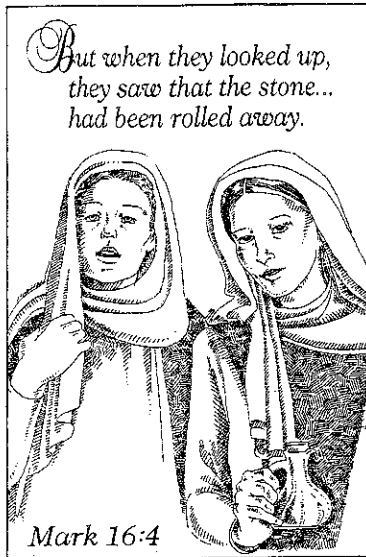


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5606 W. Lincoln Ave.
Yakima, WA 98908



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From the Pastor's Desk

April '09

As we come to the end of Lent and move into Holy Week it is a move from thinking about what God created us for; and how God accompanies us, with clear words of guidance and assurance, to a week in which the culmination of Jesus earthly life is happens.

In our mid-week services we have heard and been reminded again of God's love for us as shown through the Ten Words – Commandments – Guides for life lives fully and completely. These are much more than just rules, shoulds and oughts. They give the pattern for what life lived in harmony with God and with neighbor would look like, in our own little corner and in the whole world.

We have been reminded that by ourselves we can never live the life pictured there - but - God's unending, all encompassing love has come among us thinking and feeling all we humans think and feel. More than that in becoming one of us, God takes all our frailties and faults and, through Jesus' human death and his resurrection, restores us to right relationship with God.

On Palm Sunday we gather outside. We stand close together, sometimes for warmth but mostly to just be close. With palms in our hands, we imagine what it must have been like two thousand years ago, welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem on that triumphant day. We sing, "The **King** of Glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices." as we move together into the sanctuary as if walking into the holy city itself with palms waving. There is joy at the coming of the Messiah, so long awaited, yet before worship is complete we move on to Passion Sunday knowing the celebration was short lived as the 'real' world caught up with events and the "status quo" couldn't allow the change that must come with this "King" and moves to end this foolishness and keep order.

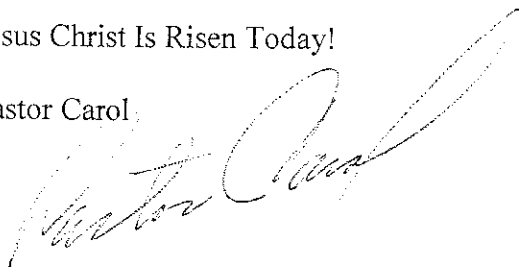
On Maundy Thursday we recall the Last Supper and in the 'breaking of the bread' and 'drinking of the cup' we too are nourished. Jesus going to Gethsemane with his disciples brings home the intensity of the struggle between doing the 'hard thing' for which he came and the 'human thing' of somehow getting out of it.

On Good Friday, the agony of 'betrayal,' 'abandonment' and 'denial' is palpable as we read the text. "The King of the Jews" is the mocking charge inscribed above him on the cross. "Beneath the cross of Jesus ... the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land ... the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness..."

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! On Easter morning transformation, the stark black of Good Friday becomes white and gold with flowers of spring trumpeting new life in the world; new life for us in Jesus Christ.

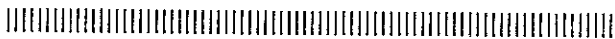
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!

Pastor Carol

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Carol", written in dark ink over a light background.

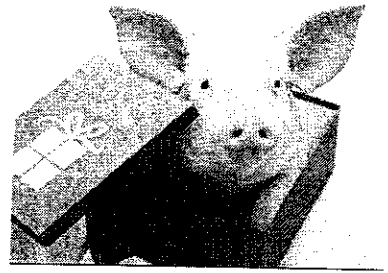
Sanctuary Enhancement Nearing Completion

After many months of busy hands and generous giving, the project to enhance our sanctuary is nearing completion. The new carpet will be laid the week of March 29-April 4. The new altar, pulpit, candle holders, tables, and book stand are finished and will be moved in when the carpeting is done. Then there will be a dedication of the whole project during the Sunday service on April 19th. Everyone is invited. We will personally thank our architect, interior design consultant, carpet layers, woodworkers, committee members, congregation members, prayer warriors—everyone who involved in the final outcome. Please plan to attend the service on the 19th to see how our church will look as we enter into the next 50 years of Christ Lutheran.



