



299 Berkeley St. • Boston, MA • 02116 • 617.536.8851 • www.flc-boston.org
EASTER APRIL 2008

From the Pastor Rev. Ingo Dutzmann

“He is not here” (Matthew 28:6a)

“Alleluia, Christ is Risen: Indeed He is Risen”

When the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven in the great earthquake on Easter morning, he didn't just roll away the stone from the entrance of Jesus' grave. He told the women who had come to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial that “He is risen, as He said.” Then he even offered to show the women the place where His body had been: the very spot where they had laid Him late Friday afternoon after His crucifixion.

Religions don't get started by a lie about a dead guy rising. But one religion did get started by the truth about a guy who actually did rise from the dead and showed Himself to hundreds of people before ascending bodily into Heaven. This was and is the Risen Jesus whom we worship and in whose name we are called to be the ‘family of God.’

What are your burdens in life? Are you suffering from emotional, financial, physical or spiritual fatigue? Jesus says we may lay all our burdens on Him. And, He is the only one who backs up His claim with resurrection. Thus we may have every confidence that just as He is Risen from the dead, we too shall rise from all our real and imagined maladies. “If you believe in Me” He says “you shall have life and have it to the full.”

May the ‘fullness’ of life which is ours in Christ, bless us to be a blessing to each other

at FLC, and to the many who do not yet have the hope we have that “nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ.”

Blessed Easter!

Pastor Dutzmann

PS Thanks to all those who made our Easter Celebration at FLC so special this year...you are a precious “Joy in Jesus!”

From the President By Brian Harms

Blessed Easter season to you! I don't know about you, but I am still hearing the music from our Easter Sunday services in my head. The connection between music and Gospel was inspiring and memorable! Did you know that the choir consists entirely of volunteers? This is an unusual thing in congregations with strong music and liturgy, so please take a moment to thank the choir members for their service! It speaks to the importance we Lutherans place on actively participating in worship and proclaiming the Gospel through music.

In my article this month, I'd like to focus attention on our congregation's current efforts to proactively plan for our future. It's easy for congregations to spend too much time and talent merely keeping the door open rather than valuing making a true mark on society and community. By giving attention and prayer to vision, strategy, and planning, it is

my hope that our congregation will purposefully embrace making a vivid impact in greater Boston.

In particular, there are three efforts currently underway which will help us develop a God-pleasing vision and plan for our ministry opportunities. The first is a Long-Range Planning Committee, which is designed to cast an overarching vision for our congregation's goals over the next 5-15 years. The second is the Brazilian Missionary Call Committee, which is seeking to locate a successor for Pr. Riss who will have the lead role in executing the new Brazilian Mission ministry plan. The third is a Student Ministry Task Force, which is working to define the opportunities for FLC in student ministry to greater Boston.

Now let's be clear, we're not making the vision ourselves. That perspective can lead to a dangerous misplacement of priorities from what God wants to what we want. Rather, through these planning processes, we trust that God will reveal his vision for our congregation's purpose in a powerful way. Please join me in praying that we will be receptive to entering into that mission and vision!

If any of these areas are ones which engage your passion and imagination, I would welcome the opportunity to include you in our planning process. I can be reached for this, or any other topics, at brianharms@hotmail.com.

Music Ministry

By Bálint Karosi, Minister of Music

Easter Services

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Easter celebration. I was extremely pleased with the hard work and dedication of our choir and the additional musicians: assisting organists David Hakes and Andreas Liu; violinist Christine Mrakotsky-Ladendorf; and Shannon Canavin and Eric Rice from our Ensemble-in-Residence, Exsultemus. Without

their efforts we would not have had any of the Easter music to glorify the resurrection of our Lord.

The FLC choir did an excellent job performing not only the challenging opening chorus of Bach Cantata BWV 31, but also my new compositions—which they learned only in two weeks. FLC is blessed to have these musical and talented people...all of them volunteers. Few professional choirs could have performed these new compositions with such a high level of precision after such a short rehearsal period. Our orchestral musicians also excelled, and we were blessed with their time and talent.

