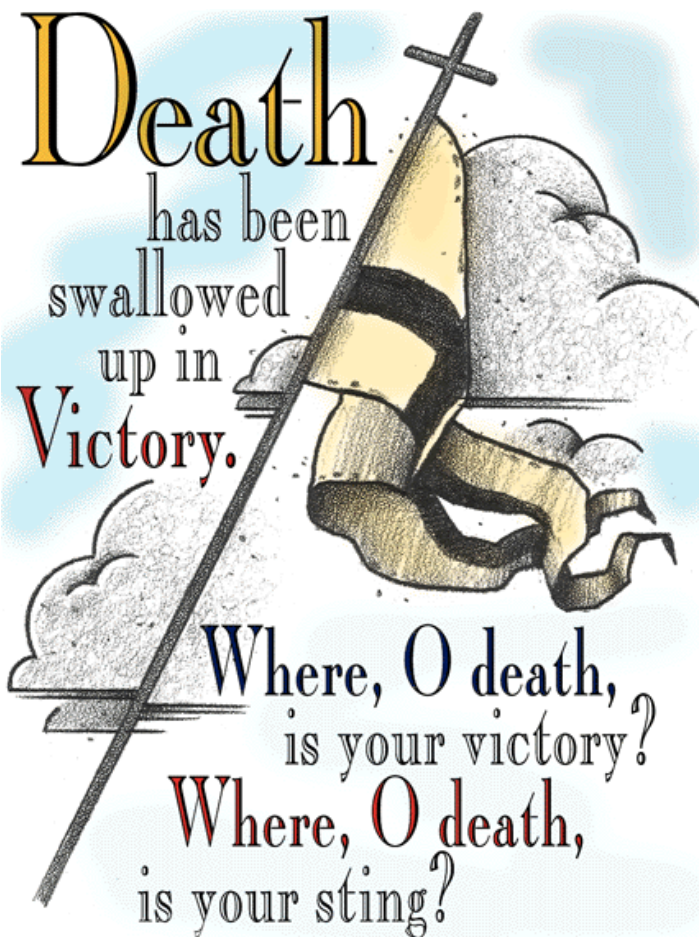




Bethany Lutheran Outlook
April 2009

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



1 Corinthians 15:54-55

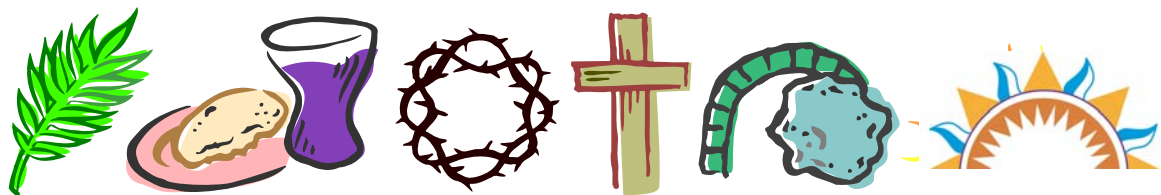


PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox is the day that Easter is celebrated; that makes it April 12th this year (Spring equinox-March 20th, full moon-April 9th, Easter Sunday-April 12th). Why this formula for determining the date you ask? “Because we’ve always done it that way” is as good an answer as any, and by always I mean always, as this goes back to the earliest days of Christianity.

At the Council of Nicea in the year 325 in addition to formulating the first version of the Nicene Creed as a statement of faith, those gathered also made official this method of setting the date for Easter. At that time the Julian calendar was in use but in 1582 the Gregorian calendar became the internationally adopted civil calendar and that is the one that the Western Churches (Roman Catholic and all its Reformation offshoots including Lutherans) use to determine the date of Easter. The Eastern Orthodox churches still use the older Julian calendar to determine church festivals and that is why they often celebrate Easter on a different Sunday than we do.

This year Holy Week begins on April 5th with Palm/Passion Sunday. The Triduum, the Three Days then begin with Maundy Thursday on April 9th and ends with the Easter celebration on Sunday. The services over these days are the center, the focal point of the entire liturgical year. These three days actually overlap two seasons, as the first two days are the final two days of Lent and the third day is the first day of the Easter season. It is during these three days though, that through a series of connected liturgies, we tell the story of God’s acts to save us through Jesus Christ.



The liturgies for these days don't change much from year to year. They are pretty much set pieces, once a year services that take us through the disorientation of Jesus' betrayal, trial and crucifixion into the new orientation of resurrection. Those who are able to be part of all these liturgies are able to experience the joy of Easter in unique ways having experienced the emotions of the previous days, especially the loss and the absence.



