

BLOODMOBILE AT WOH

The Bloodmobile will be at WOH on Sunday, March 2. There is an urgent need for blood donors at this time! Mark your calendar now so that you can “Share the gift of life” as part of your Lenten observance this year!

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase a lily to decorate the church for Easter, see the Clipboard sign-ups. You may give in honor of someone, to celebrate a special event, or in someone’s memory. The cost is \$8 each.

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

On the Wednesdays of Lent, we are gathering at 7 pm for reflective worship and quiet conversation: *Simple Gift. Simple Life—A Lenten Sabbatical.* Bring a friend!

HEALING SUNDAY

We will have a Service of Healing at both our worship times on Sunday, March 30th. Our worship will include the laying on of hands and prayers of healing. We are all in need of wholeness, which the healing power of the Holy Spirit brings to us. If you have a friend or neighbor who would especially benefit from this meaningful service, please invite them to worship with us that day. All are welcome to the Amazing Grace Place.

KID’S NITE OUT

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH - It’s GREEN NIGHT! Wear green, be green, whatever you can imagine! Remember, “Green is the color of growing things!” Come and see what’s GROWING at WOH! The fun begins at 5:00. Bring your friends!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 pm, March 20

The Forgiveness, Footwashing, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm, March 21

Reading of the Passion, Prayers, Burning of Transgressions

HOLY SATURDAY, THE EASTER VIGIL

7:00 pm, March 22

The Services of Light & Readings, Confirmation & Renewal of
Baptismal Vows, Holy Communion

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Sunday, March 23

8:15 am Classic Grace Worship

9:15 am Easter Breakfast/Kids’ Easter Egg Hunt

10:45 am Celebration Service

SPRING CLEANING? WOH YARD SALE

The WOH Yard Sale is still a ways off, so you have plenty of time to gather your odds and ends during spring cleaning – we’ll take it all...household items, tools, furniture, etc. Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (dtaylormom5@aol.com) for more info. **April 26** is the date of the big event so mark your calendars! This is one of the biggest fundraisers for our youth mission trip, and it takes MANY folks to pull it off! We really need your help from making signs, picking up donations, setting up tables, sorting & pricing items, selling, cleaning up! **THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** We will seek matching funds from Thrivent to support our efforts for Mission 2008.



PARENTWEEN GROUP (PTG)

We’ve gathered together a nice support group in these get-togethers, which have been very fun & helpful to those who have participated. Come join us for the next event on Sunday, March 1st, 6:30 pm. All parents of Middle School & High School youth (teens & tweens) are invited to this informal conversation about parenting joys and challenges—neighbors and friends are also most welcome. For more information: Call Pastor 272-8515. (We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm)

EASTER EGG HUNT

At our Easter breakfast, we're having an Easter Egg Hunt for children. You can bring plastic eggs and "stuffers" like stickers, fake "tattoos", party favors, etc. (Less chocolate, please, like they won't get any of THAT at all!)

CONFIRMANDS

Lent is an intensified time of preparation for our confirmands and especially those who will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, March 22. Please remember these young people in prayer during this important time: **JOE McMULLEN, MARY WEBB, OLIVIA COTTRELL and SHELBY VERHOEVEN.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men of WOH will get together for breakfast on Saturday, March 8th at 8am! We will gather at WENCHELLS on Southland Dr. We had a great turnout and some great conversation last month! Ask Luke, Paul & Rob what big changes are happening in their lives! Come join us to catch up on more news! . For more information contact **FRANK ADAMS** at Daddo99@hotmail.com. **PLAN TO BRING A FRIEND!**

BAKE SALE & RAFFLE

Watch for a March, between-services Bake Sale/Raffle! to benefit our "Word of Hope Discretionary Fund"—through which we provide special support for those in need. We'll have **GLEND A EARNEST's** new book #2 Cottage Bears (signed by author and illustrator) and a hand painted UK plate for the raffle. Watch for details and plan to bring your favorite cake, cookies or breads.

EASTER DECORATING

We're gathering a group (all ages/abilities welcome) from both services to help decorate for Easter Sunday. We will meet briefly between services on March 16 to share ideas and then decorate for Easter on Saturday, March 22 at 9 am. **CLIPBOARDS** to sign-up.



VBS KICK-OFF

Our Vacation Bible School program is June 8-13) so already at the end of March we're starting the preparation for this great week. In our **TRUE NORTH** time between services on March 30, we'll do some simple activities with the kids and involve them in creating decorations. The theme this year is **POWERLAB**—with kind of a sciency feel. So on the 30th, we may even have some interesting demonstration in the parking lot for the adults too. Come see.

