



MESSENGER

Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Central States Synod

*O Christ, you are the Shepherd
And we the lamb, the sheep,
You guide us through the valley,
You feel the tears we weep.
Now take us to the hillside
Where all the grass is green,
Then to the higher vistas
And to old sights unseen.*

*O Christ, you are the fountain,
The wellspring of the earth;
The font of all forgiveness,
A Mother of rebirth.
Now feed us in your vineyard,
Then cheer us with your cup,
So when our souls are broken
You lift our spirits up.*

*O Christ, you are Messiah,
God's Promise from on high,
Where saints and all the angels
Will never ever die.
So walk us to the river,
Then to the other side
Where love and light is shining
And where we never hide.*

*O Christ, you are the Victor,
God's holy Pascal Lamb,
The one who cries: Forgive them,
God's only Son: I Am.
Now give us your beginning,
A light inside the night.
Then give us your tomorrow
Of only love and light.*

Dedicated to Christ Lutheran Church,
Wichita, Kansas. Herbert Brokering 2005
Tune: The Church's One Foundation

Pr. Herb Brokering wrote many well-loved and expressive hymns, including "O Christ, You Are the Shepherd," dedicated to Christ-Wichita in 2005. He visited Wichita, and was a friend of many here. Pr. Brokering was a poet who wrote the lyrics to such favorite hymns as "Thine the Amen," "Earth and All Stars!" and "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" He died on Nov. 7, 2009.

Our Lenten journeys

Ash Wednesday services with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes is planned in most of the area congregations in evening services. Gloria Dei will offer a brief 7:00 a.m. morning service, and both Reformation and Gloria Dei offer noontime Ash Wednesday services. This is a time for reflection and renewal of faith, through the disciplines and opportunities of faith.

Wednesday evening services will be offered at most churches, with Reformation also offering noon services in Lent. Among the themes:

Christ-Eureka will feature "Lenten Gardens" such as Eden's Pleasures, What Kinds of Soil? and more.

Christ-Wichita members will present a dramatic dialogue each Wednesday, of people in Jesus' life. On Sundays there will be dialogues between Jesus and Satan, "The Temptations of Jesus," written by Curt Joseph www.trunkintheattic.com

Emanuel's theme: "In the Maker's Hands" will focus on a different biblical image each week, understanding that "we too are being formed in the hands of our Maker."

Good Shepherd is hosting Cedar chapel United Methodist Church on Wednesdays. Pr. Natacha Kemp and Pr Jim Graves have the theme "The Voices of Lent" of people in Jesus' life.

Lord of Life worshipers will be given a rough stone that represents our sins, to hold and reflect upon during the worship and place in a cross-shaped box upon leaving.

Reformation is following the theme "Changed by love, sent in love to serve," which is also the Lenten devotion booklet theme.

Many congregations will offer a soup or simple supper for everyone after the noon service or before the evening service. Visitors are always welcome.

Haiti earthquake brings local response

The devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, touched hearts of members of Area Ministry 5 congregations, anguished by total destruction of buildings, devastating injuries and deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, and incredible need that played out on our TVs. Response was immediate here and around the world.

Congregations here collected special offerings. Children in several congregations (St. John, Our Saviour's, Christ-Wichita) are passing coffee cans in worship for "noisy offerings" of coins. St. John's and Our Saviour's have committed to at least \$100 each. Some of the quilts, layettes and health kits prepared last fall for LWR are going to Haiti, and more are needed; Good Shepherd and Christ-Wichita are responding. Emanuel collects aluminum cans; the proceeds this time are for Haiti relief.

Thousands perished; that became personal when news came that Ben Larson, Wartburg seminary student and friend of several local families, had died in a



ELCA photo, Haiti.

building's collapse. He was the son of former Bishop April Ulring Larson and Pr. Judd Larson. Tara and Pr. Lowell Michelson have been praying for friends were in the process of adopting a daughter from Haiti, worried about her survival and her future with their family. All had been ready for her adoption before the disaster. With joy the friends reported Marta's "homecoming" on Feb. 4.

