

Lutheran Church of The Way

& Joyful Noise Preschool
Monthly Newsletter April 2023



Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Spring tends to be a busy time in our house as we celebrate four birthdays in less than a month! When our two oldest were much smaller Nicky and I were frequently asked if they were twins because they seemed so close in age (nearly 13 months apart, for the record). Likewise, if you were to look at the line up of pictures behind the desk in my office I would challenge you to guess who is who. Without any doubt, my kids all look undeniably like each other. However, truth be told, I'm embarrassed to admit it, but some times I still need Nicky to get the pictures lined up back in the right order. While my ability to keep their six-month old portraits straight leaves much to be desired, my amazing wife never fails to remember, never forgets a birthday, and most of the time can rattle off the stats for each kid's birth without thinking about it. I know my wife is special, but there is something to be said about a mother's ability to remember even the smallest details about their child inconsequential to someone else. The tenderness of a mother's love is unique. It's not better or any more than father's love for their child, just different. Perhaps it has something to do with how God knits that tiny life together inside of a mother's womb, how their beats together for a season, or the balance that one life must depend on the other for.

I've often wondered over the agony that Mary the mother of Jesus must have experienced throughout His passion and Death. Her pain in the helplessness of knowing that this act of ultimate sacrifice was why He was given to her by God in the first place. The eyewitness Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that Mary watched from a distance with Mary Magdalene, James, John, and "many other women" who had followed Jesus. Only the Gospel of John tells us of Mary's presence at the foot of Jesus' cross, when Jesus entrusts His mother's wellbeing to John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Like His disciples she too was prepared for this day

through Jesus' teachings, but unlike the disciples Mary was privy to this information when the angel Gabriel announced His conception.

This is not the first time tragedy has touched Jesus' followers. They've buried Lazarus (John 11), they've born witness to the death of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56), and seen the dead son of a widow processed through Nain (Luke 7:11-17). However, all three of these experiences Jesus gives a foreshadowing of the hope they too can cling to in His own death. He lifts that veil to give a glimpse of His divinity and shows them His power over death and the grave. In fact, He allows death itself to speak just enough that it would be heard then silenced lest its unnatural and uncomfortable presence be ignored.

As the next Death Row inmate, John Coffey, is led to his cell in the film "The Green Mile" prison guard Percy Wetmore chants out "Dead man walking! Dead man walking here!" Fear of this inevitable and great equalizing end for us all, death, can be cripple us before we ever learn to truly walk. Or, on the opposite end of the spectrum, a great lack of respect for death can also inspire a reckless abandonment for the value of truly living. Overwhelmed with fear, the disciples of Jesus find themselves locked up and cloistered away because they are afraid that in the wake of Jesus' death their own may imminently follow. They were still afraid of death and even doubted Jesus' promises regarding His own death DESPITE witnessing Him raise three different dead people!

In her research on the topics of death and dying, psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross notes that the most valuable data that she received came only after realizing that we need to look to the dying to be our teachers about death. As such, let us fix not only our eyes but also our hearts and minds on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, this Holy Week and Easter Season. Let us follow this "dead man walking" past the cross and through the grave, to our resurrection hope of an eternal life that lays beyond the fear, pain, and suffering of death. And as the veil between life and death is lifted in those moments between Good Friday and Easter, let us celebrate together with Saints past, present, and future, this victory that Christ gives us over sin, death, and temptation. May God bless your Holy Week and Easter Seasons!

In His hands and Resurrection Hope,
Pastor Jake

Elders Corner

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

As we reach the closing days of Lent, and culminate the Lenten season with Holy Week, we eagerly look forward to that most special morning, that of Easter Sunday. God's promise is fulfilled and we receive the greatest of all gifts. The words above from Acts are spoken by Peter before the Council in Jerusalem. Peter and John were arrested by the Sadducees following their healing of the lame beggar at the gate of the temple and proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus. The name mentioned in verse 12 is, of course, Jesus, the cornerstone of our church. Through Christ's resurrection, and under God's grace alone, we receive eternal salvation. Truly undeserving of such a gift, how do we use this?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

I often feel I don't do enough. I'm sure I'm no different than many others, yet it's an ongoing struggle. I try to do all the little things.....being kind, treating people nicely and with respect, regardless if they are family, friends, or complete strangers, attending and serving during worship service, but I know I fall short. I too often get caught up in the daily demands of earthly life.....trying to achieve that ever elusive "work-life balance". Some days feel like a blur and there are times I know I even miss daily prayer and devotions. I hear more and more about countries around the world switching to a 4-day work week.....certainly seems like an enticing option to me, and I am more than willing to offer myself to be part of the next study! Time....we never seem to have enough, the recent spring forward into daylight savings time notwithstanding. But if we had it, what would we do with that extra time?

