



The Visitor

February 2006

St. James Lutheran Church

517-782-8297

Church Council

The Reverend David W. Brobston.....
Pastor
 Lyle Thornton..... Vice President
 Joyce Anderson..... Financial Secretary
 Karen Dale..... Secretary
 Dana Weirich..... Christian Education
 Norma Wierenga..... Worship
 Mike King..... Treasurer
 Doug Brewer..... Property
 Rae Anne Alfred
 Outreach - (Evangelism/Social Ministry)
 Edna Souder Fellowship

Staff:
Pastor
 The Reverend David W. Brobston
Intern..... Vicar Jessica Lambert
Office Manager..... Tonia Zanger
Parish Nurse Julie Wyatt
Organist..... Jim Skrocki
 Catherine Bilow
Choir Director JoAnne Gaffney



Valentine's

Dinner Dance

**At Christ Lutheran Church
In Michigan Center**

**Saturday, February 18, 2006
From 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

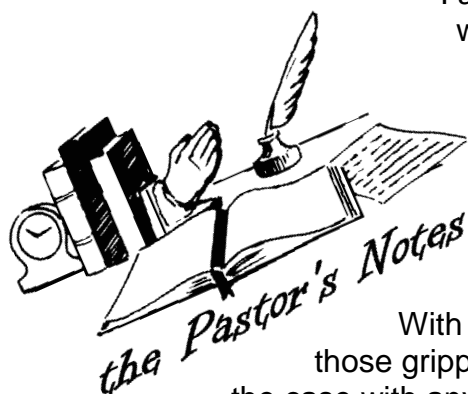
For more information
please see page 4 of
this newsletter.

St. James Mission Statement

St. James Lutheran Church is a grace-centered family of faith that seeks to know Christ and make Him known.

St. James Vision Statement

We hear and proclaim the Good News of Christ.
 We baptize in the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 We share in the Lord's Supper.
 We nurture one another through prayer and service.
 Like the Apostle St. James, we are fishers of people, inviting and welcoming all to this family of faith.



I am not an awards show watcher, but this week as I was flipping channels I stumbled across Anthony Hopkins giving an award speech at the Golden Globes. In this speech he was making an effort to thank those that aren't listed on the marquee. Those who build sets, and pull cable, and rig lights are just as important to a successful production as those in front of the camera.

With that in mind I set out this month to highlight one of those grippers or gaffs that made the Reformation possible. As is the case with any movement in history there are those that garner front page attention and the spotlight, while others labor furiously in the background. This month we will highlight Elisabeth Cruciger. I have to admit when I stumbled across the name my first reaction was "who?"

Elisabeth was a member of the convent in Treptow on Rega, leaving the convent in either 1522 or 1523. In 1524 Elisabeth married Caspar Cruciger in with Johannes Bugenhagen officiating at the wedding. This was the first wedding performed according to the protestant principles set forth in the Reformation.

Elisabeth could frequently be found at the home of her friends Katharina and Martin Luther. She was a frequent participant in the theological discussions that occurred around Luther's table that became known as the "Table Talks". Melancthon described Elisabeth as an incredibly clever woman.

What Elisabeth is best known but most often forgotten for is that she composed the first hymn of the Reformation Protestant Era, "The Only Son from Heaven". This hymn is still in the Lutheran Book of Worship on page 86. Her authorship of this song created controversy because women did not commonly write songs at the time, because of her young age, and because her husband and son were on the wrong side of the theological controversy.

While Katie von Bora and Martin Luther may have been the tip of the spear of the Reformation, it was faithful people like Elisabeth that gave breadth and depth to the Reformation. Without people like Elisabeth faithfully utilizing her gifts of faith, insight, and music the Reformation very well could have dried up on the vine.

Elisabeth Cruciger provides an inspiration to those of us who may not find ourselves to be the stars that are found in the spotlight. She reminds us that the Body of Christ needs those of us to pull cable, rig lights, and live faithfully.

From the Vicar...

As many of you know, I have begun work on my internship project. I, with my Intern Committee's support and with the help of a team of leaders from St. James and Immanuel, am going to be putting together a Passover Seder meal to be held at Immanuel on Wednesday, April 12th. Yep, that's Holy Week, the day before Maundy Thursday. Members of Immanuel, St. James and Christ Lutheran will be invited to come, and I hope it will be an exciting and moving way to begin our journey towards the pinnacle of our church year, the Easter Vigil and Easter morning.