Surgeon Dr. Bill Waswick of Reformation, Pat Waswick R.N., and daughter Adrienne Chamberland, recent nursing school grad, returned Feb. 6 from two-weeks' service with Medical Ministry International (www.mmint.org) in Monte Plata, Dominican Republic. Dr. Waswick said they gave medical care and surgery to more than 1,200 people in that town about 170 miles from Haiti. Although they were not able to enter Haiti, they saw donated supplies at the Santo Domingo airport, awaiting distribution.

Bulletin inserts guided contributors to the ELCA website (www.ELCA.org/disaster, 1-200-638-3522), Lutheran World Relief, or Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matching fund (www.thrivent.com, 1-800-236-3736, ext. 83003). On Jan. 30 the ELCA reported receiving more than \$2.7 million in donations, enabling the ELCA to send help to Port-au-Prince and other towns through Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, and Church World Service, providing temporary shelter, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene. The agencies are preparing for post-crisis ongoing response for the future.

ASAP Haiti: Rev. Sam Muyskens reports that the earthquakes did not hit the northern area of Lambert, Haiti,



Youth and adults of Gloria Dei helped package a million packets of food at the Numana project at the Kansas Coliseum on January 23.

town of the school, Solar Oven assembly plant, and clinic built and operated with help of many people from Kansas. Thousands of Haitians are migrating to that area in search of medical care, safety, and a new start. The soccer field has become a helicopter pad to transport the sick and injured. Schools are closed and used for hospitals. The nearby town of Milot has many tents and makeshift homes for new residents. Rev. Muyskens, now president of Global Faith in Action, says "Most all newly arrived injured and sick people plan to remain in the area, placing greater need for additional services upon an already impoverished neighborhood."



All are invited to **Gloria Dei's Bach Festival** with choir, organ, woodwind, brass, handbells and strings. German dinner to follow. Free will offering to fund a Lutheran Summer Music scholarship. For meal reservations and info: 316-263-0872.

Dr. John Buckner will present "Bach for the Common Man" in Sunday adult forums in Lent.

Midland College Choir Concert at Christ

Midland Lutheran College of Fremont, Nebraska, will begin their 2010 concert tour at **Christ-Wichita** on Friday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. Brittany Garrelts, Midland student and Christ member, will tour with the Choir. Choir members will need host homes for 2-3 people each on Friday after the concert. If you are interested, contact Paul Carlstedt (Christ-Wichita) at 744-0705 or 648-7908.

Cross of Glory is seeking a copy of the LBW Hymn Accompaniment book(s). If you have one to donate, please contact Pr. Michael Kerr, Interim Pastor, 816-560-0325.

Christ-Wichita dedicated new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* books on Feb. 7.

Bethany House of Studies presents "Centered Life" on Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, KS. \$35 each. Presenters from Luther Seminary: Dr. David Lose and Sally J. Peters. Theme: "It's not living a different life, but living life differently," connecting Christian faith and today's complicated life in homes, workplaces, and communities. Explore how congregations can encourage participation in God's mission of hope and redemption in today's world. Info: Sharon Custer sncuster@cox.net, 620-653-4575.



"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God..." 1 John 4:7

Valentine events to share the love

Valentine's Day weekend will offer fun and friendship in area churches. **St. Paul's-Wichita** is making it a "Friendship Sunday," encouraging members to bring friends to worship and special refreshments. **Resurrection** will serve brunch after worship, with many goodies. **Gloria Dei** invites the congregation to a Reception between services to honor couples married 50 years or more. **Lord of Life** will host a Valentine's Dinner with silent auction on Saturday, Feb. 13, and the Youth of **Christ-Wichita** will serve dinner with entertainment on Sunday, Feb. 14.

