



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
April 2019

Serving God, Community, and Individuals





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Easter is late this year. It can fall anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th so being on April 21st this year it's not quite as late as it can be, but it's close. When I first saw how late Easter fell this year I thought, "Maybe spring will have arrived and we'll actually have bare ground by then." As I write during the last week of March, that doesn't seem likely.

With a break in the weather, significant melting has taken place but there's a long way to go and it's safe to say we're not yet done with snowfall. But the new snow helps to melt the old, right?? While I've heard that a lot, I've never heard a convincing argument as to how that's supposed to happen but maybe there's truth in it, I don't know. However it works, I think it's safe to say that there will still be piles of snow around on Easter Sunday.

In some places, flowers are already blooming by Easter. Up here, for the most part, we settle for the Easter flowers that decorate the church to provide us with signs of new life. It's one of the reasons that I think it's nice that Bethany is always so beautiful on Easter. It's not that Easter wouldn't happen without the flowers but the atmosphere around our liturgical celebrations, in this case the flowers as signs of new life, do make a difference.

One of the things we talk about at Bethany is how worship is a priority. Part of that is not just holding worship on the appropriate days but also in planning the services carefully and taking seriously the physical environment. Many hands contribute to that planning and it does add meaning to the overall worship experience. The beauty of the Easter flowers is one example but the same thing is true during Holy Week and the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil of Saturday.

The services for the Great Three Days are actually enhanced by the absence of decoration and the use of darkness and shadows and candlelight. Stripping the altar in gathering darkness on Maundy Thursday as Psalm 22 is chanted adds to the meaning of what is being symbolized making the ritual much more effective than if it were done in broad daylight. Waiting until darkness has settled to begin the Good Friday Tenebrae service and to light the new fire of the Easter Vigil on Saturday also adds to the impact of those worship experiences.



By mid to late April, it's close to 9 o'clock before it really starts to get dark. That's why we don't start Maundy Thursday worship until the inconvenient time of 8 o'clock with Good Friday Tenebrae and the Easter Vigil beginning even more inconveniently at 9. Maybe it's good for us to be inconvenienced a little bit on those days; the events surrounding Jesus on those days weren't exactly convenient either.

Allow yourself and your family to be inconvenienced during Holy Week and the Three Days this year. There is a drama and flow in the sequence of services which is not only memorable and meaningful, it also makes the celebration of Easter more meaningful. Plan to be here as we mark the most Holy Week of the year.

Pastor Geier



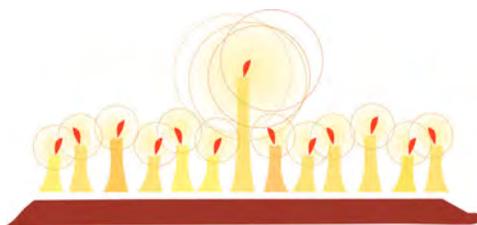
Dispelling

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”) is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus’ Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for “loud noise”) may signify the closing of Jesus’ tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshipers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

the Darkness

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he'd served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: “When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness.”

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5, ESV).



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.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”
—Martin Luther

April 2019

1 Psalm 53	Leviticus 23:26-41	Revelation 18:1-8
2 Psalm 53	Leviticus 25:1-19	Revelation 19:9-10
3 Psalm 53	2 Kings 4:1-7	Luke 9:10-17
4 Psalm 126	Isaiah 43:1-7	Philippians 2:19-24
5 Psalm 126	Isaiah 43:8-15	Philippians 2:25 — 3:1
6 Psalm 126	Exodus 12:21-27	John 11:45-57
7 Fifth Sunday in Lent		
Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3: 4b-14
		John 12:1-8
8 Psalm 20	Exodus 40:1-15	Hebrews 10:19-25
9 Psalm 20	Judges 9:7-15	1 John 2:18-28
10 Psalm 20	Habakkuk 3:2-15	Luke 18:31-34
11 Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 53:10-12	Hebrews 2:1-9
12 Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 54:9-10	Hebrews 2:10-18
13 Psalm 31:9-16	Leviticus 23:1-8	Luke 22:1-13

14 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms: Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14
— 23:56



15 Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

16 Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Cor. 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

17 Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

18 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Cor. 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

19 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1 — 19:42

20 Saturday: Vigil of Easter

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a - Creation

Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Second Reading: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 - Flood

