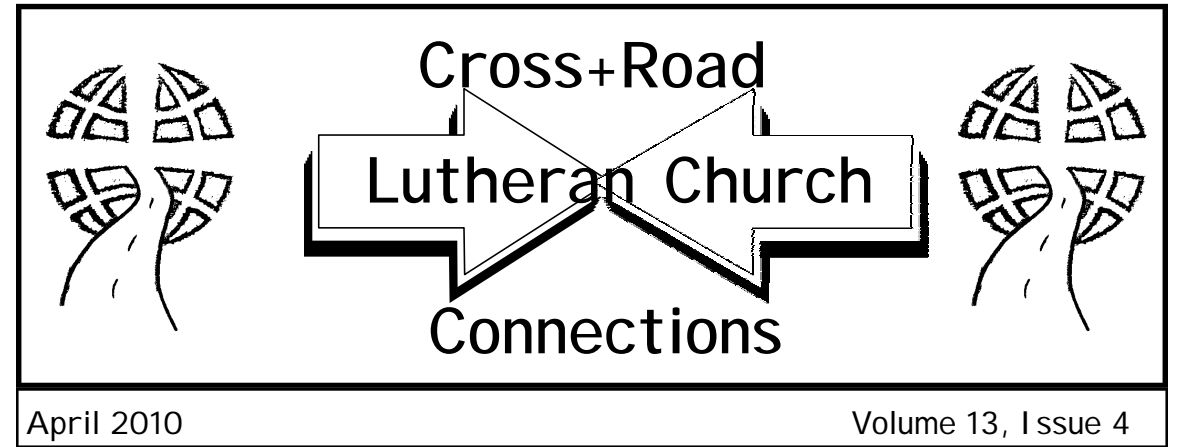


THE NEWSLETTER FROM:  
CROSSROAD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5101 Lakeshore Drive West  
Orange Park, Florida 32003  
Office: (904) 264-6575  
Fax: (904) 264-6576  
www.crossroadlutheran.com  
Rev. James Graeser, Jr.  
Rev. Jon C. Fredrickson  
Pastors

PRSR T STRD  
A Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 776  
Orange Park, FL 32073

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WE ARE LOCATED  
AT THE CORNER OF  
LAKESHORE DRIVE WEST  
AND COUNTY ROAD 220

COUNTY ROAD 220

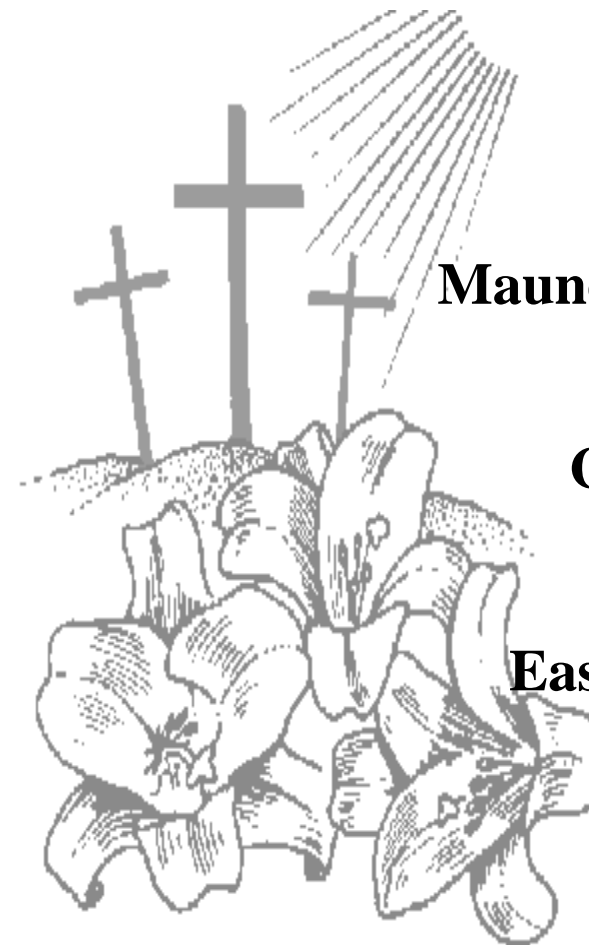
LAKESHORE DRIVE EAST



LAKESHORE DRIVE WEST

Worship Services  
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
with Holy Communion  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

TO GATHER..  
TO EQUIP..  
TO SEND...