Pancake and other feasts will fatten us before Lent. On Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 16) **Good Shepherd** will hold its Pancake Feed and **Youth of Gloria Dei** will serve the annual pancake supper. **Reformation** folks will be delighted by the pancake flipping of Chris Cakes before Ash Wednesday evening service on Wednesday, Feb. 17. **Zion** will enjoy a Biscuits and Gravy supper on Tuesday.

Speaking of eating... **Gloria Dei youth** will hold a Summer BBQ, serving picnic foods and wearing summer clothes on Feb. 26.

At **Resurrection**, each person is asked to be a **Lenten Pray-er**, receiving an envelope with a person's name and 2 addressed post cards. The first card is mailed unsigned on Ash Wednesday saying "I am praying for you this Lenten season." Prayers are offered daily, On Easter the second card is sent, signed, saying that prayers were offered, completing the circle of love.

Lord of Life is offering a 4-week Worship Experience at Saturday evening and Sunday morning services, based on Bill Hybels' book *Just Walk across the Room*. The series rekindles passion for people and revives belief that the greatest gift we can give to our friends and family is an introduction to the God who created them, loves them and has a purpose for their every day!

ESOL Foods from Many Lands Dinner

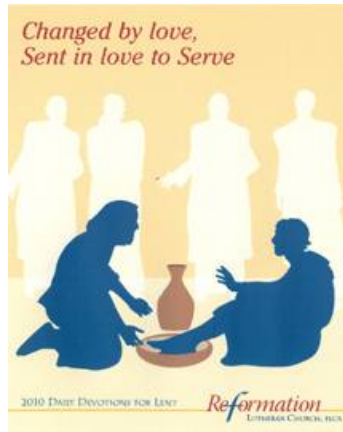
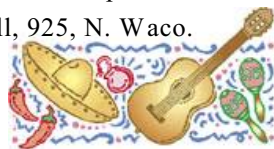
Students and friends of St. Paul's classes English for Speakers of Other Languages invite you to enjoy foods from world-wide cultures of the students.

Guests are also invited to bring a dish from your own heritage, if you would like to.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Fellowship Hall, 925, N. Waco.

Free will offering for the ESOL program. For info, call ESOL at 263-0810.



Reformation's Lenten Devotions 2010

Each year members and friends of Reformation write reflections and commentary on Bible passages for a Lenten devotional booklet. The theme this year is the Central States Synod's theme: Changed by love, sent in love to serve. How is God's transformational love

and service lived out in the world? Booklets with daily devotions are available at Reformation church office or online at www.reformation-lutheran.org/lent/index.html to subscribe to daily email or find the 2010 booklet.



"Turn your radio on!" Christ-Eureka's

8 a.m. worship service at Upper fall River Country Church is now being broadcast on the radio. The first worship service was aired on Sunday, January 24th at 9 a.m. on KOTE 93.5 FM. The 30 minute broadcast is a week behind

the actual taping of the service. This is a wonderful way to proclaim the forgiveness and salvation we have through Jesus Christ to all people who turn to their radios for a worship service.

Good Shepherd shares hugs with Teddy Bears and Frog Ministry.

A soft stuffed bear or frog is set on a pew on Sunday morning and folks hug it. Then the church gives it to a person going through a tough time, with a card saying when you hug this bear/frog, you will know that it has been in worship and hugged by your friends at Good Shepherd, and through him, we are hugging you too. A prayer is on the card too. FROG means Fully Rely On God.

Pr. Tim Carey, Emanuel, calls on members to "**stick their necks out**" in active risk-taking for the sake of Jesus, who changes lives and changes the world as he touches lives. Pr. Carey is wearing a neck brace after surgery (doing well), and cannot literally stick his neck out right now, but he is glad to "go out on a limb" to work with Christ for change in the world.

