



Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

March 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Fellowship

9:05 am Sunday School

&

Bible Study

10:15 am Worship

Church Phone:

979.885.2211

Fax 979.885.7003

Web site

www.tlcsealy.org

Rev. David Vandercook
Maggie Kent, Office Secretary

ELDERS:

Lowell Coody, 865-9638

John Fullen, 210-912-8503

Vic Grisbee, 865-5393

Lee Hobratchk, 885-6090

Jimmie Meyer, 713-503-1780

Jim Pursley, 885-6438

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Carl Sebesta, 865-0366

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TRINITY TIDBITS

A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy, Texas



Lent? What's that?

Well, quite literally, the word "lent" was originally a Teutonic (the Teutons were an early Germanic tribe, before there was even an area referred to as Germany.) word that meant nothing more than the spring season. Lent has been used for centuries by Christians to describe the 40-day period of time that leads up to the Resurrection of Our Lord. But why do we recognize these 40 days and how do we do it?

We use the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, as an opportunity to again especially consider the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As part of this pondering and consideration, we realize that it was our sin that put Jesus on the cross. The suffering that he suffered should be our suffering. The death he died should be our death. It's a sobering reality, no doubt.

That's why, although we talk about sin an awful lot throughout the year, we really emphasize it during Lent. Lent is a season of repentance that culminates in Christ's death—the payment for those very same sins we've been pondering for the last 40 days.

So how do we commemorate it? Well, as a group, we do it solemnly. When we consider that Christ suffered and died in our place, there is nothing else we can do. So our praises are muted. We abstain from saying or singing "Alleluia" which means "Praise Ye the Lord." The frequency of our worship increases as we have services each Wednesday to further ponder Christ's suffering and death.

As individuals, we use it as a period of time to re-focus ourselves on Christ and the cross. This may mean that we try to create or re-create good spiritual disciplines like prayer, devotion, or study of God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism. It may mean that we make weekly attendance at the Divine Service more of a priority in our lives. It may mean that we examine our giving practices and determine if are indeed giving cheerfully as a response to the gifts God has given us. It may mean that we fast.

OK, that one might have caught you off-guard. Fasting is something we just don't talk about much, but it historically has been one of the identifiable marks of Lent. Luther mentioned it in the section in the Small Catechism on the Sacrament of the Altar. In response to the question "Who receives this sacrament worthily?" Luther writes that "Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training." Jesus gave his disciples instructions not for *if* they fast, but for *when* they fast.

At times in the history of the Christian Church, it has been abused. Prior to the Reformation (and, to a lesser extent, even after the Reformation in some church bodies), fasting was a requirement. Fasting ought never to be a law that must be observed by all. Fasting also at times has been erroneously viewed as some sort of payment for sins as if Christ, repayment weren't sufficient. We are people of the Gospel who have been freed completely by Christ. We must never see such a thing as a requirement or a repayment for sins.

Rather, if you choose to fast, use it as a tool. It is a tool, just like any discipline used during Lent, to help you ponder anew Christ's sacrifice. When you fast, you are kind of telling your stomach that it doesn't rule your life. If you fast, hunger pains may call to mind the suffering that Christ endured (even though it was obviously much greater). If you fast the time you once used for eating might now be replaced with prayer and devotion.

May God richly bless you and your family during this Lenten season no matter how you choose to observe it!

In Christ, Pastor Vandercook

Birthdays for the Month!

