

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock."
Isaiah 26:4

THE ROCK

Issue No. 4

April 2009

Special Dates

- March 30 Jews for Jesus
- April 1 Lenten Dinner
- April 1 Lenten Service
- April 2 Thursday Morning Bible Study
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 10 Good Friday—Tenebrae Service
- April 12 Easter
- April 12 Sunrise Service
- April 12 Easter Breakfast
- April 12 Festival Worship
- April 12 Egg Hunt
- April 13 Office Closed
- April 16 Thursday Morning Bible Study
- April 16 Church Council
- April 17 3rd Friday
- April 18 Quilting Bee
- April 20 Ladies Bible Study
- April 21-23 Tri Circuit Retreat
- April 24 Scrapbooking
- April 28 Ladies Guild

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Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

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Good Friday & Tenebrae

"Father, forgive them..." (Luke 23:34).

Dear brothers & sisters,

We've almost completed our Lenten journey. Last month I discussed the origins of Ash Wednesday, the opening worship service in Lent. This month we'll consider the end – Good Friday, the service in which we recall our Savior's death. It is not a happy topic, but without His death, there would be no resurrection. Upon the Cross our sins were forgiven in that ultimate sacrifice in His shed blood. With this focus, why do we call it "Good" Friday? Why not "Sad" Friday, or even "Awful" Friday? Because on that day in history and in that darkness, the sins of the world were paid for. So before we can fully appreciate the joy of Easter morning, we need to understand Good Friday.

While the origins of Good Friday "Tenebrae" services are somewhat muddled, there is evidence they date back as early as 100 A.D., although it was the fourth century before anything similar to our "Passion Week" observances were organized.

Traditionally there are seven "shadows" that represent seven stages of the Good Friday events. At each stage, there will be some scripture read, some thoughts shared, a time of silent prayer, and then a song for us to sing. The scripture will consist of an Old Testament prophetic scripture, a New Testament scripture, and the gospel narrative that describes one of the Good Friday events. At each stage, a light will be extinguished, until all the lights are off. This is a somber service, with time for reflection on the sufferings of Christ.

The traditional "shadows" are as follows:

- 1) Shadow of Betrayal
Psalm 41:9; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 26:6-25
- 2) Shadow of Denial
Zechariah 13:7; John 10:14-15; Matthew 26:31,33-35, Luke 22:54-62
- 3) Shadow of Aloneness
Psalm 31:9-14; John 12:23-28; Mark 14:32-41
- 4) Shadow of Accusation
Isaiah 53:7; John 8:44-45; Mark 14:53,55-64, Mark 15:1-15
- 5) Shadow of Suffering
Isaiah 53:1-6; I Peter 2:21-24; Mark 15:16-20
- 6) Shadow of Crucifixion
Psalm 22:1-2,6-8,14-18; Luke 9:23; Matthew 27:31-43
- 7) Shadow of Death
Exodus 12:21-23; John 1:29; Luke 23:44-46

After the Shadows

Revelation 5:6-12

Jesus' final words were a proclamation of victory: "It is finished!" (John 19:30). His suffering ended, the payment complete, eternal propitiation accomplished for us, Jesus laid down His life to await the resurrection wherein God gives "assurance unto all men, in that He has raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Come, join us this Good Friday for the Tenebrae Service.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron



THIS VBS IS A HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR!

That's right--it is time to start thinking and planning for VBS! It will be held July 20-24. This year's VBS will be similar to last year's Jerusalem Marketplace except that we will be going back in time to ancient Rome. We will be meeting with the Apostle Paul and the Underground Church in Rome as we learn what it might have been like in the early church.

We are going to need lots of help again this year to make it an unforgettable experience for all. See me if you would like to be involved. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. We are going to be needing large appliance size cardboard boxes and paper grocery sacks. If you can help with that let me know.

I am looking forward to working with you all this year as we reach out to share the love of Jesus with our community.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy George
VBS Director
475-9623 cindy@q19.net

Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace, Peace, and Mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus from John Chapter 17:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Jesus prayed this before He was crucified. Many of His thoughts were about you, I hope you are thinking about Him now and always. Amen.

In Jesus' name,
Troy Dieters, Parish Ministry Assistant

Lenten & Easter Meals and Worship

Our Lenten and Easter schedule is as follows:

March 30—Monday Night

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Jews for Jesus

April 1—Wednesday Night

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Board of Education

Duane's Famous Chili

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Secret of Forgiveness and Absolution

April 5—Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour

April 9—Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

April 10—Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 12—Easter

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast hosted by Elders

Eggs, Ham, etc.

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour

11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

April 13—Easter Monday

Church Office Closed

Join us for all of these special and unique opportunities to reflect on and celebrate our Risen Savior!!!

Library Rock! (of Ages)

"FLYWHEEL"

The movie was the first production of Sherwood Pictures, the producers of "Facing the Giants," another DVD in our church's library. Sherwood Pictures is a movie-making ministry of a church in Georgia. The movie is about the fictional character, Jay Austin, who is a used car dealer. Promising much more than he can ever deliver, he'll do whatever it takes to sell a car. His manipulative ways permeate all his relationships -- business and personal.

