



The Voice

March 2008

Chosen People...

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Several months ago I had an opportunity to take several of our members to Temple Aaron on the banks of the Mississippi River in St. Paul. This was a wonderful chance for me to hear the Torah (the first five books of our Bible) read in Hebrew. About 30 of us listened and shared as these devote Jewish people sang and proclaimed the goodness of God. The sad fact is that they are waiting for the Promised One of God, the Messiah, to come into our world.

As Lutherans, we did what any person would do after a long worship service - we went out to eat in fellowship. I was amazed at how much our group wanted the people of Temple Aaron to know Jesus as the Messiah who has come and will come again to judge the living and the dead. That got me thinking.....Let's learn more about the Jewish people so we can pray that God will reveal Christ to the Jews even in our community.

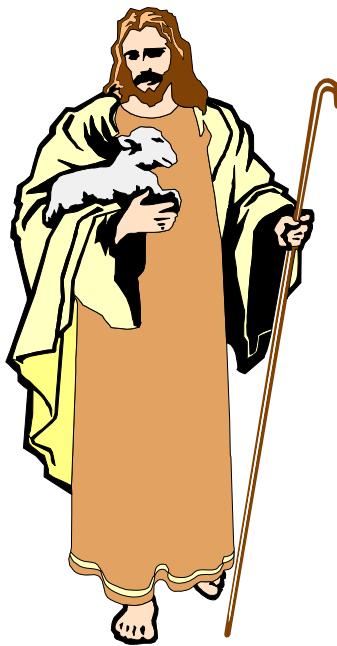
This year we have a unique opportunity to participate in a Lenten celebration of the Last Supper called the "SEDER." This ceremonial remembrance of the Passover will be led by Ron Michelson on Wednesday, February 27 at 6 pm. Ron is a Field Missionary for Chosen People Ministries of Irvine, California.

Chosen People Ministries was started in 1892 by Rabbi Leopold Cohn. This worldwide ministry is dedicated to sharing the love of the Messiah Jesus to Jewish people

around the world. They currently have outreaches in twelve different countries which comprise 90% of the world's Jewish population.

Chosen People Ministries also specializes in teaching local churches and lay people about the Jewish roots of Christianity and how

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Tending the flock for 103 years

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Laurel Anderson. Over the last five weeks she has had at least two major operations, been hospitalized over thirty days, has coded, and suffered a ruptured spleen because of the CPR. She still faces uncertainty about her health. Jesus is our Great Physician. Please God, hear our prayer for Laurel and Sheldon and their family.

LENTEN DINNERS

Please join us for the remaining Lent Services as youth and adult volunteers help us gain a deeper understanding of Jesus' words in our Lenten journey. Services are at 7:00 PM, following dinners at 6:00 PM. The dinners will be:

February 27 - Chicken dinner 6 PM
Messiah In the Passover Banquet

March 5 - **BBQ Ribs**

March 12 - **Spaghetti**

Spring is Busy!

Mark your calendar:

March 2 - Lay Shepherd Sunday

March 9 - Faith Nite 7:00 PM

March 16 - Passion/Palm Sunday

March 20 - Maundy Thursday 7 PM

March 20 - Overnighter 8:00 PM

March 21 - Path to Calvary 10:00

March 21 - Good Friday 7:00 PM

March 23 - Easter 7, 9:30, 10:45AM

March 23 - Easter breakfast 8-10:45

April 13 - Annual Dinner 11-1PM

April 13 - Faith Nite 7:00 PM

April 18 - 9th Annual Gala

May 1-3 - Annual Garage Sale

Lenten Dramas

Please join us for the remaining court sessions in our Lenten drama ***The People verses Jesus of Nazareth***. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify:

Wed. March 5 - Herod

Wed. March 12 - James

Thurs. March 20 - Mary

You be the judge. Is Jesus guilty or are we? Special thanks to our Youth for performing these dramas.

Beam Me Up ..

Now is the time for us to install the beam which was purchased five years ago. We paid less than \$10,000 for the 40' I beam which rests against the east wall of the old Sanctuary (behind the pews and food cabinet). With the increase in steel prices, one fellow told me that our beam is now worth nearly \$40,000 (if we had to replace it at today's prices). Our property committee told the Church Council that \$15,000 is needed to raise the roof, so we kick off our newest building project with the "Raise the Roof" campaign.

All of the oak wood ceiling in the current sanctuary was donated by Gene and Kathryn Allquist in memory of their son, Tim Allquist. Now over \$4,000 has been contributed to match the oak wood because of some generous contributions by Gene Allquist in memory of Kathryn Allquist, who died November 10, 2004. Kathryn was a tireless worker for the kingdom of God and a past Congregational President of St. John's.

