

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2014

Easter Eggs



One of the more popular traditions of Easter is the dying of eggs, along with hiding them and then watching the children finding them. Egg rolling is another popular Easter-time activity. Dolly Madison sponsored a huge egg roll on the lawn of the Capitol, a custom later moved to the grass around the White House. Another custom was to knock eggs together to see whose would be the first to crack.

The gaily decorated egg has been used to help express the meaning of Easter and to remind us of the first Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead. The egg symbolizes spring's return and new life. According to one legend, some eggs were colored when Mary's tears fell on them. It became customary to decorate eggs to symbolize the end of the penitential season of Lent and to welcome the renewal of life

with the spring. Eggs were often used to break the Lenten fast and to spread the joy of the resurrection.

While there are many secular traditions associated with Easter and Easter eggs, we can use colored Easter eggs to remind us of what Jesus Christ went through for our salvation, from His death on Calvary's cross to His glorious resurrection from the dead three days later. Here is one such tool:

As RED as the wine at the Last Supper when Jesus said: "This is My body which is given to you. This is My blood which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

As GREEN as the leaves in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus told His disciples: "Pray that you may not be tempted."

As YELLOW as the jewels worn by Pilate when the crowd yelled, "Crucify Him!"

As BROWN as the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head before He died on the cross and He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

As GOLD as the morning sun when the angels told Christ's followers, "He is not here. He has risen. Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

We rejoice at Easter. Christ Jesus is risen from the dead. Our joy is boundless. A living Savior is proof that Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection has atoned for all our sins and that salvation and eternal life are ours. Yes, Easter is the assurance of the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life for all who believe in Jesus, the resurrected Savior.

And so, rejoice. Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

God's blessings, *Pastor Dan*

Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

Article 3, Of the Son of God

Continuing our walk through the Augsburg Confession, we come to the declaration of who Jesus Christ actually is, as Holy Scripture reveals Him. We confess that He is the very Word of God; that He assumed human nature of the blessed Virgin Mary; that He is both fully human and fully divine, without confusion of the natures, yet united in His One Person; that He truly suffered and died for the sins of the world; descended into hell, and rose again the third day; ascended into heaven; sits at the right hand of the Father, forever having reign and dominion over all creation; that He sends His Holy Spirit to give faith and comfort to all who will believe; and that He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

If all this sounds like the creeds you recite on Sunday morning, there's a reason for that. These biblical confessions about who Christ is, why He came, what He did, what He continues to do, and what He shall ultimately do at the end of the world, were enshrined in the ancient councils and creeds. Even during the time of the Apostles, false teachers attempted to infiltrate the Church and lead people away from Jesus. But by

the 3rd, 4th, and 5th centuries of the early Church, these false teachers had spread so much false doctrine, that it seemed the Church was in peril of losing its Biblical confession all together. At one point, a heretic named Arius had managed to convince more than half the church, that Jesus was only a creature, and not really God—a devastating heresy, that destroyed the Doctrine of Justification by grace through faith in Christ Alone, and threatened to send countless souls to hell. Against this awful false doctrine, the bishops of the early Church gathered in councils, to confess and define together what the Holy Scriptures actually said about Jesus. They rightly understood, that remaining in and with Jesus—the real, saving Jesus—was more important than anything in the whole world.

And many of these pastors paid for their faithful confession with their livelihoods and their lives. It was dangerous to be a faithful Christian in those days, especially if the rulers of an area would not tolerate it. Clinging to Christ and His Word has always been dangerous, because the devil knows just how powerful Christ is through His

Word. If we want peace and safety in our time, the last place we'll find it, is being faithful to Christ. To be a heretic, an apostate, a pagan, or an atheist is all well and good in our culture... but as Christ Himself was rejected and crucified, so must His people be prepared to follow Him, even to the cross.

In our day and age, the person and work of Christ are still under attack. There are heresies new and old, both inside and outside the Church. As the Reformers rested in the Biblical confession of the early Church Fathers, so should we. When innovators call us to drift from the ancient confessions and creeds, we should be leery, since those creeds and confessions have kept the Church rooted in the Scriptures—and rooted in Christ—for centuries if not millennia. As this article of the Augsburg Confession reminds us, we remain in the Apostolic witness to Christ, as the Church has always remained, by confessing Jesus' true Person and Work. There is no other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved, and none other we can place our faith in and hope to be reconciled to the Father. There is only one Jesus, and His Word reigns. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, April 19th – 8 am

Join us for a delicious breakfast, wonderful fellowship, and in-depth Bible Study. We are going through the series "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School." We will be discussing the chapter "God's Exclusive Clubhouse?" (Deuteronomy 12) *Pastor Dan*



Music in God's Ears: The Sounds of Silence

*We worship the way we worship
because
we believe the way we believe.*

How does this show itself? If you toss a stone into a calm pond, waves will ripple throughout the whole surface. That one small stone affects the whole pond.

Let's start by addressing just one specific Theological point and explore how it ripples like waves through our whole approach to worship. Furthermore, let us look at how those ripples hit the shore and then bounce back. Indeed, what we believe shapes not only how we worship but how we worship will, eventually, shape what we believe.

