

Keynotes

News for the spiritual family and friends of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

40 N. Adams Dr. • Sarasota, FL 34236 • p: 941-388-1234 • f: 941-388-1360

www.starmandschurch.com

Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday thru Friday

Parish Nurse office hours: 9:00 – 5:00 Monday thru Thursday

From Reverend Mark A. Bernthal....

There were many witnesses to the events which took place on that hill outside Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified.

An angry crowd gathered to be certain that their verdict of “guilty” be carried out in the sentence of death by crucifixion. A small group of the condemned man’s followers milled about the crowd: still in shock over the injustice being meted out, many of them kept their identity secret to protect themselves from a similar fate. Some had to be there – responsible for tending to the necessary tasks which went along with an execution.

But there were other witnesses there as well, witnesses we don’t usually think about, although they were even closer to the events than the crowd. In fact, they actually participated in those events in unique ways. **They are the Silent Witnesses.**

The Thorns. The Nail. The Shroud. The Robe. The Spear. If only these things could speak! What might they tell us about these events from their viewpoint?

This Lent, we will have the unusual, imaginative, challenging, and faith-strengthening opportunity to hear these normally **Silent Witnesses**. Each Wednesday, at 5:30 pm, gather with the community of faith at St. Armands Key for special worship. A simple Lenten meal of soup and bread will follow worship.

A word about Lent: Just as the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land – and as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the Satan before his ministry began – so Christians spend 40 days (plus Sundays) before Easter in special reflection as we focus upon the meaning of the cross and discipleship.

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. Mark A. Bernthal
Senior Pastor

Pamela Becker
Administrative Assistant

Debbie Leslie-Minier
Director of Youth Ministries

Tracey Rzepka
Parish Nurse

Jane Lautner
Choir Director

Lois Mellor
Church Organist

Becky Taylor
Media A/V Coordinator

Lou Rippo
Church Custodian



Be encouraged in your own Lenten journey this year!

FEBRUARY 2010

LENT AT ST. ARMANDS KEY

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17

5:30 pm Liturgy of Confession, Ashes, and Communion with Choirs

MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

“SILENT WITNESSES”

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

(a simple meal of soup and bread will follow worship)

The Thorns - February 24

The Nail - March 3

The Shroud - March 10

The Robe - March 17

The Spear - March 24

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1

5:30 pm, Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2

7:00 p.m.



The mid-week soup suppers, under the direction of Anna Lee Ernst, are always a delightful experience and a sight to behold! If you would like to be a part of bringing it all together, your help is needed in the kitchen for preparation, serving and cleanup. Or perhaps you would rather bake some of the homemade goodies that are always needed to fill the scrumptious dessert table. Please contact Anna Lee (388-6606) to let her know how you can help. Thanks!

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

On Sunday, February 14, between services at 10:15 a.m., couples wishing to celebrate the gift of marriage are invited to meet in the sanctuary for the renewal of wedding vows. Led by Pastor Mark and Cyndi Bernthal, this brief service of prayer and recommitment promises to be a joyful and meaningful Valentine's Day gift for all.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7



Welcome to the conversation! "Book of Faith" is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) that invites "the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word."

Like Scripture itself, the initiative calls out to adults and children alike to simply "open the scriptures and join in conversation."

For Adults...

Daily Discipleship! The Sunday School gathers from **10:15am – 10:45am in the front of Fellowship Hall**. This lectionary Bible study is based on the appointed Gospel reading for each Sunday. Whether you worship at the early or late service, this Sunday morning conversation can enhance the faith and fellowship of all who gather on the Lord's Day. Please note that the class will not meet on February 7 so everyone can participate in fellowship and the Time and Talent Fair.

The **Thursday Morning Bible Study** is currently discussing **Ephesians: God's Extraordinary Church**. "Are we building in love?" "Are we building without walls?" and "Are we built to withstand?" are just a few of the questions that will engage us as we study Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus. Join the conversation each week in **Ogram Hall at 10:30 am**.

For Children and Youth...

Sunday School for children and youth occurs each week between services in the classrooms surrounding Ogram Hall. Thanks to each leader for teaching the priceless and precious stories found in the Book of Faith to the youngest among us.

