**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**April 2019**

**“It was a strange and dreadful strife.”**

***[Jesus] disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in it.***

* **Colossians 2:15 ESV**

In the time of Jesus, two thousand years ago, there were a lot of people who hoped that the expected Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God, would do exactly what this verse from the New Testament letter to the Colossians says:

*Disarm the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in it.*

And that’s understandable. So many years of being bullied by “rulers and authorities” like the Roman Empire has a way of pushing people to the breaking point. Prior to Jesus, there were other people who claimed to be a messiah, rallying people to revolt against the “rulers and authorities,” to gain their independence once again. These kinds of military revolts were quickly squashed by the well-trained and skilled Roman army.

But Jesus turned out to be a different kind of Messiah. He resisted every attempt that people made to turn him into a political revolutionary. Rather than overthrowing the “rulers and authorities” of his day, he suffered death at the hands of the “rulers and authorities,” the Roman governor Pontius Pilate in particular. His death on that Good Friday cross was a sign of defeat for those who hoped that he would lead a military campaign.

But the cross of Jesus turns out to be a victory in a different kind of way. Christians believe in the mystery that Jesus was handed over to death because of our sin, in order to deal with the condemnation that our sin brings, once and for all. Martin Luther’s (1483-1546) powerful Easter hymn expresses this faith: *Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands, for our offenses given*.

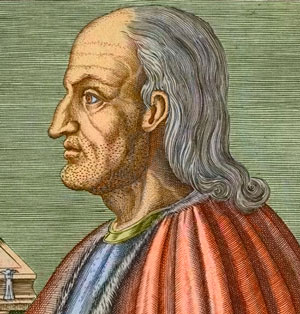
In the Apostles’ Creed, we profess that Jesus “descended into hell” upon his death on that Good Friday cross. I talked about this phrase during one Wednesday evening this Lent and how groups of Christians have interpreted the meaning of “descended into hell” differently. Whereas some Christians tend to think that “descended into hell” means either that Jesus suffered the pain of hell while he was on the cross or that it simply is another way of saying that Jesus was truly dead, Lutherans view Jesus’ descent into hell as a part of his victory over the power of the devil. Martin Luther used his imagination to describe how Jesus descended into the abode of the devil upon his death, carrying the banner of God’s victory over the power of sin, storming hell’s citadel, striking down demons in his path, disarming the spiritual “rulers and authorities” opposed to God, described in Colossians 2:15. That same hymn from Martin Luther expresses this in the second verse: *It was a strange and dreadful strife when life and death contended; the victory remained with life, the reign of death was ended*.

There are still some people who would like for Jesus to be the military messiah that people hoped for long ago. But that isn’t how the kingdom of God works on earth. Jesus’ victory over the spiritual “rulers and authorities” is the real message of our Christian faith, *for there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1). Jesus’ resurrection from the dead proclaims to us the great spiritual battle that Jesus the Messiah (Christ) fought on our behalf.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



This month, we look at the life of **Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury.** He was born in 1033 A.D. and died in 1109 A.D. He is commemorated on April 21.

Most scholars consider Anselm to be the third most significant Christian theologian in Western Christianity. He is most famous for his argument for the existence of God (ontological argument) as well as for his work entitled *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God Became Human), where he sought to explain why it was necessary for the Son of God (Jesus) to become a human being and suffer for us.

He was born in Italy, spent time in France, and eventually became the Archbishop of Canterbury in England, becoming involved in the controversies of his day and lifting before the king the importance of the Church. His life stands as a witness to the importance of loving God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

The following is a prayer by Anselm:

“My God, I pray that I may so know you and love you that I may rejoice in you. And if I may not do so fully in this life, let me go steadily on to the day when I come to that fullness…Let me receive that which you promised through your truth, that my joy may be full.”

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for April 2019**

***What Wondrous Love Is This?***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 257*

1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, for our offenses given; but now at God's right hand he stands, and brings us life from heaven; therefore let us joyful be, and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. It was a strange and dreadful strife when life and death contended; the victory remained with life; the reign of death was ended. Holy Scripture plainly says that death is swallowed up by death; its sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

3. Here the true Paschal lamb we see, whom God so freely gave us; He died on the accursed tree, so strong his love to save us. See, his blood now marks our door; faith points to it, death passes over, and Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

4. So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us; Christ is himself the joy of all, the Sun that warms and lights us. Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts; the night of sin is ended! Alleluia!

4. Then let us feast this Easter day on Christ the bread of heaven; the Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven. Christ alone our souls will feed; he is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

* Text: Martin Luther (1483-1545); trans. Richard Massie (1800-1887)
* Tune: J. Walther, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*

*Note: This is Martin Luther’s great Easter hymn, which Johann Sebastian Bach used for one of his most popular cantatas.*

**Monthly Watchword for April 2019**

Jesus says, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

* Matthew 28:20 ESV

**Ushers for April:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Carsten and Darci Barger
* Ushers:
  + Gary and Bev Kumm
  + Vicki Jensen
  + Jeff Hanson
  + Addison Barger
  + Hudson Barger

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Lord’s Prayer: The Sixth Petition**

*And lead us not into temptation.*

*What does this mean?*

*God indeed tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and protect us from this, that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, but pray that when we are tempted in these ways, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.*

**Birthdays for April**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* April 2: Arlene Barnes
* April 2: Jakob Eisenhauer
* April 7: Troy Poppe
* April 11: Dale McDonald
* April 14: Alice Carlow
* April 29: Paige Poppe

**Baptismal Anniversaries for April**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* April 2: Nancy Magorian
* April 3: Norman Poppe
* April 3: Stran Sage
* April 4: Renae Kauth
* April 10: Stella Branstiter
* April 13: Michael Sage
* April 14: Dale McDonald
* April 28: Jacob Jessen
* April 29: Owen Eckmann

**Worship Schedule**

April 3: Lenten evening worship, 7:00 PM, Pr. Theresa Jacobson (Purple)

April 7: Fifth Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion, altar rail (Purple)

April 10: Lenten evening worship, 7:00 PM, Pr. Tom Jacobson (Purple)

April 14: Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion (Purple)

April 19: Good Friday worship, 7:00 PM (Purple)

April 21: The Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday with Holy Communion, continuous (White)

April 28: Second Sunday of Easter (White)

**Lenten Evening Suppers**

During the season of Lent, Good Shepherd will hold evening suppers before worship. The meals will begin at 6:00 PM, and worship will begin at 7:00 PM. April 3: Taverns; April 10: Baked potato bar

**Important Announcements**

* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM. This month, it will be on April 28.
* The Church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 PM.
* This year, the Holy Week worship service will be held on Good Friday (April 19) at 7:00 PM. This is a change from the previous few years, when it was held on Maundy Thursday.
* Confirmation class will resume on Wednesday April 24.
* Bridal shower for Karly Jensen will be held on May 4 at 2:00 PM.

**April 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3  Pr. Tom in Menno  Lenten supper, 6:00  Worship, 7:00 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)  Purple | 8 | 9 | 10  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Lenten supper, 6:00  Worship, 7:00  Church council after worship | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30 (Palm Sunday)  Purple | 15 | 16 | 17  Pr. Tom in Lindy  WOW/WNALC meeting, 10:00 | 18 | 19  Good Friday worship, 7:00 | 20 |
| 21  Sunday School, 9:30 ?  Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)  Easter Sunday  White | 22 | 23 | 24  Pr. Tom in Lindy later in afternoon  Confirmation class, 5:15 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28  Sunday School, 9:30  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  White | 29 | 30 |  | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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