Rose Garden

Our rose garden along the south side of the fellowship hall will be replanted Saturday March 28 during "Spring Clean-up." The hybrid plants developed for our Eastern Washington hot arid area are estimated to cost about \$24 each. All 'green thumbs' interested in our 50th Anniversary beautification project are invited to assist in the planting Saturday. Your financial support would also be greatly appreciated.



April's "50" Project

I want to start by thanking everyone for their support of the Social Ministry's "50" project this year. We started in September by gathering together school supplies for Nob Hill Elementary. We have collected underwear, food for Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts for foster care children, diapers and baby items, food for the hungry and books for beginning readers. Now in April, we would like to buy **animals**. In the past, we have supported the **ELCA Barnyard Project** through VBS. Goats and other animals, part of God's global barnyard, provide families with food, funds, and fertilizer, breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal for God's global barnyard go beyond livestock to provide training, access to safe water sources, help securing markets, and much more. Little chicks bring big hope. Gifts to the ELCA World Hunger—God's global barnyard helped our long-time partner in Mexico, Amextra (Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation), alleviate economic struggles. In the remote village of Nuevo, Jerusalém (New Jerusalem) Amextra provided 46 families with flocks of baby chicks. Cows are \$500 each, a pond of fish are \$250, a goat is \$50, a pig \$30, a turkey \$25, and \$10 for chicks. We will have some kind of display in the narthex to keep track of the money that is donated. Once the month of April is over, we will purchase whatever animals we can.

Thank you once again for your support.

Kathy

FROM THE BISHOP

God's beloved people,

I'm just back from the spring Conference of Bishops meeting and will have the privilege of attending the ELCA Church Council meeting about the time you receive this edition of the Cross Connection. I feel blessed to have this opportunity to see into the length and breadth of the ELCA through these two representative bodies at this important time in the life of our church.

Why such an important time?

- Because we're just about to celebrate the heart of the faith during Holy Week...
- Because the heart of the heart of faith is a Risen Lord Jesus calling us into the future...
- Because we're in the midst of testing our resiliency as the financial stresses batter our country and congregations and families...
- Because as a synod we're pressing into the challenges of growth in ministry through the dream of new housing ministry in Meridian, ID...
- Because the United Methodist Church is encouraging us to declare Full Communion this summer...
- Because (What's the biggest stressor in YOUR life or congregation these days?)...
- And yes, you were waiting for it I'm sure, because the ELCA has taken on Human Sexuality and we're all eager to know what this means...

So does it all devolve to sex? Don't let it. Don't let it! These are penultimate matters in the context of the adventure of faith! The issues don't approach the grandeur and security of God's promise of faithfulness in this new, resurrected Life. Since Jesus has gone before us it is all promise, ALL promise!

For me it all comes down to God's faithfulness to God's promises, none more important than the promise that our churchly or personal failure will not be the end of hope. It is God's promises and God's trustworthiness that form the beginning of our conversation about human sexuality. Our invitation is to model for our neighbor that same willingness to make promises and that same trustworthiness. This is our mission and calling.

So how's it going to go for us? If the Conference of Bishops meeting is any gauge we will do well. I believe that we are a stronger church because of this conversation. By next week we will know the shape of the proposals that will come to the Churchwide Assembly this summer and then we'll have a chance to review those proposals and offer memorials (resolutions to Churchwide Assembly) at our Synod Assembly in May. I hope you'll dig in to these issues with me, but always in the context of God's promise of faithfulness to us. First things first!

Pr Martin Wells

Bishop

mshmmwells@aol.com



Looking Ahead...

God's Abundance Overflows

"The harvest is plentiful ... ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers."

Matthew 9:37-38

2009 Eastern Washington - Idaho Synod
 Assembly
 May 1-3, 2009
 Yakima Convention Center

Yakima Lutherans will welcome over 300 fellow Lutherans to our valley and the annual Assembly of the Eastern Washington - Idaho Synod. They have received letters of welcome and registered. The Planning Committee is busy dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's. Worship is a daily part of the Assembly.

The closing worship with Communion will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 3rd at the Convention Center. What a joy to sing, pray and worship with all such a large group of Lutherans. Plan to worship at the Convention Center that day.

On May 3 Christ Lutheran worship will be at the Convention Center, not at Christ Lutheran.

Easter Breakfast

Christ Lutheran Youth are coordinating and serving our breakfast from 8-9:30am.

They have a sign up sheet for people to bring egg casseroles & fruit. Come and enjoy time together and good food.