As Jay works on restoring a classic sports car, he begins to see that God is working on restoring him as well. Coming face-to-face with the reality of how he truly conducts himself, Jay Austin begins the ride of his life as he learns to honor God with his business, his relationships, and his life. Flywheel will have you cheering and crying. (Be sure to watch the "extras" on the DVD to learn about the making of the movie and the people involved in it's production.)

Quilting news

For the third year in a row, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has given our church's quilting group a \$500 grant. We were notified of this grant in March. Our small quilting group is very appreciative of this gift to help support our mission work. It would be difficult for us to purchase all the supplies we need without this funding. Our most recent giving: In February, we gave 41 quilts to Lutheran Family Services, Foster Care Division, when they used our church for a Foster parent's meeting.

"QUILTING BEE" SCHEDULED

We will be having the second annual "Quilting Bee" on Saturday, April 18th from 10am until about 1:30 to 2pm. The times are open so we welcome anyone who can come for an hour, 2 hours, or for however long they can stay, morning or afternoon. We will be furnishing lunch, so if you come over the lunch hour, you will be provided with a light meal.

The quilts tops will already have been sewn together. What we will be doing on that Saturday is putting ties into the quilts. We stretch out a flat twin-size sheet, roll a layer of batting on top of the sheet, and then place the sewn quilt top on top of the other two layers. A group of "bees" will then put square knot "ties" into the quilt to hold it all together. The knot we use for tying the quilts is very easy to learn, so if you don't know how, we will teach you. The quilt edges will be finished later in a quilting member's home.

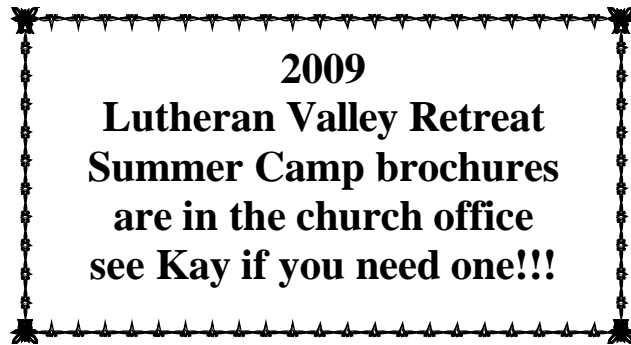
If any potential volunteer has an aversion to any type of quilt "tying," we also need ironers. We always prepare the quilt back (sheet) and quilt top by ironing them before the tying is done. Are there any ironers out there who can help us with that task?

Guys -- We have one fellow who is a regular in the quilting group and some who have offered to help on the 18th. We would appreciate if any of the men in our church would also be willing to help at the "Bee".

Questions or volunteers who can help, please contact any of the following either at church or by phone: Sandy Coggeshall (685-4204), Karen Yates (633-7928), Fran Gierard (534-0927), Cindy George (471-8487), Ellen Herrmann (632-7429), Shar Sullivan (266-1224), Gordon & Sue Hermann (635-3059), & Leslie Humber (531-5069). We will need an approximate count of who can help to better plan for lunch and number of tables to set up.

"TRUST IN THE LORD FOREVER, FOR THE
LORD GOD IS AN EVERLASTING ROCK."
ISAIAH 26:4

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Newsletter Deadline
April 15, 2009

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME
Sun. 7:30 a.m. KZNT 1640 AM

Faith Active in Love

What does it mean, really mean, that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine? As Holy Week and Easter approach, I find myself asking this question. It can be difficult to wrap my mind around Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection in both of his natures. I wrote this poem as a reflection on Jesus as Immanuel- God with us.

The Incarnation, the Resurrection

These words float around in my head.
The Word became flesh, he's risen again
Man-God, God-man, sitting at the right hand.

The Incarnation, the in-carnation

The Word became flesh- human flesh
Living, breathing, eating flesh.
He has a human body, a real body
A body just like me!

The Word became flesh- human flesh.

The Word dwelt among us
God was tempted, God was hungry
God needed a drink of water.
God was tortured, God was hung
God died in the flesh.

Flesh- human flesh- real blood and bones
Real sweat, real tears, real moans
Real suffering, real death
He knows what its like to be me.

The Incarnation-God made man

God, God why did you stoop so low?
You didn't allow yourself to show
You are perfect, without sin
Why did you take on my human pit?

The Resurrection- He's Alive!

His body's gone from the tomb!
He calls her name-"Mary" he says- he calls her
name!
He's alive- really alive- He's defeated death
Thomas touched him, felt his side,
Put his hands in the scars- real scars
Scars on him instead of me.

The Incarnation, the Resurrection

God made flesh, He's Alive
God is LOVE

+ + + + +

Sarah Sacco, Deaconess



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$115.00
Scholarship Fund = \$9,147.75
Capital Improvement Fund = 13,472.60

Please note the amount in the Capital Improve-
ments Fund amount is the excess of income over
expenses for 2008.

