

Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. April 2011

*The purpose of
Holy Cross
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
is to know, and
joyfully share, the love
of God
in Christ.*

The Pastor's Pulse

There is so much turmoil in the world right now - earthquakes, tsunamis, revolutions, political upheavals, typhoons... to name just a bit of what is on the world's stage.

Many people are asking, "Is this a precursor of the end of the world? Can this be the apocalypse spoken of in the Book of Revelation?"

Certainly many of the world and physical aspects are present. The only completely honest answer I can give is, "I don't know." Jesus reminds us that no one really knows, except the Father.

How does a Christian deal wisely with all of this? By keeping oneself in a condition of readiness. Actually, that should not call for a great deal of change, should it? We are in conversation with the Lord through regular prayer; we continue or reading and study of God's Word; we are present at worship - and we are diligently serving our neighbor, and working to improve the lot of the world and its peoples.

It certainly is not a time for Christians to panic. We are those to whom the Lord has entrusted the resources for coping with just such upheavals and uncertainties as are plaguing our world today. It is a time to continue sharing the good news of the Gospel, affirming God's love for all creation and its inhabitants, and assisting our neighbors in every way possible.

It sounds like a cliché, but it is nevertheless true - we do not know what tomorrow holds, but we do know Who holds tomorrow.

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

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For Pastoral Care
call 361-727-9607

LECTIONARY AIDS FOR APRIL

April 3, 2011-John 9:1-41-Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that He regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

April 10, 2011-John 11:1-45-Jesus brings His friend Lazarus back to life and many of the Jews who have seen things Jesus did believe in Him.

Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

What does the cross mean to Christians? Wikipedia indicates that “the cross is the best known religious symbol of Christianity.” It says, “The cross reminds Christians of God’s act of love...”

Easter evokes in us images of the cross in which Jesus gave up His life to save us from our sins. The symbol of the cross can provide us peace in knowing Jesus indeed loved the whole world. Many people wear the symbol of the cross in knowing “Jesus took their place on the cross to give them a place in heaven.” (Author unknown)

Romans 5:8 says, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we are still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Children can be taught this mysterious, loving story from the Bible. They can also read story books to help them learn. One such book is entitled, On That Easter Morning by Mary Joslin. Besides beautiful illustrations, “it is the story of God’s love lighting up the world and bringing the joy of new life.” Another book, The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith, is written from the viewpoint of the donkey which carried the King. This book is “captivating” and provides the retelling of Jesus’ death and resurrection in ways children can easily understand. Billy Graham said, “God proved his love on the cross...it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you!’”

Easter is a time to celebrate God’s love with children. Check out mybiblecrafts.com for some Easter cross crafts that share the true meaning of Easter and can remind all of us that “Jesus loves us so much that he died for all our sins.” May your Easter be filled with joy.



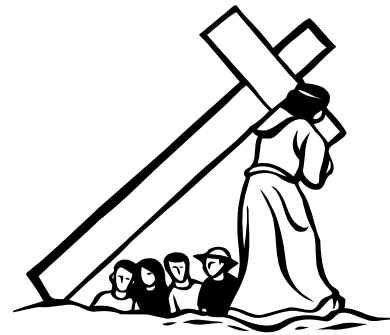
LECTIONARY AIDS FOR APRIL continued

April 17, 2011-Passion/Palm Sunday-Matthew 26:14-27:66 –

Judas agrees to betray Jesus. Jesus celebrates Passover, institutes the Lord’s Supper, and then leads His disciples to Gethsemane. He is arrested, persecuted, tried, crucified, and buried in a tomb.

April 24, 2011-Easter Day-Matthew 28:1-10-

Jesus rises from the dead after three days in the tomb!



Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Operating Fund spending for February was \$15,086 against our budget of \$15,300.
 - Operating Fund spending YTD was \$30,527 against our budget of \$30,600.
 - Operating Fund giving for February was \$17,668 and \$33,707 YTD.
 - Operating Fund giving for February 2010 was \$17,047 and \$35,229 YTD.
 - We had a total month-end balance of \$50,548.
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A DAY TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE

On Sunday, May 22nd, 2011, at 3:00 P.M. Holy Cross will honor and celebrate Pastor Haynes' 60th ordination anniversary with a reception at the church. We hope you can attend!