Video recordings of the cantata chorus and the Kyrie, Gloria and Benediction have been posted on www.youtube.com under my username: vizipok01. Enjoy watching!

Bell ringers needed!

I am recruiting handbell ringers for our next big musical worship event: Pentecost on Sunday, May 11. The plan is to have between six and eight handbell ringers to accompany the choir in modern pieces, as well as accompany the congregation in special hymn arrangements.

There is no age limit, everyone is welcome—especially non-choir members, provided they understand and read music. Rehearsals are tentatively planned for the three Thursdays before Pentecost starting at 7 p.m.

Everyone and anyone who would like to join the FLC musical program, as either an instrumentalist or choir member, should not hesitate to contact me. I am very flexible and willing to incorporate the talents of our congregation in our future musical plans. The FLC choir has a regular membership ranging between 10-15 people, but we could still use more singers, particularly tenors and basses. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Please talk to me any time after the Sunday services, or e-mail me at music@flc-boston.org.

Future plans

I am very excited about the future musical possibilities for the First Lutheran Church of Boston. Our concert series will continue next year, with even more variety, including a hymn festival and concerts for children. Our Ensemble-in-Residence—the early-music group Exsultemus Renaissance Choir—plans to collaborate with the FLC choir and me in a Baroque cantata series, consisting of Bach cantata performances on Sunday afternoons. Combining that would expand our music outreach program to a much broader spectrum, provided Exsultemus draw of audience.

The concert committee headed by David Hakes has done a great job maintaining the financial sustainability of the concert series. This is in part thanks to all of you....congregational support and attendance at the concerts has been much higher this year than in the past. I was very pleased with the attendance at our past two concerts: Benjamin Alard's outstanding harpsichord and organ recital in late February; and Sarah Bellott's soprano recital on March 14. Recordings of both of these concerts are available; please contact me if interested.

Our next concert is Sunday, April 13, when The Oriana Consort choir and orchestra performs one of the great Bach Cantatas (BWV 150), as well as other Baroque motets and choral music of the 20th century inspired by the Baroque era. Discount tickets are available by calling ahead of time to 617-547-1798 or www.orianaconsort.org.

The Oriana Consort
"Baroque Legacies"

Innovations in choral music of the Baroque era – and
their echoes in choral music of the 20th century

Motets by G.P. da Palestrina, Andrea Gabrieli,
Giovanni Gabrieli, & Claudio Monteverdi

Choral settings by Randall Thomson, Irving Fine,
James MacMillan, & Jean Berger

Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata BWV 150
(Nach dir, Herr, verlangt mich)
with an ensemble of period instruments

Sunday, April 13
5:30 PM

\$15 (general admission), \$10 (students and seniors)
Call 617/547-1798 for advance tickets (20% discount)

The First Lutheran Church of Boston
299 Berkeley Street
617 536 8851 • www.flc-boston.org • flc@flc-boston.org

Easter 2008 Thank You

Elaine Laaser, Parish Administrator

It is truly a blessing and an honor to worship with the wonderful, loving, and giving people of The First Lutheran Church of Boston. Going into my fourth year as administrator at FLC, I am constantly amazed by the growth and love that surrounds me.

A special THANK YOU to the Troy and Lori Prehar family. This is the first year I had the pleasure of attending the Easter Egg Hunt they have hosted the past three years. I found 52 children having the times of their lives. Considering Troy and Lori have three sons under age five and recently moved into a new home in Duxbury, what they manage to accomplish (to have the smiles on the faces of those children) was amazing. It was also wonderful to see the many Brazilian children who attended this year.

A special THANK YOU to our choir and our minister of music, Balint Karosi. They put in some long hours of practice and it truly showed on Sunday morning. There are those of us who say "oh no, paid musicians," and I will admit I was one of them. However the impact of the music was such that I knew my Lord and Savior had risen.

