

The Messiah

MESSENGER

Highlights from the February 2012 Issue

FROM THE PASTOR

SNAPSHOT OF LIFE

Greetings!

This year, the month of February includes multiple liturgical seasons as we begin in Epiphany, celebrate Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday midway through the month, then end February in the first week of Lent.

The Gospel stories this month begin with healing stories in the Gospel of Mark and ends with the story of Jesus' Baptism from the author of the Gospel of Mark. It is interesting that in one calendar month, we begin with sickness and healing then midway we hear the story of the Transfiguration and finish the month remembering the waters of baptism.

This month could be a snapshot of Life! The Life of a human being includes sickness ... not merely high fevers or paralysis, but addictions, fear, greed, pessimism, etc. These sicknesses tempt us to find temporary healing through many sources. We find that some remedies work; some work for a short time and some just take our money with no results.

Then sometime in Life, we meet Jesus – perhaps not on a mountaintop, but truly meet, become acquainted with and learn to love Jesus. When this occurs, there is an opportunity for whole healing... the kind that a perfect love offers... the kind that Jesus can give us... healing as the gift of grace.



We are marked with the sign of the cross in ashes to remind us of our human frailties and the pure love of Jesus Christ for us. We then prepare for our Lenten journey with the waters of baptism that offer whole healing, cleansing and community.

"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Amen.

Pastor Anne

Be sure to check out Pastor's article in the Lutheran Magazine:
Addition not Subtraction: 10 Things Your Family Can Add This Lent
http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=10481

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, Feb. 5th following the service

Remember to show your support for this annual food and funds drive by our Youth Group. All monies collected go to the Maine Township Food Pantry. Drop your cash in the soup pot, or add your canned goods to the Wall of Food ... every little bit helps fight hunger in our community.



MARDI GRAS POT LUCK!

Sunday, Feb. 19th after worship

In honor of our Messiah Mardi Gras tradition, we are having a pot luck after the Worship service. "Jambalaya," "dirty rice," and a "King Cake" will be provided, along with non-alcoholic "Hurricanes." Sign ups for dishes will be in the narthex in February. Don't worry if you are unable to bring a dish! We will have crafts and activities for "all of God's children." Feel free to invite friends and visitors to this fellowship activity.



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Feb. 22

Lent begins with Ash

Wednesday services at 9:15 AM and 7:30 PM. Please note

that the early service will be DURING our Child Care Chapel time, and we will be offering imposition of ashes to children as well as adults. **THEN ...**

Supper, Service & Study on Wednesdays beginning **Feb 29**

9:15 AM - Child Care Chapel (adults invited!)

10:00 AM - Bible Study (sanctuary)

6:00 PM - Light Supper

6:45 PM – 1st Communicants Class departs for study

7:00 PM – Lenten Service w/ Bible Study (*1st Comm. Class joins at 7:30*)

8:00 PM - All finished! Choir practice follows.



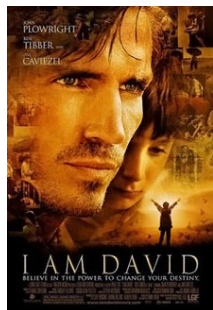
CHOCOLATE SPA

Please stop by to mingle, get pampered and hang out with other young adult moms while you learn more about Women of the ELCA!



The Chocolate Spa networking event will take place **Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1 to 4pm at the Nail Bar in Elmhurst**. We only have a limited number of spaces available, so please RSVP before Feb. 6! RSVP: elizabeth.mcbride@elca.org (Please include your telephone number in email.)

MESSIAH MOVIES



I AM DAVID (on cable and DVD)

Based on Anne Holm's acclaimed young adult novel *North to Freedom*, *I Am David* chronicles the struggles of a 12-year-old boy (Ben Tibber) who manages to flee a Communist concentration camp on his own. All he has in his possession

is a loaf of bread, a letter to deliver to someone in Denmark and a compass to help get him there. James Caviezel and Joan Plowright co-star.

Set in 1952, young David manages to escape and board a boat to Italy, from which he trudges north, mostly on foot, with Denmark as his goal. Throughout the movie, an adult's voice-over repeats instructions that were given to David as before he left the camp, and flashbacks featuring Jim Caviezel's character explore their relationship.

This is one of those quiet, powerful movies that sucks you in and makes you care deeply about the people involved. David has spent his entire life in the brutal environment of the camp, and has never seen the

beauty of the world, had a friend his own age, or even held a purring cat. Once free of the camp, his mission is a clear one ... deliver the packet of papers he has to someone in Denmark. He will know the person when he gets there. Along his journey, he meets several special people who help him. The biggest obstacle David has to conquer is not the thousands of miles between himself and his goal – it is the need to trust people, and to open himself up to life and love.

Joan Plowright is wonderful as the kindly older woman who finally gets all the way through David's walls, and in the end he learns to trust other people. The payoff, of course, is the climax of the movie, in a nice twist that will bring a tear to your eye.

This is a very nice family film ... no swearing, and limited violence that tastefully displays the difficult times following WWII in communist Bulgaria. It does have some grown-up themes, and is worth watching with your kids. Some of the plot lines are simple, and a little unbelievable (he ends up walking a VERY long way in the same shoes, for example), but engaging enough to not really matter. I think you (and your family) will enjoy it!