The full worship schedule for Holy Week and Easter is included in this newsletter so I invite you to note the times and plan to be in attendance. While some of the services are rather late in the evening, they are good ones to bring children to. While they may not understand everything, they will get a sense of the drama and difference of what is going on. For any of us, it is a lot of church for a few days, but it is once a year and the story is at the center of who we are as Christians.

Blessings to you during these final days of Lent...and Happy Easter!

Pastor Geier



Holy Week Schedule

April 5—Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m.

April 9—Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.

April 10—Good Friday

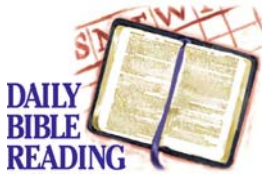
- **Ecumenical Service at Bethel Lutheran 12:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.**
- **Tenebrae Service 9 p.m.**

April 11 Easter Vigil 9 p.m.

All Night Vigil 11:00 p.m.

April 12 Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.

DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Daily Lectionary for April 2009

1	Psalm 119:9-16	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23	John 12:34-50
2	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Philippians 2:1-11
3	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26	Jeremiah 33:1-9	Philippians 2:12-18
4	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26	Jeremiah 33: 10-16	Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

5 **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

- 6 Monday in Holy Week
- 7 Tuesday in Holy Week
- 8 Wednesday in Holy Week
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Vigil of Easter



12 **Resurrection of Our Lord**

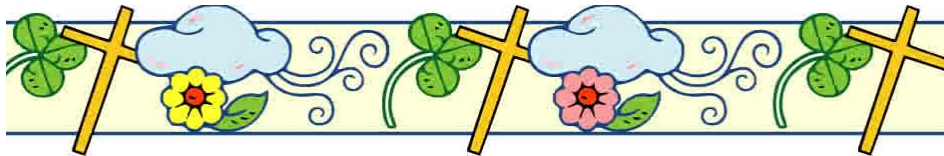
13	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Genesis 1:1-19	1 Corinthians 15:35-49
14	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Genesis 1:20-2:4a	1 Corinthians 15:50-58
15	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Song of Solomon 3:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
16	Psalm 133	Daniel 1:1-21	Acts 2:42-47
17	Psalm 133	Daniel 2:1-23	Acts 4:23-31
18	Psalm 133	Daniel 2:24-49	John 12:44-50



19	Second Sunday of Easter		
20	Psalm 135	Daniel 3:1-30	1 John 2:3-11
21	Psalm 135	Daniel 6:1-28	1 John 2:12-17
22	Psalm 135	Isaiah 26:1-15	Mark 12:18-27
23	Psalm 4	Daniel 9:1-19	1 John 2:18-25
24	Psalm 4	Daniel 10:2-19	1 John 2:26-28
25	Psalm 4	Acts 3:1-10	Luke 22:24-30
26	Third Sunday of Easter		
27	Psalm 150	Jeremiah 30:1-11a	1 John 3:10-16
28	Psalm 150	Hosea 5:15-6:6	2 John 1-6
29	Psalm 150	Proverbs 9:1-6	Mark 16:9-18
30	Psalm 23	Genesis 30:25-43	Acts 3:17-26

May

1	Psalm 23	Genesis 46:28-47:6	Acts 4:1-4
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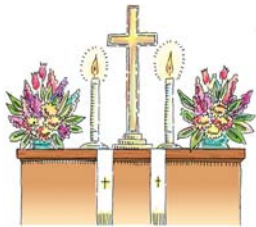


At the conclusion of each Sunday worship service during Lent, the choir sang the choral prayer *Adoramus Te*. This antiphon is often sung as part of a Good Friday liturgy. Below is the translation.

Adoramus Te

Christ, our Lord, we adore Thee.
 Lord, we adore Thee and bless Thee.
 For by Thy sacred cross, most holy, was the world redeemed.
 Christ, our Lord, we adore Thee.
 Lord, we adore Thee and bless Thee.





Worship and Music



Paschal candle.....what's that?

How many times do we read about fire in the Bible? Does the burning bush, or a pillar of fire in the desert, ring a bell? Fire has come to represent the presence of God among us. Each year, at the Easter Vigil, a new candle, the paschal candle, is introduced to the congregation at the beginning of the service. We gather outdoors and light a roaring fire called the “new fire.” The paschal candle is lit from the new fire and represents the Risen Christ, the Light of the World. It leads us in a winding procession through the dark halls of the church just as Christ leads us out of darkness into light.



The next time you enter the sanctuary and pass the baptismal font, stop and take a closer look at the paschal candle. It is inscribed with a cross, the symbols for alpha and omega, and the current year to remind us that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity. Five wax nails are inserted into the cross which represent the five wounds of Christ. This brief explanation barely scratches the surface of the history of the candle. You can visit the ELCA website and find additional information there.



