

April 2017

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



A community of Christians, called Together by the Holy Spirit, where all people Can come to know God's grace and grow in Faith, give and receive The love of Jesus Christ And of one another, and Serve one another and The community in which We live."

Holy Surprise

This past winter was full of surprises. It was t-shirts and daffodil weather in February, then BAM! Freezing temperatures and even snow (though a lot less than anticipated) in March. Climatologists have spoken at length about climate change, but when we actually experience surprising weather it comes as a shock!

The Bible tells us that Jesus' followers were more than a little shocked when they saw him after his resurrection. It shouldn't have been a surprise, but somehow it was. He had spoken with them repeatedly about how he would rise from the dead, but despite hearing it over and over, they didn't believe until they met up with him.

That's the difference between knowing and trusting, between knowledge and faith—we are more able to trust what we experience. That's why we gather each week to worship with each other. We come together Sunday morning to sing and pray together, to hear scripture read, to share the meal that Jesus gave us to remember him, so that we can experience God.

Being together as the Body of Christ in the flesh makes Jesus real, and brings us from just *knowing about* God to *trusting* God with our lives. We can trust the love and power of God we see through Jesus because God came to us in the flesh through Jesus who lived, died and came to life again.

That's the message of Easter and why the traditional Easter greeting is, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" We may rejoice individually in our hearts that Christ is risen, but it's when we come together that we add that word "indeed." The resurrection becomes very real when we celebrate it together, and we experience that this word of hope is something isn't simply something we know, but something we trust.

The Creeds study has been about how the Athanasian, Nicene and Apostles creed define our faith. The one we use the most, the Apostles Creed, tends to delineate the *history* of what happened—“just the facts.” But when we discuss our beliefs, we tend to talk *relationally*, how God loves us and takes care of us. As important as outlining our doctrines is, it’s the trust that God always loves us, cares for us and gives us life that sweeps us off our feet in times of need—that surprises us!

Many of us have heard that familiar story of the empty tomb and the risen Christ for many years and we know it well. But my prayer for you this Easter season is this: that no matter how many times you’ve heard the story or how well you know it--may it *surprise* you this year. I pray that it just knocks your socks off this Easter season so that that word “indeed” rings in your heart.

Peace,
Pastor Susan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soup Supper at 6:30 pm and Lectio Divina at 7:30 pm Tuesdays in Lent.(through April 4) Enjoy fellowship then a quiet meditative service

Lenten Soup Supper signup sheet is posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board. If you would like to prepare either the bread or soup for a particular Tuesday, please sign under that date. If you know which type of soup you are making, please include that also.

Thank you.

Holy week worship opportunities

April 9 – 9:30 am - Palm Sunday worship with procession

April 13 – 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday--Worship with Holy Communion

April 14 – Good Friday--Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church, Poplar Springs, 1:00 pm (Pastor Susan will be there with other Catholic and Protestant clergy)

AND

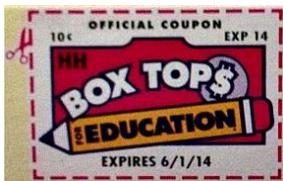
April 14 – Good Friday - Tenebrae service at 7:30 pm at Shepherd of the Glen

April 16 – Easter – service at 9:30 am

Adult Education Our Creeds Study has been extended since no one was able to attend some of the planned Sundays, so please watch the Weekly Hello for updates. Looking at what we believe and how that impacts our identity, goals and future here at SOTG are an important part of the interim work we are doing, so please plan to attend after worship, 10:45-11:45. Our hope is to do a study on Luther, the reformation and Lutheran theology (and how SOTG reflects and lives out our Lutheran identity) after we have explored the creeds, so stay tuned!

Coffee Fellowship will be held on April 2. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Our Lenten project this year is “New Life Kits” for recently released ex-offenders from the prison system. These people are released with nothing and need items to set up housekeeping. Knowing that we care and are supporting them is crucial to helping them stay on the better path they intend. The list of items is posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board. For your convenience, there are also smaller versions of the list for you to take home under the larger poster. If you are donating items, please have them in by Easter. Thank you.



Box Tops for Education: This will be an ongoing service project to help our schools. On many products there are coupons, like the one shown. All you have to do is cut them out, bring them to church and place them in the container on the table in the narthex. Something so little can make a big difference! Thank you!

Mark your calendars - June 17th will be our Flea Market/Mini Book Sale! More information will be available in the next few months.