Response: Psalm 46

Third Reading: Genesis 22:1-18 - Testing of Abraham

Response: Psalm 16

Fourth Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 - Deliverance at the Red Sea

Response: Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11 - Salvation freely offered to all

Response: Isaiah 12:2-6

Sixth Reading: Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 - The wisdom of God

Response: Psalm 19

Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28 - A new heart and a new spirit

Response: Psalm 42 and Psalm 43

Eighth Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Valley of the dry bones

Response: Psalm 143



Ninth Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 - The gathering of God's people
Response: Psalm 98

Tenth Reading: Jonah 1:1-2:1 - The deliverance of Jonah
Response: Jonah 2:2-3 [4-6] 7-9

Eleventh Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 - Clothed in the garments of salvation
Response: Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a

Twelfth Reading: Daniel 3:1-29 - Deliverance from the fiery furnace
Response: Song of the Three: Daniel 3:51-74
Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18



21 Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Cor. 15:19-26 Luke
24:1-12

22 Easter Monday

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Joshua 10:16-27 1 Cor. 5:6b-8
23 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Judges 4:17-23 ; 5:24-31a Revelation 12:1-12
24 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 2 Samuel 6:1-15 Luke 24:1-12
25 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:1-23 Acts 5:12-16

Readings for Mark, Evangelist

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 57 2 Timothy 4:6-11, 18 Mark 1:1-15

26 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:19-32 Acts 5:17-26
27 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:32-51 Luke 24:36-40

28 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

29 Psalm 122 Esther 7:1-10 Revelation 1:9-20
30 Psalm 122 Esther 8:1-17 Revelation 2:8-11



HOLY WEEK *Worship Services*

April 14 Palm Sunday
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday brunch follows worship.

As we ponder what it would've been like to throw coats and branches in your path as you entered Jerusalem, Lord, help us lay our lives at your feet.

April 18 Maundy Thursday 8:00 p.m.

God, after the first Passover, you delivered Israel from slavery. Today we share that meal, transformed by your Son, and trust in your delivery from slavery to sin. Amen.

April 19 Good Friday
Ecumenical Service @ Wesley Methodist Church 12:30—3:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service 9:00 p.m.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, have mercy on us. We praise you, for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

April 20 Easter Vigil 9:00 p.m.

April 21 Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Welcome into Easter joy. The power of God raised Jesus from the dead and offers eternal life to all.



Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Blessed Redeemer

Up Calv'ry's mountain one dreadful morn
Walked Christ, my Savior, weary and worn;
Facing for sinners death on the cross,
That He might save them from endless loss. [Chorus]

"Father forgive them!" thus did He pray,
E'en while His lifeblood flowed fast away;
Praying for sinners while in such woe--
No one but Jesus ever loved so.[Chorus]

O how I love Him, Savior and Friend,
How can my praises ever find end?
Through years unnumbered on heaven's shore,
My tongue shall praise Him forevermore.[Chorus]

Chorus:
Blessed Redeemer!
Precious Redeemer!
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading--
Blind and unheeding-- dying for me!

Words by Avis B. Christiansen



Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both

The Story Behind the Hymn: Blessed Redeemer

A hill with Three Crosses -
One cross where a thief died IN SIN
One cross where a thief dies TO SIN
A center cross where a Redeemer died FOR SIN
— unknown

It is thought that the day we call “Good Friday” originated from the term “God’s Friday” - the day that Christ was led to the hill of Golgotha and crucified, assuring an eternal reconciliation for lost man. The Roman cross, intended to be an instrument of cruel death, instead became an instrument of new life and hope for the human race. God loved and valued each us so highly that He was willing to pay the greatest price imaginable for our salvation.



of

The composer of this hymn, Harry Dixon Loes, was a popular music teacher at the Moody Bible Institute from 1939 until his death in 1965. One day while listening to a sermon on the subject of Christ’s atonement entitled “Blessed Redeemer,” Mr. Loes was inspired to compose this tune. He then sent the melody with the suggested title to Mrs. Avis Christiansen, a friend for many years, asking her to write the text. The completed hymn first appeared in the hymnal *Songs of Redemption* in 1920.

Avis B. Christiansen is to be ranked as one of the important gospel hymn writers of the twentieth century. She has written hundreds of gospel hymn texts as well as several volumes of published poems. Throughout her long lifetime of 90 years, Mrs. Christiansen collaborated with many well-known gospel musicians to contribute several other choice hymns to our hymnals, including “Blessed Calvary” and “I Know I’ll See Jesus Some Day.”