So you see, there is a deep meaning associated with the paschal candle. Make it a point to attend the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. Witness the lighting of the “new fire” and join in as the candle is carried in procession through the dark corridors of the church as we gather to celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

Easter Message 2009

A message from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

"Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified ... has been raised" ([Mark 16:6](#)).

When Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome came to the tomb, their hopes and fears intersected. They wondered aloud about the impossibly large and heavy stone that presented an obstacle to their immediate plans. Worse, what they thought lay behind the stone was unspeakably devastating. Jesus, who embodied the hope of God's promise in a fully human life, was not simply dead, but crucified -- executed in the most extreme humiliation, a savage mockery of the hope that had lived with him.

But the stone was gone, the grave empty. Where they had expected to hear the silence of death's mockery, they were met by an astonishing message that the crucified one was raised from the dead, that their hope was victorious over humiliation, and that Jesus lives and is leading the way into an unexpected, surprising future with God.

Jesus lives and resurrection hope beckons. Jesus' resurrection on the third day signals that God is not finished until the life of Jesus renews the whole creation. Sinners once haunted by the threats of judgment will live forgiven, restored, renewed and freed. All lives broken by sin's injustices and haunted by death's terrors will be transformed by joy and transfigured into the new creation in Christ.

You and I are witnesses of this new creation. You have been baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection and have heard his promise. Your lives are hidden in his and he feeds you with a foretaste of the eternal feast of joy. He will meet you in your hope. He claims your daily work and makes it into a holy calling. He lives in you and sends you into the world as an ambassador of reconciliation, a testimony of God's incomparable love. Jesus lives! Your life in him is resurrection witness.



"This is our God...let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!" ([Isaiah 25:9](#)).

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Days of Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Why is the first day of Holy Week Palm Sunday when palm branches are mentioned in only one of the four Gospels (John 12: 12-15)?

Tradition plays an important part in church history. During Jesus' time, Rome was the world's leading power. Whenever the Romans were victorious in battle, citizens traditionally threw palm branches in the returning heroes' path.



This was the accepted custom of reception. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, it was appropriate that he receive a hero's welcome. One week later, he would be victorious over death.

Maundy Thursday

What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word "Maundy" is a shortened version of the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.



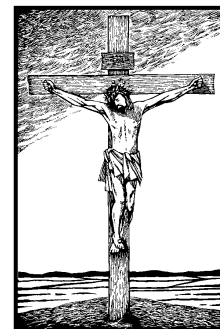
At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

As Christians gather to eat and share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another.

Good Friday

Why the Cross? In Jesus' day, the Roman army ruling Israel carried out capital punishment by using a wooden cross. Criminals, troublemakers and others who threatened society were crucified in public places for everyone to see.

False charges were levied against Jesus. Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, accused him of blasphemy against God and of being a threat to Roman rule. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, had Jesus nailed to a cross on a Friday.



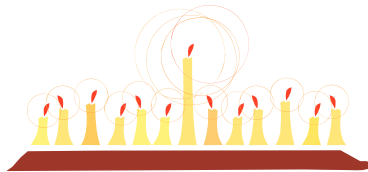
Perhaps ironically to non-Christians, that day came to be called Good Friday. God reached down into our Lord's grave and restored him to life. The cross that had been a symbol of horror became a symbol of joy.

Tenebrae

In the early years of Christianity, a worship service called Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") was held during Holy Week. Today many churches hold a Tenebrae service on the evening of Good Friday, the night Christ died.

For those who knew and loved him, that night must have been the darkest night of their lives. Imagine their shock, despair, gnawing grief and utter hopelessness.

The Tenebrae service moves from light into darkness. The service usually begins in a dim light. The chancel, cross and altar are often draped with black cloth and the altar may have 13 candles – one representing each of the 12 disciples and one larger one symbolizing Christ.



To begin the service, an appropriate prayer is offered or a hymn about Jesus the Light of the World is sung.

Easter Vigil

On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, many liturgical churches spend the hours before midnight waiting and watching for the presence of the risen Christ.

The Paschal candle is lit as the vigil begins. The service starts with the pastor saying something like, "Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather to recall the death of our Lord and prepare our hearts to experience the risen Christ when this day ends at midnight."

In a sense this is the Christian version of Passover because we contemplate the passing over of our Lord from death into Resurrection.

Easter Sunday

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian religion.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our Christian faith. "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain," he wrote to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 15:14, NRSV). The apostle went on to say, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (verse 17).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God. "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours," said the evangelist.