**Holy Week Worship**  
**Maundy Thursday Worship**  
**April 1st - 7:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday Tenebrae**  
**April 2nd-7:30 p.m.**

**Easter Morning Worship**  
**8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

## Pastors Corner

"Do you think you could help me?" That's how I remember it starting eleven years ago. That was the question I posed to Debbie, our office administrator, as I began getting buried in Cross+Road's operational life. Initially, it was doing bulletins and newsletters. Then, setting up Powerpoint slides for worship. And from there, it was probably a landslide; truthfully, I don't remember many of the details.

When we moved Cross+Road's office into our newly acquired double-wide on our recently purchased adjacent property, Debbie began her work as Cross+Road's first paid employee. There were many perks to the job—carpet in the double-wide that smelled like the previous owner's pets, spiders that seemed to have evening sleepovers and were just waking up when we came to work, a sandy driveway that was either so dry that a stuck car seemed eminent or so muddy that, well, a stuck car seemed eminent.

Cross+Road kept growing. So did the demands of Debbie's position. And with every new challenge and opportunity, she gracefully absorbed new tasks—even offering to do more as she saw needs arise. I have been so blessed to have Debbie as my brain and my right arm in the office. And Cross+Road has reaped the benefits of her talents and expertise. I firmly believe that we would not be where we are today without Debbie to keep me on task, to talk me off the ledge over and over again, and to serve all of Cross+Road's members with faithful dedication. She has personally helped me, and she has been instrumental to Cross+Road's health and growth.

I am sad that Debbie has decided to retire—actually, I'm panicked—but unfortunately I was not thinking far enough ahead to get the terms "for life" written into her employment contract. So, I ask all of you to celebrate with me her work and ministry among us. And to thank God for faithful servants who say "yes" when the "can you help me" questions come their way.

In all this, I'm wondering how many times you and I have been asked, "Do you think you could help me?" Maybe verbally, but chances are more often non-verbally... The reasons may stack up for why "no" would be our first answer: time, fears of our inabilities, other commitments, risks that push us out of our comfort zones—I'm sure there are plenty. But when those times come that we say "yes," I'd be willing to bet it was just enough to make all the difference to the one who asked.

I believe the "Do you think you could help me?" question is one formed with God's own lips. By it, we are drawn into partnership with Him in doing ministry wherever it is God has placed us. Might I suggest the next time the question comes at you, pause before saying "no" right away. You just never know how God will end up using you to bless so many. —Pastor Jim

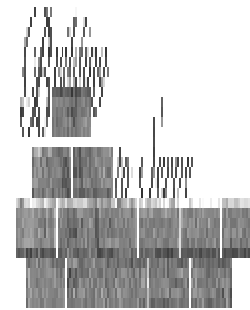
### **GOT GIFTS? God is at work through You!**

Find out which spiritual gifts God has given to you by completing a quick, on-line survey. Stop into the church office any Sunday between services (9:00-10:25 am) to discover how you've been gifted. You'll leave with a graph of your strongest gifts, receive (via email) gift-specific bible passages, descriptions and examples of ministries within the church where you may "be God's hands". You decide how "connected" you feel called to be using your gifts within CrossRoad Church or your community! Contact Sarah Stachowiak 278-8380 for more information.



### **From the Building Committee:**

Well, all eyes are on the steel columns sprouting out of the concrete. This is an exciting time for Cross Road members and I hope the surrounding community as the new education wing starts to take shape. The steel being erected first is for the two classroom ends of the building. The third section of slab and foundation, which is scheduled to be poured on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, will house the entry, restrooms and gathering room. Within a week after the pour we will be seeing the steel erected on that section also. We are thankful to have been blessed with fairly good weather thus far and it appears that we are on track for an early August completion.



### **St. John's Workdays**

**Saturday**

**April 17th & 24th**

**Speak with Art Harnack  
for further information.**



### **CrossRoad Blood Drive**

**Sunday April 11th**

**8 am to Noon**

Please call Mike Stachowiak  
(278-8380) for information and  
appointment or go to  
[www.thebloodalliance.com](http://www.thebloodalliance.com)



Newsletter Articles  
for May are due  
Weds April 21st  
E-Mail to  
crossrd@bellsouth.net  
or call 264-6575.



## STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

February 21  
8:00 am Attendance=102  
10:30 am Attendance=134

February 28  
8:00 am Attendance=124  
10:30 am Attendance=124

March 7  
8:00am Attendance=103  
10:30am Attendance=187

March 14  
8:00am Attendance=83  
10:30 am Attendance=135

March 21  
8:00am Attendance=93  
10:30 am Attendance=134

**Come Worship  
With Us!**

## Financial Report Through March 23 , 2009

Total Income=\$93,457.24  
Total Expense=\$112,758.96

Budget Income=\$94,827.58  
Budget Expense=\$106,419.88

Net Profit/Loss= -19,301.72

Average weekly  
regular giving=\$6,319.00

Capital Campaign  
Total Amt Rec'd=\$289,802.00

Complete detailed financial reports are  
available at the Church Office.