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

By the time you read this issue of *Keynotes*, four members will have been elected to serve on the Church Council at the Annual Congregational Meeting which was held on Sunday, January 31.

Installation of the new council members will be held during the services on Sunday, February 7, and the officers will be appointed at the next council meeting on Thursday, February 11. Names of your 2010 Church Council Members will be provided in the Sunday bulletins and future *Keynotes*.

We continue to pray for the people of Haiti and for those who are involved in all aspects of the relief effort. We will continue to provide updates on the Haiti Relief Fund and from Pastor Joseph Livenson Lauvanus (Lutheran Church of Haiti) as information becomes available.

As of January 24, donations for the Haiti Relief Fund totaled \$14,764.00. Thank you for your continued generosity and for the love you have extended to those who are suffering such incomprehensible loss.

Correspondence

A note of thanks ...

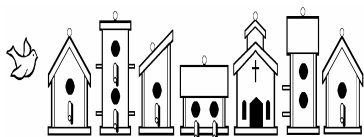
Dear St. Armands Key Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for letting me be part of your worship experience. Your continued support of Seminary education is truly inspiring and a testament to the grace and love that you have for the church.

Grace & Love,
Laura Ward

Laura is one of the students from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary who visited SAKLC in January. She is a recipient of the Gray L. Freeze and Florence Y. Freeze scholarship.

**The Church Office will be
closed on
Monday, February 15th
In observance of the
Presidents' Day Holiday**



WELCOME BACK... to those who are returning to Florida for the winter. Please notify the church office by calling 388-1234 or email to office@starmandschurch.com to change your mailing address. Thanks!

Keynotes Deadline

Please submit articles for the March edition of *Keynotes* to the Church Office on or before February 15th.

Thank you!

email: office@starmandschurch.com

Health Ministry



Tracey Rzepka, MS, ARNP
941-388-3764

parishnurse@starmandschurch.com

Health & Wellness

We are excited about the new wellness programs which started in January at SAKLC. The **3D – Diet, Discipline and Devotion to God** class is going well with about 20 participants. We are excited about how God is helping us to be better disciplined in our activities and what we eat.

Cooking Class – We still have space in our Food for Life – Healthy Cooking Classes on Thursdays, **Feb 4 & 11th from 4-6pm**. These classes will help you learn how to prevent and treat disease with good nutrition and teach you how to prepare several easy, delicious and nutritious meals. You are welcome to invite your friends and neighbors. There is a charge of \$15/class, which includes dinner. You can take any or all classes. Call Tracey at 388-3764 to register for the class.

Advanced Directives - Planning for your future health care is an important part of today's well-being. We will have a two-part seminar about Advanced Directives on **Mondays, February 22 and March 1, 2-4 pm**. The first session will present Advanced Directives, a written document giving direction to your loved ones regarding your health if you are no longer able to make decisions about your health care on your own due to illness or injury. Discussion will include Living Wills, Five Wishes, DNR, and Health Care Surrogate Directives. The second session, Elder Law Attorney John Griffin will present Ethical Wills, a way to share your values, blessings, life's lessons, dreams for the future, love, and forgiveness with your loved ones. You will also have an opportunity to ask further questions regarding Advanced Directives and have the documents witnessed and copied. If you have already written your Advanced Directives, it is good to review and update once a year. If you have never prepared these documents, this is the time to do it.

Life Line Screening

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church is hosting a **Life Line Screening** for the community on **Monday, March 15th**. Lifeline will perform ultrasound tests for stroke/carotid artery blockage, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis risk. These non-invasive screenings are completely painless, take about 10 minutes each and are affordable. A new test is available for Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heartbeat). Screenings are recommended for anyone age 50 and older. Life Line Screening now offers 3 simple finger-stick blood tests to identify risk factors for heart disease, diabetes and liver enzymes. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-324-1851. Make your appointment today – it may save your life.

Weekly Exercise Classes

Basic PILATES is a core strengthening and stretching exercise program meeting on **Monday evenings** at **4:00 pm**. Please bring a mat with you to be able to exercise on the floor.

GET FIT Is a cardiovascular exercise session that is meant for all abilities, you can adapt the class to your fitness level! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from **9:00 - 9:30 am** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** right before the 9:30 a.m. Thera-band class!