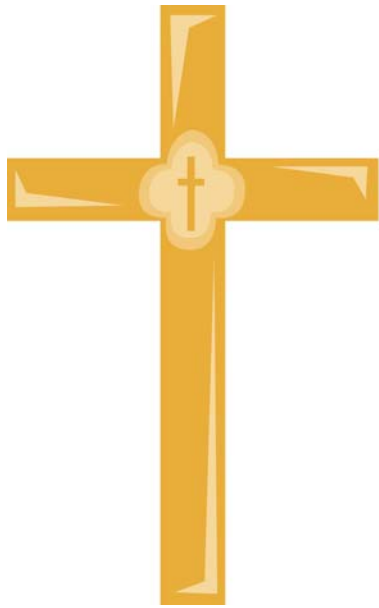
The Lord is risen! Hallelujah! Today we celebrate the foundation of our faith: the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with exceeding joy that we welcome all who have come to recall Christ's victory over sin and death. Rejoice!



BEHOLD,
CHRIST HAS RISEN!

GRACE

*God's Riches at
Christ's Expense*



What Is Faith?

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

Martin Luther

**Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16

I Am What I Am by the Grace of God



**I am not what I ought to be.
I am not what I want to be.
I am not what I hope to be.
But still, I am not what I used to be.
And by the grace of God, I am what I am.**
John Newton

John Newton wrote Amazing Grace, one of the most popular hymns ever written. Surprisingly, the words of this hymn came from a man who one would hardly expect such an inspirational message. At age 11, John Newton went to sea and began a life of godlessness, recklessness, cruelty, and vulgarity. He joined the Navy, was flogged as a deserter, and lived for 15 months as a slave in Africa. Though treated as a slave, Newton, nonetheless, had no compunction about being a captain of a slave-trading ship himself.

Yet God used that very sinner and redeemed him. In Newton's case, God's call came through a chance reading of Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. This book planted the seed of Newton's conversion. Later while facing almost certain death at sea, Newton gave way to the voice of God calling him to a higher way. Ultimately the godless man turned to God and became a minister in the Church of England and the author of the Olney Hymns. One of those hymns *Amazing Grace* describes the lavishness of God's grace as nothing less than amazing. *Amazing Grace* becomes the reflection of Newton's own experience.

John Newton wrote his own epitaph which can be found written on a marble plaque at St. Mary Woolnoth.

John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

John Newton, 1725-1807

For the grace
of God
has appeared,
bringing
salvation
to all.

Titus 2:11



New Books For April 2009

By Keenan Tunnell



Most of the titles for this month are children's books for Easter, and I hope you'll find one to share with one of the children in your life! In addition, 2 copies of the novel The Shack have been added to the collection, after rave notices from a couple of Bethany members .

EASTER for the Kids

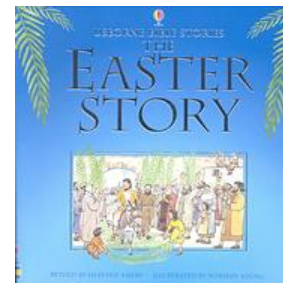
Holmes, Andy. **Bible for me: Easter.** (E 232 HOL, Boardbook)



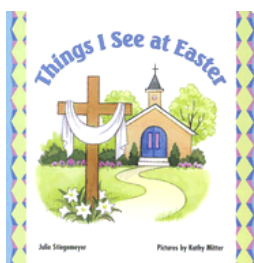
“Part of the beloved *Bible for Me* series, *Bible for Me: Easter* is the perfect way to introduce young children to the real meaning of Easter. Author Andy Holmes explains the very difficult concepts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to young children in a way that they can understand. Warm, colorful illustrations by Ralph Voltz bring the story of Easter to life and will help to share the most important story in the Bible. Recommended for ages 2 to 5.”

Amery, Heather. **The Easter Story** (E 232 AME, 16p.)

“*Usborne Bible Stories* have been specially written for young children just beginning to read. In *The Easter Story*, the dramatic events of the Crucifixion are recounted in simple language, staying close to the original story. The charming illustrations engage the reader and give clear clues to the words and their meanings and the pictures are full of historically accurate detail that recreates the setting of the story. Recommended for ages 2 and up.”



Stiegemeier, Julie. **Things I see at Easter** (E 232 STE Boardbook)



“Easter has so many different colors, sounds, and images. The bright illustrations and words in this book help young children connect objects and symbols of Easter with faith concepts....Designed to assist parents and teachers as they help young children identify and understand what happens in church, children will see Jesus at the center of the worship experience, understand the significance of [worship], and feel a part of the worshipping community. Also, this board book is sturdy enough to withstand wear and tear from active toddlers. Recommended for ages 1 to 4.”