THANKS

...to all who helped with the 'Fat Tuesday' Pancake Supper & Used Book Sale, especially **DARLENE EASTER, JULIE McEWEN, MARJORIE FLORO, WAYNE & ANNETTE FRAZIER & MARILYN WASHKUHN** and all those who donated and purchased books.

FROM THE PASTOR

I was in a doctor's office a while back and got re-acquainted with what one does in that setting (and it's NOT "see the doctor"; it's WAIT.) I picked up a "Popular Mechanics" and started skimming through. I hadn't touched a issue in years—and was especially drawn to an article titled: "25 Skills Every Man Should Know." (Sorry about the sexism in that, but all I can do is work with what I've got and I suspect "Popular Mechanics" knows who they're popular with.)

Anyway, the list was kind of interesting. Every man should know how to change out an electrical outlet, how to frame a non-weight bearing wall, connect a hi-def TV, protect their computer. (I thought every man ought to also know how to connect up their computer but maybe that's one of those jobs for which the right man is a woman.) (Just guessing.)

I got done with the article and began thinking along the same lines with regard to following Jesus. Aren't there some basic skills that each of us Jesus people ought to know/be able to handle? I immediately had some ideas and started my own wish list but would really rather get some feedback on this first. So tell me, what do you think? What are the top 25/10/4? Skills Every Follower Of Jesus Should Know?" I really am looking forward to your input. Feel free to drop me a line or an e-mail. TADWrig45@cs.com

I'll put your ideas in the newsletter next month along with some preliminary thoughts I've had. Let's see what we come up with.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our Light and our Salvation, you alone are the one who has come to save us. We thank you for your coming, and for your will to perform in us again your saving work. Rule us by your Holy Spirit, that henceforth we may wait for none other and put our trust in nothing in heaven or earth except you alone, our Lord. Amen. Martin Moller (1547-1606)

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.
He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

LENT & HOLY WEEK AT WOH

As winter turns the corner into spring, we enter into the most sacred time of the year in our life with God. Lent, a time of renewal in faith and life, builds toward the great drama of Holy Week and Easter. At Word of Hope, some have participated in mid-week "house church" worship each Wednesday and we've emphasized that as a "time out" to focus on "**A Simple Gift, A Simple Life—A Lenten Sabbatical**."

Holy Week itself begins on March 16th with the Sunday of Palms & Passion ~ a day to remember the joy of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as well as the rapid and crushing path to his death on the cross. Then, the "Three Days" ("Triduum" for those who recall high school Latin) at the end of Holy Week round out the details of Jesus' love. Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and the new commandment or "mandatum" to "love one another as I have loved you." It was also "on the night in which he was betrayed" that he invited those who would follow him to be nourished for the journey by partaking in Holy Communion ~ and we too will "do this in remembrance of me." This meal is meant to fuel our service for others.



On the Friday made and called "Good" because of Jesus' willingness to take on our brokenness, we once again witness the love that goes all the way to the grave for us. In Jesus' death, the wrong we have done is all burned away. *That is symbolized here at WOH in the "burning of transgressions" ~ pieces of paper upon which folks have anonymously written about their burdens are burned at the end of the Good Friday worship.*

By ancient tradition, the Easter Vigil (on the Saturday night before the day of Easter) is a time to witness the joy and light of Christ's resurrection leaping like a fire from the darkness of death. In the early church, this "all nighter" was a baptismal/new member/Easter sunrise/Holy Communion service all rolled into one. Although ours is considerably shorter (about an hour and 45 minutes), it still has the feel of what early Christians experienced in those first years and decades after Jesus' resurrection.

This year, our confirmands will affirm their faith at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation is both an individual's confession of faith as well as a celebration for the whole church as we recognize how blessed we are that an entire group of youth are ready to become adults in the life of the church. In the celebration of confirmation, we rejoice as confirmands intentionally accept Jesus' invitation "whoever would be my disciples must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me."

In this holiest of seasons, all are urged to be renewed in this invitation and know once again the joy of that holy connection to the love of Jesus that will not let us go.

PRAYER

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly; grant us in our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do; that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. ~ John Bright (1824-1901)

WORSHIP HELPERS

We're looking to put together a regular schedule of ushers, communion assistants and communion care folks. There will be some basic training. If you're interested in any of these areas of ministry at WOH see **Pr. DUVAL** or signup on the clipboards on Sunday.

AN EASTER OPPORTUNITY

George Gallup, the noted pollster, says his research shows that 95% of the people who live in the US believe in God / 70% would be open to an invitation to attend church / 33% do not have a church home / and only 25% of the people who do not have a church home have been invited to “**come and see.**” Talk about opportunity!