A committee was formed by the council to plan and coordinate this special event. Pastor Michael Robinson of the synod staff will be here, as will a number of other invited guests. Additionally, letters have been sent to all of the churches where Pastor has served through the years, as well as to the Synod and ELCA where he has also been assigned for ministry positions. All have been invited to have members who wish to, send a note or letter to Pastor Haynes with personal greetings and memories.

We would like members and friends of Holy Cross to also provide a personal note or letter to Pastor Haynes on this significant anniversary. All will be put together in a special way by the committee and presented to Pastor and Harriett for their enjoyment and to let them know how important their ministry has been to so many through the years. Please give your notes or cards to any member of the committee: Michele Scherzer, Debbie Outten, Sterling Frank, or Toni Post. If you need to provide these by mail, please send them to the attention of Michele Scherzer, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 301, Rockport, Texas 78381.

Hope to see you at the reception!

A Minute with Marilyn –

Maundy Thursday and Fuzzy Feet

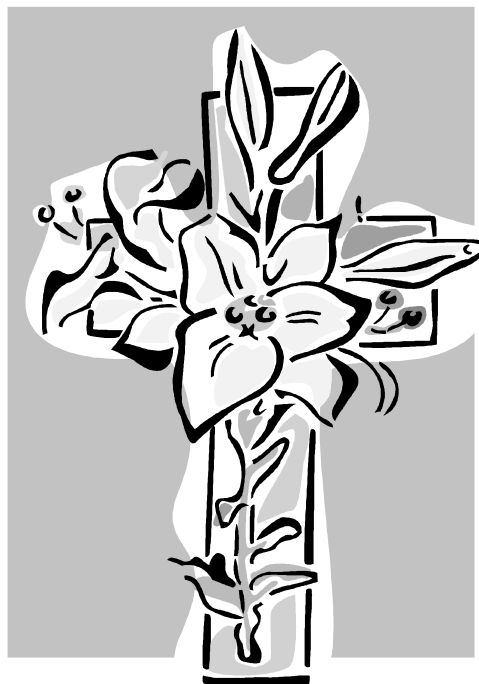
As I have shared with many of you, I was not raised in the Lutheran church. So when I attended my first Maundy Thursday foot-washing service as an adult, I was fairly clueless about what to expect.

After arriving for worship that evening, I looked at the feet of the people around me and realized how unprepared I was. Everyone had worn shoes that easily slipped off their feet, and no socks. I could even spot a few recent pedicures. I, on the other hand, had unthinkingly worn lace-up sneakers and thick, dark, woolly socks. You guessed it – when it was time for the foot-washing, I pulled off my socks and was horrified by the collection of black fuzz stuck between every single one of my toes. There were only a few people attending the service, and it would soon be my turn to go up and have my feet washed. So I frantically rubbed my toes together, trying to clean my own feet. I did not want anyone else to see, much less wash them. But I eventually had to give up and walk to the front of the sanctuary with my bare, still-fuzzy feet. A little boy knelt down in front of me, washed my feet, wiped them with a towel, and smiled. He didn't seem to care how dirty my feet were.

As I reflected back on it later, I realized that my “fuzzy feet” Maundy Thursday experience had taught me a valuable lesson. We do not come to Jesus with pre-washed feet, taking upon ourselves the work that only Jesus can do. And he doesn't seem to care how fuzzy they are – he washes away every last trace of whatever is stuck between our toes. Now THAT is the very embodiment of the good news of Jesus Christ!

May we all continue to offer up our own fuzzy feet in humble service to one another and to our neighbors, the way Jesus washed and continues to wash his disciples' feet.

God's Peace,
Marilyn



MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES CONTINUE

Continuing during the month of April, on Wednesday, the 6th and 13th, we will observe Lent with Choir Rehearsal at 5:30PM, a supper for the congregation at 6:00PM, and a Mid-Week Lenten

Service at 7:00PM. The service itself is the “Holden Evening Prayer,” and the short meditations are centered on the parts of the liturgy from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal and what they mean to us.