April Worship Assistants

April 5 Palm Sunday

Assisting Minister -
Acolytes - Jordan Dault & Katelyn Ombrello
Altar - Jean Johns
Coffee Hosts -
Nursery - Ali Kitchen
Bread - Meredith Seppanen

April 12 Easter Sunday

Assisting Minister -
Acolytes - Courtney Allen & Kara Harrington
Altar - Jean Johns
Coffee Hosts - Easter Brunch
Flowers - In memory of Marvin Nadeau by his family
Nursery - Mindy Harrington
Bread - Evelyn Nadeau & Meta Leverton

April 19

Assisting Minister -
Acolytes - John Leverton & Megan Hough
Altar - Ruth Solberg
Coffee Hosts -
Flowers - In memory of Donald Swanson by Nancy
Nursery - Katie Johns
Bread - Dan & Sharon Argall

April 26

Assisting Minister -
Acolytes - Joshua Argall & Natalie Rasmussen
Altar - Carol Waters
Coffee Hosts - Medlyn family
Flowers - In memory of their grandson Aaron
Sundblad by Ray and Colleen Sundblad
Nursery - Tory Mattson
Bread - Kathy Geier

April 9 Maundy Thursday

Assisting Minister -
Acolytes - Max Alexander &
Kate Clark
Bread - Rae Elliott

Thank You!

April Ushers:

John Beerling
Jerry Hager
Bill Heavyside
Robert Maki
Donald Meyer
John Pontti
Dan Sleeman



May Ushers:

Robert Waters
James Anderson
John Carlson
Robert Nadeau
Ton Sodergren
Roger Solberg
Greg Stahlmann

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Tammie Sundquist
- 3 Casey Hares
- 3 Hope Kaukola
- 3 Raegan Niemela
- 4 Jennifer Bertucci
- 4 Michael Swanson
- 5 Joanna Olgren
- 6 Sara Barton
- 6 Karen Plaisier
- 8 Marie Jensen
- 8 Ann Sundblad
- 9 Danielle Nelson
- 10 Eric Jarvi
- 11 Gerald Anderson Jr.
- 11 Clifford Mattson
- 13 Carlo Balzarini
- 15 Alex Goldsworthy
- 15 Katelyn Ombrello
- 15 Tom Sodergren
- 16 Pat Varda
- 17 Jeanne Downing
- 18 Terry Holmgren
- 19 Lindsey Cain
- 19 Kaitlin Hares
- 19 Lisa Mattson
- 21 Nancy Carlyon
- 21 Sara Ombrello
- 21 Laura Sleeman
- 22 James Bjerne
- 24 Claudia Thompson
- 25 ShyAnn Brown
- 25 Tammy Swanson
- 27 Donald Frederickson
- 27 Savannah Marietti
- 29 Marian Medlyn
- 30 Keenan Tunnell



Happy Anniversary!

Michael & Kathy Richards
4/7/1973 36 years

Peter & Debra Cain
4/15/1978 31 years

Daniel & Cheryl Sleeman
4/16/1977 32 years

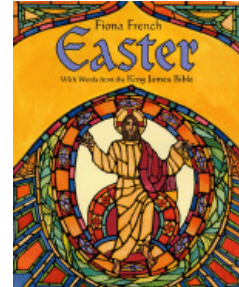
Donald & Judith Meyer
4/18/1964 45 years

Paul & Vera Blewett
4/26/2003 6 years

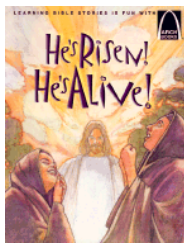


French, Fiona. **Easter: with words from the King James Bible** (JUV 232.96 FRE)

“Rich colorful artwork lends beauty to the simple telling of the Easter story, by award-winning Fiona French. Inspired by English cathedral windows ..., Ms. French has captured the solemn reverence due the resurrection in her artwork, and included only the King James account of the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Use this book to teach about sacred art ..., as well as impart the truth and holiness of the Easter season to your family. Recommended for ages 4 to 8.”



Bader, Joanne. **He's risen! He's alive!** (JUV 232.96 BAD 16p)



This book retells the story of Christ's Resurrection (Matthew 27:32—28:10). It's part of the Arch Book series which retells popular Bible stories through fun-to-read rhymes and bright illustrations. We've added five other Arch Book titles retelling the Easter story from various perspectives.

Amazing Grace (DVD 920 WIL 118 min.)

