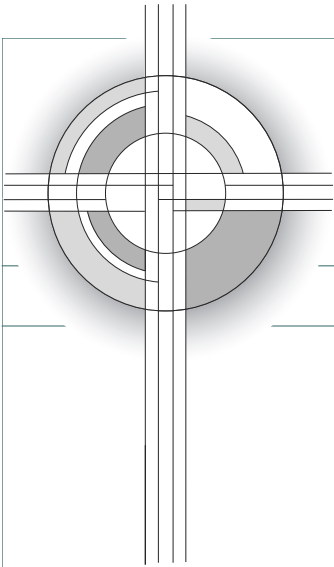


SCROLL

January/February 2007



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A Word from Pastor Jim

Every year we begin February with Saron's Annual Meeting! The new budget for Mission and Ministry is considered along with election of many new leaders in our congregation. This a time for all to focus our pledge of support for all that God invites us to do in the coming year. Pray, participate, and proclaim the invitation of the Gospel to our community!

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday worship on Feb. 21st. Lent means "spring" and it is the 40-day season that precedes Holy Week and Easter on April 8th. We have traditionally thought of Lent as a time of penitence and sorrow;

a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Sometimes, we are asked "What are you giving up for Lent?" Some form of self-denial is probably a good discipline to contemplate. It could be giving up some things we normally eat, but there are many other ways to cut back and for this time of Lent, make life more simple through the setting aside of some of our otherwise busy lives. Lent is a great time to pull back and consider what kind of life God is calling us to live.

Lent, then, is a time for growth. It is a time to discover the mysteries of baptismal living. This a period in our lives set aside to come to new and revived

faith in our walk with the Spirit that leads us.



We begin in worship with ashes on Feb.21 and then come together each Wednesday evening for Midweek Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. We will read the story of Jesus as he moves his way toward Jerusalem and the cross. The beautiful music of the season will surround this simple Vespers Service. On Ash Wednesday, we will begin also our effort to bring food items to fill the shelves of our mission partner, Big Lake Food Shelf. Lent means "spring", the lengthening of days. We look toward these days with hope for increased faith!

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 21, NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION, FEBRUARY 11

**LENT BEGINS WITH
ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP:
FEBRUARY 21st!!**

Midweek soup/sandwich suppers at 5:30-6:30pm; Lenten worship on Wednesdays during

Lent at 7:00p.m.
**NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION Sunday,
February 11th, 10:15
a.m., Shepherd's Corner.**

This is an excellent gathering for hearing about the mission and

ministry of Saron. Nursery is available. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, February 25th. Please RSVP to the church office.

Women of the ELCA Urge All to Buy Fair Trade Coffee

Purchasing fair-trade coffee is a meaningful and just way to help coffee farmers earn a living wage that will provide for themselves and their families. Make purchasing fairly traded products a part of your personal and group justice ministries. You will be making a difference in the lives of coffee farmers worldwide.

For one year, starting in October 2003, Women of the ELCA partnered with the Lutheran World



Relief Coffee Project and Equal Exchange to challenge women to double the amount of fairly traded coffee they purchased over the previous year. Thus began the 90-Ton Challenge. By the end of September 2004, we had surpassed the goal, reaching sales of 99 tons—more than double the sales of the previous year. It's not a surprise, but it is amazing what a difference women make when they join hands for justice.

Lutherans drank more than 14

million cups of coffee during the 90-Ton Challenge. If a 12-ounce bag of coffee, on average, makes about 54 cups of coffee, 99 tons equal 14,256,000 cups. Four thousand coffee beans make up one pound of coffee, so at 99

tons, Lutherans, in 2003 – 2004, used more than 792,000,000 fair-trade coffee beans, all hand-picked by small-scale coffee farmers around the world.

More than one billion people live on less than \$1 a day; another 2.7 billion struggle on less than \$2 a day. Income inequality is increasing around the world. More than ever, women are entering the labor force, often as the head of household and sole income earner. Women are less likely than men to find normal employment and are paid less for comparable

work; families without reliable income can't provide sufficient and nutritious food or access basic health care, both of which negatively affect their children's health and development. Let's not stop now. Keep on ordering fair-trade coffee (and chocolate, tea, and hot chocolate, too!) for your home, congregation, or for gifts. For more information on the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project and how you can help pour justice with your coffee order, visit the LWR website. Micah 6:8 calls us, as Christians, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before the Lord. The LWR Coffee Project helps Lutherans answer that

call by righting the injustices faced by small-scale farmers around the work.