Now is the time to put God to the test. Will you help us "Raise the Roof?" Thanks for being part of our history. Please be part of our future and see what God can do.

Ham and Turkey Community Dinner

Mark your calendar for the Annual Community Dinner scheduled for April 13, 2008, here at St. John's Lutheran Church. Tickets will be on sale Sunday, March 2. Ticket prices are: \$8.00 – 13 and older, \$20 – family tickets (2 adults & up to 4 youth through 12 years old), and \$4.00- children 3 – 12 years. Children 2 years and younger are free. Please take a packet of tickets to sell to your friends and family. \$1,600 in matching funds are available from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Chisago County Branch #30087.

Artwork

Please notice all the artwork on the new wall in the old narthex, drawn by the children in our Little Angel Preschool. This artwork will be up until the open house which will be held on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 7-8 PM. Please come to our open house and see what good things God is doing.

Teen Challenge

Special thanks to director Don and the 55 members of the Minnesota Teen Challenge who shared with us in song and testimony. Over the past four years, our congregation has collected nearly \$5,000 to help people respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. They will be with us on Superbowl Sunday, 2009.

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on March 23 but the Sunday School will be singing during the Easter services. It's never too early to be thinking about Vacation Bible School which is set for August 4-8.

VBS Coordinator Needed

August 4-8 are the dates set for our Vacation Bible School this summer. If you would have some extra time and love children, then help us by being a co-coordinator this year. Someone is willing to help but they will not do it alone, so....come on down and help us choose a theme and proclaim that Jesus is Lord! Please contact Pastor Ed.

Easter Lilies Wanted

Please help beautify our sanctuary for our Easter celebration by donating an Easter Lily plant and delivering it by March 22 at 9:00 AM or contributing an offering of \$15 or more in memory/honor of a loved one by March 16. Please fill out a sheet in the narthex concerning your memorial intentions so that we can include your loved ones' names in our Easter bulletin. Flowers may be taken home immediately after the 10:45 AM Easter service on Sunday, March 23.

Monthly Healing Service

The next Prayer and Healing Service will be after the 10:45 Worship Service on March 3 in the Fireside room. This will be an anointed time of prayer and intercession. If you are troubled about anything or need to feel the love of God in a special way for your circumstance, please come *confess your sins to one another, pray for one another, and be healed* (James 5:16) in Jesus' name. The service will begin in the fireside room ten minutes after the conclusion of the 10:45 service. All Lay Shepherds are encouraged to attend. Lay Shepherd lunch and training will follow this service.

Is Council for You?

It takes many people to make our church work well. The Church Council is made up twelve volunteers that make a twelve-month commitment to serve Jesus here in Stacy. For some, serving on Council is a natural expression of their thanks to God. For others, it is a scary step into the unknown. Several positions on the Church Council are up for renewal this year. Could this be the time for you to step forward? Please pray about this.

Bridal Shower

All women and girls of St. John's Lutheran Church are invited to join the Wheatley women as they celebrate the upcoming marriage of Jenny Wheatley to Lee Fisher at a bridal shower on Saturday, March 15, 2008, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at our church. Filled with fun, it will allow you to see the wonderful woman Jenny has become. Please call Beth Wheatley at (651) 492-4638 to RSVP and for more details. Don't forget the open house for Jenny and Lee will be on June 15 immediately after the 9:30 service.

Prices Stay the Same

Prices stay the same at Little Angel Preschool for 2008-2009. We are indeed thankful to God for all the little ones who fill our building everyday of the week during the school year. The School Board has voted that the rate of \$85 per week for two days (M-W or T-TH) and the \$105 for the three day (M-W-F AM or T-TH-F) sessions be the same as the 2007-2008 rate. God has blessed us with fundraisers and donations from individuals that have allowed us to keep the rate the same. God is so good! Please come to our Open House on Monday, March 3 at 7:00 PM. Help your children get ready for life in Jesus' name.

4-Fs Sliding at Eko Backen or Mini-Golf

Echo Backen snow tubing is re-scheduled for Sunday, March 9. Bring your warm clothes and let's party together in Jesus' name at Eko Backen. Transportation leaves church at noon and returns to church at 4:00 PM. Cost is \$7 for all 4-Fs & younger and \$9 for children 13 years of age and older. Snacks and drinks provided. Don't miss all the fun! Sign up in the narthex! If it is too cold, we will play mini-golf.

Good Friday Bonfire

Pastor Ed is inviting everyone to share in a cleansing event following the 7:00 PM Good Friday worship service. Members will be encouraged to make a paper cross, write down any sins that bother them, and throw them into the fire. Marshmallows will be available if it is a nice evening. Thanks



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to effectively share their faith with Jewish friends. As a part of their ministry to the Body of Christ, their missionaries, like Ron, travel to and teach in various churches across America.

