

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Pastor's Message

Holy Week

The week before Easter is called Holy Week. We focus our attention on the crucial events of Jesus' life—the events which changed everything for us, from his entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his gathering with his disciples in the Upper Room, to his dying words on the cross, to his victory over the grave on Easter morning.

Palm Sunday

The first day of Holy Week commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On this day we also welcome this year's youth confirmation class into communicant membership in the church. (April 14, 8:30 & 11 am, confirmation in the 11 am service)

Maundy Thursday

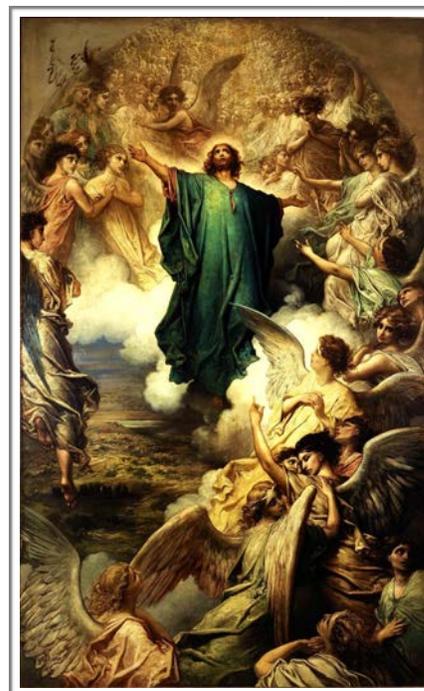
We give thanks for what Jesus gave the church in his Holy Supper—his body and blood, under the forms of bread and wine. We gather around the same table, with Jesus just as surely present as he was then, to receive assurance of his forgiveness. The service concludes with the "stripping of the altar", reminding us how our Lord stripped to the waist to wash his disciples' feet—and how he was stripped in crucifixion. (April 18, 7 pm)

Good Friday

The most solemn of all days is still a day of joy, as the name indicates. On this day we give thanks to God that his wrath over our sin all falls on Jesus and not on us. This is a Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") service. We begin with lights on and candles lit and gradually extinguish both to point to the darkness that came to earth on that Friday afternoon on which Christ died. (April 19, 7 pm)

Easter Sunday

After a long absence in Lent, Alleluia, which means, "praise the Lord", returns at Easter and fills our hymns and anthems as we tell others the Good News that our Lord is risen, risen indeed. (April 21, 8:30 & 11 am; sunrise devotion at 7:15 am)



Evangelism Corner

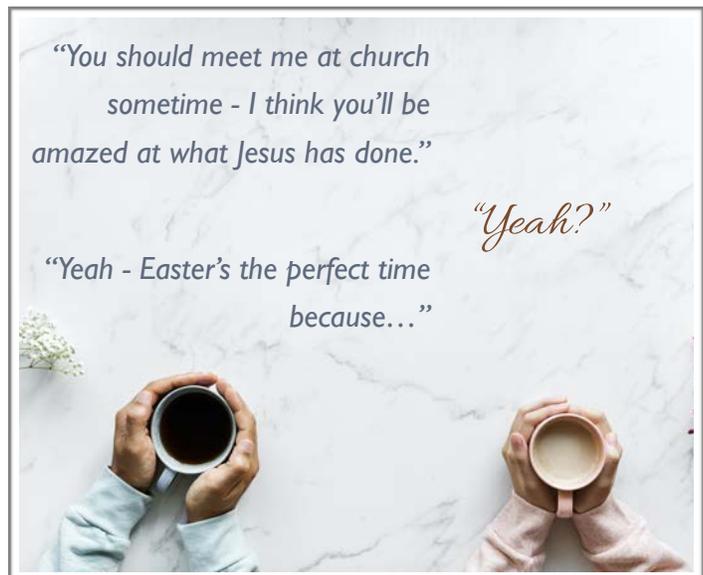
By Pastor Alex Groth

When you receive this newsletter, we will be a few short weeks away from our Holy Week worship. You will have a few weeks to invite others to join us in our journey to the cross and the empty tomb. On Good Friday we are laid bare before the God of the universe. We are brought face to face with the high price God's Son paid for every careless lie, every thoughtless word. We leave in silence that day, asking ourselves, "What wondrous love is this?" On Easter morning we gather once more to shout our songs of triumph. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The war is over! Death has been crushed to death! Easter = victory. Our Holy Week worship takes us down the same path Peter walked. We are shocked by the depths of our cowardice. We are stunned by the courage of God's Son. We are showered in grace.

