

“Seeker Thomas”

This is the Sunday that we will hear “the Doubting Thomas” story in worship.

It is so easy to once again single out someone who comes across a little differently and lay the blame on him. Was Thomas a doubter or was he a person, like many of us “who had to touch and see”.

There is an illustrator of sermon truths who asked us to look into the real soul of Thomas and see if we don’t see him beyond this, “I must put my hands in his side and my fingers in the print of the nails” in order to believe. Thomas is known for so many things that are good that it is a shame when we stereotype from only one event. Unfortunately there is much truth to that in our lives also.

The truth of the gospel reveals more of deep substance about the man. For one thing, John tells us that Thomas was the one who was willing to go to Jerusalem during the worst threats against Jesus’ life, and even die there with the master (John 11:16). Furthermore, it was Thomas who was honest enough to tell Jesus that he didn’t understand the sometimes cryptic things Jesus would talk about (John 14:5). In other words, Thomas was a simple man in the best sense of the term. He was honest and good and loyal and true. You could count on Thomas. Thomas was well grounded. Thomas lived by convictions, and was even willing to die by them.

When Thomas refused to believe in the resurrection of Jesus because he was not with the others on the evening of that first Easter, it was not because he was ornery or cantankerous. It was simply because he had seen too many people go off on wild-goose chases when there was no goose to be had. The traumatic events of Passion Week ought to have made everyone a bit sober, and forced them to realize that wishful thinking is not enough to change reality.

But when Jesus physically appeared to Thomas along with the rest of the disciples a week later, Thomas was willing to change his mind and accept the reality of the resurrection.

We are not even told that Thomas actually touched Jesus. The appearance may well have been

enough.

This story is a reminder to us in those times when we struggle with our own doubts and disbelief. And I must admit I am privy to those times in my own life and in the life of many people I come into contact with. As we seek the real presence of Christ in our lives we can be assured that doubt and disbelief are a natural part of the struggle and our investigation is an opportunity to grow in faithfulness.

“I must put my hands in his side and my fingers in the print of the nails” in order to believe.

Pastor Don

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. for our regular meeting. In our council devotions this year we are spending time around the theme, **Chosen and Sent**. The specific devotion was “*God’s Leaders are SENT*” and was based on Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:1-8.

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved with one typographical correction. Then we received the reports of the Treasurer, Capital Improvement Fund, Sunday school Superintendent (reported 13 students with perfect attendance in March), and Pastor (the 5 year average report that he gives showed that income through March was 21.1 % of the budget goal (**33.34 % is a three month need**)).

Under Old business the various committee liaisons reported on pertinent activities of their areas of ministry. Worship and Witness shared with the council the church’s welcome packet for first time visitors. There was more discussion on the possibility of a new church sign with reader board. Tom Spires and Pastor are getting all of the information and signage requirements of city and TxDot prior to a recommendation from council to the congregation.

Under New business Pastor reported that we have the sampler kit for the new, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, resource. After looking it over he will pass it on to the choir and music leaders. The council approved writing a policy document for active church members to borrow tables and

Pastor’s Activities	Mar	For 2006
Visitations in Homes and Businesses	7	12
Visitations to Hospital and Shut-ins	9	15
Office Visits	5	6
Parish meetings and Fellowship	13	36
Community Meetings and Activities	20	44
Teaching Sessions	4	12
Church-wide, Synod, Professional Meeting	6	18
Hospice Chaplain	7	13
Counseling	2	8
Worship Services Conducted	8	21
Special Services	6	6
Baptisms		1
Weddings		2
Funerals	1	2
Cont. Ed. Hours	3	21.0

chairs for events outside the church buildings. Both a policy and a lending contract will be drafted.

The Congregational Gift to the Synod Assembly offering

\$ 1,264.41 has been donated by the members of the congregation through the special offering at our Fish Fry and through additional gifts for the Coastal Bend Conference’s share of the \$ 15,000.00 goal of

our conference. These special offerings being received by each conference will be used to help alleviate hunger for women and children in poverty. These monies will be taken to the Synod Assembly (May 19-20). Be watching for the Synod's grand total which will be reported in the June newsletter.

SPRING BARBECUE TO BENEFIT THE CAPITAL IMPROVE- MENT FUND

On April 23 at 5:00 p.m. members and friends gathered in the Parish Hall for the Annual Spring Barbecue. Game tables were set up in the afternoon before the Barbecue dinner was served. The men prepared the beans and barbecue and we accompanied these items with side dishes and desserts. Doris Galloway, Ellene Valenta, Carol Sachtleben, and Myrtle Lucke were the kitchen coordinators for the event. A free will offering was received and was placed into the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. Did you know that the men who cook the barbecue donate all of the meat and the beans that are cooked. This makes the "free will offering" truly a benefit to the Fund (no expenses are taken out).