Easter is a time when folks are probably most open to an invitation. Think of someone who, through conversations you’ve had, has indicated an emptiness in their spiritual life. Take the time to pray for that person over the days ahead and **listen** to their concerns. **Then, as we get close to Easter, if you sense the nudging of the Spirit, take the risk. Invite the friend.** It’s possible someone will say “no” but the prayer and invitation is always a sweet celebration of the hope that comes as a result of Jesus’ resurrection.

DINER’S NIGHT REMINDER

We’ve had some great gatherings over the past few months! There have been some great conversations and just ‘get to know ya’ times! The fun continues.....

March/April Gatherings:

HOST: Kristin & Andrew Slavik

Guests: Chuck & Dawn Webb; Marjorie Floro; Rob Moore & Kelly Morris; Mary & Steve Adams.

HOST: Julie & Jerry McEwen

Guests: Darlene & Bob Taylor; Bill & Joanne Brown; Jason & Mary Romain; Toby & Darlene Easter.

If you’d still like to be a part of the gatherings, contact **JULIE McEWEN** (552-0062).

At home, an abundance of books and papers overlays the heavy furniture I inherited from my grandparents.

A perfectly simple room, with one perfect object to meditate on,
remains a dream until I step outside, onto the Plains.

A tree. A butte. The sunrise.

It always makes me wonder:

What is enough?

Are there enough trees here?

As always, it seems that the more I can distinguish my true needs and my wants,
the more I am shocked to realize how little is enough.

- Kathleen Norris Dakota

PEOPLE

OUR THANKS to all those who assisted with the Confirmation Retreat at Aldersgate Retreat Center, we especially want to thank **DENISE POLNISCH, DAVE EARNEST** and our confirmands: **JOE MCMULLEN, OLIVIA COTTRELL, SHELBY VERHOEVEN & MARY WEBB**. Be sure to ask them about their experience! It really was a great time!

WELCOME to new council members: **CHARLOTTE WONG, JOANNE BROWN, MARJORIE FLORO, JASON ROMAIN** and re-elected **JOHN McMULLEN**. The returning council members are: **TINA VANNOY, BOB COOK & JERRY McEWEN**. Newly elected council officers are - President: **JOHN McMULLEN**; Vice President: **BOB COOK**; Financial Secretary: **MARJORIE FLORO**; Treasurer: **TINA VANNOY**. Our thanks to all these folks for answering the call to serve as WOH council members.

A HUGE THANK YOU to **AARON SCIASCIA** for providing the CPR class for our Kid’s Safe Policy and to **JOHN McMULLEN** for making the contact! The turnout was good and we appreciate everyone who gave of their time to take the class. We now have about 18 Kid’s Safe participants trained in CPR. If you know of anyone who could do a First Aid Training, please e-mail **Jennifer Polnisch** at japsigns@juno.com.

ALEX EARNEST has graduated from USMC School of Infantry. His next phase is Security Force School in Norfolk, Virginia. Congratulations Alex!

WATCH FOR BOOK #2 of the Cottage Bears, illustrated by **GLEND A EARNEST**, coming out in March. Books, favorite prints from the book & party invitations are available through Glenda or at the website, www.cottagebearsonlandorlane.com, which was created by **JULIE McEWEN**. These would make great Easter gifts!

GOT GRADS? If you have someone in your household who is marking a graduation, please let us know so that we can honor them in the spring.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The 2008 Church Council met for the first time at its annual retreat on February 1st and 2nd at Faith House. As usual this was a great time for the new Council to get to know each other, make plans, and address the first month's business.

In the business meeting, resolutions establishing Pastor's personal housing allowance and the health reimbursement arrangement, as passed in 2008 budget, were passed. Officers were also elected: **JOHN MCMULLEN**, president, **BOB COOK**, vice president, **TINA VANNOY**, treasurer, and **MARJORIE FLORO**, financial secretary. It was also noted that the I-K Synod Assembly will convene in Lexington at the Civic Center, June 5-7. Pastor is serving on the worship committee for this meeting and we will be looking for volunteers to assist as the date approaches.

The Church Council will meet on the second Sundays of each month, with the next meeting being March 9th. As always, the Council sincerely appreciates the continued input, prayers and support of the congregation as this community of faith moves into 2008.—**John McMullen**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is one of many 'behind-the-scenes' ministries at WHO that has been around about a year now. Following is a brief description of what it's all about and how deeply meaningful it is both to the givers and receivers.