	HAPPY BIRTHDAY		HAPPY BIRTHDAY
3/01 Cole Waldrop	3/14 Suzanne Bozeman	3/26 Anne Biss	
3/02 Deanna Cash	3/16 ELEANOR ANDERSON	3/26 Brandon Blume	
3/02 Joyce Meyer	3/16 Sylvia Forester	3/26 Vic Grisbee	
3/02 Bethany Roberts	3/16 Jason Janszen	3/26 Loyce Orsak	
3/03 Mary Buechmann	3/16 Tony Luttrall	3/26 Carl Sebesta	
3/03 Andy Adams	3/16 Cheryl Diez	3/27 Johnny Griffin	
3/03 JACIE KANIER	3/19 Kathy Burgess	3/27 Faye Hintz	
3/04 JOLIE KAINER	3/19 Alice Burttschell	3/27 Jason Larsen	
3/04 John Burttschell	3/19 Mandy Cano	3/28 Charles Havemann	
3/07 Terry Kieke	3/19 DAVID VANDERCOOK JR.	3/29 Jessica Pacher	
3/9 Gabriella Munoz	3/19 Brittany Kulhanek	3/29 Amanda Fait	
3/09 Annie Ashorn	3/20 Wick Beane	3/29 Clara Gerstenberger	
3/10 Jakob Diez	3/21 Mary Beth Krampitz	3/29 Joan Griffin	
3/11 Rhonda Browne	3/21 WYATT RATH	3/30 CASE KULHANEK	
3/12 Stephen Boyd II	3/23 Katie Sebesta	3/30 Phoebe Browne	
3/13 Bernice Hintz	3/24 Felicia Munoz	3/30 John Fullen	
3/13 Shannon Larsen	3/24 Marie Herridge	3/31 Phyllis Sams	
3/14 Loyce Pacher	3/25 Vivian Kveton	3/31 Savannah Munoz	

Happy Anniversary

Let's rejoice with these couples as they celebrate the designated anniversaries.

03/15/1986 Brad & Anne Biss	03/20/1981 Mark & Lisa Janszen
03/18/1999 Joel and Kathleen Grigar	03/25/2000 Brian & Renee Laake
03/18/1995 James & Lynette Lee Jr.	03/28/2009 Amanda and Brannon Matus

Please keep in your Prayers our Nursing Home Residents

Kirby Amthor Ellie Michaels Eddie Svinky
Maydell Reichardt Lillie Wittenburg
Estella Heintschel

Shut Ins Oridell Ekarius J. P. Gerhart

Edd and Clara Gerstenberger Joe and Bernice Hintz
Sharon Salyer Lavonn Schier Joyce Meyer

 *Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to
Trinity Lutheran Church in recognition of valuable
contributions to Ronald McDonald House in Houston
Thanks you so much for your recent donation of Pop
Tabs!*

*Your project goes a long way in helping the special
children and families who call Houston's Ronald
McDonald House home.*

*We appreciate your commitment and generosity and
hope that you will continue to collect items for the
House.*

*Houston's Ronald McDonald House offers a home
away from home providing care, compassion and hope
to families with seriously ill children being treated in
Texas Medical Center member institutions.*



Sincerely,

Pop Tab Coordinator, Wendy L. Pekar



Dear Members at Trinity,
Thank you so much for the generous donation given for
our work here in China.

We have finished our first semester teaching and are enjoying a few weeks off before we begin the second semester. Christmas in China was very unusual for us. We had the only Christmas tree on campus and we had no time off from teaching. Now we are enjoying the break for Chinese New Year. The campus is deserted as all of the students go home for Chinese New Year. Fireworks have been going off every night since January 23 to scare away the evil spirits.

We continue to have weekly worship and Book study with the fellow English teacher and one national and continue to speak to the students and other teachers about our faith when asked, which is quite frequently. It is strange to live in a place where the government wants no beliefs and promotions are denied if there is any religious affiliation.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Sincerely,

James and Ardith Vandercook



THANKS TO Mary Buechmann, Grace Holtkamp, Ursula Kutra, Jodine Meyer and Beatrice Delafuente for baking desserts for the child care conference. Everyone enjoyed! You are greatly appreciated!
In Christ, Ms. Maggie



Pantry News

In January we provided food for 174 families, which amounted to 661 individuals. Looking back and comparing to January 2011, we provided food for 159 families, which amounted to 501 individuals. What a difference a year can make. While we are dealing with figures and comparisons, in 2011 we furnished food to 9,356 individuals compared to 8,148 in 2010. With the summer lunch program for the school children, we distributed food for 903 youngsters compared to 626 in 2010. Keep in mind that most of these people are able to get food every other week. We will always be in need of paper grocery bags, if you would please save them for us.