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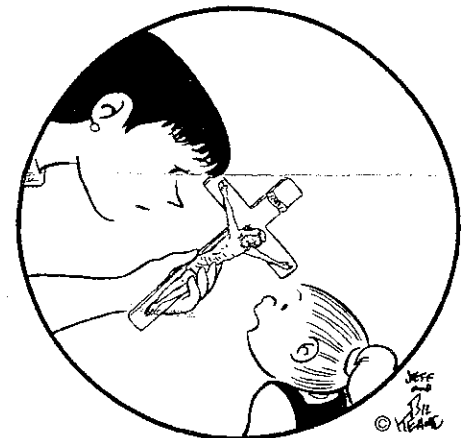


Easter Morning Egg Hunt

Between Worship Services we are having an Easter Egg Hunt.

All kids are welcome to participate. Bring a friend or two!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I liked seeing Jesus in the manger better."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
 Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

**CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAYS
IN
APRIL**

2	Mary Beth Wright
9	Susan Rowley
10	Robert Buse
12	Luke Gillespie
14	Ken Libsack
	Deb Rath
	Benjamin Lake
20	Suzanne Lawrence
21	Jennifer McClanathan
22	Avery Allan
24	Darold Larson
25	Buzz Jones
	Robin Jones
30	Karolyn Tom

Wedding Anniversaries

12 Dan & Lori Murphy

Counters

Mark Karn
Bettie Roberts

Altar Guild

Inez Bergman
Rochelle Malanca

Chancel Flowers

5	Open
12	Gillespie family
19	Pam Boitano
26	Open

Lectionary Readings for April

5	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47
12	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
19	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1—2:2 John 20:19-31
26	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

April Worship Schedule

April 5 -- Worship Team

Worship/Communion Assistant – Open
Acolyte – Open
5 readers—Kathy Sebree, Bonnie Eichler, Open³
Greeter – Jim Sund
Ushers – Brad & Sheri Bissell

April 9--- Maundy Thursday

Worship/Communion Assistant – Kathy Sebree
Ushers---Elisabeth Dunbar, Open

April 10---Good Friday

5 Readers---Kathy Sebree, Open⁴
Usher---Open

April 12---7:00am Easter Sunday

Worship/Communion Assistant--Open
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Open
Greeters – Jim Sund
Ushers –Open

April 12---9:30am Easter Sunday

Worship/
Communion Assistant—Elisabeth Dunbar
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Jim Sund
Greeters – Open
Ushers –Open

April 19 – Worship Team

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Open
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Open
Greeters – Elisabeth Dunbar
Ushers – Jim Sund

April 26 – ELW

Worship/
Communion Assistant – Kathy Sebree
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Jim Sund
Greeters – Open
Ushers – Open

APRIL 2009

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
			1 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Lenten Worship	2	3	4 9:30am Worship Team Practice
5 Passion/Palm Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School Reception of New Members WT	6	7 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Support 7pm Scouts	8 9am Text Study noon Executive Board 1:30pm Quilters	9 Maundy Thursday 7pm Worship Service	10 Good Friday 7pm Worship Service	11
12 Easter Sunday 7am & 9:30am Worship 8am---9am Breakfast Egg Hunt 8:45 ELW	13	14 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Scouts	15 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 7pm Confirmation	16 7pm Council	17	18 6pm Pinochle at Ken & Marlene Libsack's
19 Sanctuary dedication 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School 2pm Cluster Assembly Delegate meeting here. WT	20 7pm Prayer Group	21 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Social Ministry 7pm Scouts	22 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 7pm Confirmation	23 noon Cluster Pastor's meeting 3pm Fellowship Committee 7pm Worship & Music	24 Newsletter Articles due for May Newsletter	25
26 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School ELW	27	28 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Learning /Youth 7pm Scouts	29 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters 7pm Confirmation	30 9:30am Office Helpers May Newsletter 7pm Christian Growth		

Remembering Our 50th Anniversary!

A time to celebrate where we've been and where we are going. Wait until you see the "NEW" renovation from the narthex to the altar and cross!"

Christ Lutheran Cookbook

Lutherans are known for their wonderful cooking abilities. Our special 50th anniversary cookbook is just off the press and available now. It is not an ordinary cookbook. The cover and pages are of substantial material for everyday use—along with pictures, short-cuts and down-home recipes. It also includes a stand to hold the book up-right when cooking. Before they are all gone, reserve yours by calling Ginger at 509-966-2328. (only \$15).

Fountain Pens

50th Anniversary fountain pens that read "Everyone is Welcome" are also available for \$2. The monies received from both the cookbook and pens will help with the costs of our celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have given of their time and input for our big event.

Ginger Mick

Charter member & Committee Chairman