“*Amazing Grace*...tells the inspiring story of how one man's passion and perseverance changed the world. Based on the true-life story of William Wilberforce, a leader of the British abolition movement, the film chronicles his epic struggle to pass a law to end the slave trade in the late 18th century. Along the way, Wilberforce meets intense opposition from members of Parliament who feel the slave trade is tied to the stability of the British Empire. Several friends, including Wilberforce's minister, John



Newton (Finney), a reformed slave ship captain who penned the beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*, urge him to see the cause through.” NOTE: Special features on the DVD include a 28-minute featurette on the story of “Amazing Grace” (the hymn) ... and a 4-minute music video of “Amazing Grace” by Chris Tomlin.

Toyohiko Kagawa - Renewer of Society
Commemoration Day - April 22

In 1923 one of the greatest earthquake disasters in history hit Japan and reduced Tokyo and Yokohama to smoking ruins. Millions were homeless. Starvation, disease and anarchy were the only things flourishing and the government and military could do nothing about it. They knew a man who could reorganize and restructure things, but he was in prison. The common people almost worshiped him but the government, the capitalists, the radical nationalists and the military people hated and feared him. He was in prison for orchestrating a vast non-violent strike in the docks, and even though the workers got all that he had demanded for them, he himself was thrown into prison for his leadership in the strike action. His name was Toyohiko Kagawa. They let him out of prison and he began the work of rebuilding the nation. The government offered him a huge wage and all the privileges that went with such a role but he turned it all down saying, "To work with the poor I must be poor."



Kagawa was born in 1888, the illegitimate son of a wealthy and high-ranking politician and geisha. Both of his parents died when he was young, and although he was officially a samurai and head of nearly twenty villages, he went to live with his grandmother and a stepmother. Life was miserable for him until a rich uncle adopted him and had great plans for him.

Kagawa went on to learn English from Henry Myers, a Presbyterian minister. But he learned more than that from Myers - he learned about Christ and was baptized by Myers. Horace Shipp said of him, "Young Kagawa became a Christian. He did a rare thing: he began to practice Christianity." He was a pacifist to the core, at times literally turning the other cheek. He insisted on giving away all his possessions and often his food. In 1904 he spoke against Japan's act of war against the Russians and was beaten because of this. When he almost died in a shipwreck, he worked to absolute exhaustion to rescue people. This experience made him determined to work for "the salvation of 100,000 poor, the emancipation of 9,430,000 laborers and the liberation of twenty million tenant-farmers."

Often robbed, attacked, and bullied, Kagawa remained steadfast in the preaching of his faith and living out a selfless life by giving away his income, food, and clothing to those in need. Kagawa died in 1960.

Toyohiko Kagawa is one face of God's love for the world.

Thank You

During the Lenten and Easter season, many have made special contributions or have extended themselves to make this time one filled with reverence and meaning. Thank you Pastor Geier, Bob Bucan, Carol Papaleo, members of the Church Boards who provided the soup and bread suppers, Bethany Choir, Bethany Bell Choir, participants in the Wednesday dramas, Ruby Kaukala who made the Lenten banners, those who were crucifers, banner and candle bearers, communion bread bakers, Kathy Geier & Linda Dahl who put together the Lenten cookbook, members from Faith who made soup and were readers during Wednesday services, Gary Sundblad for recording Lenten dramas, and anyone else who stepped forth to help each service glorify God.



Carl and Doris Pellonpaa received this postcard from friends in Sweden with a fitting message for April.

Glad Påsk
Happy Easter

önskar
Good Wishes

Lenten Dramas Are Online

This year's Lenten drama series "The Voice of God" can be found online at <http://drop.io/lent2009>. If you missed any of the dramas or would like to listen to them again, they are now accessible to you thanks to Gary Sundblad who recorded the dramas and set up the online link.



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

April 1, 2009

Exuberant Singing Blows Out Speakers —
Council Authorizes Purchase of New Sound System

Weight Watchers Sets Up Permanent Site in Fellowship Hall
(Those homemade goodies are awfully good!)

Veteran Kayaker W. Geier Seen Walking on Water

Property Committee Completes Plastering of Sanctuary Walls —
Extensive Damage Done By Those Clamoring to Get In.

Bucan Turns Down Mormon Tabernacle Choir Directorship....
Says His Heart is Here at Bethany

Grumpy Old Men.....Smiled!

★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★



What's Up With WELCA?



Spring Cluster Sunday, April 19th Immanuel Lutheran Church Negaunee

Program: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp... a place of grace to experience growth in faith.

**Registration: 2:30 PM (\$5.00)
Program, Meeting, and Dinner to follow**

Please sign up by Monday, April 13th if you will be attending.

Sew What?

The quilters sewing group has a great name.

