

Easter



Dear Fellow Redeemed:

I have no doubt but that the master's young men had "had it" with Jerusalem. It had been such a cruel and foreboding city for them—always a place of conflict between their Lord and the religious leaders. And the bottom line seemed to suggest, all too painfully, that they had become the great losers. They had lost their careers for Jesus. They had lost the security of their old lives. They had lost their leader. They had lost their credibility.

It is understandable that it was with a certain amount of eagerness that they were ready to join the throngs in leaving the city. Their old familiar haunts in Galilee would speak some comfort to their brokenness. The rolling hills, the open plains, the beckoning sight of the blue lake beneath the northern skies would be a welcomed solace to their badly bruised and battered spirits.

There were, of course, the reports coming from various sources that their Master was no longer a corpse in the tomb. Peter and John actually believed that He had risen, claiming to have seen the empty grave-clothes. Likewise, Mary Magdalene and the other women had actually seen and talked to Him—or at least, so they said.

Thus, the men were unsure of what to do, thinking on the one hand that they should wait it out a bit longer, but on the other, that would call for an additional

element of risk—particularly in light of the widely circulated report that they had dared to break the seal of Rome that had been used to secure the tomb. Thus, they huddled in their quarters making of it a bastion of fear.

That's when it happened. Suddenly, He stood among them and greeted them with His quiet, strong, loving tones: "*Peace be unto you!*" Then, sensing their apprehension He asked: "*Why are you so troubled?*" Then with an additional gesture of assurance He said: "*See, my wounded hands and feet, it is I myself.*"

We have our Jerusalem's, too---the times and places when our best hopes and dreams go down the tubes and we huddle in fear for the present and ever for the future. It is for times such as these that God gave us Easter and the Risen One who always has a way of breaking through our veil of despair at just the right time to say: "*Peace be unto you. Why are you troubled?*"

I eagerly look forward to the Easter season as we, together, affirm and celebrate this great truth.

Joyful in the Risen Christ,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenbug
Intentional Interim Pastor

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1st

Worship at

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary
Holy Communion



GOOD FRIDAY

April 2nd

Worship at

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary



EASTER

April 4th

Worship at

8:00 a.m. - Classic Grace
10:30 a.m. - Living Praise

Easter Breakfast



Sunday, April 4th

7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast
Cost: Free

**Retirement
Celebration/Reception
Planned**

After serving within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for over 30 years including nearly 9 years at Holy Emmanuel as our secretary, Candy Frein is retiring April 30th, 2010. In recognition of this achievement and in celebration of her ministry among us, a "Thank You" reception for Candy is being planned at Holy Emmanuel on Sunday, April 25th between the worship services. Everyone is invited to enjoy this reception with Candy and her family. For those who cannot attend, a receptacle for cards and well-wishes will be available in the Lobby.

*The Board of Lay
Ministry/Board of Fellowship*



He is risen – He is risen, indeed! A blessed Easter to all of you!

Thanks to all who came to and support our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to the Manske family for their "Petting Zoo."

Sunday, May 16th, is our last day of regular Sunday School. The children of both Holy Emmanuel and Open Arms will be singing at the 10:30 service followed by a Bar-B-Q picnic. Please invite your friends and plan on joining us!

Thanks to all of you who have given to the Noisy Offering. For the month of April the offering will be given to "Feed My Starving Children."

Mark your calendar for the week of June 21 – 25 for Vacation Bible Camp. The

theme this year will be "**Heroes of the Bible.**" More details will follow real soon.

As we start to see Spring bloom, may it remind us of Christ's resurrection.

In His Risen Name,
Natalie Mylander

Youth News

We truly enjoyed seeing Heidi and J. J. in "Joseph and the Amazing Coat." I never realized Jon also had such talent! Yu all did a wonderful job!

Mark your busy calendars and invite your friends to the upcoming summer events:

April/May – Feed My Starving Children

May 16 – End of the year Picnic

June 21-25 Vacation Bible Camp

July 15-17 - Sonshine Music Festival

July/August - Mission trip (dates to be determined)

Please stay active in your church/youth group even during the summer months. God is even busier than you and still has time to love and take care of each one of us.

May you all have a very blessed Easter! See you in church!

God Bless,
Natalie Mylander

Open Arms News

Well, along with spring comes melting snow and rain. We sure experienced that with our roof damage. But, God is good!

We are thankful for the warm weather so that the children can get outside to run and play!

