,248.60
LCEF savings balance	\$69,115.01
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$18,677.66
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$400.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	-\$3,302.41

# MARCH 2012

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