Usually, the first of the year is slow for us. This year has not been the usual norm. Everyone who gets food from the pantry gets interviewed each time. Once the file is set up, it gets to be a lot easier process of just updating the current paperwork. At the first of every year, we start over from the beginning and everyone starts as a new client and has to bring in necessary papers as proof of their needy situation.

More details next month on the February 21st annual Pancake/Sing-a-Long fundraiser. What a wonderful way to enjoy the evening. From the depth of our hearts, we thank everyone for their care, kindness, and generosity. God's Blessings.

Vernon Ekarius, Coordinator



Ladies Aid News

Members of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society were welcomed by Ruth Paben, Thursday, February 2nd in the Fellowship Hall

Hostesses were Ruby Emshoff and Betty Richter.

Betty Herridge gave an interesting topic "God's Valentine is His Valentine."

Ursula Kutra and Betty Herridge are hostesses on March 1st.

A floral arrangement will be placed on the altar April 15th for the Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society.

Six quilts were made.

The confirmation class members will be given gifts.

First communion class will be given book marks on March 4th.

Refreshments furnished by members were served and enjoyed. Guest are invited to attend on March 1st.

Nettie Swearingen



Senior Day!



Trinity's Senior Day was held on February 1st with thirty-six attending the luncheon. Our day began with Pastor sharing a devotion and saying grace before eating. Everyone had a great time after lunch playing Bingo. Thank you to Pastor and Bobby Barrett for being the Bingo callers. Also, a special thank you to Ethel Donnelly for donating the automatic Bingo Ball cage for the Bingo callers. What a great help to the callers.

Mark your calendar for the next luncheon that will be held on March 7th at 12:15 in the fellowship hall. We will be trying something a little different this time. We have many seniors that enjoy Bingo and many that are domino players, so we will be playing both in March. Domino and Chicken Foot players will need to bring their dominos. Please remember this is a time for our seniors to come and enjoy the fellowship. You are not obligated to bring food and playing games is optional. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to this senior event. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Any questions call Bev Ekarius at 885-2014, Phyllis Sams at 979-732-9477 or Patsy Tomasek at 877-0848.

Bev Ekarius



WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

It could be the sound of children putting their coins into the pails for Trinity's **Ministry of the Month for March** called "Basket of Hope." Perhaps you saw the spot by former coach Tony Dungy during the Super Bowl showing NFL players and their wives delivering baskets to seriously ill children. In addition, on the Tuesday after the Super Bowl over 7,000 baskets were delivered by sports celebrities, some of these in the Houston area. To further this ministry of caring, local Lutherans and those across the nation are raising money, along with Thrivent for Lutherans, to continue building and delivering these baskets. These baskets are filled with inspirational materials, toys, hats, games, etc. to nourish sick children mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Look for the "Noisy Offering" pails in the Narthex during March, and especially encourage your children to bring their coins. Of course, paper money and checks made out to Trinity and notated for Basket of Hope are also appreciated.

May God bless our "noise" and the seriously ill children and their parents who will be comforted by these baskets and the assurance that Jesus is with them!



Mothers of Preschoolers Thank you so much for supporting your MOPS group at the Bake Sale in February! The money from our Bake Sales go towards our various fees including our charter fee to MOPS International. We are excited to be a growing group reaching more moms as we grow! This month MOPS will meet on March 8th and 22nd. We will hear from speaker Lou Reeves about teaching Christ in our homes and we will also do a craft. We will have another Bake Sale this month on March 25.

Laura Vandercook



ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES NOW!

Honor a loved one or their memory and provide beautiful adornment for our sanctuary during the Easter services. Each lily is \$12.00 and can be picked up after the 10:15 service Easter morning. Please make checks payable to the Altar Guild. Drop off order & payment at the office or give to Margie Ashorn by April 1st.