A special THANK YOU to our Student Young Adult Fellowship. Not only did a majority of them participate in the choir, they also took the time to feed us all a wonderful brunch between services on Sunday.

I truly know that it was divine intervention that brought me to FLC. I thank the good Lord everyday for the many lives that have touched mine.

God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through.

~Author Unknown

Elaine Laaser

Altar Guild Service Opportunity

By Mary Reuning

Altar Guild is one of those areas of service that make you feel good. My experience has been that of feeling more connected to the practices, communion and church service experience. There are several committed members of Altar Guild who serve joyfully and faithfully year after year. There is always room for others to learn and share in this experience. Do not be intimidated. If you have always wondered what those people do in that back room, the Sacristy, let me show you. You do not have to sign up to be a member. I'll just give you a tour and show you what we do. If you do feel a calling to serve regularly, then I invite you to do so with open arms. We do have an actual need for a member or two to set up the 8 AM services at this time. If you feel you can help fill this need, or just want to see what we do, contact me, Mary Reuning, marydaisy@netzero.net (781) 255-2050 or Bethany Tanis at bethanytanis@hotmail.com.

Sunday School Update

By Courtney Koontz, Board of Ed member

As you may know, Don Bartels and I have the challenging pleasure of co-teaching the upper grade Sunday school class this year. The students are an amazing bunch with great questions! They definitely keep us on our toes with their beautiful thirst for knowledge of their Savior. Their willingness to learn, participate, and incorporate what they are learning in confirmation (good job, Pastor!) is refreshing, humbling, and inspiring. They have great ideas on ways to alter and add creativity to in-class activities and Don and I enjoy watching their creative juices flow. For example, the class periodically likes to animate the lessons through mini dramas. Their recent enactments include Martin Luther teaching his family a catechism lesson on baptism; a live interview of John the Baptist, Jesus, and a crowd member at the Jordan River (thank you Bethany Tanis, Jeff Schmidt, and Jay Cinq-Mars for volunteering to play

roles); and, most recently, the passion of Christ. Additionally, these students love to engage their musicality through hymn singing and playing via hand bells as directed by Christopher Brown. Currently, the students are beginning work on a baptismal-themed poster to hang beside the awesome poster they made last year (feel free to stop in and see it!).

Parents, thank you for the opportunity to teach and learn from your children in Sunday School! It is a cherished blessing to "grow in Christ together."

Campus Ministry

By Brian Harms

Join the FLC Campus/Student Ministry Task Force!

In 2008, FLC is focusing substantial energy towards expanding its student/campus ministry as part of the church's Education Mission Focus Area. With all the former and current students in the congregation, in my opinion this ministry goes to the core of what God calls FLC to be!

I would like to recruit any of you who are interested to participate in a task force charged with defining what FLC wants its student/campus ministry to look like in the future, and what steps we'd need to take to get there. This strategic planning process will unfold over the next several months, and will involve some brainstorming, some discussion, some legwork, and lots of prayer!

If the opportunity to get involved in this way with campus/student ministry at FLC is exciting to you, please let me know at bharms@gmail.com or 617-553-8355. If you're worried that you're too busy for "full-time" involvement, that's OK--I'd love to work with you with whatever time you can give!

continued

Upcoming congregational forum on FLC campus ministry

Do you have a heart for building a confessional Lutheran campus ministry at local universities and colleges? Are you interested in hearing more about how First Lutheran's Education Mission Focus Area relates to student ministry? Please join us for a special congregation forum and information session after late service on May 4. Pastor Greg Fairow of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Association will be visiting FLC to help us explore strategic options and synodical resources for campus ministry, and help us develop action items for developing a ministry vision and plan. For additional perspective on the upcoming forum, please see the below article by Pr. Fairow on the "changing face of LCMS campus ministry."

The changing face of LCMS campus ministry

By Rev. Greg Fairow

(The following is excerpted from the Nov. 2007 newsletter of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Association.)