From *Amazing Grace; 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotion* by Kenneth W. Osbeck



*Palm Sunday
Brunch*



*Bethany's Palm Sunday Brunch
April 14
after worship service*



Decorated Eggs

Ham & cheese on rolls

Fruit

Muffins

Coffee

Milk

*Sponsored by the
Board of Worship and Music*



Wednesday Lenten Services and Soup Suppers Continue

“Amen: Pray Like Jesus” is a series of plays that demonstrates that prayer is critical in the ministry of Jesus. During the first two weeks of April, the last two plays in the series will be presented.

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN - This play takes a comical look at what some people might do to pray “for” the children. What happens in the TV show “Shark Tank” when someone suggests an ‘app’ that will do just that?

SWEAT BLOOD LIKE JESUS - Sometimes do we think we simply have to pray “harder,” even to the point of sweating blood as Jesus did as he prayed in Gethsemane? Do we sometimes forget that Jesus prayed “Your will be done”?

The soup suppers will continue at 5:30pm, prior to the 6:30 Evening Prayer service. The Boards responsible for the soup suppers are

April 3 – Stewardship and Personnel

April 10 - Christian Education

Christ has triumphed!

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks



Meanings in the Meal

Jesus instituted Communion while celebrating the Jewish Passover with his disciples. The meal's ritual foods hold meaning for Christians, too, because our faith story is interwoven with that of Judaism.



Matzoh: This unraised bread recalls the Israelites' hasty departure from oppression in Egypt. Jesus used the Passover bread to symbolize his body, which delivers us from bondage to sin and death.

Salt water: It symbolizes the tears of the Hebrews and of all who suffer in any time and place. Christians believe that in Jesus, God embraced human suffering so we need never face it alone.

Parsley: Dipped in the salt water, this green, leafy vegetable represents the Hebrews' rebirth out of sorrow into the joy of freedom. Easter's celebration of resurrection proclaims a coming day when God "will wipe every tear from [our] eyes [and] there will be no more death" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Shankbone: A lamb slaughtered for each Hebrew household meant life for those within. The meat strengthened them for the escape journey, and the blood, swabbed on their doorframe, signaled for Death to "pass over." Jesus used wine at the Passover meal to symbolize his blood — of the Lamb of God — which he would shed for our salvation.

Egg: For Jews celebrating Passover, an egg symbolizes memory of the Exodus and renewal of faith. For Christians at Easter, eggs — especially open, empty ones — call to mind Jesus' empty tomb, renewal and abundant life.

**"Forgiveness is the well from which we draw the water
to wash others' feet."**

—D. Siler

The Free Store

The Free Store is an interfaith non-profit group supporting people who express a need for free clothing, linens, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Anyone in need is welcome. Free things are offered as “in God’s economy there is always enough.” The Free Store is located at 1420 East M28 next to Lakestate Industries. It is open Wednesdays Noon-4PM (1st, 2nd 3rd weeks of month) Facebook@thenewfreestore.

There is a collection box in our church entry. Donation requests rotate on a monthly basis.

Suggested donations for April: female shampoo, female conditioner, male shampoo.

Bethany Sesquicentennial Update April



Bethany celebrated her diamond jubilee with activities and worship from Sunday, September 30, 1945 through Sunday, October 7, 1945. The memorial booklet highlighted Exodus 14:15 on its title page.

“Speak to my people that they go forward.”

The events of our 150th anniversary will start on October 6, 2019. On October 11, 2020 we will have our anniversary service followed by a banquet at River Rock Banquet Center. Plans continue to develop several events during the year preceding the anniversary service. Our next meeting is Saturday, May 11 at 11:00AM. You are welcome to stop by and offer suggestions.

Committee: Deb Cain, Peg and Bob Clark, Tony and Rae Elliot, Sue Holmgren, Karen Kasper, Dave Leverton, Marian Medlyn, Ann Sundblad and Pastor Geier.



**The April Noisy Offering will go to
NGLS Hunger Drive.**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

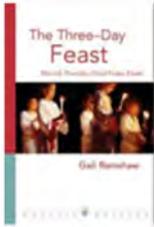


Library Notes for April 2019 By Keenan Tunnell

Lent is drawing to a close so let's look at Holy Week and Easter. As usual, the library kiosk will be overflowing with children's Easter books and they can also add a dimension to your Easter pilgrimage. Take some time in your busy days to pay some special attention to the continuing miracle of God's love.