Wednesday April 12th is the beginning of the Jewish festival of Passover, which lasts for eight days and commemorates both the arrival of the spring and the relationship between God's people and the land, and the incredible story of the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses through the Red Sea, into the desert and on towards the promised land. It is the story of freedom from bondage, and of the wondrous, often troubled but always intimate relationship between God and God's people.

The Passover meal is the oldest festival of the Hebrew liturgical calendar and has been celebrated for more than 3,000 years. It is celebrated both in the synagogue and at home. At home celebrations it is a reenactment of the Exodus experience. The home is transformed into a sanctuary where rituals change family life and where time, secular time, the time of everyday life experience, becomes

transfigured; it becomes sacred time. It is a time paused in eternity, a time rooted in the passage from bondage to the desert and freedom, a time in solidarity with other moments in history, a time sensitive to present oppression. It is also a time of hope, hope in the ultimate reality of the Kingdom of God.

For many years now great numbers of Christians have been learning about the festival of Passover and celebrating the Seder meal. Two important reasons are that in the ritual we acknowledge our common biblical roots with the Jewish people, and that we find in all the beauty, poetry and delight of the Seder a deep, strong and honest expression of our own faith. I have found this out first hand, as a number of my relatives by marriage are Jewish, and we have had many inter-faith Seders together. I cannot express the profound joy of these experiences better than this writer, Gabe Huck: "This is a bit of a scandal, even in our own stubborn minds and hearts; that to meet God and to find ourselves, we Jews and Christians gather around a table set with bread and wine. It is ordinary, yet exuberant; it is plain, yet awe-inspiring; it is worthy of praise and thanks beyond words that we are gathered here."

I hope that you will keep the leadership team who will be learning about and preparing for the Seder in your prayers. I hope also that you will make it a part of your Holy Week experience to come and be fed, both spiritually and bodily. There is room for all at the table.

God's Blessings,

Vicar Jessica

News and Notes...

Come and join the **Life Changes group for an exciting book study:** The Life Changes group, which meets on the first and third Mondays of every month at 1:00 here at St. James, focuses on the changes and transitions in our personal lives and in the community. We are just beginning a new book study on the book Memoirs of the Soul: Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography, by Nan Phifer. She offers prompts and insightful questions about some of the most significant parts of life, as well as eloquent excerpts from the memoirs of others, and as a group we will share our ideas and memories- how we lived through the changes and how they have helped us grow into the people we are now. Spiritual autobiographies are wonderful testaments for you and your families to generations to come. All are welcome to join us on this journey. Please see Vicar Jessica if you have any questions or would like to join us and I will get a copy of the book for you, for only \$11.55. Join us!

Valentine's Dinner at Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center... on Saturday, February 18th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. This year the dinner will be catered, and ticket prices will be \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple. Child care will be provided for those children who are potty trained by reservation. Tickets for this dinner are available in the church office.

The menu will consist of: Swiss steak, baked potato, green bean casserole, tossed salad, dinner rolls, punch and coffee and dessert.

The deadline for ticket sales and child care reservations is noon, Thursday, February 9th.

A free will offering will be taken. All proceeds will be donated to the United Way's "Community Warmth" initiative, with 50% of matching funds from Thrivent Financial.

Stampin' Up will be on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 -12:00 p.m. here at St. James. Come on out and join the fellowship and fun! Learn to stamp birthday, get well, anniversary (or any kind of) card you can think of.

Tuesday's with the Men...

All men of St. James are invited to meet for breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor, 3306 Francis Street, Jackson, each Tuesday of the month: February 7, 14, 21, & 28.



Confirmation Classes Scheduled: class will be held on Sunday, February 19th and Sunday, February 26th at Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center.

Questions? See Pastor Dave

New Servant List: We recently sent out a servant list for the year. Due to adding more people onto the list, we are updating the schedule. Beginning with March, the list has been updated. *Please note your day to serve! Dates have changed!* A complete year-long list will be sent out next week. Remember, if you are unable to serve on the given date, please find a replacement and let the office know!