"I've long since stopped feeling guilty about taking 'being' time; it's something we all need for our spiritual health, and often we don't take enough of it."

—Madeleine L'Engle



Fall

registration will begin Thursday, March 1, 2012 and end on Friday, March 30, 2012. These are for the families that are enrolled in the program now. This is giving you first chance to enroll your child for the 2012-2013 school year. You may pick up a packet on Thursday March 1st in the preschool office.

After March 31st, the enrollment is open to the waiting list and public. So if you are planning on having your child attend Trinity, please come by the office and pick up a packet and bring it back, along with the registration fee.

Non-refundable registration fee for the 2012-2013 school year is \$80.00. For the early registration, and for the month of March only, and for the ones in the program now, will have a discount from \$80.00 to \$65.00 until March 30th. Beginning April 1st, the registration will be \$80.00.

Along with the registration fee, I must have all enrollment forms completed and turned into the office. So remember that fall registration is beginning Thursday, March 1st and will end on Friday, March 30th, for the price of \$65.00 and this is only to the ones that are in the program NOW! Registration will be first come first basis.



Singing in Church! We all know the wonderful feeling of watching our child/children perform for us. On Sunday, March 25th, please make plans for all the preschoolers to join us for the 10:15 am worship service. The children will be in front of

the church and sing some the wonderful songs that they learned in chapel.

The congregation looks forward each year to listen to the preschool sing praise and be part of the worship service. This is one way we can give back to the church for the support that they give to the preschool.

Please let your child's teacher know whether or not you and your child can attend. This is a great time to invite family and friends to watch the children sing.

Please arrive at 10:00 am and drop off your child in their classrooms. This will give us ample time to practice and be ready for church.

It is very important that you drop off your child and leave IMMEDIATELY because the longer you stay the harder it is on your child. We want your child to be happy and sing beautifully so you will be proud of them. Please mark Sunday, March 25th on your calendar to sing. Your child is little only once so don't let you and your child miss out on this program.

 Preschool Soup Supper! Preschool will have their Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday March 7th, from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. You can come and support the preschool and have a bowl of different variety of soups made by the preschool board and preschool staff.

Along with the soup we also prepare combread and desserts. The soup supper is a love donation of whatever you would like to give to help the preschool. But the best is eating different soups prepared for you and not having to cook dinner.

Please come and bring the entire family and support the preschool and have some delicious soup. And after you have finished your soup, you are invited to stay for the church service that begins promptly at 7:00 pm.

So mark this event on your calendar and be here at 6:00 pm for soup and an invitation to stay for worship. This is another way preschool earns funds to help with different costs that come our way. Please come and support your child's preschool.

 Family of the Week! Family of the week is a program we have that helps children share their family with everyone at preschool and church. Each week a family will be chosen to be Family of the Week.

What this entails is for your child to bring about five to ten pictures of their family to be placed on the preschool bulletin board in the gym. Always check your calendar of events to see if it is your turn to be family of the week. Families of the Week for the month of March are:

March 5th – March 9th

Sarah Siska

Shelby Skaggs

March 12th – March 16th

No family – Spring Break

March 19th – March 23rd

Zachary Sturm

Zoey Sturm

March 25th – March 30th

Jaylen Tesch

Cole Tesch

Please hand your pictures to your child's teacher the Friday before your child is Family of the Week!

 Wear Orange Day! On Wednesday, March 7th the children can wear the color ORANGE to school to reinforce the color for the month.

Themes! The themes for the month of March are: Spring, Garden and Growing. The children will enjoy this month having fun planting something special in the classroom. They will water, nurture and watch the plant grow and realize that God creates everything for us to enjoy.

Children will have a special project to plant seeds in their egg cartons. They will take their little starter garden home and both child and parents can care and transplant their little garden and watch it grow.