During Holy Week, there will be no Wednesday night service, but we will have a service on April 21st, Maundy Thursday, and one on April 22nd, Good Friday. Please join us as we travel through these 40 days prior to Christ’s resurrection.

Good Samaritans

Remember to bring your nonperishable items to help our families in need.

MUSIC “NOTES”

“The Hallelujah Chorus”

In 1743, when Handel’s “Messiah” premiered in London, as the first strains of the “Hallelujah Chorus” began, King George II was so deeply moved that he spontaneously rose to his feet with tears in his eyes and stood for the remainder of that performance! Soon the entire audience was on their feet in reverence... a tradition that remains today in London whenever the “Hallelujah Chorus” is performed. The Queen of England even removes her crown at this time during the performance!

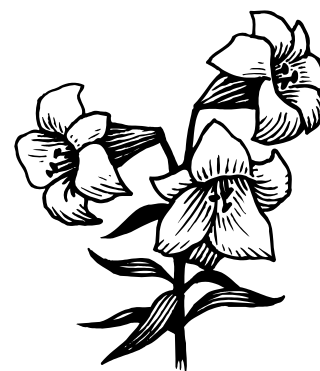
Once again, at the conclusion of our Easter service this year, Mihee Heil will play the beautiful “Hallelujah Chorus” for us. For those of you who have ever sung it, you never forget how to sing it. For that reason, we invite you all to stand in your pew and sing along whatever parts you remember. Experience again that glorious feeling that comes with Handel’s meaningful words from the Book of Revelation and his moving music all inspired by the Holy Spirit. If you have never sung it, we invite you to stand with us and enjoy the celebration of all that Easter brings to our lives!

EASTER LILIES

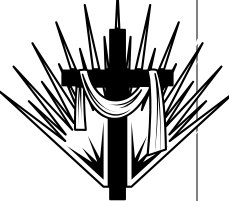
There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for Easter lilies to adorn our altar area on Easter Sunday. If you would like to participate, please put your name on the sheet, as well as the dedication you would like to have printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Please take it upon yourself to purchase your own lily and bring it into the church preferably before service on Easter Sunday morning. After the 10:30 service, feel free to come up to the altar and claim your lily again to be used for your Easter pleasure.

Remember to be careful of that sticky yellow substance on the stamens and use tape to get it off your clothes if you find some on you. Don’t brush it off or you will smear your new Easter clothes

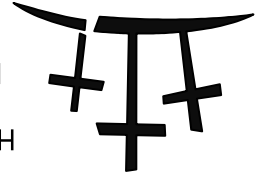


APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				8:00 am Men's Breakfast	1	
3 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study – 10:30 Worship with Communion	4 6:30 pm Intern Committee Mtg	5	6 9:00 am Bible Study 5:30 am Choir practice 6:00 pm Lenten supper 7:00 Service	7 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	8	9
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study – 10:30 Worship	11 7:00 pm Council Mtg	12 11:00 am Health & Healing Service	13 9:00 am Bible Study 5:30 am Choir practice 6:00 pm Lenten supper 7:00 pm Service	14 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	15	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship with Communion	18 6:30 Altar Guild	19	20 9:00 am Bible Study	21 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Maundy Thursday 7:00 Service	22 Good Friday 7:00 Service	23
24 Easter Sunday 10:30 Worship with Communion 	25	26	27 9:00 am Bible Study	28	29	30



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APRIL MINISTRIES

Council Person of the Month:

	Usher	Lector	Psalter	Cookies
3	10:30 Bob & Pat Reiner	10:30 Linda Erwin	10:30 Toni Post	10:30 Stan & Toni Posts
10	10:30 Tim & Linda Erwin	10:30 OPEN	10:30 Lil Oseland	10:30 Linda Erwin
17	10:30 Bob & Michele Scherzer	10:30 OPEN	10:30 OPEN	10:30 OPEN
24	10:30 Stan Post & Tom Oseland	10:30 Pat Reiner	10:30 Marilyn Larsen	10:30 OPEN