



**LUTHERANS UP NORTH
SPRING 2009**

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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***We wish a joyful Easter to all our readers
from the Clergy Team
and the Church Council of St. Luke's.***

A Message from the Council of the LCiGB

According to Matthew 6, Jesus assumed that his disciples would pray, fast and give alms; this also forms the Gospel that we will be reading on Ash Wednesday, 25 February. As our work in leading the Lutheran Church in Great

Britain starts in earnest, the Council of the Church are asking you to support Bishop Jana in a Lenten Fast and Prayer.

Each day she will fast from dawn to dusk (except Sundays), using the time saved from cooking and eating in prayer for the church, its members and congregations, and asking for God's guidance in this time of transition for our church and our land. You are invited

- **to pledge to join her in prayer**, praying for an extra 5 minutes each day for our church
- **to support the church with a daily donation.**

There is a form for you to sign to pledge your support, which will be on the board outside the office.

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When I was thinking about Bishop Jana's request to support her with prayer, I remembered how hard it is sometimes to concentrate on prayer, or even to find the energy for it, so I dipped into one of the books I have about prayer for some inspiration. It's called "Taste and See: Adventuring into Prayer" by Margaret Silf.

I hope you find the following excerpt helpful for staying close to God in those times:

"We all experience times when prayer feels, frankly, miles away and quite out of each. If you find yourself in a place like this, and there is no time, or no inclination for any other kind of prayer, try at least to spend just a few minutes before you fall asleep, re-playing the main events and feelings of your day, as you might re-run a video in 'fast-forward' until something catches your attention and you slow the action down, to attend to it more carefully. Just notice those moments that 'grab' you and let them be present, in your memory, and before God.

This kind of prayer, which many call the 'Review of the Day' (you may also meet it under the name of the 'Examen' or the 'Review of Consciousness'), has the power to touch the whole of your day with your unspoken desire to discover God's presence in it. You will find that it soon becomes a habit that will increase your awareness of god's presence in your whole life.

And if you don't have the time, or the energy, to re-play your whole day like this, try noticing 'just one thing' that you would like to say 'Thank you' to God for. I can remember going to work one morning. The office was in a very desolate and run-down place in Manchester. I was feeling depressed in myself, and dreading the day ahead. As I walked from the station through the grim backstreets, and past derelict, half-demolished buildings, my physical surroundings seemed to be echoing back my own mood to me. Then all at once, as I walked along, head down, hoping not to be mugged as I went, I noticed a glorious clump of clover blooming triumphantly among the rubble, and a huge bumble bee, gathering nectar from it in this, most unpromising place it was possible to imagine.



That was my 'just one thing' to thank God for that day, and I have never forgotten that somehow, somewhere, there is always a clump of clover among the rubble of our lives, if we open our eyes to see as God sees."

I hope that through this Lenten season, and throughout our lives, we may have many bumblebee encounters, demonstrating God's presence in our most ordinary moments.

Pastor Libby

About People

Welcome to Lindsey from Canada who is now worshiping with us at St. Luke's

Best wishes to Ron and Oluva Davies as they move into their new home to be closer to Katrina and Colin - we hope they will be very happy and enjoy having family so close by.

Wonderful to report that young Oskar Jagucki is doing well and becoming very lively. Great news!

We send best wishes and blessings to Winna Shango and Elizabeth Shekalaghe, both pharmacists from Dar es Salaam who are to be married at St. Luke's on February 28th at 1.00pm. Elizabeth is currently studying at Bradford University.

It was good to see Pastor Tad Bogucki and his wife, Helene, at our parish dinner on January 31st when they came to Leeds to visit Walter and Jenny. They also joined us for worship on Sunday morning.

Confirmation

On Easter Sunday, April 12th, we will be welcoming three new members to St. Luke's. Graham Misson, and Tsitsi and Kari Dube are being confirmed during the Easter Service. Please pray for them as they prepare for this very special and joyful step in their journeys of faith, and come and welcome them to our family.

RIP

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of three of our most faithful friends.

On Monday January 19th Bishop Walter and Pastor Libby conducted the funeral of Jan Skotnicki at Scholemore Crematorium. Jan was well known to all those who attended Hothorpe Hall in their youth as Jan was the cook there for thirty years from 1955 - 1985. Jan was 83 when he died just before Christmas at St. Matthew's Church House. There will be a Memorial Service for Jan at St. Matthew's on Sunday May 10th at 1.00pm, followed by a reception. Everyone is welcome to join us.

On January 28th Bishop Walter conducted the funeral service of Mary Wassman, St. Luke's oldest parishioner at 91. Mary came to England from the USA and lived in Bingley from the early 1980's. She was a faithful member of St. Luke's, and we send condolences to Marianne, and Andrew and Elizabeth for their loss.

The funeral of Gustav Baum was conducted at Rotheram Crematorium by Bishop Walter. Gustav moved to Yorkshire from Wolverhampton a few years ago to be near his daughter, Anna Mitchell and her family. Gustav was a well known member of the Polish congregation in Birmingham, and will be sadly missed. Pastor Bogucki will be performing a memorial service at a later date.

News

Jack Parkes joined Bishop Walter at the Ministerium in London on February 19th, where the main topics of discussion were the future programme for clergy and lay ministers, and the relationship between the LCiGB and the Church of England.

