



Grace Notes

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

ANTICIPATION: "While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb..."

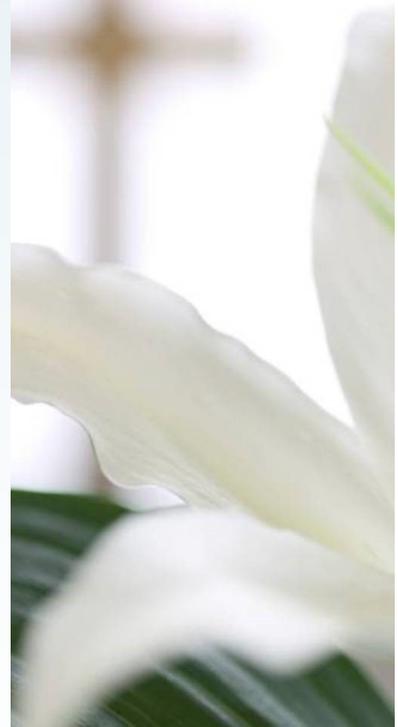
Growing up in Spokane, KJ and I had a date every year at about this time. It was an annual thing for us to do. She and I bundled ourselves up and headed off to the Cheney Cowles Museum (now known as the MAC) to take in "The Teddy Bear's Picnic." We'd talk about it for a couple of weeks leading up to our time together. It was a lot of fun to see the excitement rise as we got closer to our date. I could tell that she was excited, not only because it was the focus of most conversations, but she could almost recount chapter and verse of our visit year. I'm not sure how a 1 1/2 year old was able to take everything in, but she remembered the movie and who it was about (Pooh Bear and Tigger), our lunch, the room full of bears, the bear paws on the carpet that we followed, everything. With these memories, it was almost unBEARable waiting for the time to pass in order to go again.

While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb...Was it anticipation of the fulfillment of Jesus' words about rising on the third day? Was it a last goodbye to a loved friend? Was it an opportunity to check, one last time, that the most recent events of trial and crucifixion were real? I think yes.

But I think mostly, in retrospect, it was anticipation. KJ here holds the key. Her mind had captured the intricacies of an event that I would let slip, but for some reminder of their importance. While it was dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb...Anticipation?! What was it that Jesus had said about the third day? Could he cheat, could he defeat death? Was the cry of forsakeness from the cross also the declaration of faith in a God who will deliver (read all of Psalm 22)?

Mary is a challenging figure for us here. The gospel writers tell us that the first visitors, and maybe the only visitors, to the tomb were women. Whatever their reason for coming, because of their act and their encounter with the risen Lord, we live in anticipation. We remember the events of long ago - the stories and compassion of Jesus; the entry into the city with hosannas; the darkened room where a last meal was shared; a mock arrest, trial, and crucifixion; but mostly, an empty tomb and a risen Lord who revealed the wounds and breathed peace. Easter is just such a time where we are reminded of the importance of past events and how these events continue to shape and direct our lives now. We live in anticipation, for if words of resurrection are true, how much more the words of return, and a place that awaits us in God's kingdom?

Anticipation. Its almost unBEARable. "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



Inside this issue

Synod Assembly	2
Where Do We Dwell?	2
Church Happenings	3
Racism.....	3
Keep Watch.....	4
Peter Rabbit Breakfast	5
The Walking Dead	6

Special points of interest

- Anticipation. It's almost unBEARable.
- When one member suffers, all suffer and when one rejoices, all rejoice.
- The joyous news of Easter provides a wonderful opportunity for...celebration!



Synod Assembly 2016

Friday, April 29, 2016 - 1:00pm to Sunday, May 1, 2016 - 11:30am

Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way, Eugene

*What does it take to travel from yesterday into tomorrow?
How do we as children of the Reformation keep our eyes on tomorrow?*

What's in the Pipes

Warm-up Question

If you could only have one beverage to drink for the next month, what would it be and why?

What's in the Pipes

The last time you turned on the water to brush your teeth or wash your hands or get something to drink, were you worried about the quality of your water? Thankfully, most water systems in the United States are regularly tested and are fairly safe, but unfortunately for the residents of Flint, Michigan a series of governmental decisions and cost-cutting measures combined to create a water system with "abnormally high levels of e. coli, trihalomethanes, lead,

*(Continued on page 5)
What's In the Pipes*

Words From Our Bishop...