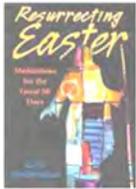
Ramshaw, Gail. **The Three-Day Feast.** **263 RAM**

"The restoration of the Three Days at the heart of the church's year remains one of the great projects in the ongoing renewal of congregational life and mission. In rich and vivid detail, Gail Ramshaw shows us how the ancient and ever new Easter feast both tells the story of God's mercy in Jesus' death and resurrection and enacts its meaning for our lives, for this world. This book will inform, inspire, and delight all who seek to keep these days." (Amazon.com review from the Dean of the Chapel, Wartburg Seminary)



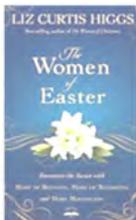
Moorehead, Kate. **Resurrecting Easter.** **242 MOO**

American Christians have forgotten the Easter season. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on one day and then we return to ordinary time. But Christ appeared over and over again for forty days in resurrected form. We cannot sustain this resurrection season because that kind of sustained joy overwhelms us. This book is designed to help us sustain Easter.



Higgs, Liz Curtis. **The Women of Easter.**
232.96 HIG

You're about to meet three women named Mary, each of whom has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Mary of Bethany prepares the way for the Lord's burial when she anoints His feet and fills the air with her perfume. His mother, Mary of Nazareth, remains by His side from His first breath to His last, her loyalty unwavering. Mary Magdalene, delivered of seven demons, bravely supports her Teacher through His darkest hours, then proclaims the glorious news of His resurrection. What a trio. What a Savior!



Collins, Ace. **Stories behind the traditions and songs of Easter** 263 COL



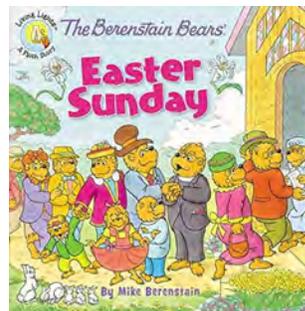
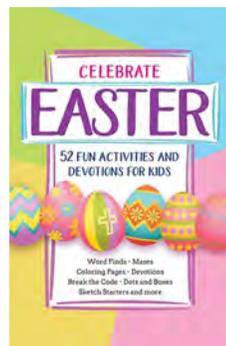
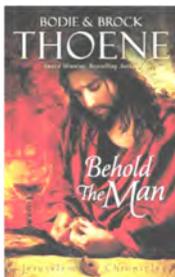
The treasured traditions of Easter infuse our celebration of the season with meaning and glowing memories. And in ways you may not realize, they point us to the resurrection of Christ and our hope of life beyond the grave. *Stories Behind the Traditions and Songs of Easter* reveals the events and backgrounds that shaped the best-loved customs and songs of Easter, introducing you to stories you've never heard and a deeper appreciation for the holiday's familiar hallmarks. (Cover note)

“We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world.”

—Barbara Johnson

An Easter Library Sale

I've presented a Library Christmas sale for many years, but as I look at the beautiful new books available for the Easter Season, I thought I'd try a sale of a few of these titles (and some extra seasonal items!) this year. From the *Berenstain Bears* to some more serious titles for teens and adults, it is a different kind of assortment. The sale will be on Sunday, 7 April after church in the Fellowship Hall. Come and have a look...but it is for one Sunday only so don't hesitate when you see something you like for yourself or as an Easter gift. As always, thanks for your support! Keenan





Living Lutheran March 2019

Cover Story: Pray without ceasing: A Lutheran approach to prayer (Kurt Lammi and John Potter)

Features:

- What is grace? Finding grace in prison—and beyond (Meghan Johnston Aelabouni)
- Just enough real estate (Tim Brown)
- Our Lutheran musical heritage: Musical variety across congregations (Wendy Healy)
- God called me to save a child bride (Martha Adhiambo)
- An act of grace and a life saved (Mark A. Staples)
- A moral imperative: What is the Lutheran response to “designer babies”? (Steve Lundeberg)
- A rural synod fights addiction (Angela Denker)

Reflection:

- Three tests in the wilderness (Brian Hiortdahl)

Media in Ministry:

- Our need to create and be created; an interview with author Purifoy (Cara Strickland)



Christie

Deeper Understandings:

- Why theology matters (Cheryl M. Peterson)

From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- Spiritual and religious



Stations of the Cross; a new version



Almost since the beginning of the Christian era, devout Christians have contemplated the Passion of Christ by following His footsteps on those final days. After the fall of Jerusalem to Saladin and considering the spread of Christianity across the Roman world, true pilgrimages to the Holy Land became increasingly difficult, so various programs re-enacting those final days were developed. At least since the 15th century a simulated pilgrimage called “the Stations of the Cross” has been re-enacted in almost all Roman Catholic churches, utilizing a series of images to illustrate each of the fourteen stations which are permanently displayed around the sanctuary. The stations remained the same until revised by Pope John Paul II in 1991. They are presented here as an alternative to the traditional stations and as a way of reflecting more deeply on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion.

First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (*Matthew 26:36-41*)

Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested (*Mark 14: 43-46*)

Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin (*Luke 22: 66-71*)

Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter (*Luke 22: 66-71*)

Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate (*Mark 15: 1-5, 15*)

Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns (*John 19: 1-3*)

Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross (*John 19: 6, 15-17*)

Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross (*Mark 15: 21*)

Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (*Luke 23: 27-31*)

Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified (*Luke 23: 33-34*)

Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief (*Luke 23: 39-43*)

Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple (*Luke 23: 39-43*)

Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross (*Luke 23: 44-46*)

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb (*Matthew 27: 57-60*)

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

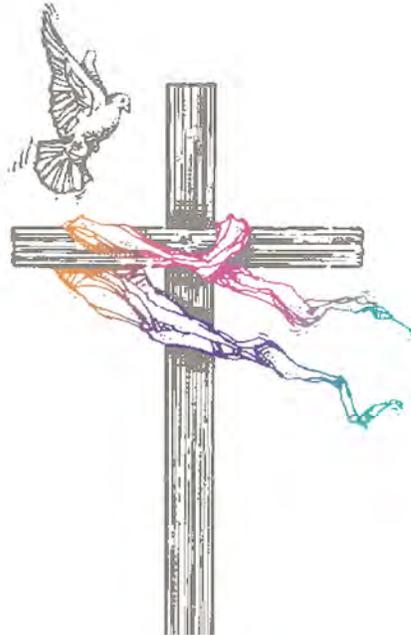
The Resurrection: More Than a Day

Resurrection

To be raised up again
To be lifted up again
To rise up again...
Christ is arisen.
Christ is risen indeed.

To believe these words
is to believe
that Life
and the pure power of Love
eventually, inevitably,
triumph.
To believe these words is to believe
that we too shall rise.

From every dry and thirsty desert
in life,
we too shall rise.
From every piercing and hurting
And spitting,
we too shall rise.
From every daytime dark
when God seems far off,
so far off,
we too shall rise.



Death has lost its sting.

Death has lost its sting.
Death of body -
lost its sting.

The many small deaths in a person's life -
lost their sting.
For Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed.
And we too shall rise.

By Susan Palo Cherwien, *From Glory Into
Glory*

Easter Trivia

1. True or False? The custom of taking a walk on Easter and the custom of parades on Easter can often be traced back to early religious observances that commemorated the Emmaus Walk?
2. What is Hocktide?
 - A.The time in Lent when property is sold to raise money for the poor
 - B.The time in Lent when the animals are prepared for sacrifice
 - C.The Monday and Tuesday after Easter which include serious business and gender-based mischief
3. True or False? The 50 days after Easter leading to Pentecost is know as Eastertide?
4. What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
5. At the Last Supper, what commandment was given?
 - A.Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy
 - B.Love one another
 - C.Honor your father and mother
6. True or False? Foot-washing occurred at the Last Supper?
7. Who betrayed Jesus?
 - A. Judas
 - B. John
 - C. Herod
8. What was Judas' role among the disciples?
 - A. He had no particular role
 - B. He was treasurer
 - C. He was quartermaster
9. In which account does Jesus' sweat fall like drops of blood while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane?
 - A.Matthew
 - B.Mark
 - C. Luke