Written by: Carri Scott, board member of Women of the ELCA. Reprinted from Minneapolis Area Synod, *InterActs*, Vol. 12, no. 6, January 2007.

To order LWR Fair Trade Coffee products, please call Denise Wahlin-Fiskum
763.263.8438

Saron's Annual Community Senior Valentine Luncheon

Wed, February 14, 2007

Noon to 2:00p.m.

Saron Lutheran's
Founders Hall



Saron Loves
Seniors

If you are 55 or older—you are specially invited to Saron's Annual Community Senior Citizen Valentine Luncheon. Enjoy a complimentary luncheon. Please RSVP to the church office 763.263.2209.

For the Record...

December 2006 Baptisms

Daniel Jeffrey Maas on 12.03.06, son of Jeffery and Jessica Keniston

Danica Grafelman on 12.10.06, daughter of Lani and Paul Grafelman

Elizabeth Aschnewitz on 12.17.06, daughter of Raymond and Kimberly Aschnewitz

Peter & Ryan Carroll on 12.17.06 twin sons of James and Sara Carroll

January 2007 Baptisms

Cheyenne Rose Backlund on January 21, daughter of Shannon Backlund & Thomas Hapke, granddaughter of Dick and Mona Backlund, Glaye



Hapke and great-granddaughter of Darlene Lanz.

Kaylee Lynn Herman on January 28, daughter of Patty and Kyle Herman

December 2006 Funerals

Ivy Dahlgren on 12-15-06

Juel Biddick on 12-21-06

Veldora Rajala on 12-30-06

January 2007 Funerals

Earl Miller on 1-06-07

Thomas Schumacher on 01-06-07

John Breske on 01-29-07

Living Memorial Fund

Given by Thomas Hayes in loving memory of Irene Hayes.

Given by Thomas Hayes in loving memory of David Christenson.

Given by Larry and Marilyn Brenteson in loving memory of Steven Backhaus.

Give Thanks in 2007

- For the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight, because she is home with me, and not out with someone else.
- For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato, because he is home with me and not out at the bars.
- For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes because that means she is at home and not on the streets.
- For the taxes that I pay, because that means I am employed.
- For the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- For the clothes that fit too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.
- For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- For the lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means that I have a home.
- For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- For the parking spot, I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking, and that I have been blessed with transportation.
- For the huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
- For the lady behind me in church that sings off key, because it means I can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
- For the weariness and aching muscles, at the end of the day, because it means I have been capable of working hard.
- For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.

God Bless us in the coming year!

Saron Lutheran's Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, February 4, 2007; Following the 9:00a.m. Service in the Sanctuary.
There will be NO 11:00a.m. service this Sunday only.

WHAT IS THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY?

The Prayer Shawl Ministry met on January 9th. We have given 24 shawls to members of Saron, and to friends or relatives of members. These shawls, as they are knit, are woven with prayers for the person who will wear the shawl, to give them comfort and show God's love and mercy.



Added to our knitting ministry are children's sweaters, and caps for newborn babies. The sweaters are for the needy children throughout the world. The caps are given to Hope Lutheran Church of Orrock, who prepare midwife kits for Lutheran World Relief.

If you are interested

in getting a shawl to give to someone, please call the church, 763.263.2209 and leave your name and number with Julie our church secretary.

*Please call the church office if you know someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl—
763.263.2209*

FEBRUARY SASSY MEETING

The February meeting of the SASSY (Saron's Active Seniors Staying Young) group will be attending the Valentine Senior Luncheon at Saron on Wednesday, February 14th at Saron. Please see page 2 for full details.

ADOPT A FAMILY SUCCESSFUL!!

ADOPT A FAMILY successfully provided gifts at Christmas for 43 individuals. The Big Lake Food Shelf provided us with the participants and organized the distribution. We greatly appreciate all those who donated. You truly demonstrated what Christians should be about all year. The Big Lake Food Shelf (Which is one of our mission partners) needs help all year. Please remember them often. Thank you to all!

CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Special thanks go to everyone who have picked up their offering envelopes. There are approximately 64 boxes left and they are now in the office for pick up.



Offering Envelopes are in the Church Office

If for some reason you would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please call the church office and make arrangements with Julie. The postage cost

to mail one box is \$1.83. If we somehow missed your name when putting together the envelopes for this year and you would like to receive a box, also please let Julie know and we will take care of it. Thank you!