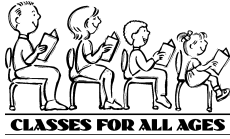
We are asking for any playground donations such as buckets, shovels, plastic outdoor trucks or toys, etc. If you feel moved to donate, please drop them off at the church or center anytime. As always, it is greatly appreciated!

Please remember that we are selling "Faith of Journey" candles for a fund raiser for our roof repair, front door carpet, etc.

Just an update of Mrs. Joe Grant: She is still in Bethesda Hospital and will be there for quite a while yet. Our Noisy Offering for March will be given to the benefit fund at TCF Bank for Mrs. Grant. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this cause. Mr. Joel wants to tell you how much he and his wife appreciate all of your prayers and support through their journey ahead.

Form all of us at Open Arms we want to wish all of you a very meaningful Easter. May our Risen Lord give you His peace!

In His Name,
Natalie Mylander



**Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

- **Resolving Conflict Biblically** (Led by Pastor Dan in the Chapel)
- **“Revelation – The Triumph of God”** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room)

**1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings at
6:00 p.m.** (Meet at Church)
Couples in Christ

- **“John 3:16, Stories of Hope”** (Led by Rick Marko)

**3rd Monday Evenings at 5:30
p.m. – Supper, 6:00 p.m. –
Bible Study**

- **Parenting Class – “Effective Parenting in a Defective World”** (Led by Randy Marko)

**Tuesday Mornings at 10:00
a.m.**

- **Book of Luke** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

**Men’s Tuesday Evenings at
7:00 p.m.**

- **The Authenticity of the Bible** (Led by Nick Marko in the Accounting Room)

**Wednesday Mornings at 9:30
a.m.**

- (Led by Elaine Bakalar in the Accounting Room)

**Thursday Mornings at 10:00
a.m.**

- **Crash Course on Jesus** (Led by Chuck Squires in the Accounting Room)

April Daily Bible Readings

Morning Readings

April 1st – Judges 6, 7
April 2nd – Judges 8, 9
April 3rd – Judges 10, 11
April 4th – Judges 12, 13, 14
April 5th – Judges 15, 16, 17
April 6th – Judges 18, 19
April 7th – Judges 20, 21
April 8th – Ruth 1, 2, 3, 4
April 9th – 1st Samuel 1, 2, 3
April 10th – 1st Samuel 4, 5, 6
April 11th – 1st Samuel 7, 8, 9
April 12th – 1st Samuel 10, 11, 12
April 13th – 1st Samuel 13, 14
April 14th – 1st Samuel 15, 16
April 15th – 1st Samuel 17, 18
April 16th – 1st Samuel 19, 20, 21
April 17th – 1st Samuel 22, 23, 24
April 18th – 1 Samuel 25, 26
April 19th – 1st Samuel 27, 28, 29
April 20th – 1st Samuel 30, 31
April 21st – 2nd Samuel 1, 2, 3
April 22nd – 2nd Samuel 4, 5, 6
April 23rd – 2nd Samuel 7, 8, 9
April 24th – 2nd Samuel 10, 11, 12
April 25th – 2nd Samuel 13, 14
April 26th – 2nd Samuel 15, 16
April 27th – 2nd Samuel 17, 18
April 28th – 2nd Samuel 19, 20
April 29th – 2nd Samuel 21, 22
April 30th – 2nd Samuel 23, 24

Evening Readings

April 1st – Luke 8:1-21
April 2nd – Luke 8:22-56
April 3rd – Luke 9:1-36
April 4th – Luke 9:37-62
April 5th – Luke 10:1-24
April 6th – Luke 10:25-42
April 7th – Luke 11:1-28
April 8th – Luke 11:29-54
April 9th – Luke 12:1-34
April 10th – Luke 12:35-59
April 11th – Luke 13:1-21
April 12th – Luke 13:22-35
April 13th – Luke 14:1-24
April 14th – Luke 14:25-35
April 15th – Luke 15:1-10
April 16th – Luke 15:11-32
April 17th – Luke 16:1-18
April 18th – Luke 16:19-31
April 19th – Luke 17:1-19
April 20th – Luke 17:20-37

April 21st – Luke 18:1-17
April 22nd – Luke 18:18-43
April 23rd – Luke 19:1-28
April 24th – Luke 19:29-48
April 25th – Luke 20:1-26
April 26th – Luke 20:27-47
April 27th – Luke 21:1-19
April 28th – Luke 21:20-38
April 29th – Luke 22:1-30
April 30th – Luke 22:31-53

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Please join us as we begin a Bible Study on “Revelation – The Triumph of God.”