REMEMBER TO BRING  
NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS  
FOR THE GREEN COVE  
SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY  
THERE IS A SHOPPING  
CART LOCATED IN THE  
NARTHEX FOR YOUR  
DONATIONS.  
THANKS FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!



## THE OTHER CORNER...Reflections from Pastor Jon:

*"Of course I prayed—and did God care? He cared as much on the air,  
as a bird had stamped her foot and cried "Give me!"*

--Emily Dickinson

I hope no one is surprised by the fact that I LOVE doing children's sermons. In those moments the Forrest Gump theory of life is most evident: "Life is like a box of chocolates. You just never know what you are going to get." All of the preparation in the world just goes by the way side as a fresh young mind says something unanticipated and pulls the whole conversation in a different direction. I can see why Jesus often told us to look to little ones if we really wanted to understand the Kingdom of God.

Even so, children are good examples of what emotional maturity isn't. Their whole well-being often hinges on the desire of the moment, whether that is an overpriced toy, making the football team, or buying a certain kind of prom dress. "Now" is the only time there is and the desired object or event is the only thing worth thinking about. To a child, disappointment doesn't look or feel like a passing setback; it seems like a permanent devastation.

Are we so different? Don't we sometimes get just as obsessed with certain, converted outcomes? Don't we kick and scream and stamp our feet, internally at least, when certain wishes are frustrated?

People who aren't very old have every right to be immature. It is wrong of us to expect a child to act like an adult or to punish them for being who they are. On the other hand, for us who are older, we often can enjoy the benefits of such maturity only after we have paid the price of getting there.

The question worth pondering in this season of resurrection can easily be: "Am I growing more comfortable with doing the best I can and taking life as it comes?"



New Members  
will be received on Sun. April 25th.  
New Member Orientation  
on Sat April 24th, 9am-1pm.  
Please speak with Pastor Jim  
if you would like to join.

**Movie Night**  
**Friday, April 16th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**“Passion of Christ”**  
**A kids room will be provided.**



If your group is planning on using the conference room, please contact the church office (264-6575) to check availability and to schedule date and time.

**Collection for toiletries are due by April 4th (Easter Sunday).**  
**Bags for this are located on the Welcome Center.**

**If you would like to volunteer for an hour or more to help with the distribution please call Brenda Robinson at 707-2979. The will be distributed at Pinewood Presbyterian church.**



## THANK-YOU FOR DONATING TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND

March 7- Elaine Friedmann in memory of Emil Friedmann

March 14- Pat & Clark McPhail in happy celebration of 5th Wedding Anniversary


March 21- Cross+Road Lutheran Church

March 28- Cross+Road Lutheran Church

2010 Altar Flower Sign-up book is available at the back of worship. There are still Sundays available.

The cost for altar flowers is \$35. Please make a note in the memo line of your check or on offering envelope "Altar Flowers".



*Thank You* 

## News from the Stewardship Team



As Crossroad continues to grow so do our financial needs. Despite the national economic circumstances, we continued to meet our obligations last year. We are excited about the new building and know that it will add to God's work being done here at Crossroad. There are three announcements we'd like to make you aware of: 1) Starting in April, Crossroad will have the ability to make church contributions on-line via our website [www.crossroadlutheran.com](http://www.crossroadlutheran.com) This is a totally secure site and gives members the ability to make one-time or recurring donations. This will serve as an easy way to continue to make your weekly contributions, even if you are out of town. More details will follow in future newsletters and in announcements during services. 2) Many of you made pledges to the building fund. As you may remember, these were made almost 3 years ago and were to be paid over the 3 year period. Times have gotten tough for many in the last 3 years and continue to be tough for many today, and many of these pledges remain unpaid. We would like as many members as possible to try to satisfy their pledges by July or August as the building will be completed and final payment will be due to the builder at that time. 3) Any members wishing to help with Stewardship issues may contact our Stewardship church council member, John Waidner, at 904-278-7106 or [jwaidner@yahoo.com](mailto:jwaidner@yahoo.com).

*Thank You*

Thank you... Pastor Jim and Pastor Jon , Kathi Mills ( Mom's Stephens Minister) for the beautiful service and comforting words and to those who attended the Memorial service for My Mom (Vye Parasky) Also, "Thank you" to the band members who gave of their time and to those who organized ,served and brought food to the reception. It was a wonderful "send off" for Mother and beautiful example of what Cross+Road is all about. You shared Christ's love and filled our hearts with love and thankfulness for this Church and for those who worship in this special place.- Blessings to all of you,  
Pat Pfeiffer & Family

### Help Second Harvest North Florida by pledging to Birdies for Charity

Second Harvest North Florida will be partnering with THE PLAYERS Championship to raise funds through the Birdies for Charity program again this year.