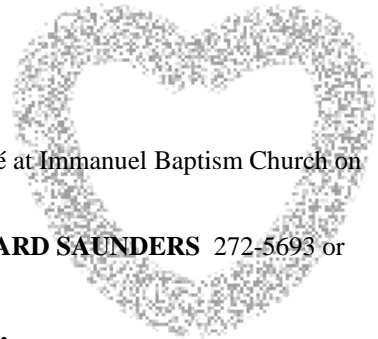
WHAT A PRAYER LOOKS LIKE...It is warm, soft and wraps around you. Each stitch is filled with prayers. Prayer Shawl Ministry began with three people in a Lutheran congregation in Oregon. In the first 3 years a total of 577 prayer shawls were shared. That's 577 times that the love of God and the prayers of many dedicated crafters were shared with others. The mission statement of one group is, "We want to reach out to those in need with a prayer shawl of prayers to love and comfort, console and strengthen our family of faith. We want to be a reminder of God's promise that He is always with us." They are called "prayer shawls" because the knitting (or crocheting) of the shawl is a spiritual practice for the crafter. A prayer is said as the shawl is begun and many prayers are added with the stitches. Most of the time the recipient of the shawl is not known but does receive the message that many people have been praying for them.



If you'd like to be a part of this ministry at WOH contact **KARIN STRATTON** (293-6643) or pick up the directions at the church office. The prayer shawls will be collected at church and received a special blessing before being distributed by Pastor Duval.

REGULAR GATHERINGS:

- **The Care Team** will meet on Tuesday, March 4th 7pm at **JULIE MCEWEN**'s.
- **The Vision Team** will do breakfast on Thursday, March 6, 8-9 am, at the ROC Café at Immanuel Baptism Church on Tates Creek Rd.
- **Soulfire** goes out to the homeless on Sunday, March 9 at noon. For more info: **RICHARD SAUNDERS** 272-5693 or levi9266@alltel.net).



THANKS KROGER CARDHOLDERS!

Thank you for your continued use of the "re-loadable" Kroger gift cards! Last month we received a check in the amount of \$355.72 - our 4% rebate for all purchases for which the cards were used—a nice extra! *Imagine the increased benefits to WOH if every member purchased their fuel at Kroger using the re-loadable gift card!* If you are not yet participating in this program take a minute to stop by the church office to get started! **See DARLENE TAYLOR**

OUR MISSION

Share the love of Jesus with **ALL** others and grow disciples

OUR VISION—HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

We accept and will live out God's call to be a Christ-centered, growing, place of grace for all. Day by day, we expect to welcome those whom the Lord will add to the number of his people in this place, doubling every 3 years. With glad and generous hearts we will be faithful stewards of God's gifts with financially sound operations and solid plans for future building. Day by day and together, we will devote ourselves to lives of prayer and praise, going out as apostles into the world and making disciples.

Grace—a welcoming, safe place
Growth—spiritual, numbers, facility
Glad/Generous hearts—financial & whole life stewardship
Go—outward focus on "the world"



WE'RE WOHLY! W(ord) O(f) H(ope) L(utheran) Y(outh)

YOUTH STUDY GROUP Thursdays 5:30-7pm. Need help with school work? Come join us! It's a focused one-on-one study time – food too, and we'll even carve out a little time for a group-building activity (???)!

MISSION TRIP PARENT/YOUTH MEETING Sunday, March 9 at 1:00pm. It's time to get together and discuss the details of this summer's trip. We'll be sharing important information and hand out permission forms, tentative schedules and other informational basics. If you're thinking about being part of this year's mission trip, it is very important that youth AND parents attend!

YOUTH TO SHRINER'S Thursday, March 20th at 5:30pm. We'll meet at the church then head out to have some fun with the patients at Shriner's. Bring a few bucks to grab a bite to eat afterwards! We'll have time to chat about our experience. Friends are welcome!

TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EASTER BREAKFAST FEAST!! Saturday, March 22 –We will begin setting up and preparing for the WOH Annual Easter Breakfast – starting time is 3:00 pm. Many hands are needed to set a festive table for this celebration Sunday!

WOH ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST Sunday, March 23 –**Serving begins at 9:15am** and cooking will begin at 8:00am!! This delicious meal is NOT to be missed! It will include homemade pastries, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, ham, fruit, juice, coffee & milk all prepared and served by our youth (with some help from the very kind women of WOH). We thank Thrivent for supporting this event for the 2008 Youth Mission Trip.

YOUTH TO LUNCH Sunday, March 30th. We'll gather at NOON and head out to lunch! It's time to catch up with friends (or chat with someone new!) and it's a great time to introduce your friends to the group so bring them along! Bring funds to cover your appetite and DON'T MISS OUT!!

WEEKLY FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY: 8:15 Classic Grace

9:30 "TRUE NORTH"—Christian education for all ages

10:45 Celebration Service

6:30-8 pm "Bible Basics" confirmands AND adults

Wednesdays 7-8 pm: During Lent, worship & conversation

LIFE LINE, our Sunday morning, between-worship-services, small care group with a variety of topics. **Walk-ins expected**