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# Lovilia Circuit Writer

*Our mission at the Lovilia United Methodist Church is to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love.*

**Volume V4  
April 2007**

## Reader's Corner

*You Bring the Confetti...God Brings the Joy*



### *District Conference*

To prepare for Annual Conference, each district holds a mini-conference. Ottumwa's district conference will be May 6th. Further details will come in the May newsletter.

### *Wesley Woods Open House*

Saturday, April 21 from 3:00-5:00PM Camp Wesley Woods will have a Spring Open House. Come and meet the staff and enjoy some refreshments. Deke Ryder is the new director of the camp. Let's get out and show our support!

### *Stories*

Check out the LUMC News on page 4 for some great, humorous stories everyone will enjoy.



Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. But often that atmosphere of joy peters out after a few days or weeks. It doesn't have to be that way. Luci Swindoll has penned a book entitled *You Bring the Confetti...God Brings the Joy*, wherein she challenges us to be on the lookout for reasons to celebrate. They include everything from mealtime to friendship and from the past to our work.

The concept of enjoyment is described by Sir William Osler in this way: "We are here to add what we can TO, not to get what we can FROM life." (p.18) Or, as Walt Disney was overheard saying shortly after Disneyland was finished, "the greatest joy of all is the fun I have just watching others have fun." (p.133)

As Christians, we know that the greatest joy of all is that which we have in the lord. Anytime of the year is 'right' for celebrating our Lord!

# The Risen Lord

Foreword by Pastor Jill Leveck

Pastor's Column by Pastor Kevin Leveck



*This month's guest pastor is my husband, Kevin. He writes a column on the recent television program The Jesus Tomb which has created a great deal of controversy. He closes a discussion of the film with these conclusions. It is important to remember not only what we believe, but why we believe. Why have we immersed ourselves in this incredible story, and how does faith stand up to an increasingly skeptical world?*

To look at the portrayal of God and Christ in the gospels is to see a Creator who is in love with this world, and who is willing to go to great lengths to draw us to Him. God is simultaneously Father and Son, a logical inconsistency that is answered only by asking, not how, but why God would go to such trouble. Our lord Jesus is the One who embodied God, the incarnate Word made flesh that His incomparable love would be made manifest in a form that was intimate and recognizable. His teachings were unlike anything that had been heard before; His miracles were performed out of great compassion, instead of showmanship; His attention to the outcast portrayed a God of justice and mercy to those who were forgotten. His death on a cross revealed a God who was willing to join us in suffering by dying our death, along with redeeming us for our misdeeds, and His resurrection assured us that life and love did, indeed, have the last word. And if that was not enough, we have the additional testimony of one who persecuted this new way until he met the risen Christ on the Damascus road, and who spent the rest of his life convincing others that Jesus of Nazareth was the One that would save those who followed Him. The testimony of Scripture may seem outlandish to some, but to us who are caught up in the story, it is the confirmation that brings us the assurance that history is more than random events with no end in sight. The witness that comes from our words and actions may seem naive to others, but to those compelled by the Holy Spirit, life is changed into the peace that passes understanding, and all of creation looks bigger, as it is infused with a loving God and a redeeming Son.

Our lord began His ministry by proclaiming good news, news that challenges our understanding and invites us into a life that defies all despair and meaninglessness. He ended His days by defying death and encouraging His frightened disciples to go into the lion's den and tell the world what had happened, no matter the cost. I don't know about you, but I want what they had, and no two-hour TV special is going to undo what God and Christ have shown me so far. Good Friday is coming - but so is Easter. Thank God for Easter, for the risen Lord!

## Mission Minute

*A Little of This and a Little of That*



From the District Newsletter - an update on Adama Grace. Adama (from Nigeria) is in her second year at Africa University in the department of Business and Management. She participates in the soccer club and the United Methodist fellowship group. She says thank you to the Ottumwa's district for supporting her education and praying for her.