The small stone I want to toss in today is our belief about the Sacrament of the Table. Some believe that this is simply a remembrance, a symbol and a memorial. We, as Lutherans, believe that once the Words of Institution are pronounced by the Pastor/Priest/Minister, the Body

and Blood of our LORD is present in, with and under the Bread and the Wine.

Pause a moment to think about that. At that specific moment (and continuing through our reception of the Bread and Wine) we are in the physical presence of our LORD and Savior. Some theologians have referred to this as a moment where we are temporarily allowed into the almighty presence of the Heavenly hosts, as described in the Preface to the Sanctus.

"Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name . . ."

Rev. John Stephenson has further observed that we should have a sense of being allowed into the realm described in Revelation 4 and 5.

Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and many other patriarchs, when confronted with the physical

presence of Almighty God, prostrated themselves and were afraid that they were about to be obliterated. Why is it that we, in our hubris, come to the Divine Service and the Holy Eucharist with a casualness that suggests borderline disrespect?

If we believe that we are guests at a dinner party in honor of someone who is not actually there, we will have one level of expectations and a comparable level of behavior. If the VIP in question is actually there, our expectations and behavior will certainly be raised.

Since Jesus Christ our LORD is indeed present, let us spend some time considering how that simple fact should affect our worship time together.

Blessings,

DVP
(Dennis Van Parys)

THE VISION BUILDERS LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 24th from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at The Landmark Convention Center is your chance to learn more about Concordia Lutheran School and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School and to support

their programs. The cost is free and you will be given an opportunity to give. Contact the Church Office if interested at 253-473-4848.

DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR - "DEFENDING THE FAITH"

Saturday, May 31, 2014....9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost : Pre-register: \$15 per person, (includes lunch)

At the Door: \$20 per person, (includes lunch)

Reserve your seat soon! Sign up in narthex to reserve.





-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

April is a special month as we celebrate Easter and share the joy of Jesus' resurrection with our students. The wonder of Jesus' love for them is truly inspiring. Please continue to pray for our students and their families that their young, "wonder filled" faith may grow.

Please look in the April bulletins as our annual flower fundraiser. Please stop by and check them out when you can.

We appreciate everyone's thoughtful financial and prayer support. Our preschool continues to do well by the grace of God and we thank Him for the many blessings He has given us.

Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher

RESTORED IN CHRIST

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by Him through the cross. Each evening service focuses on a certain event in the Lenten story and takes a good look at a broken element from that particular story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements leads to restoration is key to understanding what it ultimately means to live today as new creations in Christ.

- April 2 -- "Broken Promises Restored"
- April 9 -- "Broken Justice Restored"
- Maundy Thursday – April 17 – "Broken Sanctuary"
- Good Friday – April 18 – "Broken Curtain"
- Easter Sunday Sunrise – April 20 – "Broken Seal"

Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent at 6 pm for a Soup Supper.
Our Lenten evening services begin at 7 pm.

REMEMBER. We are still accepting donations for building repair and maintenance.
Thank you for helping us keep the buildings in good repair!



**Women's
Spring Tea**

April 26th at 2 pm

Tickets: \$3.00

Come enjoy a little fellowship with your Sisters-in-Christ. You can host a table or just invite a friend. *Tickets are \$3*

Ticket sales begin
April 6th.

Open Gym

Our church has use of Concordia's gymnasium on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm. We are mostly meeting every other Sunday to help accommodate busy schedules. You are welcome to come join us

as we have use of the gym through the month of April. Please check with Tony or Bonnie Huset about specific Sundays we will be there. Thank you!

Lunch Bunch

Join us on **April 1st** at **11:30 am** for our Pot Blessing. We will be viewing the video, "The Passion of Jesus." Also we have some summer programs to choose from. Please join us!



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

To **ALL WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD**,
Greetings in Jesus Name,

What are *you* doing June 20-22? Consider the Washington-Alaska District Convention at the coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee, Washington. You will be "Filled with His Will" by worship, Bible studies, special interest groups and so much more. Service Project and FUN designed just for Teens. Please let me (Jane Oberg) know if you are interested. Phone: 253-475-2832. The Spring Evergreen Echoes has registration and hotel information.

The Spring Quarterly has much to fill you with inspiration. I recommend the article, "From Russia with Love."

Don't forget MITES! Coins are always welcome but have you noticed the \$5 bills have a purple spot? Purple is the LWML color and \$5 dollar bills make a nice contribution!

On Easter Sunday you will notice Quilts hanging on the sides of the sanctuary. They will be up for just two Sundays (Easter, and April 29th), then packed for shipping for Lutheran World Relief May 2-3. Do you like what you see? We will sell them for \$40 each (minimum) and all monies will go to LWR.

Thursday Bible study continues studying "Lutheranism 101." Remember ladies...mark your calendars for the Ladies Tea April 26th at 2 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **RAINIER ZONE SPRING RALLY**
April 5th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Graham
- **LADIES TEA**
April 26th here at Good Shepherd.
- **DISTRICT CONVENTION**
June 20-22, Wenatchee
- **LADIES RETREAT –**
September 26-27, Camp Burton

Serving the Lord with Gladness, *Jane Oberg*