The face of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) campus ministry is changing. Full-time campus ministries that serve large universities still exist, of course. So do part-time campus ministries that serve one or more campuses while also serving local communities. Many of these ministries will continue to thrive. But even they are starting to look and act differently. As a result of LCMS World Mission's Ablaze! movement to share the Gospel with 100-million unreached and uncommitted persons by 2017, several LCMS campus ministries are becoming more missional – that is, while still serving Lutherans and other Christians, they are more intentional about sharing Christ's love with persons on and near campus who do not yet have saving faith in Jesus, do not have a church home, etc.

Many LCMS campus ministries are also becoming more self-supporting – that is, they

are raising more of their own financial support and depending less on their respective districts for it. This is, in part, because many districts' revenue has not grown for several years and, as such, they are not able to provide as much financial assistance.

The positive side of this reality is that these campus ministries are now building stronger partnerships with their ministry alumni, local congregations, parents and grandparents of current student participants, etc., and these partnerships will help strengthen these ministries and lead more Christians to share the Good News with more unreached and uncommitted persons.

I am called full-time by LCMS World Mission, in partnership with the Lutheran Campus Mission Association, to help LCMS congregations near colleges and universities start intentional campus mission ministries, transform dormant ministries, and expand plateaued ones. I have helped ministries from Florida to California to Canada and many places in between. A few of the ministries I help are ready to get started and simply need a bit of "how to" guidance. Others don't know whether to try to start an intentional campus ministry, let alone how to do so. Many are somewhere in between. In addition to informational and instructional meetings at congregations, I'm also available to speak about campus missions at conferences, conventions, workshops, retreats, etc.

Board of Trustees

By Chris Muskopf

WORK DAY THANKS

Our pre-Easter work day continued the impressive streak of fellowship coupled with major productivity in caring for and cleaning up our church. A great group of volunteers tackled diverse tasks such as repainting the nursery, repairing hymnals, polishing the liturgical furnishings and communion ware, raking fallen organic matter, organizing the teller room, trimming ivy and plants and trucking trash off site. If you see any of the

following people, please thank them for being stewards of the gifts our congregation has been given in our physical facilities.

Becky Musser, Anne Muskopf, Monika Corneille, Christilyn Graff, Brandi Holcomb, Eric Groft, Catherine Feddersen, Miriam Schmidt, Jeff Schmidt, Bethany Tanis, Karin Denison, Linda Schroeder, Laura McKellar, Betty Pohl, David Harney, Mary Reuning, Vincent James, Ron Eisner, Troy Prehar and Pastor Dutzmann.

LIGHTING UPDATE

The courtyard lighting upgrades are largely complete thanks to the efforts of our electrician Barry Kutz and his company. New downlights at the trellis and sconces at the sanctuary wall provide more fitting egress lighting, better security as well as the illumination needed for nighttime courtyard usage. The sanctuary lighting also received an upgrade, increasing the brightness levels through inexpensive, slight modifications of the main fixtures.

Students & Young Adults

By Karin Denison

March was a month in which most of SYA's energy was focused toward helping First Lutheran Church observe Lent and prepare for Easter. A large number of folks participated in the church work day on March 8--cleaning, painting, polishing silver, repairing--in an effort led by our own Audrey Plinta and Eric Hiller. The group is also well-represented in the FLC choir, which spent many hours on Wednesday nights and Holy Saturday practicing the music that made up the bulk of the Easter Worship services. Thank you to all!