THE VINEYARD

Thank you for supporting the VINEYARD. In February we had donations of many cans of soup and crackers. Please keep providing these items. There is always a need at the Vineyard food pantry.

The council has designated that gifts to our "missions fund" goes to provide extra needs at the Vineyard in the area of medical expenses and utilities.

Pastor Taylor has invited Betty Hale, VINEYARD director to join us on Sunday at the Conference Pre-Assembly meeting so the Coastal Bend congregations can identify with what the conference offerings is going for.

COMING UP in May

Sunday themes will be based on the Second lessons during Lent

May 7—4th Sunday of Easter—**"God's Social Gift"**

May 14—5th Sunday of Easter—**"The Most Important Relationship You will ever have!"**

May 21—6th Sunday of Easter—**"Abiding in the Relationship"**

May 28—7th Sunday of Easter—**"Never Really Leaving"**

FOR THE OFFERINGS PAGE

In April your generous support of the church permits us to take care of obligations for utilities, insurance, and operation. On a 12 month average we need to generate \$ 13,008.36 each and every month to take care of these and other obligations. Is this an impossible task? OR is it just something we have to put our combined arms around. We have 191 confirmed members. If each confirmed member gave an average of \$ 15.75 per week, we would top out that budget. I

spend more than twice that every time I fill up my pick up truck.

*Our church treasurer was **not** able to close out March in the black. **March offerings showed a negative balance of \$ -23.44 in the General Fund.***

The Capital Improvement Fund had a balance at the end of March of \$ 8,156.06 in the FNB account and \$ 10,000.00 in the MIF Account.

Emmaus Walk information

Pilgrims have come off of the latest Windmill Emmaus Fourth Day Community walk, which was held April 20-23 at Camp Zephyr. This was a Women's Walk.

On the nights when we have Emmaus gatherings a light supper is always served at 7:00 pm and the worship starts at 7:30 pm. Baby sitters are provided at the Gatherings.

Upcoming 4th day Gatherings:

May 18	Karnes City—FUMC (elections to the Community Board)
June 15	George West—FUMC
July 20	Beeville—St. Joseph's Catholic
Aug. 17	Beeville—First Presbyterian Church

FAITH LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

16 youth and sponsors participated in our 3rd year to do the 30 hour famine. This was done over the Easter break starting on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. and ending after the

Good Friday, Tenebrae service. We treated ourselves to a job well done by a group going to My Country Kitchen for a "break fast" meal. The youth are now collecting the monies from their sponsors and will turn it in at the Movie night, April 28.

The next "Nostalgic Drive-in Movie" will feature the classic, "to Kill a Mockingbird" and a late night horror flick. Cost is \$ 2.00 each or \$ 5.00 a carload. We are using the profits from this venture to help with the costs for your and sponsors to attend the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in San Antonio, July 5-9. Join us! Join us!

*****Another youth activity. The confirmation class is planning a week of summer camp. We have asked for space at Ebert Ranch, but may have to go to Camp Chrysalis. There we will study in the five days a whole block of our confirmation materials.

Confirmation Schedules Confirmation (Affirmation of Faith) for June 4

Heather Meyer will be confirmed in our church on June 4 at morning worship. She is completing her second year of instruction.

Those who are completing their first year are Kelsey Martin, Cuatro Schauer, Hailee Schauer, and Will Stridde.

The conclusion of their project on worship will have them participating in leading worship on April 30.

May 27—11:30—Our yearly summary

Church breakfasts

Thank you Louis LaRose and Fred Schauer for providing a breakfast for us before worship on April 30. *We still need a host for the Church breakfast October 29th.*

Either one or two families or a church organization can sponsor the breakfasts. The breakfasts are served from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall and a free-will basket for donations is placed at the head of the line. They are held on the months with a 5th Sunday. This way they precede our 5th Sunday Praise and Gospel worship.