Prayers for Burns:

Many thanks for your prayers for the people of Harney county this past month. We are thankful that the occupation there has now been resolved without further loss of life. The impacts of this intrusion, however, are likely to be felt for some time. Continued prayers are appreciated.

Dwelling in the Word

2nd Sunday in Lent - February 21, 2016

"I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."



These are the words of Jesus for King Herod as we read them in this week's Gospel Lesson - Luke 13:31-35. Herod (or maybe just the Pharisees) wants Jesus to go away and just be quiet. Jesus is not about to be dictated to. He walks his own walk and he is headed for the halls of power, both political and



the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ

ELCA presiding bishop urges church to have 'difficult conversations' around racism

CHICAGO (ELCA) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has called on its 3.7 million members to "be the church that models for the rest of this country what it means to have these difficult conversations" about racial inequality. Eaton made her remarks during a Jan. 14 live webcast, "Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning."

Eaton and co-host William B. Horne, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Fla., presented the one-hour webcast, which addressed the complexities and implications of racism in the context of the criminal justice system. This was the ELCA's second webcast focused on racism.

Joining Eaton and Horne for the one-hour conversation were: Judge Yolanda Tanner, an ELCA member who serves as an associate judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court; Leonard Duncan, an ELCA member and student at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; and Charlene Guiliani, an ELCA member and former police sergeant who is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

During the webcast Duncan, Guiliani and Tanner shared their experiences and careers in the criminal justice system. A portion of the webcast was also dedicated to answering questions submitted via email, Facebook and Twitter.

Eaton said that, although the webcast "serves as a way to keep the conversation going, it provides an opportunity for members and congregations to go deeper in our listening and in building relationships. We must commit to looking for ways to continue the conversation in our own congregations and communities."

"But it's not going to work if we don't, if you don't, if all of us don't see that we are inextricably bound to each other, and as Paul says, 'When one member suffers, all suffer and when one rejoices, all rejoice.' When we can see that our story is the same and intertwined with everyone else's story, and, more to the point, that it's God story

Church Happenings...

Book Club

A Light in the Wilderness by Jane Kirkpatrick, a New York Times best-selling novelist who weaves the dramatic story of a freed slave who has lost her husband and her freedom papers and must find a way to survive in the wilderness of the Oregon Territory. Join us in Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30ish pm in the Fellowship Room.

Tapping Into Faith

The buzzword of the day—PC. Are we? Should we be? What does it mean or look like to be Politically Civil? Can we be civil in our political process? And what does it say when we are not? Join us Friday evening, March 18th @ 7pm @ the Hermiston Tavern for good company, drink and conversation.

March Benevolence

Vision

We envision a community where every individual has access to basic needs and life skills to be a productive member of the community.

Mission

Assisting with basic services to those in need in Hermiston and surrounding communities.

Values

Our actions will reflect the love and gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will serve people equally, unconditionally and with respect.

We will conduct our business with honesty and openness.

We will be good stewards of our resources.



**Hermiston
Agape House**
Love in action Since 1986

An Every Day Book

By reading and studying the Bible, we grow closer to God. How can we encourage our children to become Bible readers? Children learn from our example. We can let them see us reading the Bible regularly. Place a Bible where children can reach it and handle it. As soon as they will sit and listen to stories, buy an appropriate children's Bible. Encourage them to hold it while you read. Read it every day. Tell them that God talks



to us through the Bible. Once your children have begun reading, invite them to read to you from their Bible. After reading a story, invite them to figure out what God is trying to teach us. Give independent readers their own Bible and encourage them to read it on their own. Ask your children about what they've read, and share what you read with them.

Bible reading is an essential part of the Christian life. If we help our children develop a daily Bible-reading habit when they're young, they're more likely to grow up to be adult Bible readers.

Keeping Watch

Waiting, waiting, waiting. That's not always easy to do. It's hard to wait for Christmas and birthdays, or for other days when there will be celebrations. During the church year, there are days that help us wait. Special times of waiting are called vigils. "Vigil" means to keep watch. Two of the times during the year when people might have a vigil are the day before Pentecost and the day before Easter.