Between April 5 and May 5, make a pledge of two cents or more for each birdie that will be made by the entire player field during THE PLAYERS tournament, which takes place May 3-9. In 2009, 1,502 birdies were made during the four-day event, so your pledge of two cents per birdie would have resulted in a \$30.04 contribution to Second Harvest.

Online pledges will be accepted beginning April 5 at [PGATOUR.COM/THEPLAYERS](http://PGATOUR.COM/THEPLAYERS). Simply select Second Harvest North Florida in the dropdown menu. For more information, or to pledge by phone call Tia R. Ford at 904.730.8284 or e-mail [tford@lssjax.org](mailto:tford@lssjax.org).



### Thrivent Financial- Identity Theft Workshop

Identity theft can happen to anyone, anywhere at any time. Don't let it happen to you.

Join us for a free 50-minute workshop, "**Identity Theft: What you need to know.**" During the workshop, you'll learn how identity theft can occur, and gain tips to help protect yourself. You'll also find out what you can do if identity theft happens to you.

The workshop will be presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representatives Adam Klohr and Dan Johnson. No financial products will be sold. This is an educational experience.

Please join us for the "**Identity Theft: What you need to know**" workshop on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:15pm to 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be snacks and refreshments available.

To reserve a seat for yourself or for yourself and a guest, Go to [thrivent.com/findaworkshop](http://thrivent.com/findaworkshop), send an e-mail to [firstcoastgroup@thrivent.com](mailto:firstcoastgroup@thrivent.com) or call 733-2425 to confirm your reservation today. The deadline to register is April 1 2010.

For more information, contact Dan Johnson at 733-2425 or [dan.johnson@thrivent.com](mailto:dan.johnson@thrivent.com).



### LB Reptile Experience- Elementary Go & See Event Saturday, April 10th 4:00 p.m.

This 1 &1/2 hour event will be open to the entire Congregation. Hot dogs and chips will be served. \$5.00 donation per family.

Sign up in the Nartex.

Visit [www.lbreptileexperience.com](http://www.lbreptileexperience.com) for more information.



The 2010 Confirmation Class at CrossRoad is holding the third annual drive to collect brand new children's underwear for kids in need. Please bring in new underwear now until May 16th. There is a laundry basket in the narthex for your donations.

We need boxers, briefs, boxerbriefs, bras, panties, t-shirts, socks, baby and adult diapers in all sizes. Last year CrossRoad placed 22nd out of several hundred participants in this event with 545 pieces collected. We hope this year we can do even better. If you have any questions or would like to donate money instead of underwear, please talk to Michael Stachowiak, Stacey Johnson or any of the confirmation youth.



**A note from Debbie-**

**As I move into a new phase of my life I will remember with fondness the time spent getting Cross+Road started on its way. It has been my pleasure to be part of the work we do here at Cross+Road, to gather.. to equip.. and to send. With Warm Regards,**

**"A goodbye isn't painful unless you're never going to say hello again." ~Author Unknown**



# Cross+Road Lutheran Church

## APRIL 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1:00pm Women of Faith Bible Study 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship/Worship Rm	2 7:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship/Worship Rm	3
4 Easter Sunday 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	5 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	6	7 6:30pm Band Rehearsal	8	9	10 9am-3pm Stephen Ministry Training 4:00pm Elementary Go & See Event LB Reptiles
11 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 8am-Noon- Blood Drive 12:15pm Identity Theft Workshop @ Advent Lutheran	12	13 11:00am Lutheran Pastors' Meeting 6:30pm Fellowship Meeting	14 6:30pm Evangelism Team 6:30pm Band Rehearsal	15 1:00pm Women of Faith Bible Study 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	16 7:00pm Movie Night	17 7-8:30pm Samuel Ministry Mixer @ Stachowiak's St. John's Lutheran Workday
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Choir Practice Worship Room	19 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	20 7:00pm Council Meeting/ Conference Rm	21 Newsletter Articles Calendar Dates Due 6:30pm Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Art Guild/Conf Rm.	22 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training 6:30pm Girl Scouts/ Conference Rm.	23	24 9am-1pm: New Member Orientation St. John's Lutheran Workday
25 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship New Members Received	26	27 April 27th-April 30th Census Bureau Narthex	28 6:30pm Band Rehearsal	29	30 Synod Assembly →	