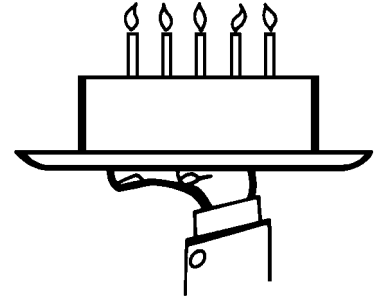
St. Valentine

Our Church Family...

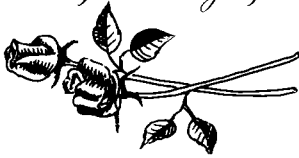
January Birthdays

2/4 Zachary Laird
2/5 Arlene Barosko
Deanna Bitner
2/9 Nathan Caves
Rob Ernst
2/11 Kris King
Betsy Tackett
2/14 Jim Knight

2/19 Chuck Thor
2/25 Joy Souder
2/27 Leah Alfred
Lauren Jones
Kami (King) Palmer
2/29 Peggy Leach
Christopher Bitner



In Deepest Sympathy



St. James would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of James Phillion who passed away on January 4, 2006.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

May God grant you peace and serenity during this time.

“Religion gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in a crisis and the confidence to leave the results to a Higher Power. Only by God can a person carrying responsibility find repose.”

+ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*
+ *34th President*
+ *Courtesy of The Joyful Noiseletter*

February 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Worship 10:00 a.m. - -Sunday School -Coffee Hour			1 2p.m.- Bridge 7 pm - Choir	2	3	4
5 4 pm - Worship Service at Arbor Woods Living Center	6 1 pm - Life Changes 7 pm - Living Waters	7 8 am - T.W.T.M - Breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor	8 4 pm - W/M Committee Meeting 7 pm - Choir	9	10	11 9 am - 12 pm - Stampin' Up
12	13 7 pm - Church Council	14  Valentine's Day 8 am - T.W.T.M - Breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor	15 7 pm - Choir	16	17	18 6 pm - Valentine's Dinner at Christ Lutheran Church
19 6 pm - Confir- mation at Christ Lutheran Church	20 President's Day 1 pm - Life Changes 7 pm - Living Waters	21 8 am - T.W.T.M - Breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor	22 7 pm - Choir	23	24	25
26 6 pm - Confirmation at Christ Lutheran Church	27	28 8 am - T.W.T.M - Breakfast at Bill's Coffee Manor				

Servant List February/March 2006...

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Greeter	Dale & Sue Walker	Warren & Dana Weirich	Jack & Joan Wiegman	Art & Norma Wierenga
Acolyte	Caroline Tackett	Nathan Caves	Tim Ernst	Kevin King
Coffee Hour	Neil & Melinda Robb	Matt & Deb Schroeder	Jim & Edna Souder	Becky Stevick
Nursery Care	Susan Franck	Brian & Kim Hurley	Mike & Kathi King	Audrey Kolevar
Counters	Mike King & Sherry Knight	Lyle Thornton & Donna North	Jim Souder & Mike Tackett	Paul Franck & Karen Dale
Ushers	Don & Dorothy Harsch	Roy Kelly & Jim Williams	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim & Edna Souder
Readers				
Assisting Ministers	Vicar Jessica Lambert	Vicar Jessica Lambert	JoAnne Gaffney	JoAnne Gaffney
Altar Care	Don & Dorothy Harsch	Don & Dorothy Harsch	Don & Dorothy Harsch	Don & Dorothy Harsch

March

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Greeter	Bill & Joyce Anderson	Paul & Arlene Barosko	Doug & Marty Brewer	Morris & Nancy DeGryse
Acolyte	Betsy Tackett	Conor Brobston	Kyle Bitner	Bethany Veneziano
Coffee Hour	Julie Wyatt	Art & Norma Wierenga	Dale & Sue Walker	Mike & Sara Tackett
Nursery Care	Edna Souder	Sara Tackett	Jim & Kim Williams	Warren & Dana Weirich
Counters	Mike King & Sherry Knight	Lyle Thornton & Donna North	Jim Souder & Mike Tackett	Paul Franck & Karen Dale
Ushers	Paul & Susan Franck	Bill & Joyce Anderson	Don & Dorothy Harsch	Neil & Melinda Robb
Readers				
Assisting Ministers				
Altar Care	Becky Stevick	Becky Stevick	Becky Stevick	Becky Stevick