Answers to Easter Trivia Challenge

1. True. The custom of taking a walk on Easter and the custom of parades on Easter can often be traced back to early religious observances that commemorated the Emmaus Walk.
2. C. Hocktide is the Monday and Tuesday after Easter. Traditionally taxes and winter rents were due on Hock Tuesday. Often on Hock Monday the men may hold the women for ransom and then on Tuesday the women may do the same to the men. Part of this ransom was given to the church and some churches got a significant part of their annual donations from Hocktide.
3. True. The 50 days after Easter leading to Pentecost is known as Eastertide. In the Middle Ages, the week after Easter was often a legal holiday.
4. B. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem of Palm Sunday.
5. B. At the Last Supper the commandment to love one another was given.
6. True. Foot-washing occurred at the Last supper.
7. A. Judas betrayed Jesus.
8. B. Judas was the treasurer among the disciples.
9. C. In Luke Jesus's sweat falls like drops of blood while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.





...from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In February, I was asked by the Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, to represent her at the consecration of the new Bishop of Espoo, Finland. The Rev. Kaisamari Hintikki had been elected, calling her out of her position at the Lutheran World Federation to serve the diocese of Espoo, just outside of Helsinki.

Of course, I said yes. I was very honored as I would be representing not only my church, and my country, but also, I learned, my sex, as there were no other female bishops in Finland and Rev. Hintikki wanted to have at least one woman bishop involved in blessing her future efforts.

Thankfully, my husband was able to arrange his work schedule to go with me, so on February 5 we drove to Chicago to catch a 7pm flight. After 8 hours on that plane, we had a layover in Heathrow, London airport, and then another 3 hour flight to Helsinki. As we landed, Dave and I looked out the window and we both declared, "It looks just like home." Lots of trees, lots of snow, some gently rolling hills covered in pine and crossed with snow covered roads. Despite how many hours of travel, had we really gone anywhere?

As many of you already know, Finland looks an awful lot like the U.P. It is no wonder that so many Finnish immigrants made the U.P. their new home.

Rev. Anssi Almgren met us at the airport and was our contact for the duration of our stay. A 30-something pastor serving on the staff of the Diocese, he also played in a heavy metal punk rock band.

Dave and I enjoyed two days of sight-seeing. We walked the rather slushy streets of Helsinki and were surprised that they weren't very good at snow removal. Apparently, Helsinki is more used to being wet and cold and not so used to having three feet of snow dumped on them. Whole cars were still buried, streets were one way, and pedestrians were challenged to navigate the icy slush on the sidewalks and the falling icicles from the roofs above.

The festivities began on Saturday morning with a full rehearsal of the installation. Bishops and friends from all over the world were present. Representatives from Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Norway, Scotland, Namibia, and Jerusalem were joined by Lutheran World Federation guests. It was truly an international event that would be broadcast on national television.

There were two banquets, one cake and coffee reception, three programs, choirs, speeches, flowers, and congratulations with several string quartets thrown in for good measure. There was herring at breakfast (which I didn't eat) and reindeer for dinner (which I did and it was delicious).

And at the hotel which also had a small castle on the property, there was a film crew and cast making a Finnish television series set in the 1940's! So every night, there were people dressed up in tuxedos and 1940's finery and going over lines in the lobby. It was a wonderful trip. But I write this, not just to give you an overview of the high-lights, but to share with you some observations and wonderings about who we are as church.

As the Bishops donned mitres and copes for the auspicious occasion, I noticed several things. One- the Finnish clergy all wore the two-tab collar that I had seen on many Finnish heritage church walls in the NGLS. What I took to be a 100-year-old fashion tradition continued to be alive and well in current Finnish clergy attire. But the Finnish clergy are joined by the Icelandic and Danish Bishops who sported the ruffled collar so often seen in 16th century paintings. After sharing with the Icelandic Bishop that he looked like a painting (he laughed, thankfully), he said that the collar was a beloved mark of the office and he did not foresee that his church would dispense with it. On the one hand, there was the beautiful pageantry of the event. Ornate and colorful robes with gold thread, symbols of the office on full display. But on the other hand, I do believe any person with no connection to the church would have found the copes and mitres to be one more thing that they do not understand. The finery was fashion from 500 and more years ago, preserved and unchanging.

Most of us have wardrobes that see something new every few years at least. I saw a church that can't even let go of its 500-year-old stylings. What else can't it let go of? Folks in the U.P. have cherished a 100-year-old language preserving the Finnish of their grandparents and great grandparents. And yet, people in Finland do not recognize the Finnish that is spoken here. What some cherish as "traditional" has faded and disappeared in current Finnish customs and culture.