They like to call themselves

“The Old Sew and Sews”





Rediscovering the Book of Faith

(Augsburg Fortress, 2008)

This brief text is actually a course re-introducing the participants to the Bible: its origins, history, and place in the life of Christians. Over the next couple of months I'll be summarizing and excerpting sections of it to provide a kind of mini-course on our Book of Faith.

What is the Bible? *What it is and what it does.*

“The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.” (p.1)

How did it start? *Oral History and the formation of the Old Testament.*

“Before there were web pages or television, before magazines, books, paper, or pencils—before there was even an alphabet—there were songs and stories. The accounts were passed from one generation to the next. And because there were no written records, the stories were all people had to remember where they had come from and who they were. These songs and stories were of supreme importance. They were holy....

“The invention of writing meant the witness of God’s people could be preserved in a new way for future generations. About the time Solomon was king of Israel and Judah (around 950-922 BC), the process of writing down oral stories began. People called scribes captured and reproduced the stories of God’s people on scrolls....Over time, the account of God’s people came to include stories, songs, prayers, laws, proverbs, and prophetic messages. In addition to recording the story of God’s people, the scribes also read these witnesses aloud to the people at special times and places to help God’s people rediscover who God is, much as the oral storytellers had done....

“As the stories of God’s people were written down, there were debates about which scrolls to regard most highly. The debate was not about which stories were true records of the past, but about which had more authority for how people ought to live now. The scrolls considered most important were those that helped a new generation discover God....

“All agreed that the witness collected in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy...[the Pentateuch or Torah] was the most important. A group known as the Sadducees [the priestly caste] included only these five books in their canon [collection of writings]. Others, such as a group called the Pharisees, argued for a larger collection of books, including some that are not part of the canon for many Christians....

“The Hebrew Bible, which Christians today call the Old Testament, is a collection of 39 different writings. [It] includes the Pentateuch, plus words of prophets, Psalms, proverbs, and many stories about kings and queens, armies, spies, priests, and miracle workers....Our book of faith shows us who God is and how our faithful ancestors came to know God.” (pp.12-14)

This is what Psalm 23 looks like in formal Hebrew script (Hebrew reads from right to left) :

Psalm 23

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד ¹

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר: ² בְּנֵאֲוֹת דְּשָׂא יְרֵבִיצְנִי
עַל־מֵי מִנְחֹת יִנְהַלְנִי: ³ נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב
יַנְחֵנִי בַמְעַגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לִמְנַעַן שְׂמוֹ:
גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶיךָ בִּגְיָא צַלְמֹת לֹא־אִירָא לָע ⁴
כִּי־אַתָּה עֲמֹדֵי שְׁבֻטֶיךָ וּמֹשְׁעֵתֶיךָ תַּמְּהָ יִנְחַמְנִי:
תַּעֲרֶךְ לִפְנָיִךְ שְׁלֹחַן נֶגֶד צָרְרֵי ⁵
דְּשִׁנְתָּ בַשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כוֹסֵי רוּיָה:
אֵדָא טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יְרַדְפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֵּי ⁶
וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יְהוָה לְאַרְךָ יָמִים:



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Kids - Did you know?

What did Jesus do during Holy Week?

On **Palm Sunday**, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt while crowds of people ahead of him covered the street with their cloaks and palm branches.



On **Monday** Jesus chased the money-changers out of the temple

On **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**, Jesus preached and taught in Jerusalem.

Thursday was a busy day. After Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, Jesus celebrated Passover and instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. After supper Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. When he was there, a Temple guard arrested Jesus.

On **Friday** Jesus was taken into Roman courts, before Pontius Pilate and Herod Antipas, who sent him back to the Jewish court. Roman soldiers took him to Golgotha, the place of the skull, where he was crucified.

On **Saturday** Jesus rested in the tomb while his disciples observed the Sabbath.

On **Easter Sunday** an angel met Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" (perhaps Mary, the mother of James and John at the tomb to tell them that Jesus was risen from the dead.



**Spring World Hunger Gathering
May 3, 2009
Faith Lutheran Church
Rock, Michigan**



- Participate in a Hunger Walk or a Hunger Bike Ride to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal
- Meet presenter Krystal MacClinton, Coordinator for Donor Relations for the World Hunger Appeal
- Find out what the Northern Great Lakes Synod is doing to help in Tanzania
- Hear what other congregations in the NGLS are doing to raise awareness and financial support for ELCA World Hunger Appeal programs
- View current World Hunger resources for congregations

Schedule

1:00 pm Registration for Miles for Meals WALK and Miles for Meals BIKE RIDE



1:15 pm WALK & BIKE RIDE - Official Start

2:00 pm Registration, Coffee & Fellowship for Spring World Hunger Gathering

2:30 pm Worship

3:00 pm Presentations

5:00 pm Light Supper - Picnic Style (\$6.50 charge for supper; any proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Food Pantry at Faith Lutheran Church in Rock.)

