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# Messenger of Peace

The monthly newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2021



"I AM THE WAY AND  
 THE TRUTH AND  
 THE LIFE."

- JESUS

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please remember the following things when you come to church:

- Masks are required  
*If you don't have a mask, we have disposable and fabric re-usable available*
- Please socially distance in the sanctuary  
*Families can sit together with no restrictions; Sit every other pew & stay six feet apart*
- Offerings  
*Leave your offering in the plates at the end of the aisle*
- Please use the hand sanitizer when you enter the building and whenever you touch any commonly touched surface; Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and try to not touch your face.

## Why Is Holy Week Worship So Important?

The week of worship beginning on Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup> this year) carries the name Holy Week with good reason. Within the special week fall remembrances of the most important teachings of the Bible: the institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Savior's crucifixion and death on Good Friday and, on Easter, his resurrection from the grave. A review of the background of these commemorations may help us gain a better appreciation for this holiest week of the year.

It was natural that Easter should become the most important day on the Christian calendar. For the first several centuries after Christ, it was the only important day of the week. A recalling of Jesus' suffering and death was part of the celebration, but the early Christian emphasis on the living Christ and his any-day-now return made the Savior's resurrection day more important than his death day.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday didn't become a part of congregational worship until about the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It was during that era that Christians began to travel again to the Holy Land and, while they were there, they naturally retraced Jesus' steps to the upper room and to Calvary. The procession (which are still a part of Holy Week observances in Jerusalem) made deep impressions on European pilgrims and the customs were soon carried to their homelands. It wasn't long before Maundy Thursday became the "birthday of the chalice" in Christian churches. The day probably took its name from the "new command" (Latin: *mandatum*) Jesus gave his apostles after he washed their feet. The Good Friday commemoration began with an austere *tenebrae* (darkness) service on Friday evening and the quiet, contemplative mood continued until late Saturday. It was just past midnight when the bells began to peel and the church began to celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

In Luther's day the custom of reading the Passion episodes was also a part of Holy Week. The accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke were read on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; John's story was reserved for Good Friday. Customs have changed through the centuries as customs always do. What hasn't changed is the importance of Holy Week and the deep spiritual value it holds for believers. Let this holiest week of worship thrill you as it leads you to remember the holiest events of our holy faith!

Pastor Steven Tews



One of the enduring memories of Chicago Cub fans is the late announcer Harry Cary. "Holy cow!" used to be one of his favorite sayings. We usually say, "Holy cow!" to express our surprise—not to point to a cow that is particularly well behaved. Cows can be big. Some people even may think they are pretty. But holy?

God expects *people* to be holy. He demands, "*Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy*" (Leviticus 19:2).

Holy means sinless/perfect. Think about playing Little League baseball. Imagine your coach telling you that you have to get a hit every time you go up to bat, or you will be punished and never play again. That's impossible. Not even Christian Yelich can do that!

How can a *loving* God demand that we be holy? How can he say that if we sin just one time we deserve to go to hell? Isn't that cruel? Why does God demand the impossible?

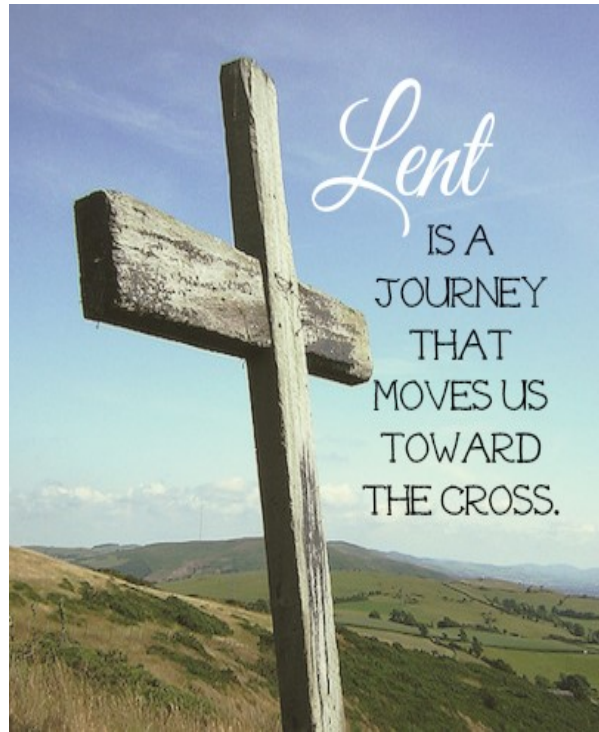
We can't be sinless, but there is someone who was. That's Jesus. The Bible says, "*He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth*" (1 Peter 2:22).