John wrote Revelation from his place of exile on Patmos Island. His vision was of Christ as Lord, Lamb on the throne, liberating Word of God and Leader in the new Creation. John says, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it” (1:3). Look forward to this blessing as you study Revelation. The class, led by Randy Marko, is in the accounting room on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Parenting Bible Study

Please join us for a parenting class (taught by Randy Marko) where together we learn and support one another as we improve our parenting skills. We are starting a new DVD series called “Effective Parenting in a Defective World” by Chip Ingram (President of ‘Living on the Edge’ & Sr. Pastor of Venture Christian Church in CA).

Class will be Monday, March 22nd in the Holy Emmanuel Church fellowship hall. It starts with a free dinner at 5:30 p.m., class at 6 p.m. and ends by 7:30 p.m. There is also free babysitting.

Questions? Call Randy or Cindy Marko @ 952-894-6359.

A New Sunday Morning Bible Study

"Resolving Conflict Biblically"

How would you define conflict? What causes it? Join us for answers to these and other questions at a special Bible Study, "Resolving Conflict Biblically" written by The Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, President of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS. The class will be conducted each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM in the Holy Emmanuel Chapel. The Bible study will run for 6 weeks. It begins on Sunday, April 18th.

Pastor Siedenburg will moderate the class.

Scrap Craft Fever!

Take time for yourself and time with your friends!
Scrapbook (and all other crafts) the day away!

Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church
201 East 104th Street
Bloomington MN 55420
952-888-2345

Saturday, May 8th
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

\$20 for a table space (in advance)
(\$25 at the door)

Table space proceeds to the Holy Emmanuel Youth Group

Includes:

Lunch w/beverage
Bottled water/coffee
Snacks

Prize drawings throughout the day

Available:

Make and Takes*
Stampin' Up
Creative memories
Boutique Items

*Make and takes available for nominal fee.

A Heart Felt Thanks!

I want to deliver a heart felt thank you to all of those who were so generous by donating gently used infant and children's clothing to the families & children of LaCeiba, Honduras.

Your generosity yielded a delivery of 200 pounds or approximately 350 pieces of clothing to the very needy. I'm reminded that what we all take for granted can be a treasure or miracle to others.

Thank you for your love and sharing with others.

God bless you.

In Christ,
Randy Marko



Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.

A Teaching Moment:

Do we have proof of God's love for us? We sure do! We have an empty cross and an opportunity for eternal life. We have the Bible, God's word and His means for telling us about Himself and how we should conduct ourselves. Read on to learn about the love we should be looking for as a Christian.

The Proof You Are Loved

By Ron Hutchcraft

The Valentine our four-year-old grandson got from his grandparents must have meant a lot to him. He doesn't get to see these grandparents real often, so it's nice to get their love in the mail. When his Valentine arrived, his mom read it to him. Several times that day, he asked her to read it to him again. Later, as they were driving around town, he actually began repeating verbatim the love words from that Valentine! They meant so much to him, he had memorized them, and he just kept going over them!

A little boy heard words that described how much somebody loves him, and he moved those words from the card they came in to his heart. In a world where real love is so hard to come by and so easy to lose, we could use some words of love to hang onto couldn't we?

And the person who loves you most has given you words like that. They may be words you've heard a thousand times before, or they might be words you've never heard. But they are the proof of how very much you are loved by the God of the universe. They are found in the Word of God in John 3:16 - just 26 words. Listen to these 26 words of love as if your life depends on them. It does. "For God so loved the world that He

gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Those are words worth having in your heart. They are a reason to make sure today that the Christ they talk about is in your heart.

No matter how others may have treated you, or however you may think God feels about you, God loves you. So much, that He sent His one and only Son all the way from heaven to die this horrible death for you on a rugged cross. It was the only way you could have every wrong thing you have ever done forgiven by God. Sin has to be paid for with a death penalty. God's love for you is so great that He sacrificed the only One who could die in your place - His sinless Son, Jesus. So when you open your heart to Jesus, you're opening your heart to the greatest love in the universe. When your heart remains closed to Him, you're turning your back on the greatest love in the universe.