They also hosted a Churches Together in Headingley fraternal lunch at Alma Road on February 18th. Four students of theology from Leeds University also attended and interviewed those present for a project about churches in Headingley.

Bishop Walter will be joining other church leaders from WYEC at Oxford Place Methodist Mission in Leeds on Ash Wednesday to issue a statement on the current economic situation

Church Council

The Church Council met on February 8th and the main topics of discussion were the changes in the status of Bishop Walter, which will enable him to be much more available to St. Luke's in a pastoral role than has been possible during his service as Bishop.

It was also decided that Christine would remain as secretary to Bishop Walter and to St. Luke's, although her hours will be cut, and she will now work in the office from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm every Thursday.

Church House

A new fire alarm system has been fitted throughout the whole house. One room has been redecorated, and there are currently two rooms vacant.

Parish Dinner

Volunteers are needed to be the chefs at the next two parish dinners on March 28th and on May 30th. Please let Bishop Walter know if you can help.

LCiGB Annual Synod

The Synod will take place at St. Anne's in London on Saturday April 25th.

Annual General Meeting

Please put the date of St. Luke's AGM into your diary right away so that we can ensure a really well attended meeting. The AGM will take place on Sunday April 23rd following a Pot Luck Lunch at 12.00 pm.

Consecration of Bishop Jana



"We are diverse in our cultural origins, diverse in our languages and diverse in the ways in which we 'do' church," said Bishop Jana, addressing congregation members, including Lutheran leaders from different parts of the world, during her consecration in St Anne's Lutheran Church, London. "That shows that the people there are united much more deeply by their shared faith, by a shared delight in the grace of God and by a desire to witness to the gospel in this land," she added.

Bishop Walter presided at the consecration, assisted by Archbishop Elmars E. Rozitis of the Germany-based Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad, and Bishop Jon Baldvinsson of Holar, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland.

In her sermon based on Job 19: 23-27, Bishop Antje Jackelen from the Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden, spoke about the prophet Job as both a hero of faith and a questioner of faith. "You may argue with God, you may question God, you may call upon God in the face of evil and suffering," as Job had done, she said.

Job, she noted, is "a hero of faith, precisely because he is a questioner of faith and a questioner in faith [...] in the long row of questioners in the Scriptures, who all in their own ways received the blessing and the peace of the living God," Jackelen explained. "Now, there's a promise to walk with - as bishops, and pastors and lay ministers, and as women and men and children of faith," she concluded.

Greeting the congregation, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko commended the LCiGB for electing a woman bishop to lead the church. He expressed his hope that this would encourage other churches who have not introduced the practice of ordaining women. "And I hope that this will also be regarded as a sign that ordination is for all the baptized, who are called through the church."

He also reminded the ecumenical guests at the consecration service that "for Lutherans, ecumenism is not an option, but an obligation which is frequently stated in the saying: 'To be Lutheran is to be ecumenical.'"



Other Lutheran leaders participating in the consecration service included Bishop Matti Repo of Tampere, Finland; Presiding Bishop Alex Malasusa,

Tanzania; and Rev. Ilona Fritz, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

09: Annette Higgins
15: Andrea Mitchell
17: Pastor Mark
24: Mark Mitchell
Britt Ryan

02: Jan Fender
Daniel jagucki
18: Irene Bailey
29: James Stansfield
31: Harry-Lind Stansfield

Birthdays

Birthday greetings to all those who have birthdays in the coming weeks.

March

01: Alec Toomsalu
Mosey

May

01: Emma Hunter-

Bishop Walter's Diary

March

07: Association of Polish Congregations:
High Wycombe

April

01 - 03: Northern Church Leaders
Conference: Hinsley Hall
17 - 22: Stuttgart for wedding

May

09: Outreach in the Church Study Day
21: Poland for the 300th anniversary of
the Lutheran Church in Cieszyn

John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2009
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19)
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2009
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16
(11)
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2009
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1 - 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39
[40-47]

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2009
Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

April 10, 2009
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22 (1)
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;
5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day

April 12, 2009
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Second Sunday of Easter

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2009
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10 (10)
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2009
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31 (27)
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2009
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19 (8)
I Corinthians 1:18-25

April 19, 2009
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133 (1)
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter
Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2009
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23 (1)
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2009
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31 (27)
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2009
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98 (4)
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2009
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1 (6)
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2009
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

April 26, 2009
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4 (3)
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Ten Little Christians

Ten little Christians went to church when fine,
One day it rained non-stop, and then there were nine.
Nine little Christina stayed up very late,
One overslept himself and then there were eight.
Eight little Christians on the road to heaven,
One joined a rambling club and then there were seven.
Seven little Christians heard of Sunday flicks,
One thought she'd like to go and then there were six.
Six little Christians kept the church alive,
One moved to another town and then there were five.
Five little Christians seemed loyal to the core,
Then the pastor upset one and then there were four.
Four little Christians just could not agree,
One upped and left the church and then there were three.
Three little Christians sang the service through.
Got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.
Two little Christians fell out about what each should run -
You can guess what happened next - then there was one!
One faithful Christian knowing what to do
Got a friend to come to church, and then there were two.
Two sincere Christians each brought in one more,
So their numbers doubled and then there were four.
Four sturdy Christians simply couldn't wait
Until they found another four, and then there were eight.
Eight eager Christians searching round for souls,
Praying, working, witnessing, drew them in by shoals.
Crowding every service, cramming every pew,
O God, supply this grace and zeal in our community too!