It's a curious phenomenon and it has me thinking about what the church strives to preserve while the rest of the world has simply moved on, to the point where there's a gap, a chasm even, between what is meaningful in the church, and what is meaningful to the people that the church wants to reach.

We proclaim Christ crucified and risen!

And the rest, the rest...we need to be careful, I think, not to preserve ruffled collars or two-tab collars or any given tradition at the expense of what truly matters, which is the message of the gospel to those we have been sent to reach.

This is my take-away from my short time in Finland. While thoroughly enjoying the festivities and feeling incredibly honored to participate, I was mindful of the disconnect, the gap, between our historical traditions and the challenge to reach those who have no historical context of the church. The gospel is central and must remain so.

May the Spirit guide us into our future as we seek to be faithful to the proclamation of the gospel message.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Calvary Cross (Graded Cross)



This Latin cross with three steps symbolizes both Jesus' climb up Calvary's mountain and the three gifts of faith, hope and love. Those gifts are intrinsically connected to Jesus' death and resurrection and are ours by sheer grace. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)

Council Highlights— March 2019



- Received thanks from Wesley Methodist Church, Samaritan's Purse, Heifer International, NGLS, The Salvation Army, and Pathways
- There were a few glitches in the electronic communication when it was used for cancellations this month. Jim B. is working to resolve these issue.
- The pre-enrollment registrations did not meet the minimum desired to initiate the school for the fall semester of 2019. The effort is on hold for now, pending further discussion and planning.
- Building Project Update: sanctuary "bump-outs" siding, 99%; other miscellaneous siding sections, 99% complete; sanctuary aluminum fascia, 90% complete. Projects still under consideration and planning: new heating boiler controls, insulate the education wing attic, water heater controls or replacements.
- 150th Anniversary: Pastor reported on the last planning meeting. Bishop Finegan will officiate for the Anniversary Sunday service. Additional ideas being considered are: celebration meal off-site, recoded video interviews with church members, celebratory banners for the church, church histories. More details forthcoming.
- Pastoral Acts: funeral of Tina Lynn Aho (March 9, 2019)
- Membership changes: Mike Holman has transferred his membership to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Skandia, MI where he is serving as the lay leader.
- The synod assembly registration has been sent it for Pastor and Kathy Geier and Bob Nadeau. The dates of the assembly are 16-18 May 19.
- On 7 Apr 19, Dave Bloomquist will address the congregation on behalf of the synod council to inform us of what the synod does for their congregations.
- Pastor Geier also informed the council that he has been appointed to the board of control of the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago(LSTC). Effective date O/A 1 Oct 2019, with an introductory board meeting during May 2019
- The Pie Social will be 27 Apr 19, 1. p.m. in the fellowship hall as scheduled by Addy Lemire



YTD Income: \$24,292.13

YTD Expenses: \$35,576.35

January—February 2019

Room at the Inn Fundraiser

Room at the Inn Walk 4 Shelter fundraiser is April 6th from 9am-5pm at Mattson Park. You are invited to join the fun. Walk as long as you like. Get your donation forms at www.RoomAtTheInn.org or stop by the Warming Center at 447 W. Washington.

For more information call Mary Jane Lynch 360-5279

Beverly Matherne's Poetry to be Included in Anthology

Beverly Matherne's "Pink Geraniums," which won the Cecil Hackney Literary Award for Poetry in a national competition in 1994, is forthcoming in *Universal Oneness: An Anthology of Magnum Opus Poems from Around the World (360 Poems by 360 poets from 60 Countries)*, a collection being published by Authorspress (2019), New Delhi, India.

Two new poems by Beverly, "The Mardi Gras Run" and "Vivien Pentimento," are forthcoming in bilingual format in the Franco-American journal *Résonance*, published at the University of Maine (2019).

Let laughter 'spring' forth!

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." (Doug Larson)

"Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket." (Evan Esar)

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens)

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful." (e.e. cummings)

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." (Margaret Atwood)



Easter Flowers

Easter Lilies will be \$15
Mums, Daffodils & Tulips will be \$15
Azaleas and Hydrangeas will be \$28

The deadline for ordering is April 12.

Easter Postcard Included in Outlook

Enclosed in each copy of March's Outlook is the Holy Week worship schedule. The schedule is written on a postcard.