THERA-BAND is a low impact exercise class using elastic bands to strengthen and stretch. Classes are held on **Tuesday & Thursday mornings** from **9:30 - 10:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Debbie Leslie-Minier for more details at 726-9306 or
deborah.leslie@att.net

SOCIAL MINISTRY

SAKLC Food Drive Now - February 7

Although we collect food all year long for All Faiths Food Bank, the Social Ministry Committee is having a winter "Shopping Spree" to significantly increase our donations for the next month because help is needed now more than ever.

Don't Let Our Neighbors Go Hungry

The majority of those receiving food are hard-working families who simply cannot make ends meet. They are parents in minimum-wage jobs, the elderly on fixed incomes, and children who often go to school on an empty stomach, and go to bed on one, too.

Be Generous In Your Support of All Faiths Food Bank

One Food Barrel provides 230 meals -- we hope to fill four & provide nearly 1000 meals!

Protein items are urgently needed

Canned meats-canned dinners-tuna-peanut butter

Also needed are soups, stews, canned fruit, and jelly

Please no food in glass containers

You Can Place Your Donations

in the Shopping Carts at the Church Entrances Each Sunday Morning

Or anytime in the Food Barrel Located in the Narthex

Questions? Call Jayne Kirk at 383-2445 or 400-0815.

Wondering What to Do With the Unused Fruit on your Fruit Trees?

We Can Use It for the SAKLC Dream Center Outreach

You can bring the fruit to church, and it will be distributed through our Dream Center Outreach which reaches a severely depressed area in Newtown. The Social Ministry Committee will collect fruit January-April (and longer if you still have fruit on your trees). Just bring the fruit to church and place it in our "Fruit Box" located in the narthex.

Questions? Call Jayne Kirk at 383-2445 or 400-0815.

Singles Ministry ... SAKLC Circle of Friends

All singles are invited to join us for our monthly luncheon on the second Sunday of each month after the 11 a.m. worship service.

This month, we will meet at the **Crab & Fin Restaurant** on **February 14th** at **12:30 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet is available on the table under the bulletin board in the Narthex.

If you are interested in more information about the singles group at SAKLC, please contact Pastor Darwin Polesky 343-9354.



The Pairables ... that fun-loving couples group!

Where? Golden Apple Dinner Theatre
When? Friday, February 19
6 PM Buffet
8 PM Curtain
What? "The Marvelous Wonderettes"



See the sign-up sheet under the bulletin board in the Narthex

or call

Marty & Don Schoeneweiss (388-2787) or Pat & Bruce Bing (955-8470) for more information.



MEN IN MISSION ... PLAY BALL!

"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL"

It's major league baseball "Play Ball!" time again in Sarasota! The Baltimore Orioles will do their spring training here during March and will host several top teams including the Boston Red Sox! Our congregation's Men in Mission group has reserved a block of premium seats for Saturday, March 27, when the Red Sox play the Orioles at 1:05 p.m. at Ed Smith Stadium.

The game will be preceded by a tasty, fun Bar-B-Q at 11 a.m. in the adjacent private picnic grove. Cost per ticket for the picnic and game combined is \$34. There will be a sign-up table in the Narthex after both Sunday services starting in early February. Tom Fuorry, Paul Primamore or Crome Dollase can provide further details.

ALL MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN ARE INVITED!

PLEASE JOIN IN THE FUN and SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Stewardship

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Stewardship Committee of SAKLC is holding a Time & Talent Fair in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 7 – after both services.

There are many opportunities for you to serve the needs of our congregation and to show your love for our Lord and Savior. This is your opportunity to learn what the various committees of our church are all about.

Representatives of the various ministries will be available to provide information about how you can become more involved in the activities at SAKLC. Three tickets will be given to each person as you arrive for worship on Sunday, February 7. If you would like to provide assistance with one of the ministries represented, just fill out one of these tickets and drop it in the appropriately marked box to indicate your willingness to be called upon to help.

Stewardship Time & Talent Fair – Sunday, February 7, 2010 Food ... Fun... Fruitful... Fellowship!

Stewardship Members:

Cathy DeGeorge, John DeGeorge, Dave Lund, Sharon Lund



*Mobilizing women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promise healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The 2010 St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Women of the ELCA, Board was elected in November 2009.