With those thoughts in mind, let's discuss some best practices for our Easter outreach:

- Each year we order postcards to use for inviting people to Holy Week worship. We send out many of these postcards to surrounding neighborhoods, but the average response rate to a postcard is very low. Unchurched people are far more likely to attend worship when they have been invited by someone they know. We count on you, the Beautiful Savior congregation, to carry out our most important and effective (humanly speaking) outreach. Please spend some deliberate time thinking about people you know who are not churched. Think of a time when you could use the postcard to invite them. Then follow through on that plan. Those people in your life need to know that Christ is risen for them! Here is some basic information to share with those prospective visitors:

- We will have a sunrise service starting around 7:15 am. This service is a unique experience and will be held outdoors if the weather permits it.
- We will have festival services at 8:30 and 11:00 am.
- There will be an Easter 4 Kids event from 10:00-10:45 am. That event is open for children ages 3 through 6th grade. The children will begin in the sanctuary.
- We will have a free breakfast following the 8:30 service. This is a great chance to meet people from the congregation and enjoy conversation.
- Too often when visitors attend a church for the first time, they do not feel noticed or welcomed. This Easter let's focus on making sure we greet our visitors. Here are some thoughts from Concordia Publishing House: "A meaningful interaction consists of much more than 'Good morning! (handshake) Have a blessed week!' Of course, be careful to not get too personal and cause a visitor to feel uncomfortable. Also, some people may not want a deeper relationship because they are in town just to visit family for the weekend. But whether someone is a one-time visitor or is thinking of



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becoming a member; showing visitors that you are interested in what happens in their lives will mean a lot to them, and it will help them feel valued at your church. The next time you greet a visitor, ask questions that are specific or require longer than one-word answers. Here are some questions you could ask:

- What's your name?
 - Are you from around here?
 - What brings you into town?
 - How did you find our church?
 - What brought you here today?
 - How can our church help you?
- We will have welcome bags in the ushers' cabinet. These bags contain church marketing materials and information about our ministry. If you are talking with a visitor, please feel free to get them a welcome bag if they have not yet received one.

Worship: Part 4

What We're Doing and Why

In January, we began a series on worship. This is part 4 of that series.

There is a dialog in worship. We speak to God in confessing our sins. He speaks to us in the words of forgiveness. We respond with a Song of Praise. He comes to us in His Word. We confess our faith and offer our lives to him. He comes to us in the Sacrament. We give thanks.

How better to close the Sunday morning worship than with a blessing from the Lord. It is the last act of the liturgy as God once again speaks to us through his called servant. As the service ends, the pastor speaks the words the Lord commanded Aaron, the Old Testament high priest, to speak in blessing his people in Numbers 6. The final word of our service is "peace." "The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace." That is what the entire service was about. Christ has brought peace between God and sinners by sacrificing his life, his blood, in our stead. In the service we have heard that good news in the word and we have received the Savior's body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We go home in peace, in God's peace.

Our worship series will continue in coming months, covering such topics as the purpose of song in congregational worship and bringing children to worship.

