

# The In Touch

MARCH 2012

Volume 47, Issue 3

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*Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation*

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## RAMBLINGS from the Rev. . .

On Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, the preacher at church and also the leader of the adult forum was Rob Radke, the President of Episcopal Relief and Development. Later that evening we had a chance to meet him in a small group setting. Our rector here is on the board of ERD and says Rob has done a terrific job there. David and I were both very impressed with him and with his presentation.



One of the things he talked about that I thought you all might like to know is that with the Nets for Life program they built a monitoring ability into the program, so that they have some idea if what they are doing actually is working. Over the past five years, in the places where they have been doing nets that long they have raised the awareness of the cause of malaria from about 48% to 90%, and they have raised the regular use of malaria nets from about 10% to 90%.

I know that ERD has a wonderful reputation in the world of relief and development, although it is small compared to many similar organizations. But since we sent off money to the Nets for Life program, I was especially happy to hear these results. The other thing that has impressed me about ERD is that they don't try to do it all themselves. They always partner with groups that already have a presence on the ground, that have local connections, or people already trained. They also partner with other faith based organizations to make the most of their dollars. At one point the Methodist organization had access to a whole lot of nets, but no way to distribute them, much less install them or train people in their use. ERD had the networks in place to take care of that problem!

As you probably know by now, our Diocese is building two new homes this year as their MDG project. You can check this out on the website - and I hope we can find some folks willing to spend a week at White Earth participating in a build there. I'm not sure what Lee has in mind for this Lent, but I hope you will at least consider giving something to either ERD or the Diocesan building project.

If you “give up” something for Lent and can donate what you save, that is terrific. If you take on a new spiritual discipline instead, that’s also a wonderful Lenten practice, whether reading the Bible daily, or reading the daily lectionary, or reading Morning Prayer, or meditating, or practicing centering prayer, or . . . Whatever you chose for your Lenten activity, I hope you will find it engaging, enriching, and a way to grow your spiritual life. It’s also a good time to practice mindfulness by trying to pay close attention to all that goes on around you. Where do you see God in your daily life? Where did you find opportunities to be God’s hands or feet or voice in the world? Where/how/when did you experience God in other people?

Lynn +

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# THE **breath** OF THE **soul**

REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER

By Joan Chittister

## 12. Gratitude

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*If the only prayer you say in your life is "thank you," that would suffice.*

\* MEISTER ECKHART

**G**ratitude is not only the posture of praise but it is also the basic element of real belief in God. When we bow our heads in gratitude, we acknowledge that the works of God are good. We recognize that we cannot, of ourselves, save ourselves. We proclaim that our existence and all its goods come not from our own devices but are part of the works of God. Gratitude is the alleluia to existence, the praise that thunders through the universe as tribute to the ongoing presence of God with us even now.

Thank you for the new day.

Thank you for this work.

Thank you for this family.

Thank you for our daily bread.

Thank you for this storm and the moisture it brings to a parched earth.

Thank you for the bank of crown vetch that brings color to the hillside.

Thank you for the pets that bind us to nature.

Thank you for the necessities that keep me aware of your bounty in my life.

Without doubt, unstinting gratitude saves us from the sense of self-sufficiency that leads to forgetfulness of God.

Praise is not an idle virtue in life. It says to us, "Remember to whom you are indebted. If you never know need, you will come to know neither who God is nor who you yourself are."

Need is what tests our trust. It gives us the opportunity to allow others to hold us up in our weakness, to realize that only God in the end is the measure of our fullness.

Once we know need we are better human beings. For the first time we know solidarity with the poorest of the poor. We become owners of the pain of the world and devote ourselves to working in behalf of those who suffer.

Finally, it is need that shows us how little it takes to be happy.

Once we know all of those things we have come face-to-face with both creation and the Creator. It is the alleluia moment that discovers both God and goodness for us.

Let us learn to come to prayer with an alleluia heart so that our prayer can be sincere.

**MANTRA: Praise to you, O God. Let all creation sing your praise.**

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.

\*LUKE 1:46-47

*Submitted by Deacon Lee Grim, permission to use by Joan Chittister*

## March Birthday's



3-6-12 – Jay Noland  
*(son of Mike & Caryn)*

3-10-12 - Mike Brennard

3-13-12 Laura Smith  
*(daughter of Waiva Menefee)*

3-15-12- Gary Davison

3-18-12 - William Corrin

3-22-12 - Sharon Wood Leali  
*(daughter of Flossie Knutson)*

3-26-12 Linda Krieger  
*(daughter of Wilbur & Mary Ann Tveit)*

3-28-12 - Diane Russiff  
*(daughter of Fred & Donna Day)*

## March Anniversaries



3-26-12 Robin & Becky Lucus Manahan



## Baptism Anniversaries

3-28-12 Jim Briggs




We need people to serve as acolytes, lectors, and lay readers, especially lay readers. If you can help in any of these areas please see any team member.

*Thank you*



**Happy St. Patrick's Day !**

# March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
						<u>Altar Guild</u> Carolyn Helen
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Rev. Samantha Crossley			<u>Lenten Service</u> First Lutheran Church Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm			<u>Altar Guild</u> Carolyn Helen
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Rev. Samantha Crossley	<u>Vestry Meeting</u> 6:30 pm <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	9:30 - Coffee @ Coffee Landing 6:00 - Total Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm- Life Cycle	<u>Lenten Service</u> Faith United Church Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm			<u>Altar Guild</u> Mavis Tricia
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. Lay Reader Melanie Mattsen			<u>Lenten Service</u> Zion Lutheran Church Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm			<u>Altar Guild</u> Mavis Tricia
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. Lay Reader Erik Strand			<u>Lenten Service</u> St. Thomas Church Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm			<u>Altar Guild</u> Georgeann Donna

## Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

# MARCH 2012

Dates	Lay Officials	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
<b>4</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon Lee Grim	Robert Nye	Kay Herman Melanie Mattsen	Kay Herman John Shewchuk
<b>11</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon Lee Grim	Tessa Walls	Jeanne Corrin Waiva Menefee	Bill Corrin Jeanne Corrin
<b>18</b> <b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>10:00 a.m..</b>	Lay Reader Melanie Mattsen	Melanie Mattsen	Mike Brennard Tricia Brennard	Mike Brennard Tricia Brennard
<b>26</b> <b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Lay Reader Erik Strand	Erik Strand	Robert Nye Mavis Tanem	Melanie Mattsen Tyler Downs