We are familiar with Operation Christmas Child, but there is much more to Samaritan's Purse. The Children's Heart Project was begun in 1997 in Bosnia as a way of providing heart surgery for youngsters who would not be able to have it otherwise. For example, eleven-month-old Zolzaya, from Mongolia, had a heart defect that needed immediate surgery. Mayo Clinic in Rochester provided the facilities and staff donated their time and talents to make her well. Her mother was deeply moved by the compassion they were shown and, with an interpreter, began a Bible study on the book of John. Three weeks later, Suma gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized in the home of one of her daughter's physicians.

"We rejoice at how God is using the Children's Heart Project not only to save the lives of children but also to bring salvation to their families."

A Christian man had just died and was on his way to heaven. When he got to the gates of heaven he met an angel. The angel asked him what God's name was.

'Oh that's easy,' the man replied, 'His name is Andy.'

'What makes you think his name is Andy?' the angel asked incredulously.

'Well, you see at Church we used to sing this song 'Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.'

## Parish News

### Pass It On Youth

Thanks to all who worked, donated and/or attended our St. Patrick's Baked Potato Supper. A special thanks to Bogie's Steak House in Albia for donating all of those huge, delicious potatoes. We raised over \$455 for our parish youth group. That will enable our young people to go on the mini-mission to Wesley Woods at no cost to them.

Our mini mission work camp will be held on April 20-21 at Wesley Woods. At our meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM, we'll discuss the details including what to bring and when we'll leave.

In March we elected officers who will serve through the next school year. Elected were:

**President** \*\*\*\*\* Nathan Chamberlain  
**Senior Vice President** \*\*\* Michael Pinnegar  
**Junior Vice President** \*\*\* Caleb Maughan  
**Secretary** \*\*\*\*\* Caitlin Conner

Looking Ahead - The parish youth will hold the 2nd Annual Westridge Prom at Westridge Care Center in Knoxville on the afternoon of June 2nd. There will be music from the 40's, entertainment and a king and queen to be crowned. If you're interested, contact Kim Williams, Connie Barnes, Nathan Chamberlain or Pastor Jill to see how you can help.

### Camping Sunday

On Sunday, April 15th, Suzanne Ryder will share about the ministry of our conference's camping program in the worship services of Lovilia and Bussey. This will be a good send off for our youth group which will be heading to Wesley Woods for a mini mission the very next weekend. Suzanne is the daughter of Max and Diane Maddy, the granddaughter of Patty Barnhill and the great granddaughter of Fern Vance. It will be great to welcome her back home!

### Chicken Noodle Supper

On Wednesday, April 25th, the Lovilia church will have a chicken noodle dinner with salads, rolls, homemade pies and, of course, made-from-scratch chicken and noodles. Let's get the whole parish out to support this fundraiser. The food is great and we're in this together. Come and enjoy!

### United Methodist Men

Ladies, you are invited to our April United Methodist Men's meeting on Saturday, April 14th at 7:00AM in Bussey. Rise and shine and come with a big appetite and the desire to fellowship together. A special program will be presented. You don't want to miss it.

### "Chasing Daylight"

About a dozen people are participating in our parish Bible Study that meets every Sunday evening at 6:00PM at Bussey (except Easter Sunday). McManus' book *Chasing Daylight* is the basis for our exploration together. If you would like to join us, you are

### Special Easter and Holy Week Services

#### Maundy Thursday

Our special worship on Maundy Thursday will be held at the Lovilia Church at 7:00PM on April 5th. A congregational response to the crucifixion called "The Lord's Table" will be presented and communion will be served.

#### Good Friday

"Have You Seen My Son?" will be enacted at the Bussey Church on Friday, April 6th. What a good way to prepare for Easter!

#### Sunrise Services

Both Bussey and Lovilia will have sunrise services at 6:30AM on Easter Sunday, April 8th. Both churches will also have an Easter breakfast following the early morning worship at 7:00AM. We gather to share in the good news that Christ is risen! Come and join in the joyful celebration!