The options are endless. Where to start? Do we live to please ourselves, or do we look to help others? Remember, we've been given an amazing gift. By simply believing, we know we will spend our eternity in paradise with Jesus, thanks to that amazing Easter morning. How can we share that gift with others, perhaps others that do not know Jesus? Start by doing the little things. Treat others well. Give thanks for what you have. Share what you have with others. Pray. Reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while, perhaps even a fellow member of LCW. Show that we care. Those little things spread the Word, and maybe, just maybe, it will open the door for the Holy Spirit to enter in and take over. Believe and do. Make a difference.

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them... Matthew 7:12

Steve Jurczyk, Head Elder

Steward Journey

It is the human lot to carry burdens: the rich man may be trapped to seek more wealth; the poor man never having enough. We may be stuck in unfulfilling jobs or unemployment, by destructive habits, or by poor self-image skewed by conceit or inadequacy. Some suffer from broken relationships, loss of loved ones, fear and doubts about the future. Our own bodies may suffer from accident, disease, poor health, chronic pain and aging. The list is endless. Alas, as the thieves on the cross, we deserve this and worse for the sins we commit daily.

By faith we believe that Jesus died for our sins and we will someday escape this vale of tears and be with him in heaven. For a long time, the early Christian church emphasized Jesus's divinity, but in the 12th century the monk Bernard of Clairvaux focused on His divine love and human suffering in behalf of all men. One of Bernard's Latin poems, "Salve Mundi Salutare" [later ascribed to Arnulf of Leuven], consists of seven sections, each addressing a part of Christ's body as he hung on the cross. https://breakpoint.org/the-story-behind-o-sacred-head-now-wounded/?_hsmi=250064089 [To open each website: highlight-copy and then paste into your web browser]. During the 17th century the great hymn writer Paul Gerhardt reworked the Latin version into German which suggests a more personal contemplation of the events of Christ's death on the cross. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Sacred_Head,_Now_Wounded The hymn has been adapted into musical compositions by Bach, Liszt and others. We are so fortunate that it has been translated into English by numerous authors [i.e., Lutheran Service Book, hymn #450; The Lutheran Hymnal #172]. Here is a sample of song and text: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwgM8R7akeU>

1. O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

2. Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee,
Thou noble countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee
And flee before Thy glance.
How art thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy visage languish
That once was bright as morn!

4. My burden in Thy Passion,
Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression
Which brought this woe on thee.
I cast me down before Thee,
Wrath were my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore Thee;
Redeemer, spurn me not!

9. My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
Oh, leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

A later translation by Winksworth, https://hymnary.org/text/ah_wounded_head_must_thou is well-worth reading as we meditate. She is the foremost translator of historic German Lutheran hymns into English who maintained theological meaning, meter and rhyme, as well as literary accuracy. Her biography as a translator is also very interesting. We are blessed that throughout the centuries God has inspired great men and women to feed his sheep with understanding of His Word and to glorify Him with worship song.

<https://blog.cph.org/worship/composer-of-the-month-catherine-winkworth>

https://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/Biographies/catherine_winkworth.htm

This inspirational hymn brings home, that on the cross as a true man in his mortal body Christ felt the same anguish, pain and suffering as any of us would. He was not immune because he also is true God. Innocent of any sin, He willingly laid down His life for our sins so we may have eternal life. We rejoice that HE IS RISEN!

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

Hartmut (Board of Stewardship)

April Echos

Exultation.....suffering....., dying,.....resurrection...and triumph are all experienced by every Christian this month. Within a week we follow Jesus as He triumphantly rides into Jerusalem. Christ came to earth to carry out a mission for us. As His disciples slept, our Lord poured His heart out to His Father, even pleading to take this cup from Him. Christ was arrested and peacefully followed His captors to be tried. How humiliating it must have been for the Son of God to be rejected..put on trial..stipped...whipped....and mocked. Crowds jeering Him as He carried the planks that were to be made into His means of Death. Nails were pounded into His wrists and, to further mock Him a sign("King of the Jews") was nailed above His head. He hung between two criminals and as He was slowly suffocating, He turned to His Mother, Mary, and with love to her He instructed John to take care of her. In the midst of His suffering, one of the criminals confessed his belief to Jesus (the thief caught on), Christ's kingdom is not of this world...Jesus assured him he will be with Him this day in paradise. Christ is saying to us also...if we believe, we, too, shall be with Him in paradise. What a beautiful promise....When Jesus died, the earth went black, the curtain of the temple ripped in two, people were sacred. I can just imagine the chaos that ensued. I would also venture a guess that many became believers on that day. Jesus was buried in the tomb (Roman soldiers were sent to guard the