AGAPE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL NEWS

Agape Christian Preschool students will be learning about how God Made Me, Community Helpers, and how much God Loves Us during the month of February. We are excited to welcome community members to the preschool including a veterinarian, dental hygienist, and police officer!



Need some winter fun with-

out the cold? Come to Agape Christian Preschool's Family Sock Hop Fund Raiser on Sunday, February 11 from 3:00-5:00p.m. in Founder's

Hall. Dean-O-Mite Entertainment will be playing the tunes and getting you movin' and groovin' with fun family activities. Refreshments will be served.

Admission is \$5.00

for adults and \$3.00 for kids ages 2 and older. All are

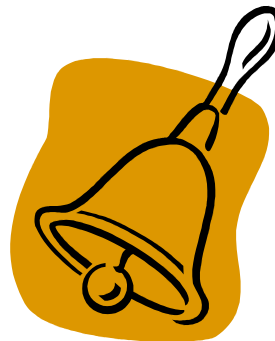
welcome!

Agape Christian Preschool's Open House and Registration for the 2007-2008 year will be on Monday, March 12 from 4:00-7:00p.m. Registration will be through a lottery drawing and will require a \$25.00 registration fee. For more information, please call Director Jenny John at 263-2203!

DO YOU LIKE THE SOUND OF BELLS?

The addition of bell choirs to a congregation has many enriching opportunities for the youth as well as adults. I am wondering if there are at least 5 other people besides myself that would be interested in organizing bell choirs at Saron Lutheran. They would need to have a

passion to get the program going by learning how to direct and teach bell ringing and not being afraid of fundraising. I have contacts in this area to get



us started. I just need 5 other people with the desire to make this a reality for Saron. If you are interested, please call Julie Churness at 263.1557. Thank you

SARON CARES!

March is Minnesota Food Share Month, and Saron will be supporting the Big Lake Food Shelf with our annual March Food Drive. This year we will again be cultivating our garden of caring and filling it with your food donations. The con-



firmation students will be handing out empty grocery bags on February 21 (Ash Wednesday), February 25, and March 4 after both worship services. We hope you will take the empty bag home and bring it back filled with your donation. The poundage of food collected by the Food Shelf during the month of March helps deter-

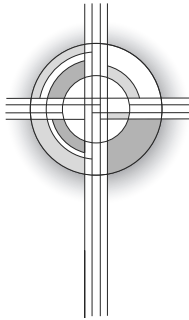
mine the amount of funding that the food shelf gets through the year, so lets bring in lots of HEAVY STUFF! In 2006, the Saron Cares food drive collected 1377 pounds of food and \$413, which was donated to the Big Lake Food Shelf. Please help us surpass our efforts of last year and harvest that and much more this year!

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fax: 763.263.2209

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We're on the Web!

www.saron.org

Please join us for worship: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Congregational Council

Sherry Thornberg, President

Mark Ulven, Vice-President

Darci Nagorski, Treasurer

Charlie West, Secretary

Nathan Domyahn

Laura Hayes

Eric Nelsen

Tom Stich

The deadline for information to be included in the Scroll is the 15th of the month!

Please Remember in Prayer:

Names will remain on our prayer list for 2 months. We are happy to reinstate a name anytime, but we request that you call the office asking us to do so. Those serving in the armed forces will remain on the list until they come home.

MEMBERS of the ARMED FORCES:
Jared Belter, Clint Eklund, Jack Pegg, Tommy Bergeron, Patrick Kuehn, Todd Kunkel, Jesse Mastley, Michael Moores Martinet, Brian Wiltsey, Travis Peterson, Vaughn Larson, Nicole Romashko, Paul Braun & their families; Sgt. Keith Maupin, U.S. Army - Missing in Action/Prisoner of War

SICK & RECOVERING: **Tony Larson, Ruth Moore** (Sara Asplund's

mother), **Bob Beduhn, Dave Nikolaus, Patrick Gilbertson** (relative of Ginger Gilbertson), **Candy Westrum, Mathias Brusven** (grandfather of Jennifer and Brian Bramhall), **Tom Wallen** (father of Mike Wallen), **Donald Asher, Monique Sabby** (friend of the Uphoff family), **Mark and Kevin Aschnewitz** (brothers of Dale Aschnewitz), **Olivia Aschnewitz, Coralie Hultquist, Mary Hesse** (Jeff Karls aunt)

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT from receiving a prayer shawl from church please call the church office 763-263-2209.