God gives us even better news! "*God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Righteous means holy. God tells us that Jesus became sinful for us.

How do we become righteous/holy? "*No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*" (Romans 3:20-22).

God credits holiness to all who believe in Jesus as the one who saved them from their sins.

What God demands; he provides! Everyone who believes in Jesus is considered perfect by God! Holy cow!



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**Messenger of Peace** is a publication of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wautoma, Wisc.  
**Purpose:** Messenger of Peace serves the Peace Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.  
**Articles:** Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

## Are Some Sins Worse Than Others?

Since God created us to love him perfectly, and to love our neighbor as himself, any failure to love in heart, word, or action is the equivalent of shattering the whole law of God. James tells us that in the his second chapter ***“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it”*** (2:10). Every one of my sins is lawless rebellion against God. In that sense all sin is equally evil. It is evidence that we have a nature within us that is the opposite of what God created us to be. For the believer in Christ, there’s more to the story. Because we stand forgiven and holy in God’s sight through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of his Son, every sin does not make an unbeliever out of us. As we live in repentance that runs each day from our sin to the cross, we find that ***“the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, purifies us from all sin”*** (1 John 1:7). ***Through faith in Christ we stand in God’s grace*** (Romans 5:1-2). However, if we grow careless about sin we are inviting spiritual disaster. If, when we become aware of sin in our hearts, we continue in that sin and begin to excuse and defend it, then we are in danger of allowing sin to rule in our hearts. Paul warns us in Romans 8:13, ***“If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die.”*** In that sense, stubborn and willful sin is more dangerous to our faith than sins of weakness or ignorance. That’s true even though all sin is by nature damnable. This sounds a bit paradoxical but here is the truth: if we treat sin as the evil it is and run to our Savior’s arms, it cannot harm us. Christ has paid for them all! But if we treat sin as harmless and defend it, then we are giving that sin the power to destroy us all over again. All of this isn’t about categories of sins (“big ones” and “little ones”), as if we could make two lists of different “types” of sins. The difference is the attitude of our hearts toward sin.

## Important Motions from the Voters’ Meeting on 2/14/21:

- All evening services will begin at 6:30 pm beginning March 4
- We are proceeding with the parking lot project (not to exceed \$100,000); council can secure needed loans without further approval
- We will return to pre-pandemic procedures no later than 8/1/21

## Peace Pantry Hours

The Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment. The pantry is open to our members and the community. Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more info.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for our next Red Cross Blood Drive on  
Wednesday, April 7, 12-5:30 pm.  
*If you are able to help at the registration table, please see Christine in the office.*

## Pioneers News

In January we talked about life skills and the Girls did work out of their handbooks. The boys worked on their pine cars. Check out next month’s newsletter for details about our Pine Car Derby! The Lutheran Pioneers meet the last Sunday of each month at 11:30 am. Lunch is included! If you know any child that would benefit from joining Pioneers, please encourage them to join- or to reach out for more information. Kids do not have to be a member of Peace to join!  
Your Pioneers Leaders,  
Christine, Kevin, & Becca Bohn

## We’re Live!

If you can’t make it church for worship, you now have the option of joining us LIVE every Sunday on our Facebook page! We are able to live stream and will do so every Sunday at 9 am. If you miss it, you can always go back and watch later!



Be sure to “like” our Facebook page and start watching live! Please see Kevin Bohn with any questions or concerns!



## at-home Easter for Kids

Because we can’t have an in-person Easter for Kids event, we have put together a fun bag that families will be able to do with at home to reinforce the reason we celebrate Easter!  
**We will hand out bags after Sunday School on March 28.**

Every Sunday School and Pioneers family will receive a bag. If you know of any family that would benefit from receiving an at-home Easter for Kids bag, please see Kevin Bohn (920-765-2146), Outreach Chair.

