

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church

Newsletter Date

March 20, 2011



Readings:

Sunday March 20, 2011

- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17

From the Pastor



The story of Abraham is really a story of the basic elements of a human community that goes beyond the community of family and moves us into a community of faith. God tells Abram, "Go from your land...to a land I will show you". Sounds pretty vague, but Abraham goes, because he trusts in God. It takes a lot of courage to pick up everything and go away from all that you know, not knowing exactly where it is that you are going to. Abraham, the father of many nations of many people, is not looked at as a God or even a perfect human, yet we see in him a brave man who believes in what God tells him. Because of Abraham's faith and obedience, we have three different faiths today that look to him as the beginning of their religions; Islam, Judaism and Christianity. He is perceived as a faithful and righteous man of God. This is not ancestor worship (like the Chinese), yet it is a unique story of a man who obeys God, because he believes and trusts in God and because of this faith is seen as our greatest ancestor. He is the prime example of what it means to place your whole life in God's hands and how to have the willingness to obey. He is our father of faith, which stands as a demonstration of how we might live out our own life as people who believe in God and in His promises.

Upcoming Events

- Each Wednesday In Lent:** In Lent Soup/Salad and workshop on prayer beginning at 6:30 p.m.; followed by a scriptural study on prayer and a prayer meeting.
- Sunday, April 3:** Pot Luck and conversation
- Sunday, April 10:** Conversation after worship, with Rev. Phil Hirsch, Assistant to the Bishop about possibilities for Good Sam's future.
- Sunday, April 17:** Special Congregational Budget Meeting
- Thursday, April 21:** Maundy Thursday Dinner Drama/Comedy "The Upper Room". St. John's will join us and participate in this event. We are looking for people to take part in this interactive drama to play various parts. The audience will also be participants in this drama.
- Good Friday April 22:** Worship together at St. John's in Riverdale: Stations of the cross.
- Saturday April 23:** Easter Vigil. Dessert in the fellowship hall at 7:30 p.m. followed by bonfire outside and then enter the church processing with candles into the sanctuary for worship.

NOTE:

Needed Bell ringers for Easter Sunday; Needed players to take part in comedy / drama on Maundy Thursday and people to sign up for pot luck meal for that night's event.

UPCOMING EVENTS NO DATES SET YET:

- Chevy's fundraiser in May to raise funds for Youth day event. St. John's will join and support us in this event.
- Women's breast cancer awareness luncheon/or dinner.
- Spring Work day and clean up day.