Council Highlights



- Received thank you from Fortune Lake
- Received thank you from ELCA for the donation to World Hunger
- Good Friday ecumenical service will be held at Bethel Lutheran from 12:30-3:00
- March 22 - Installation of Cory Johnson at

Fortune Lake

- March 29—Conference 8 meeting will be held at Bethany (3 pm)
- Need for additional assisting ministers to help with Common Cup
- Easter brunch of muffins and fruit will be held after Easter services. Choirs will provide food but others are needed for set up and serving.
- Jim Bjerne is new assistant director of Finance Board



The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

Adam and Eve

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.



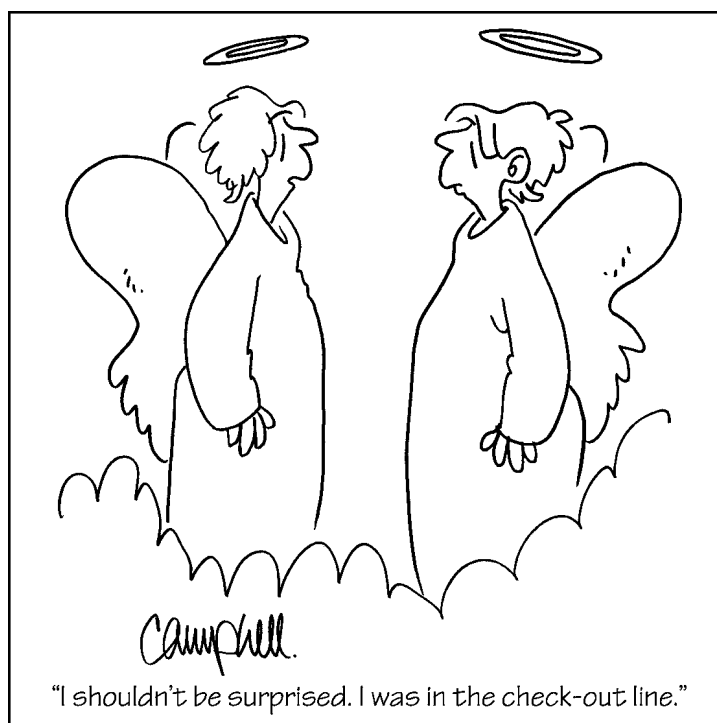
Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Next month: Noah

Lenten Postcard Included in April's Outlook

Enclosed in each copy of April's Outlook is the worship schedule for Holy Week. The schedule is written on a postcard. Feel free to use it as....

- Your special reminder
- A bookmark
- An invitation (Add postage and send it to someone inviting them to take part in the special Lenten and Easter message here at Bethany.)



**The March and April's Noisy Offering
will go to the Salvation Army Fuel Fund.**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



**The Memorial Committee would like to
thank all those who gave memorials
in the name of....**

Rick Lawson



Bethany's Website

www.bethanyishpeming.org

**Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate
Are Available at Bethany**



Café Salvador Coffee
Organic Decaf Coffee
Whole Bean Coffee
Whole Bean Decaf
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Hot cocoa
Baking Cocoa
Milk Chocolate Bar
Dark Chocolate Mini Bars

From Small Farmers With Love

www.bethanyishpeming.org

Visitors Overview

Jan 1, 2008 - Dec 30, 2008

1,491 people visited this site in 2008

2,419 Visits were made to Bethany's website in 2008.

Is it time for you to check out Bethany's website?
You won't be disappointed.

Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents: June Bjorne (Brookridge Assisted Living), Teckla Holmgren, Barbara Crabb , (Pearl Forchini (Mather), Martha Ulrickson (Valente), Anita Liljequist (Mather), and Doreen Brown (Valente).
- Nick Chartre
- Therese Korpi
- Nancy Swanson
- Paul Blomgren
- Karen Williams
- David Laine
- Edmund Holmgren
- Don Doney
- Emilee Brown
- Steven Leverton
- Pastors Steven & Marcia Solberg who will be installed at Immanuel Lutheran on April 5 at a 3 pm service
- Tracy Nadeau, granddaughter of Evelyn Nadeau, who will travel to Africa as part of a medical missionary program
- All those in the military that they may remain safe



*with
Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Denise Clark for the fine production of *Anything Goes* which she directed for the Ishpeming High School. Special accolades also go to Katie Johns and Alex Goldsworthy who starred in the production.

Contributions to and ideas for the newsletter can be made by contacting **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

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