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tomb)....Three days later the tomb was empty. An angel was there and announced to the women He had risen. Only God could accomplish defeating the Devil and sin for us. Now He sits at the right Hand of His Father (our Father), in the most honored place.....During our lifetime we think we suffer every now and then. At times our own sinfulness is to blame, sometimes we allow other people to influence us and we may suffer because of it, then we feel guilty because we did not act with compassion and caring and probably walked away. Let us bring our cares and suffering to Christ. He will give us peace in our heart and mind...Let us not forget to thank Him always for His sacrifice for us...If we keep Christ with us, we will overcome the frailties of our human spirit and when He calls us home, we will be triumphant through Him who saved us.

CHRIST HAS RISEN...HE HAS RISEN INDEED....

W.O.W. Women of The Way

WOW- Women of The Way

April is a busy month for us as we continue with our Lenten Soup Suppers.

As a fundraiser for our LWML Biannual Convention taking place in June in Milwaukee, WI we are hosting an Easter breakfast of pancakes with syrup or strawberries and sausages, along with orange juice and coffee. Suggested donations are \$10 per adult, and as desired for children. The breakfast will be held between the 2 services, from 9:30-10:30 AM.

Please sign up on the bulletin board or send an email to the office with the number attending so that we know how many to plan for.

On Saturday, April 22, there will be a LWML Zone Rally at Our redeemer Lutheran Church, Smithfield, RI. Please see the poster on the bulletin board and in this newsletter. Let me know if you would like to attend as we need to RSVP by April 14.

The next meeting for WOW is April 3 at 10:00am at church.

Come and join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Pat Heather

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAT'S 2 INVITES ARE EMAILED TO YOU SEPARATELY. EACH IS FULL PAGE SIZE PDF.

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Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary !

Pat Zwicker	4-01		
Josephine Dickerhoff	4-01		
Kate Small	4-06	Gyula and Debbie Vincze	4-14
Linda Jacobsen	4-06		
Valerie Schmeissing	4-07		
James Wabrek	4-10		
Brook Gollenberg	4-13		
Delaney Jacobsen	4-16		
Audrey Schiffner	4-18		
Gyula Vincze	4-21		
Shirley Gordon	4-22		
Joshua Newhall	4-25		
Dawson Estano	4-29		
Elaine Haskell			

Important notes from the LCW office

All emails for the LCW office need to be sent to lcw.raynham@verizon.net Thank you.

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Prayer List

Illness, healing, recovery, comfort, perseverance, and thanks:

Gene (Betty's brother-in-law), Walt Unruh, Rhys Connors, Claudette Yokell (Sharon Skov's mother), Mason Cohn (LeBeau friend), Amy Carey (Friend of Sharon Skov), Pat Zwicker, Pastor Dickerhoff and his family, Maggie and Harper Dickerhoff, Leslie (Bill Opheim's niece), Kathy Mueller (former daughter in-law of Mueller's), Audrey (Betty Mueller's sister), Kai Skov, Jon Ruehle (Nephew of Fred and Phyllis), Naomi (Chris Anop's granddaughter), George Mather, Jennifer and Madison (Loved ones of the Rothwells), Joe Donnelly (Chris Anop's friend), Deanna Cassiere (Jurczyk's friend) Pam Chin, George Mather, John (Chris Anop's loved one), Bill Hansen (Fred & Phyllis's brother-in-law), Herb Jones, Dennis Moloney (Heather (Bain)'s father-in-law), John (Chris Anop's friend), Kathy McPeck (healing), Lois Wallace (healing), Scott Dickerhoff, and those facing the covid virus and PTSD

ABUNDANT HOPE

...most every morning, Bill Wolf is present at The Abortion Clinic next to Abundant Hope (which LCW supports). Bill needs LCW ladies willing to use their voice to read testimonies of former abortion clinic workers. Bill records these and broadcasts them on a low power FM frequency which can be heard by anyone who tunes in to that station within ¼ mile of the clinic. There is no need for the voice helper to be present at the clinic. Your voice may be heard by abortion clinic workers, and potential workers en-route to destroy the new life within them (also by the persons who bring them. See Bill for further info.

Thank you,

Bill

wwolf@swissmail.org

508-660-3140

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