Colonel Dave Fulton retires (from Air Force Reserve) and continues as Pastor of St. Paul's-Wichita. All are invited to share in recognizing Pr. Dave Fulton upon his retirement from 25 years of military service. St. Paul's invites you to pot luck supper and program of fun on Sunday, Feb. 28, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Reaching out with caring and sharing

St. John's, Wellington, has a plan for their community ministry. One Sunday a month they gather food for the area food pantry. Another Sunday each month they have a special designated special collection of items needed by a community service. On 5th Sundays, it's "noisy offerings," with kids carrying coffee cans through the pews to benefit others.

Now they are offering opportunities for a drawing for Taylor Swift concert at Intrust Arena -- 2 tickets for \$5 each. Proceeds to benefit the church's purchase of a computer and kitchen appliances. The concert tickets were donated by a member.



Special Offerings Benefit Local Social Service Agencies

Thank you, thank you, from Partners for Wichita to all our congregations for their generosity in "Offering Hope for Tomorrow" for the Center of Hope, Inc.

Approximately \$3,087 was received. Most of the offerings were received during Advent or Christmas Eve.

The next endeavor of Partners for Wichita offerings will be for **Episcopal Social Services/Venture House** programs. The theme will be "Venturing Together." ESS was chosen after interviews and consultation with staff and with Barbara Hull, a member of Partners for Wichita, of Reformation Lutheran Church, who coordinates meal service on a daily basis at Venture House.

Special offerings will be encouraged around Mothers' Day and Pentecost. ESS programs include a Food Outreach program, Employment Center, Youth Outreach, Behavioral Health, and Representative Payee to help people manage benefits. ESS has a staff of 20 and 178 community volunteers. Monies and volunteers are always needed for this important arm of help and service in Wichita.

Partners for Wichita Faith Leaders Luncheon

introduced PFW as a new way for congregations to work together to prevent crime and serve people in need in the community. Leaders from ELCA and other denominations responded enthusiastically to Pr. Dave Fulton's and others' presentations. The next luncheon to move forward with ideas offered will be March 24 at St. Paul's-Wichita.



Area ELCA clergy and PMAs gathered for their February monthly meeting at Haven United Methodist Church, hosted by Pr. Susan Wickiser, and enjoyed lunch at Carriage Crossing in Yoder. Pictured are Paula Kitt (ELCA Mission Investment Fund), Pr. Wickiser, Larry Frank PMA, and Pr. Peter Jacobson.

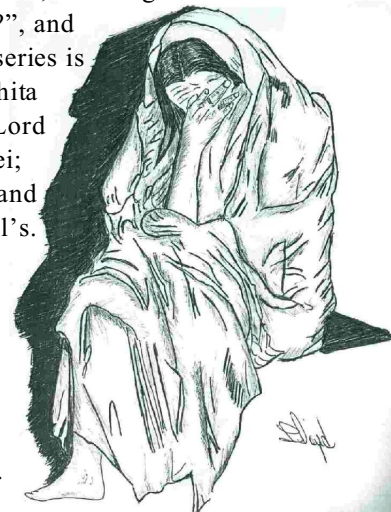
Mission Investment Funds: win/win for loans & savings

Paula Kitt, ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF) representative for several Synods, including Central States, spoke at a recent monthly pastoral leaders meeting. She asked, "If you could grow your finances and at the same time grow God's church, would that interest you?" Paula spoke of loans and investments opportunities for churches and individuals through MIF. Free services of MIF also include consultation and advice for congregations by an MIF architect and church building consultant. Among local churches with MIF loans are **Lord of Life and Resurrection**. Congregations with investments growing in MIF are **Christ-Eureka, Christ-Wichita, Emanuel, Reformation, and St Paul's-Wichita**, as well as many individuals with personal investments of various kinds. **St. Paul's** received a "poverty services" grant in 2008 to match contributions for building improvements. For info, paula.kitt@elca.org or www.elca.org (Mission Investment Fund is listed at bottom of the home page.)

Lord of Life will offer Poverty Awareness Sunday

School classes 4 weeks in February and March. Sessions will discuss "Who is my neighbor?", "Making ends meet," "What would you choose?", and "Our children, our future." The series is coordinated by Partners for Wichita team, including Steve Schaack, Lord of Life; Laura Shriner, Gloria Dei; Forrest Ehmke, Christ-Wichita; and Monica Ellis VISTA and St. Paul's.