Finally, the primary event on the SYA calendar for the year is the annual Easter brunch, this year coordinated by Michael Culbertson. I'd like to heartily thank those who, again, gave of time and talents towards yet another successful breakfast:

Food and stuff bringers:

Michael Culbertson (general coordinator and bringer of sausage and bacon); Brian Harms (21 lbs of ham!); Christilynn Graff (table decor); Karen & Jason Heindl (Peets Coffee and coffee cake); Brandi Holcomb (egg bake and oj); Eric Groft (fruit, milk); Cindy Jong (oj and paper goods); Anne and Chris Muskopf (breakfast enchiladas); Karin Denison, Linda Schroeder, Miriam Schmidt and Audrey Plinta - assorted breakfast hotdishes (french toast, egg bake); Laura Stoffel (brunch dish and an amazingly large quantity of cinnamon rolls); Bethany Tanis (fruit)

Workers:

Saturday set-up: Cindy Jong, Audrey Plinta, Miriam Schmidt; Sunday morning-cooks: Karen Heindl (official fryer of bacon), Audrey Plinta, Jeff Schmidt, Laura Stoffel; Dishwashers: Eric Groft, Brandi Holcomb; Tear-down and final cleanup: Michael Culbertson, Karin Denison, Jason Heindl, David Littke

April gears up with yet another screening of Kryztof Kieslowski's *The Decalogue*, this coming Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at FLC. Meanwhile, the Monday-night study of the books of Samuel concludes this month, meeting on the 7th and 14th, also at FLC. Watch this space and the bulletin for details on future studies.

Our next major outing will be community-based. On Saturday, April 26 (Earth Day) we will help pick up trash for our fifth annual Charles River Clean-up. Audrey Plinta is coordinating; more details forthcoming.

ALSO40ish

By Mary Reuning

If you are nearing 40 or over 60, not fitting in with the students anymore, and interested in sharing Christian fellowship with the more mature set, consider joining in a social event from time to time with ALSO40ish. Contact Mary Reuning, marydaisy@netzero.net, (781) 255-2050 to get on the e-vite list. We schedule an event monthly and enjoy sharing

time and life experiences with other single/divorced/widowed Christian adults.

Examples of recent events are the March dinner and ALPS movie at the Science Museum, April trip to the MFA for the El Greco to Velazquez exhibit, and May dinner and Bible Study. We'd love to have your company.

LWML

By Mary Reuning

International Culinary Extravaganza (I.C.E.)

Food from many countries will be the centerpiece for our third I.C.E. event, 4/27 after the 11am service. Enjoy the flavors of the world, fellowship, and an update by Amber Pettit regarding the situation in Kenya and NED mission efforts there. Contact Mary Reuning to let me know what delicious dish you can contribute to the buffet from your cultural kitchen. Also, let me know if you have any music you can bring that represents your country of origin. If you want to help in the planning of this event, sponsored by Lutheran Women in Mission, contact marydaisy@netzero.net (781) 255-2050

LWML Spring Rally – Dedham

We hosted the Zone Rally in October at FLC and had nearly 50 participants from local LCMS churches. Lets support St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Dedham as they host the Spring Rally on Sunday, April 13th from 2pm-4:30pm. (1pm registration)

I can give rides from FLC right after church and return people to the T or to the FLC parking lot after the event.

The guest speaker will be Janet Guenther of the LSM Central Food Ministry. There is a \$10.00 registration fee that includes lunch. There is a voluntary ingathering to benefit the food bank of a jewelry item, baby food, diapers, or cash. See Mary Reuning for a registration form and questions. E-mail:

marydaisy@netzero.net or phone (781) 255-2050

LWML –NED Convention, May 2 & 3, 2008

Reverend Dr. Paul L. Meyer will be the keynote speaker at the New England District-Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention that will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Enfield, CT. NED President, Rev. James Keurulainen will be the Bible Study Leader and Friday evening devotion "Rock Solid" will be lead by members of 1ST Lutheran in Holyoke, MA.

Program information, hotel and registration form can be found in the Beacon publication in the rack at the top of the rear basement stairway. Contact Mary Reuning for more information, transportation, and roommate requests. marydaisy@netzero.net (781) 255-2050. Church Administrator, Elaine Laaser and I have attended this convention for the past few years and find it so inspiring. Do consider joining us this year. Deadlines apply for special rates so do act quickly to reserve a spot for this year.

