



Lamplighter Weekly

Palm Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Spanaway Lutheran Church

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During These Troubled Times



True Humility

The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm, those who bow down in Philippians: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken.

Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter.

Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare? Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection? A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

Food for Families

April Serving Dates are Apr. 12 & 26



Hours of Operation

Church Office closed

Preschool closed

BASE closed

BASE Closes for the Month of April

In order to protect our BASE staff members, our BASE families, and the children themselves from the spread of the corona virus the BASE director, BASE committee chairperson, the personnel committee and the church council have all agreed that our Before and After School Education program should be shut down for the month of April. In light of this action I want to reassure members of the SLC on a number of counts. First, when this action was taken it was done so in cooperation with the BASE families, and with the assurance that they had made alternate plans to meet their childcare needs. Secondly, be assured that the decision was made with a concern and awareness of maintaining our temporarily unemployed staff's financial well-being. And finally, this decision was made in part to ensure the future of the BASE ministry at Spanaway Lutheran Church.

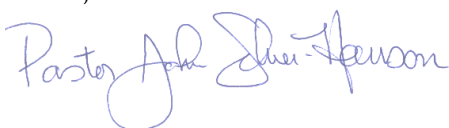
I would like to provide a little background for how and why this decision has come about. Following Governor Inslee's March 12th mandatory school closure order for King, Snohomish and Pierce counties, Bethel Schools were closed until April 24th. Many of our BASE children's parents were already working from home, and as a result, about half of our BASE families stopped sending their children to save themselves the expense of childcare; a parent or parents were at home. When Governor Inslee issued the statewide shelter at home proclamation on March 24th, even more families chose to keep their children home, leaving only 8 children actively enrolled. As a result, the program's regular income fell by roughly 80 percent.

As greater concern about the spread of the corona virus increased, our acting BASE director, Jenny Laycock and the Base Committee chair were faced with the difficult decision about whether to suspend BASE operations to protect the children, the staff, community health, and the financial future of BASE. Before the decision was even brought up for discussion, Jenny had already been in conversation with all the remaining families, and had been assured that they each had a viable back up childcare plan. That decision was made in concert with the parents of our BASE children, the BASE director and committee chairperson, the personnel committee and the church council.

Ordinarily, as church employees, our BASE staff members would not be eligible for state unemployment insurance because churches are not enrolled in the program. This would mean that under normal circumstances shuttering operations would leave our BASE employees without income. Fortunately, that is not the case in this current crisis. First, all our BASE employees are eligible to receive the \$1200 federal stimulus payment, and since Washington State has been declared a federal disaster area because of the COVID-19 outbreak, employees laid off because of corona virus closures are also eligible for Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Between those two benefits our employees should receive an amount of assistance equal to their normal take home compensation. If that turns out not to be the case, I as pastor will do everything in my power to make them whole. In addition, the church is committed to continuing the medical coverage for all employees currently covered under our plan.

You can be proud of all the leaders who have wrestled with this difficult decision; they have done so with integrity, compassion, and clear thinking. I want to dispel any concern that there may be that our BASE ministry is being permanently closed. Quite the opposite is true. The church council makes this decision with the very clear intention of preserving the financial reserves and assets of our Before & After School Enrichment program so that it can continue to operate once the current crisis ends. I also want everyone to know that in the midst of these difficult circumstances the decision made is the most prudent choice to preserve the safety of the children and staff, the health of the greater community, the financial well being of our staff, and the future of our BASE ministry.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor John Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".



Richard Wollin	April 1
Annaliese McAuliffe	April 1
Ed Jackson	April 6
Kodiak Doyle	April 10
Rick Greiwe	April 20
Rob DeZarn	April 23
Dylan Thiel	April 27
Hannah Le'i	April 28
Anne Vargas	April 29
Laurie Howe	April 29
Sara Schier-Hanson	April 30

There will be NO birthday luncheon this month!



Michael and Louise

Luberts

April 5

+++COVID-19 UPDATE+++

How it affects us here at Spanaway Lutheran Church!

Food Bank operates Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 2pm until mandated otherwise.

Food for Families operates 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays at 11:15am until mandated otherwise.

BASE program operations are suspended until further notice.

Preschool is suspended until further notice.

Outside Groups have been suspended until further notice.

Church Activities have been suspended until further notice, this includes all committee meetings, office volunteers, rehearsals etc.

The Church Office will remain closed but will be available by phone and/or email Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Pastor, Council and Worship & Music are working on providing some form of worship community for future Sundays. In the meantime, we will email you our weekly bulletins, modified Lamplighters and Pastor's sermons. All documents will also be posted on our website no later than Monday.

Stay well!

Peace,
Stefanie

Readings for April 12, 2020

Acts 10:34-43

God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *(Ps. 118:24)*

Colossians 3:1-4

Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

Matthew 28:1-10

Proclaim the resurrection

Prayer Request



We are praying for...

<i>Kim Cleveland</i>	<i>sister of Angela Aponte</i>	<i>lung cancer, MS, in stable condition</i>
<i>Dave Percy</i>	<i>friend of many at SLC</i>	<i>Parkinsons</i>
<i>Lenville Sutherland</i>	<i>friend of Laurie Howe</i>	<i>healing and strength</i>
<i>Angie Rivera</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>cancer</i>
<i>Justin & Adri Wright Osborn</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>strength and resolution</i>
<i>Glen Ruediger</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>healing and death of brother</i>
<i>Kathy Olsen</i>	<i>our BASE Director</i>	<i>medical/health issues</i>
<i>Richard Olsen</i>	<i>father of Kathy Olsen</i>	<i>health issues</i>
<i>David Yu</i>	<i>regular visitor</i>	<i>medical/health issues</i>
<i>Natalie Yu</i>	<i>regular visitor</i>	<i>Jonathon David Yu was born 4/1, mom and baby are doing well</i>
<i>Joseph Lustig</i>	<i>brother of Erica Lustig</i>	<i>COVID-19, quarantined at home</i>

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Stewardship Options While Sheltering at Home

As a result of the corona virus we have all now been asked to shelter in our homes until further notice. That obviously makes gathering for worship impossible for the foreseeable future, as has been the case for the last two Sundays. Even so, the work of the congregation goes on as Stefanie, Cheryl and Pastor pioneer new forms for providing worship online; as the food ministries of the congregation and Spanaway Food Bank continue uninterrupted. Even as the world seems to have ground to a halt, the bills and obligations of the congregation continue on as before.

Unfortunately, our normal patterns for giving offering have been interrupted by the suspension of Sunday worship. The council has a few suggestions on how we might continue to make our offering to the work of the Church during these unusual times. Please consider using one of the following options for making your offering as we await returning to gather together as the Body of Christ in person:

1. Mail your offering to Spanaway Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 1300, Spanaway, WA 98387.
2. Contact your bank and have your offering automatically sent as a regular weekly or monthly check; this option involves no additional fees, needs to be done only once, and can be cancelled at any time.
3. Electronic giving through a Website Donate button we are developing; cost is typically \$.30 per transaction plus 1% of the amount – 2.7% if a credit card is used;

In order to assist members of the congregations, you have received a mailing from the church with mailing labels and offering designation slips. In addition we have included instructions from a major financial institution on how to set up automatic giving through your bank or savings and loan. The “Donate” button may take a week or two.

The Church Council thanks you for your faithfulness in supporting the work of the Church.

Spanaway Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9 am to 3 pm

Office is closed on:

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