Community Breakfast guest Lloyd had this drawing at right in his sketchbook, along with other drawings and poetry that reflect his life. He saw a woman like this in a downtown doorway.



Youthful Lutherans



“**Taking Root,**” will be the focus for elementary students at **Gloria Dei** on Lent Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. This Augsburg curriculum on hunter includes scripture, crafts,

and a snack. Pr. Peter Jacobson will lead a Bible study for youth and adults on “The Sign of Jonah.”

“**Celebrate Lent**” will be held on the first Sunday of Lent for elementary age children of **Gloria Dei**. They will learn about the symbol of the pretzel, make soft pretzels, and craft a Lenten calendar.

Youth Quake/Construction Zone was a great weekend (Feb. 5-7) for middle & high school youth and leaders. About 75 area youth attended, from **Christ-Wichita, Emanuel, Cross of Glory, Emanuel, Gloria Dei, Good Shepherd, Lord of Life, and St. Paul’s. Lord of Life** hosted “Captive Free” and “New Vision” before the event, with a pre-event concert on Feb. 3.

Pr. Kristin Neitzel (**Reformation**) says, “The weekend was filled with great music, lots of laughter, an amazing speaker, and plenty of time to praise God. Youth and adults alike walked away from the weekend ready to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Jay Gammelin, the speaker for the weekend, made us laugh, brought us to tears, and inspired us to action, all while encouraging us not to be afraid to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Bread of Stone, filled our hearts with joy and led us to praise God! According to postings on Facebook, for many youth this was the ‘best weekend of their lives!’”



Reformation friends Abby Davis, Sarah Jensen, Morgan Winters, and Claire Byers dressed for Crazy dress Night.



Reformation youth express closing worship at Youth Quake.



Girls from several Area 5 churches have become friends through youth activities and YouthQuake.

Christ-Eureka has planned a Youth Lock-in for March 11 & 12, inviting all area middle and high school youth. Eureka students have spring break - other districts have other dates... so “stay tuned” for dates, plans and possible changes. For information, contact Pr. Maureen Howard, 620-583-5311 or pastor@christlutheraneureka.org.

A week of trial and caring

The Saturday and Sunday before the trial of the murderer of Dr. George Tiller, worshipers at Reformation joined in prayers for healing and strength in the week to come. Pastors Lowell Michelson and Kristin Neitzel invited members of the Tiller family and all who were subpoenaed to testify in court to stand in the center aisle to be surrounded with the laying on of hands by the congregation. Holy Communion included the opportunity for anointing with healing prayers. In the children’s message, Pr. Michelson spoke of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a man of peace and non-violence. Clergy Dean Pr. Natacha Kemp had sent notes to churches, asking area pastors and congregations to pray for all involved in the trial.

Members and friends kept vigil during the trial (Jan. 22-29) by way of live streaming video on the internet, through KWCH Channel 12, as well as TV and *Wichita Eagle* reports. Jeanne Tiller and her grown children Jennifer, Rebecca, Krista, Maury, and spouses

were present throughout, accompanied by Pr. Michelson and Pr. Neitzel.

Among those called to testify were six Reformation members who had witnessed the killing or escape of the killer, and had to recount the horrible experience of Sunday morning, May 31. Other members and friends supported the family with prayer, meals, and other care. Scott Roeder was found guilty of first degree murder of Dr. Tiller, and aggravated assault by threatening two ushers with a gun.

In worship on Sunday morning, Jan. 31, all the Tiller family was present, as usual. Jeanne stood and thanked the members of the congregation for court testimonies, meals, prayers, encouragement and support, expressing her deep love for her church home. Her public statement through the media included this message (in part) from her family: “At this time we hope that George can be remembered for his legacy of service to women, the help he provided for those who needed it, and the love and happiness he provided us as a husband, father and grandfather.”