Some years ago a noted photographer decided to make a photo journal of people that he photographed visiting the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D. C. One morning he got there very early and he noticed this little memorial that hadn't been there the day before. It displayed a picture of a soldier, a picture of Jesus, a service medal, and a simple, three-word inscription. As he knelt to snap a picture of it, he felt a hand on his shoulder and he heard this elderly man saying, "Do you like it?" He explained that's why he was photographing it. The old man said, "I'm glad. I put it there." Suddenly, that three-word inscription took on deep meaning for that photographer. It simply said "Only one Son."

On the cross, God sacrificed His "only one Son" for you. Now He's asking, "What do you think of what He did for you?" Your eternity hinges on your answer. John 3:16 says that if you "believe in Him," you will not die for your sin but instead you'll live with Him in heaven forever. When you think "believe" in the Bible sense, think of a drowning person hanging onto a lifeguard with everything he's got. When you do that with Jesus - trusting completely in His death for you - you are saved; you are rescued by Him.

I can't think of a greater tragedy, a greater mistake for you to make, than for you to miss what Jesus gave His life for you to have - for you to end up paying the eternal price that Jesus already paid for you. How does that happen? If you don't reach out and take by faith what He died to give you. If you want to do that, you can talk to Him about it in words something like this: "Lord, thank You for Your love for me, for the sacrifice You made to pay for my sin on the cross. I realize that's my only hope of having my sins forgiven - of going to heaven. So, right now, "I am Yours."

This is the love you were made for; it's the love you've been looking for. His name is Jesus, and you're one prayer away from belonging to Him.

Priscilla Guild

If you have any questions regarding the Priscilla Guild and their activities, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492. Thank you!

Bunco Party

Friday, April 9th – 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to join us on Friday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. for the last Bunco Party of the year. All ages can play this game. Bring your whole family and all of your friends. There will be refreshments and prizes. The cost is a free will donation.

If you could donate prizes and refreshments, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.

LWML Spring Rally

Tuesday, April 13th

Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend the LWML Spring Rally on Tuesday, April 13th with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Rally will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (6544 16th Ave. S.; Richfield). The guest speaker will be Pastor Robert Nowak, President of Haiti Lutheran Mission.

For tickets, please contact Gladys Lossow.

Spring Luncheon Thank You!

Thank you to all who attended, donated and helped with the Spring Luncheon! You are all so appreciated. Now we will be able to give another \$1,500 to church for repairs around the building. Thank you!

Gladys Lossow
Priscilla Guild

Stewardship Corner

A Cure for Soul Sickness

For all of our technological innovations and advancements in the medical field, we have found no way to avoid the pain derived from our sin. Even as Christians, we still struggle with our old nature. Many can relate to Solomon who had everything – work, wealth, wisdom, women – and who delved into all kinds of activities to find fulfillment in life – accomplishments in the fields of architecture and build, knowledge in a myriad of areas, and submersion in earthly lusts – yet found no satisfaction.

Lent and Easter tell us that there is a cure for the sin-sick soul. Christ came to bear our sins in His body on the Cross of Calvary. We are freed from the guilt of sin and its consequences. Christ came to bring us eternal life which begins right here on earth! He brings us the fulfillment in living that eluded Solomon.

What a joyful responsibility we have as stewards of the Gospel of Christ to bring this Good News to both those who find it new and strange and those who first heard it on their mothers' knees. To that end, let us use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure as God give us the grace to do so.



Loaves and Fishes Dinner

In late February, members of Holy Emmanuel and Mount Hope worked together to provide a Loaves and Fishes Dinner to approximately 200 people at Creekside Community Center in Bloomington. Together, the volunteers from both churches planned the dinner, purchased, prepared, and served the food and then cleaned up. We want to recognize and thank our Holy Emmanuel members who supported this wonderful outreach effort. These members included Dan and Vera Marko, Sheryl and Mike Burkhardt, Randy and Cindy Marko, Betsy Bohl, Jessica La Goo, and Chuck and Pat Squires. When you have a chance, please ask them about the dinner and consider volunteering for the next time we support Loaves and Fishes! Also, thanks to all the members of Holy Emmanuel as your donations help make these outreach programs possible!

As a reminder, Holy Emmanuel and Mount Hope are committed to providing the Loaves and Fishes dinner on the 4th Friday of every other month. Our next dinner will be April 23, 2010. If you want to volunteer, please contact Sandy or John Carlson at 952-926-0545. Finally, it is a good way to meet our many friends at Mount Hope.

Again, thank you to our volunteers for a great dinner which helped so many!!