Feel free to use it as...

- Your special reminder
 - A book mark
 - An invitation (Add postage and send it to someone inviting them to take part in our Holy Week services at Bethany.)



Bethany's Pie Social -
April 27
1:00 - 3:00 pm
\$5.00



Confirmation Sunday is May 19.

Bethany's Website
www.bethanyishpeming.org

To view the latest edition of the Outlook in color, please visit Bethany's website.



Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente:

Jacobetti: Carol Waters

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Jean Johns, Annette Larson,
Adeline Johnson

Mill Creek: Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier

- Amanda Bivins
- To Gail Henson and her family and friends who mourn the loss of Gail's son Joseph Henson.
- Peggy Clark, Paula Ross, Kaye Frederickson, and Marilyn Pontti who are recovering from surgery
- Paul Kniivila
- John Lusardi
- Ann Wise
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Bob Kaukola
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Kathy Geier
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Dan & Sharon Argall
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Ted Swanson
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjerne
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Congratulations to Ken Lawson and Marcia Berry on their marriage. Bethany's best wishes to you both.

Contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com

Bethany Lutheran Church
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Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor
Home Phone: 485-4218
E-mail: pastor@bethanyishpeming.org

Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau
Asst. Exec. Director, Robert Clark
Christian Education, Amanda Bivins
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Jim Bjorne
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Jill Carter
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod



April Worship Assistants

April 7

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - Ian Bivins & Leo Dockery
Altar - Debbie Cain
Coffee Hosts—Barb Yunkari and friends
Nursery - Denise Kaukola
Bread - Ray & Barb Yunkari

April 14

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan & Linda Dahl
Acolytes - Ashley Chartre & Reid Frustaglio
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team
Coffee Hosts - Palm Sunday Brunch
Nursery - Ian Bivins
Bread - Kathy Geier

April 21 Easter

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry
Acolytes - Luke Holmgren & Jacob Bivins
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Nursery - Sabrina Holms– Brown
Bread - Kaye Frederickson

April 28

Assisting Minister - Jocelynn Nyman
Acolytes - Jarin Johnson & Brady Johnson
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team
Coffee Hosts - WELCA
Flowers - In memory of Aaron Sundblad by Colleen
Sundblad
Nursery - Abby Bruhnke
Bread - Kay Chartre

April 18 - Maundy Thursday

Assisting Minister - Kay Ryan
Acolytes - Faith Cain & Ashley
Chartre
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Bread - Shirley Tyni

Thank You!

April Ushers:

Bruce Bussone
Tom Perry
Jim Kinnunen
Craig Kitchen
Knut Strom
Doug Carter



May Ushers:

Jaak Liivoja
Mike Richards
Tom Ryan
John Waters
Tim Grant
John Hansen

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Tammie Sundquist
- 3 Casey Hares
- 3 Hope Kaukola
- 3 Raegan Niemela
- 4 Jennifer Bertucci
- 4 Michael Swanson
- 5 Joanna Smail
- 6 Sara Urcavich
- 6 Karen Plaisier
- 8 Sheryl Tyni
- 8 Ann Sundblad
- 9 Danielle Nelson
- 10 Eric Jarvi
- 11 Gerald Anderson Jr.
- 11 Clifford Mattson
- 13 Carlo Balzarini
- 14 Kay Ryan
- 15 Alex Goldsworthy
- 15 Katelyn Ombrello
- 15 Tom Sodergren
- 15 Mike Richards
- 16 Pat Varda
- 17 Jeanne Sikkila
- 19 Lindsey Piercefield
- 19 Kaitlin Rich
- 19 Lisa Mattson
- 21 Nancy Scarffe
- 21 Sara Vasilev
- 21 Laura Sleeman
- 22 Melissa Chartre
- 22 James Bjerne
- 23 Myla Carlson
- 24 Claudia Thompson
- 24 Kyra Holmgren
- 25 ShyAnn Brown
- 25 Tammy Swanson
- 25 Jackson Rich

- 26 Paul Kniivila
- 27 Savannah Marietti
- 29 Marian Medlyn
- 30 Keenan Tunnell
- 30 James Jacobson



Happy Anniversary!

Daniel & Cheryl Sleeman
4/16/1977 42 years

Donald & Judith Meyer
4/18/1964 55 years