Praying for one another

Serving together in this Area, congregations pray for one another in our mission and ministry. Please include these congregations and leaders in prayer:

Feb. 14: Christ, Wichita, Pr. Michael Clark

Feb. 21: Cross of Glory, Derby, Pr. Michael Kerr

Feb. 28: Emanuel, Hutchinson, Pr. Tim Carey and
Pr. Phillip Vickers

March 7: Nov. 1: Seminarians and preparing for ministry:
Caleb Crainer (Zion, Seminary of the Southwest),
Quinn Gorges (Reformation, doctoral studies); Katy
Harder (Christ; intern, LSTC), Jessica Harren (Lord of
Life); Tim Meyer (Reformation, Luther Seminary
distributed learning); Chris Deines (Reformation,
Wartburg Seminary);

March 14: Gloria Dei, Wichita, Pr. Peter Jacobson

March 21: Good Shepherd, Wichita, Pr. Natacha Kemp

March 28: Lord of Life, Pr. Gary Harris.



2010 Wichita Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity home

will be held April 6 - May 15.



Lutherans are signing up with
congregation teams or online.

Volunteers are needed for building (beginners welcome,
supervision available), greeting, providing lunches.

Financial donations needed too. See your congregation
"champions" or call Habitat at 269-0755.

Area Ministry 5 "Presidents Luncheon"

Area Ministry Dean Pr. Natacha Kemp has announced
the annual luncheon for congregation presidents, vice-
presidents, clergy and lay leaders will be held on Saturday,
May 1, at 11:30 a.m. Watch for more info to come.

Thanks for your news notes. Please send news and photos to Pr.
Sally Fahrenthold at sallyf@cox.net or address below, before the
4th of the month. Newsletter is sent about the 10th each month.
Please distribute copies of mailed newsletter or color newsletter
that is e-mailed. New names are welcome for mailing or email list.
This *Messenger* newsletter is a service of Area Ministry 5 ELCA.

Area Ministry 5 *Messenger* newsletter
Pr. Sally C. Fahrenthold
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Wichita KS 67226

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

"Shaping the Church for God's Mission" is the
theme for the Central States Synod Assembly to be held in
Wichita at the Hilton Hotel, June 3-6.

Assembly registration materials online after Feb. 15 at
www.css-elca.org (due by May 1) - also info on who may
serve as voting member and Assembly Voting Member
Waiver Request form (due by March 5), and resolution
forms and nomination info. Registrations for lodging with
Hilton following the synod link or call 316-945-1971.

All Assembly info at website. For printed materials,
contact Rev. Cynthia Schaath cschnaath@css-elca.org or
call 913-948-9701, ext. 205, or 866-915-3548 (toll free).

Area 5 congregations will be asked to help with the
Assembly in several ways.

Area Ministry 5 Calendar:

Saturday, Feb. 20, 5 - 7 p.m. ESOL Many Lands Dinner at
St. Paul's-Wichita

Sunday, Feb. 28, 5-7 p.m. Military retirement party for Pr.
Dave Fulton, St. Paul's

Tuesday, March 2, 9:00 a.m. Clergy, AM, PMAs meeting
at Christ-Wichita.

Sunday, March 7, 5:00 p.m., J.S. Bach Festival & German
Dinner at Gloria Dei

Friday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. Midland Lutheran College
Choir at Christ-Wichita.

March 23-24: Sabbath Retreat for rostered leaders and
professional staff, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita

April 6, 9:00 a.m. Clergy, AIM, PMA meeting, Gloria Dei

April 6-May 15 Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity

May 1, 11:30 a.m. Area 5 Presidents & leaders luncheon

May 4, 9:00. Clergy, AIM, PMAs meeting, Our Saviour's

June 3-6. Synod Assembly, Hilton Hotel, Wichita.

*Weekly text studies for preachers are at Good Shepherd,
Tuesdays, 9 a.m..*