President:	Cathy DeGeorge	Vice-President:	Ann Walborn
Secretary:	Margot Eagleton	Treasurer:	Joan Wampler
Past President and Member at Large: Kay Coletta			

If you have any suggestions or questions please contact any of the officers. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room. All ladies of the church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are welcome to attend the board meetings. Your suggestions are always welcome.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Tuesday of the month; the **Lydia Circle** meets on the third Thursday of each month. Watch the bulletin for time and place.

The Quilting Group meets every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The beautiful quilts created by these talented ladies are distributed by Lutheran World Relief to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Your help is always needed to help in this very meaningful mission.

Youth Ministry



Debbie Leslie-Minier, Director of Youth Ministries

941-726-9306

deborah.leslie@att.net

*Hello! Hope everyone is doing well!
Please see the upcoming events, thank you!*

YOUTH (all children through high school seniors)

PLEASE watch the Weekly Bulletin, Youth Emails (which if you are not receiving, please email me deborah.leslie@att.net) AND look for flyers in Ogram Hall!

****PLEASE Note: you are encouraged to bring a friend(s) to the events!*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Grandparent's Baking Cookies Valentine's Day COOKIES

If you miss baking cookies with your grandchildren, please come and help our youth bake cookies and share your Valentine's Day stories with them. Your goodies will be served during the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, Feb. 14th and there will be some for you to take home too. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm.

Please R.S.V.P. to Debbie by February 7, 2010

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 IS ASH WEDNESDAY and the start to the Lenten Services which will be every Wednesday evening – hope you can attend!

YOUTH & PARENTS:

PLANS for Summer 2010 are being finalized, if you are interested in joining us, please contact Debbie a.s.a.p. Thank you!

PARISH NOTES

On Sunday, January 17, 2010, we welcomed new members into the spiritual family at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. Names of the new members and their contact information are listed below:

Pastor Mark & Cyndi Bernthal

Luke, Grace, Mary

Erin & Nicholas Walker
25 N. Washington Drive
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-1645

Donald Doherty

3901 71st Street, W. #186
Bradenton, FL 34209
513-404-2231

Don Geyer

3373 E. Chelmsford Close
Sarasota, FL 34235
941-378-3711

Joshua & Sara Gyson

Mackenzie & Keller
2309 Avenue B
Bradenton Beach, FL 34217
S: 231-286-9676
J: 231-286-9675

***Vernon Holland & Vicki Miller**

511 Harbor Gateway
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-4392

Heather & Abigail Koester

161 John Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34236
H: 388-3291
C: 248-425-0087

Alison Kothare

Pauline & Rebecca

4293 Eastwood Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232
941-342-1583

Steven Mansfield

76 S. Washington Drive
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-870-2696

Howard Rooks

246 Morningside
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-1888

Bob & Linda Schauer

8306 Grosvenor Court
University Park, FL 34201
941-388-7812

**Mark & Birgitta Sultana
& Lilliana**

1700 Stanford Lane
Sarasota, FL 34231
941-312-5778

Cheryl Speaker

1212 Ben Franklin Drive #604
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-3482

***Gerald & Karen Van Hoose**

1801 N. Gulf Drive
Bradenton Beach, FL 34209
941-778-5515

* indicates Associate Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 Florida SeniorFest

Make plans to attend the **Florida SeniorFest Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Christian Retreat Center in Bradenton, FL.** The event is sponsored by ALOA (Association of Lutheran Older Adults) together with Florida-Bahamas Synod (ELCA), the Florida-Georgia District (LCMS), Thrivent Financial Services, Lutheran Services Florida and Village on the Isle in Venice, FL.

The keynote speaker is well-know churchman, **Dr. Charles Mueller**; he will speak on the theme ***"More Than Just Watching: How to get off the sidelines and into the game."*** Dr. Mueller is former District President in the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod and pastor of one of its largest congregations. The one-day event also includes popular humorist **Jan Struck**, gifted church musician, **David Ludwig**, and offers a choice of many interesting workshops on *exercise for seniors, passing on faith and values, arts and crafts, helping Lutherans 'thrive,'* and much more.