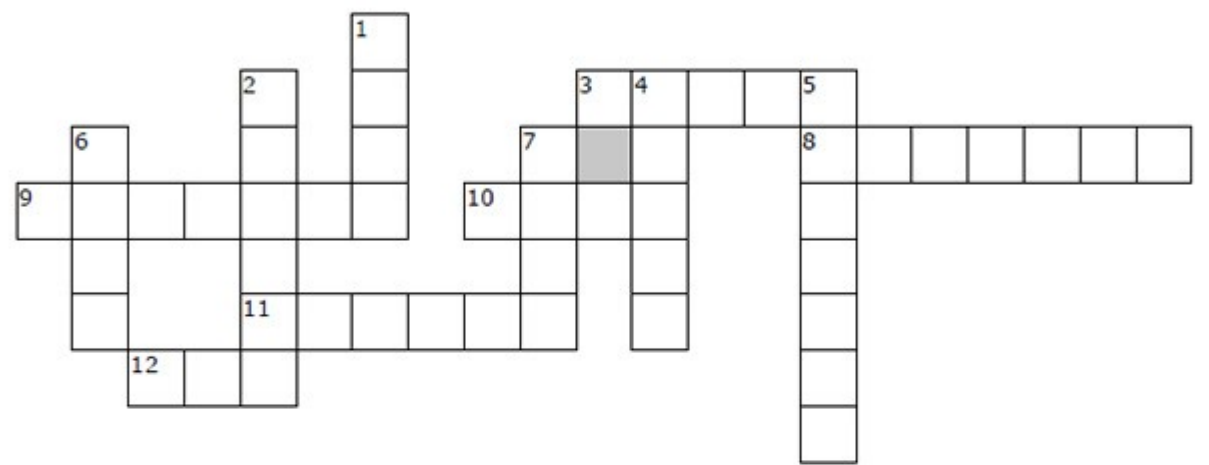


Lent & Easter Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 Worship 6:30 pm  
Palm Sunday Sunday, March 28 Worship 9 am  
at-home Easter for Kids Supplies given to families on Sunday, March 28  
Maundy Thursday Thursday, April 1 Worship with Holy Communion 12 pm & 6:30 pm (same service)  
Good Friday Friday, April 2 Good Friday Worship 12 pm Tenebrae Worship 6:30 pm  
Easter Sunday, April 4 Sunrise Worship w/ Communion 7 am Easter Song Service 9 am



The Triumphal Entry



- ACROSS
- DOWN
3. The Son of God

8. A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"

9. A small town

10. A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year

11. To stretch out over a large area

12. To secure with a piece of rope
1. What a person is called

2. To express admiration or approval of something or someone

4. To go into a place

5. Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled

6. A male ruler of a country

7. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE	JESUS	SHOUTED	ENTER
COLT	SPREAD	PRAISE	NAME
TIE	ROAD	HOSANNA	KING



March Birthdays

- 3/7 Marie Kasper  
Rebecca Bohn
- 3/9 Joyce Woodruff
- 3/13 Jean Bartel
- 3/15 Clifford Bliske
- 3/16 Judy Nelson
- 3/21 Thurman Matney
- 3/23 Megan Kubasta  
Kevin Bohn
- 3/25 Phyllis Dassow
- 3/26 Dorothy Sullivan
- 3/27 Kay Held
- 3/30 Don Timmermann

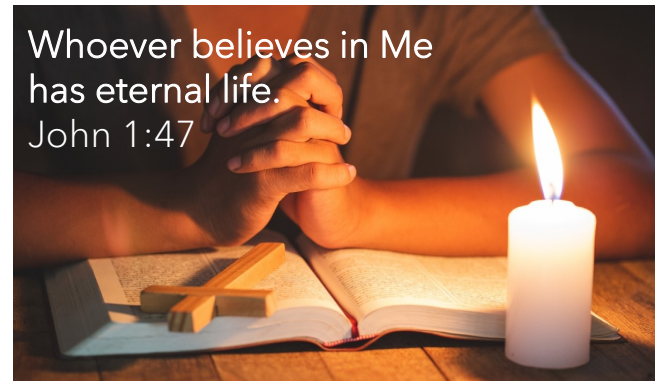


March Anniversaries

- 3/3 Russ & Mary Ann Nero (48)  
Robin & Jeff Rudolph (26)

F.Y.I.

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email [peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com).



Whoever believes in Me has eternal life.  
John 1:47



Sunday School Corner

Every Sunday 10:15 am- 11:15 am

Our Sunday School kids have been practicing our Palm Sunday hymn. We will be singing it on Sunday, March 28. Please have your child to church by 8:45 am. We will meet in the back classroom, walk in together, sing in the front, and then they will be able to go sit with their family for the service. Please see the Sunday School staff for more information. We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4.

March Lessons for 4K- 6th Grade

Date	Lesson
March 7	Jesus Raises Lazarus
March 14	Zacchaeus
March 21	Parable of the Talents
March 28	Paying Taxes to Caesar
April 4	Happy Easter! (no class)
April 11	Mary Anoints Jesus

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.



Sunday School  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.  
Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)