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**April**

- 1 Iola Gladfelder
- 2 Jimmy Hobart
- 5 Lola Ivins
- 7 Fred Kraber
- 9 Ralph Bryant
- 12 Helen Baker
- 14 Marty Major  
Marilyn Kraber  
Travis Weldon
- 16 Ron Conner
- 17 Judy Conner
- 18 Lorena Bowman
- 19 James Hobart
- 20 Curtis & Frieda Davis

**LUMC News**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Well, it's time once again for our second annual Easter Egg Hunt at the church. It will be held on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:00 p.m. There will be stories and crafts, games, refreshments and the Easter egg hunt. Children through 5th grade are welcome to come and participate and BRING THEIR PARENTS. If you would like to help the Outreach committee with the refreshments or would like to come and help, contact Gayle Hastings.



Eddie Weldon, Pat Frye, Josie DeLong, Margaret Conner, Donnie Tucker, Thelma Smith, Lois Walter, Dale Allison, Janice Schisel, Pam Schisel, our service men and women around the world, our shut-ins and their caregivers and our leaders.

**Finances**

Because there was no worship service on the last Sunday of February, our giving for the month is down. Receipts total \$1,463.00 (which includes 200 from the UMW) and expenses per month according to our budget total \$2267.45. It looks like we have some catch up work to do.

**UMW Notes**

*President Goldie Kraber*

What an active month April will be. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have Day Apart at Montezuma UMC. This will be our last gathering as the Ottumwa District. We will be in a new district with Osceola as our hub. The day's activity begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee time. Meeting begins at 10 a.m. Plan to go with me. Our regular meetings are on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. You are invited to attend either meeting. The lesson in the afternoon of Easter will be given by Pastor Jill. Hostesses are Norma & Lola. Our evening group filled about 35 jars with ingredients for brownies, chocolate chip and snicker doodle cookies that will be sold at our Chicken Noodle Supper on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00PM. Hand towels were brought for the ingathering kits. Two washcloths are to be brought to the April meeting. To raise funds for our mission projects, we will need all of your help. The way you can help is simple. There will be a lovely basket on its way to each lady (one at a time) in our Church family. Instructions are with the basket. Please pass it along as quickly as possible. ENJOY SPRING.

- Goldie

**Minister Billy Graham**

The Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office."

**Two Trouble Makers**

A couple had two little mischievous boys, ages 8 and 10. They were always getting into trouble, and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons would get the blame. The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed and asked to see them individually. So, the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon. The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" They boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open. The clergyman repeated the question. "Where is God?" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer.

So, the clergyman raised his voice some more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God!?" The boy screamed and bolted from the room. He ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied: "We are in real BIG trouble this time! God is missing, and they think we did it!"



# April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday and Communion 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (at B)	2 Time apart in Montezuma	3 7:00 PM Board (H)	4 3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM UMW (B)	5 7:00 PM Parish Maundy Thursday Service at Lovilia	6 7:00 PM Parish Good Friday Service at Bussey	7 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt at Lovilia UMC
8 6:30 AM Sunrise Service (L & B) 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast (L & B)	9	10 1:30 PM UMW (H) 5:30 Worship Committee 6:30 PM Outreach Committee (B)	11 3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)	12 1:30 PM UMW (L) 7:00 PM UMW (L)	13	14 7:00 AM United Methodist Men – Ladies Invited 1-3 PM Mission Committee Baby Shower (B)
15 *** (See Note)*** 4-6 PM Parish Youth Group (B) 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)	16 7:00 PM PPR Committee (L)	17 6:00 PM Finance Committee (B) 6:30 PM Ad Council (B)	18 3:30 PM Kids Club (B) 5:00 PM Kids Club (L) 6:00 PM Choir (B)	19 6:30 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Ad Board (L)	20 Pass It On's Mission to Wesley Woods	21
22 Native American Special Offering 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)	23	24	25 3:30 PM Kids Club (B) NO LOVILIA KIDS CLUB 5-7 PM Lovilia Chicken & Noodle Supper	26	27	28
29 6:00 PM Parish Bible Study (B)	30	*****Special Camping Emphasis in Lovilia and Bussey – Guest Speaker: Suzanne Ryder				
Looking Ahead: Sunday May 6 <sup>th</sup> – District Conference in Ottumwa						



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# EASTER EGG HUNT

*The Lovilia United Methodist Outreach Committee will  
be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held*

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
From 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM  
At the Lovilia UMC**

Visit the Lovilia United Methodist Church Online at <http://lumc.webs.com>