Everyone is welcome. You can register at the SeniorFest table after each Sunday morning service (entrance area). **Registration fee is \$20** (subsidized in part by the congregation) and includes lunch. Please let us know if you need help with transportation or if you are able to take additional passengers. If you have any questions, our SeniorFest contact persons are **Keith and Mary Leeseberg and Pastor Bob and Shirley Zimmer.**

You won't want to miss this great opportunity for Christian fellowship and inspiration!

2010 Scholar in Residence Program at SAKLC A Wonderful Opportunity!

The 2010 **SiR** Program at SAKLC got off to a marvelous start in January with excellent presentations by Dr. Ralph Klein, retired Dean and Professor of Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Dr. Klein did a masterful job of dealing with his topic, "All About the Bible: Our Books of Faith." A record-high attendance marked his initial presentation on January 13.

Looking ahead, two excellent offerings await those who choose to participate in this enlightening, faith-nurturing program. The Hein-Fry Lecture on February 19 and three presentations on the parables by Dr. Audrey West in March will round out this year's Scholar's in Residence Program. The Hein-Fry Lecture Series is an annual event held largely on Lutheran Seminary campuses and a few selected congregational sites, one of which is SAKLC.

Further detail on the February and March **SiR** opportunities are noted below. Consider taking part. You will be glad you did.

February

Friday, February 19, our congregation together with the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will again host the ELCA Church-wide Hein-Fry Lecture Series. Guest lecturer will be **Dr. Margaret A. Krych**, Professor Emeritus of Christian Education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Continuing to focus on the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative, Dr. Krych will speak on the topic, "*Hearing the Word: Teaching the Bible in the Parish and Beyond.*" Responding to the presentation will be **Dr. Fred Meuser**. The program will be from 8:30 to 11:30 AM with a refreshment break at 10:00 AM.

March

Dr. Audrey West, former Associate Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago now lives in Bethlehem, PA where her husband is Dean of the Moravian Seminary (in fellowship with the ELCA). Dr. West will preach at both services on Sunday, Feb. 28. The overall theme of her presentations is: "*Jesus' Parables, Ethics and the Gospel*". Presentations on each of the following dates will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, starting with coffee, etc. at 9:45 AM.

Wed., March 3 – "*What Are Parables and How Do They Work?*"

Wed., March 10 – "*What Are the 'Meanings' of Jesus Parables?*"

Wed., March 17 – "*How Do the Parables of Jesus Teach Us To Live?*"

Music Events

Save the Dates!



Sunday, February 28 – 4 p.m.
Three Divas & A Harp



Sunday, March 7 – 7 pm
15th Annual Choir Festival

Pick up a 2009-2010 Performing Arts Brochure
in the Narthex for more information.

Come Worship With Us

See you Sunday!

**9 a.m. -- Service of Joy
Contemporary Worship**

10 a.m. Fellowship & Education Hour

11a.m. Traditional Worship Celebration



MISSION STATEMENT

SAKLC is a family of Christians (a) celebrating God's love, (b) growing together in Jesus Christ, (c) and sharing this love and faith (d) with the community and the world (e).

In order to carry out our mission and to maximize opportunities in ministry, our goals are to:

1. Make worship celebration central to our life in Christ – joyful but dignified, sensitive to Lutheran tradition, as well as to people with diverse backgrounds;
2. Grow spiritually through Christian nurture by providing and encouraging Christian education at all levels and in various forms;
3. Respond to God's grace and blessings with thankful hearts, reaching out with the Gospel in word and deed to the community and the world.

(a) John 15:12; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:19-22; Eph. 4:4-6; Eph. 5:15-20

(b) Ps. 95:1-2; Ps. 98:1; Ps. 100; Ps. 103:1-5; John 3:16; Acts 2:42; Acts 5:42

(c) John 21:15-17; Romans 14:19; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:6-8,11; 1 Peter 2:2-3; Jude 20:21

(d) Micah 6:8; Matt. 25:31-40; Mark 6:12-13; Acts 2:44-45; Gal. 5:2, 10; Heb. 13:1-3; James 1:22-25; James 2:14-18

(e) Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:16; Romans 1:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:17-22.



Key to a Lasting Gift ...

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church FOUNDATION

How can you more effectively fulfill Christ's ministry
in and through

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church Foundation?

Talk to a member of the

Foundation Board about a special way for you
to be a trustee of

all God's blessings in your life.

Together ...we can do more...forever!