The Bible stories for the month of March are:

March 5th – March 9th

Listening

Chapel with Pastor Vandercook

The Woman Who Could Not Stand Up

March 12th – March 16th

Spring Break

March 19th – March 28th

The Lost Sheep

Chapel with Pastor Vandercook

The Lost Coin

March 26th – March 30th

The Lost Son

Chapel with Pastor Vandercook

Jesus in Jerusalem

The Children will continue to learn the rest of the Ten Commandments. The letters for the

month are B, V, W, E and K. The shape and color for the month is CRESENT and ORANGE.

 **Stranger Danger!** The children are ready for Retired Trooper Gary Pflughaupt to come to preschool. He will be here on Wednesday, March 21st at 10:00 am to talk to the children about Stranger Danger.

Mr. Gary will talk to the children about not leaving with someone you do not know, not to take anything from a stranger, especially candy, an animal, money or a ride in a vehicle. Only talk to another person if your mom or dad or the person you are with says it is alright and know how and when to call 911.

 **Spring Pictures!** Kay from Treasured Portraits will come to the preschool to take spring pictures of the children. Please dress your child in spring attire. This will take place on Wednesday, March 28th beginning at 8:30 am.

Please be sure to fill out your order form and return it to the office with your money by Friday, March 23rd. No pictures will be taken without the required form or money.

 **Park and Picnic!** Springtime is near with great spring weather. With the beautiful sunshine we are looking forward to spending the day at the park. The two and three year old classes will go to the park on Friday, March 9th and the four year old classes will spend their day at the park on Friday, March 23rd.

Both classes will go from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. All classes will need to bring a sack lunch along with a drink. The children will decorate a special bag for their lunches as a reminder to the parent not to forget.

A permission form must be signed to attend the park and picnic. We also need at least (6) or more parent volunteers to help chaperone, have close eye supervision and help transport the children across the street to the park and back to the preschool.

Without enough parents to help we will have a day outside on the preschool playground and have lunch outside on the picnic tables.

If bad weather occurs we will have the children play games and have their lunch in the gym.

All parents that are helping with the park and picnic please be here by 9:15 a.m. Remember that each child is precious and must be supervised. Please do not gather and visit with each other and

make sure you are in view of the children at all times.

 **Spring Break!** Preschool will not be in session the week of March 12th – March 16th due to Spring Break.

 **Treasure Box Items Needed!** Parents, preschool is in need of small unopened toys for the classroom treasure box. If you have some and would like to donate them to the preschool the teachers would greatly appreciate it!

If you are shopping and you see very inexpensive small items for the treasure box and would like to purchase these items for the classrooms this would be greatly appreciated also!

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. (Colossians 2:6-7)

In Christ, Ms. Maggie



Trinity Lutheran Church will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, March 11th, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, visit www.giveblood.org and login to Digital Donor. Enter sponsor code 1881 or contact Jimmie Meyer at 979-885-2211.

 **CHURCH COUNCIL** Trinity Lutheran
Church Council Meeting
January 9, 2012

Members present: President George Wied, VP Dale Toellner, Treasurer Linda Blume, Geraldine Barrett (Stewardship), Sue Kristynik (Evangelism), Vernon Ekarius (Trustees), Jimmie Meyer (Elders), Rachael Wolf (Education), Rhonda Pavelka (Youth), Fred Paben (Ushers), Rev. David Vandercook (ex-officio)

Jimmie Meyer opened with a prayer and devotion about finding God's will.

Jimmie moved and Sue seconded that the December council minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Call Committee Update: Job description done. To be brought before congregation

in a meeting on January 22 after the service. Copies of the job description will be available on January 15 for congregation to review ahead of the meeting.

2. Church Sign Discussion: Presentation to be given about sign at the meeting on January 22 (same as DCE job description presentation).
3. Pictorial Directory Discussion: Sue Kristynik, Sherri Santoro, Norma Pavelka, Geraldine Barrett volunteered to coordinate. Dates are set (see my other notes). They will meet with Barbara from Lifetouch on January 26.