*"My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul."*



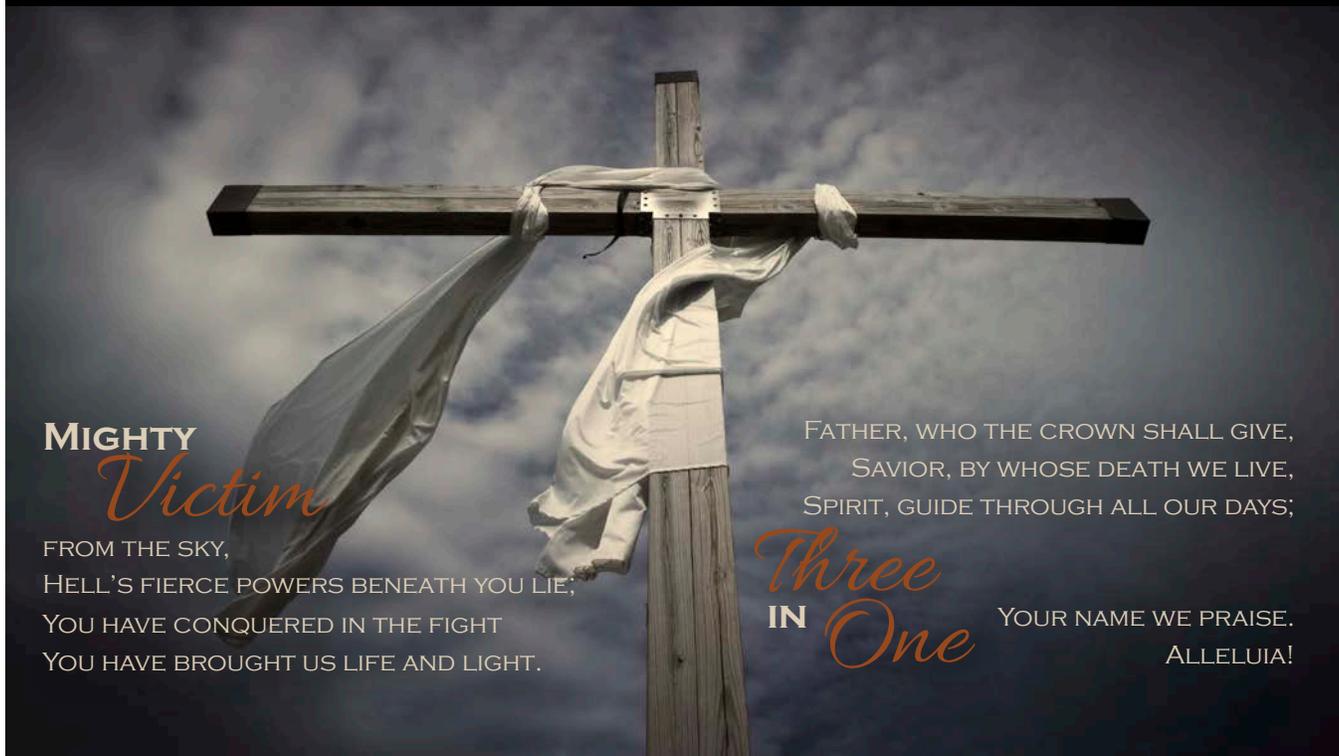


April 2019



Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 Bible Class, 9:55 AM <i>Holy Communion</i>	8 Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	9 Bible Information Class, 6:30 PM <i>Church Council, 7 PM</i>	10 Midweek Lent Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM Teen Group, 8 PM	11 Choir, 7 PM	12 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield 10 AM	13 B&G, 9 AM 55 Plus Lunch at Matt the Miller's in West Chester, 11:30
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 Conf. brunch, 9:55 AM Confirmation, 11 AM	15 <i>Book Club, 6:30 PM</i> Youth Catechism for grades 5-8 7:30 PM	16 Bible Information Class, 6:30 PM <i>Evangelism, 7 PM</i>	17 Teen Group, 7 PM	18 <i>LES Family Lunch</i> Day, 11:30 AM Maundy Thursday Worship with the Lord's Supper, 7 PM	19 <i>No School</i> Breakfast Club at Perkins, 10 AM Good Friday Worship, 7 PM	20 Elders, 8 AM Bd of Ed, 9:30 AM
21 Easter Sunday Sunrise dev., 7:15 AM Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Breakfast, 9:45 AM Easter for Kids, 10 AM	22 No School	23 Bible Information Class, 6:30 PM	24 Teen Group, 7 PM	25 <i>7th-8th Grade</i> Group, 3:30 to 5 PM Choir, 7 PM	26 Breakfast Club at Perkins in Fairfield 10 AM	27
28 Worship 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday School, 9:55 Bible Class, 9:55 AM	29	30 Bible Information Class, 6:30 PM		<p>Special Dates in May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 – Quarterly Voters' Meeting 6-10 – LES Grades 5-8, Weeklong Field Trip 19 – 8th Grade Graduation 22 – Preschool/Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 School Plays 23 – Grades 5 to 8 School Plays 24 – Last Day of School 		



Around School

Box Tops Challenge Winners

Congratulations to the first and second grade classroom who won this year's box tops contest. Our school will receive about \$250 for the box tops that were collected over the last few weeks! Thanks to Cassie Rodriguez for organizing the contest this year!

Easy Ways to Help our School

Did you know that our school could receive some money for things that you are already buying? Kroger Community Rewards is linked to your Kroger Plus Card. Kroger sends our school a check each quarter based on the purchases of our members. Right now, we have 23 members supporting our school through this program. To join our organization, go to kroger.com. In the drop-down menu for Savings & Rewards, select Kroger Community Rewards. If you don't have an account, create one, and then enter our Non-Profit Organization account - XY560. That's all you need to do.

Coca-Cola also has a program called Coca-Cola Give. Visit: us.coca-cola.com. Click on Give, and you will be taken to the page where you may set up an account. Select our school, which is Beautiful Savior Luth. Our ZIP code is 45231. You can enter the code on the inside of bottle caps or you can go to the website using your phone and you can scan the inside of the cap.

Thanks for your support!



Beautiful SAVIOR

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