The future schedule includes

- July 30—**The Taylors**
- October 29—**sponsors needed**
- December 31—**The Evening Circle**

Prayers

For those in Afghanistan and Iraq in the military or as Civilian Contractors

Thomas Slease

L. G. Floyd

Colby Stuart

Jeremji Brewer

Connor B. Richard

Michael Parrish

Danny Edwards

John Edwards

Our Shut-ins at home

Olga Boemer

JoAnne & Harold McMahan

Robert & Willie Mae Vaughn

Mattie Schroeder

Our shut-ins in Nursing, Convalescent, or Assisted Living homes

Helen Tate

Elsie Engelking

Lois Bertram

Ernestine Roemer

Lois Estep

the sick and our members who are recovering

Dorothy Carter

Family and friends who are recovering

Donna Shurley

Sandra Carruthers

John R. Nelson

Merry Beck

those who are facing long-term healings and uncertainties of life

Hazel Childress

Jeffrey Kelly

Rev. Diane Bacon

Rev. W. C. Ahlrich

Rev. Cliff Grossenbacher

Opal Suitt

Vera and Leroy Coffman

Leroy Harbison

Linda Henkhaus

Doris and Harold Lee Herman

Nora Benavides

Julie Wright

Rev. Joe and Siggy Kraatz

Cindy Moreland

Gary and Laura Shaw

Grant Turner

Kay Grapp

Dutch Swenson

Sandy Jenkins

Betty Todd

Mary Denkeler

Ben Schauble

Gene and Vicki Riser

Charlene Gunter

Harley Fetterman

Katie Wernecke

Doris Cypret

Tom Amerman

Natalie Schendel

Aldo and Margaret Meiske

Lee Conoly

Roy Jones

Douglas Jenkins
Clayson Royal
David Sullivan, Jr.
Norman Jenkins

Men of Faith

May 1 the Men of Faith will at 6:30 p.m. with Bobo Bowman serving as chef. We need a cook for June as Pastor had to change his schedule and he will cover July which was open.

Sunday morning donuts are provided in May by Ed Herolt and in June by Louis LaRose. Take time to thank the men of Faith who provide these donuts to members and visitors!

An extension of our Sympathy

We take this opportunity to extend the sympathy of the congregation to Jean Ann Bean Beasley. After an illness of several months and multiple surgeries William D. (Billy) Albrecht passes away on April 13. Visitation took place on Easter Day afternoon from 4:00 to 8:00 in Goliad. The service of Christian burial was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Goliad on Monday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

TAMARA,

ON THE BIRTHDAYS LIST THERE ARE MICHAEL SCOTTEN (5) AND JAMES SCOTTEN (27) LISTED. THEY ARE NO LONGER MEMBERS AND YOU COULD PROBABLY TAKE THEM OFF IF YOU WOULD LIKE. THERE ARE SOME NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER THINGS IN

THE FOLDER. I WILL PUT THEM IN YOUR BOX.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER—

Sandra Jones (associate member) who relinquished her membership at Galilean in Corpus Christi and became a full member of our congregation.

Last month Lou Trlica transferred her membership from St. Mark's Lutheran in Corpus Christi.

Congratulations

This year our congregation has 2 of our active youth graduating from area High

Schools. They are:

Stacy Stevenson graduating from A.C. Jones and Chelsea Merks graduating from Three Rivers High School.

They will be honored at our worship service on May 21.

May 2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Doughnuts by Ed Herolt	1 5:00 Synod Assembly Planning Meeting 6:30 Men of Faith (Bobo) and Evening Circle-	2	3 9:00 Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00 National Day of Prayer Observance @ courthouse	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 9:00—1:00—Delta Kappa Gamma Mtg. (Falba) 6:00 p.m. Worship
7 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday school	8 7:00 Church Council	9 6:00 Cotillion Club in PH 6:30 Lions Club for Pastor Frio River Retreat	10 9:00 a.m. Faith Circle 9:00 Quilting 11-1—BASSC 2:00 IDG 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Frio River Retreat	11 Frio River Retreat	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 6:00 p.m. Worship
14 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday school	15	16 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Deanery in Woodsboro 1:00 p.m. Golden Agers	17 9:00 Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 p.m. EM-MAUS Gathering @ Karnes City FUMC Synod Council in CC	19 Pastor's Day Off Synod Assembly in CC	20 6:00 p.m. Worship Synod Assembly in CC
21 9:00 a.m. Worship—Recognition of HS graduates 10:30 a.m. Sunday school 8:00 Baccalaureate at AC Jones	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 6:30 Lions Club for Pastor	24 9:00 Quilting 2:00 IDG 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	25 11:00 a.m. Beeville Ministerial Mtg.	26 Pastor's Day Off 8:00 HS Graduation and Project Graduation	27 6:00 p.m. Worship
28 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday school 11:30 Confirmation session if needed 3:30 Worship @BRNRC	29 Office Closed for Memorial Day	30	31 9:00 Quilting	Joint VBS coming June 23-27—to be held at First United Methodist Church—<u>THEME-Fiesta</u>		