Reports

Treasurer (LB)

- ⤴ See attached report. We were roughly \$50,000 under budget for the year.

Stewardship (GB)

- ⤴ Jerry Leiber still very ill. Geraldine reported on his behalf.
- ⤴ Annual statements for 2011 available and will be put in narthex mailboxes.
- ⤴ Geraldine asked if it was OK to just have giving statements produced annually. Everybody thought that was OK.

Evangelism (SK)

- ⤴ Sue had nothing to report.

Trustees (VE)

- ⤴ Vernon had nothing to report.

Elders (JM)

- ⤴ Monthly duty roster has been put together for first half of 2012.
- ⤴ Decision about offerings for Lenten services will be made at February meeting.
- ⤴ Elders will be making sure that someone is in the nursery to work each Sunday as there was an incident where the person scheduled was not there to work.

Education (RW)

- ⤴ Easter Egg Hunt: April
- ⤴ VBS: July

Fellowship (SS)

- ⤴ A simple event in January will be a planned
- ⤴ Mardi Gras event for February 19
- ⤴ Breakfast on March 18 before Sunday School (8am)
- ⤴ Pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday

Youth (RP)

- ⤴ HS going to McKinney Falls later in January
- ⤴ Duties for Youth Groups split between Romano's, Cash's, Rhonda
- ⤴ Baked Potato fundraiser on February 5

Ushers (FP)

- ⤴ Ushers are under control, but need keys.

Pastor

- ⤴ Current Bible Class is on vocation
- ⤴ Wednesday AM Bible Class is on the book *The Calling*
- ⤴ Lenten Series will be "God's Gift of Forgiveness"
- ⤴ Each Lenten and Holy Week service will also have an 11:15am version on the same day
- ⤴ Pastor will be at a Theological Symposium in Ft. Wayne Indiana Jan 17-20

Vice-President (DT)

- ⤴ Dale has been getting all kinds of emails about future from all kinds of directions about a variety of issues.
- ⤴ Telecare is going.
- ⤴ Dale anxious to get going. Plans on having lots of information in the future to discuss.

Vernon moved that we accept reports. Rhonda seconded. Motion carried

New Business

1. Correspondence
 - a. Request from a Lutheran elementary school in Detroit for financial assistance was received
 - b. Sealy Christian Pantry would like to use Fellowship Hall for pancake fundraiser on February 21, 2012. Dale moved that we allow it. Rachael seconded. Motion passed.
 - c. Girl Scouts request use of gym every first and second Thursday evening each month, 6:30-7:30pm. This conflicts

with Thursday night volleyball. They can use a different room. Vernon moved that we allow them to use an available room on the specified nights. Jimmie seconded. Motion passed.

- d. A group offering to collect used cell phones as a fundraiser. Rhonda indicated that the youth might be interested and took charge of the mail.
- 2. Sam's Card – we need to take Katie off. George also indicated that he could be taken off. Sherri and Vernon will be added. Pastor will be removed also. Fred, Sherri, and Vernon will have the only 3 Sam's Club cards.

Pastor will do the next devotion.
 Dale moved that we adjourn. Vernon seconded.
 Motion passed
 Pastor closed with prayer.
 Respectfully submitted by Rev. David Vandercook.

George Wied, President

Spring fever

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.

Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



ATTENTION!

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Bar-b-que Fundraiser
 Brisket, Chicken and all the trimmings!**

**March 18, 2012
 10:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship
 Wallis K C Hall
 703 Columbus Rd.
 Wallis, TX 77485**

\$9.00 per person



SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom 6+1= ___	blossom 2x2= ___	rejoice 4x2= ___
burst 3+3= ___	wilderness 2+1= ___	joy 5+5= ___
crocus 3+2= ___	desert 1x0= ___	parched 0+1= ___
glad 2x1= ___	shout 10-1= ___	

"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers: "The desert and the parched land will be glad, the wilderness will rejoice and shout for joy. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."



Daylight Savings Time Begins
 March 11th