Ron converted to Judaism in 1968 in Los Angeles and with his wife Paula raised their family in southern California. He holds a B.A in English and M.A. in Theology. In 1988, Ron put his faith in the Messiah. He has been working with Chosen People Ministries since 2005.

Please don't miss this special chance to experience the Seder Meal which begins promptly at 6 PM. Call Patty at the Office (651- 462-5115) to reserve your space. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this worship. There is no charge for the meal, but a free will offering will be taken for the work of Chosen People Ministries.

Finally, please remember the last half of the opening verse. We thank God that by His grace, we have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light. That reminds me that Daylight Saving Time begins March 9, 2008. We want you to worship and to live in the Light of Christ and even be on time.

Blessings! Pastor Ed

Path to Calvary Sleepover

For fourteen years, children ages 3rd grade and older have been invited to spend the night at church on Maundy Thursday after the 7 PM worship service. Food, fun, and practice egg hunts will begin immediately after the Maundy Thursday worship as we prepare to do the "Path to Calvary and Easter Egg Hunt" on Friday at 10 AM. High school helpers and adult volunteers are needed to make this event successful. Please sign up on the youth table to help with this outreach to the community. Last year nearly 100 people came to church for the "Path to Calvary and Easter Egg Hunt." If everyone helps a little, it will make a big difference. Don't forget about the Hot Cross Buns!!

FAITH NITES FOR EVERYONE

Our Faith Nites, which are part of the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade confirmation program, continue as follows:

Sunday, March 9	6:30-8:00 PM
Sunday, April 13	6:30-8:00 PM

These Sunday nights, which we call "Faith Nites," will be opportunities for us to hear how God has worked in the lives of others as they share their stories with us. The meal begins at 6:30 PM and the presentation is at 7:00 PM.

Sunday AM Bible Studies

Please note the following changes to our adult Bible Study classes, due to the Easter celebration. Pastor Al's Bible Study will meet on Sunday, March 9 at 9:30 AM. In April, we will continue classes on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Pastor Chris will continue with the fifth session of *Journeying Faithfully Together*, entitled *Sexuality, Power, and Abuse* at 10:45 on March 30.

St. John's Academy Best Deal in Town

Quality education. Small class sizes. Individual attention. Dedicated, skillful teachers. Helpful teacher aides. Weekly chapel. Time for Jesus everyday. Heaven? Maybe! St. John's Academy, which currently offers grades Kindergarten-3rd, is opening enrollment for third grade in the fall. God has provided the building and the resources. All we need is your child. Please grow with us. Come to our Open House on Monday, March 3 at 7:00 PM. Cost for Kindergarten is \$170 per month. Cost for grades 1-3 is \$225 per month with multiple children and early registration discounts available. Do you want your child in a room with 28-32 other students or in a classroom of only ten? It can and does make a difference! Ask Pastor Ed for more details.

First Communicants

Congratulations to our First Communicants. They are: Emma Abress, Travis Bell, Mikayla Benson, Kamryn Bracht, Miranda Guy, Conlee Hogoboom, Megan Mahoney, Sydney Meath, and Jordan Segelstrom.

Bunny Cakes

It's almost spring. Palm Sunday is coming soon! It's time for Bunny Cakes! Help us bake, assemble, or buy one on Palm Sunday, March 16. Please contact Linnea Kment at 651-464-7490 for instructions if you would like to bake a cake. Bring the cakes to the church kitchen or come in and help assemble them on Saturday, March 15 at 8:00 AM. Most of all, please purchase a Bunny Cake and keep the tradition going. All proceeds go to help fund the Christian Outreach Committee and the many projects they are doing to aid our congregation and community such as Easter Food Packages.

Save Your Junk!!!

Our Annual Spring Garage sale is scheduled for May 1-3 at the church. Please save your stuff which can be delivered to the church beginning after church on Sunday, April 27. Please come and buy other people's stuff beginning Thursday, May 1, 2008. Thanks,
The Stewardship Committee.

Baptisms

We join with Daniel & Jill Moriarity in the joy of baptizing their son, Camron Thomas; Dustin & Tracy Johnson in the joy of baptizing their son, Howie Dane; Jacob & Nicole Hiland in the joy of baptizing their daughter, Faith Kristine Hiland-Servaty. In Holy Baptism, God claims each of us as a child of His own.

Open House

St. John's Academy and Little Angel Preschool will have an Open House 7:00 - 8:00 PM, Monday, March 3.



Gala

April 18 has been set for the 9th Annual Gala for St. John's Academy and Little Angel Preschool. Tentative plans include chicken and rib buffet at Stars and Strikes in Wyoming and a live comedy show featuring Scott Hansen and his minions. Tickets are \$30 each or 2 for \$50 and include the silent auction. Show tickets only are \$20 per person. Please come and support our school.

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