Vigils can be done in different ways. Before Easter, when we think of Jesus in the tomb, people sometimes gather just to pray²⁷ keeping watch throughout the night. Sometimes those people come one at a time. In some congregations there is a special Easter vigil that begins by lighting a fire outside. Then a large candle is lighted from the fire and carried into the church while people sing. Except for the candle, it is dark in the church. People may light candles they hold themselves as they go into the church. It's a hushed time. Then Bible stories are read which tell about

some times when people have been rescued by God. Sometimes there may be a baptism, and then the waiting is over. All the lights burst on, and the music becomes much louder. People start to decorate the church for Easter. This kind of vigil is great fun! How do you get ready for Easter at your home?



Rise and Shine

Mark 16:1-7 recounts the angel's message of the good news of Jesus who has risen from the dead. The joyous news of Easter provides a wonderful opportunity for a family

Easter celebration before or after congregational worship. Choose a time that works well for your family: sunrise if you're early risers, a later time if you're not. Consider inviting another family to join you, perhaps one that might not ordinarily hear the Easter message.

Plan a simple breakfast which could even be eaten outdoors, weather permitting. Provide a tablecloth which you can sit on, indoors or out: a white sheet on which everyone can write



messages of Easter joy!

The week before Easter, read aloud the story of the events leading up to Easter (Matthew 26-27 or Mark 14-15). Discuss how the disciples, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene might have felt on Good Friday. How do you think they felt on Easter?

Make a cross which you can use in your worship service by lashing together two sturdy sticks. Or, make a cross necklace for each person using this craft dough recipe. Mix and knead together 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water. Form the desired cross shapes. Punch a hole in the top for threading a cord. Transfer to a cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Spray with acrylic craft spray when cool.

*(Continued on page 8)
Rise and Shine*

30th Annual Peter Rabbit Breakfast

All you can eat Pancakes—\$5.00

Children 5 yrs. and under—FREE

Saturday, March 26, 2016

7:30am—10:30am

First United Methodist Church

191 E. Gladys, Hermiston, OR



- ◆ Visit Peter Rabbit (don't forget your camera)
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ Face Painting
- ◆ Easter Craft Projects

(Continued from page 2)

What's in the Pipes

and copper," which caused severe health problems for many local residents.

For years, Flint enjoyed excellent water pumped from Lake Huron. But under pressure from rising water costs, a shrinking tax-base, and an overwhelming debt, leaders in Michigan and Flint made the decision to begin pumping water from the Flint River. In April 2014, Flint made the switch and residents began to notice a bad taste in the water and a nasty smell. Initial tests revealed there were dangerous levels of bacteria and other compounds present. Flint issued boil orders and increased the amount of chlorine in their water to try and address the issues, but those measures didn't resolve all the problems. While some local officials attempted to raise the alarm, the process of addressing the issues with Flint's water was extremely slow.

As concern about the water quality grew among residents, local officials assured residents that the problem was under control, but a local mother, Lee Anne Walters, and others continued to ask questions about the quality of the water and to push for increased water testing. The initial results from the local testing agencies seemed to indicate that the level of lead in Flint's water was acceptable, but Ms. Walters and others doubted the results of the local tests and continued to push for more and better testing. Determined to discover the truth about her water, Ms. Walters contacted an independent researcher from Virginia Tech University, Marc Edwards, who quickly discovered that Flint's water contained extremely unsafe levels of lead. Ms. Walters and Professor Edwards contacted state and local officials and media outlets to make it clear that the danger was real. Thanks to the persistence of Ms. Walters, the research of Professor Edwards, the work of other researchers, and the pressure from the media, the water problems in Flint have finally been properly identified and the process of bringing safe drinking water back to the residents of Flint is now underway. An extensive timeline detailing all the events in the Flint, Michigan water crisis can be found here.

(Continued on page 8)

What's in the Pipes



Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

Grace and Mercy L.C.

POB 1108

Hermiston, OR 97838

(541) 289-4535 (church phone)

(509) 398-0258 (pastor's cell)

gandmlutheran@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook at [Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church](#)

The Walking Dead

With the popularity of Zombie everything on T.V., movies and books, you would think the story of the resurrection would be perfect in today's climate. Except for one thing. When we talk about Jesus and resurrection, we aren't talking about the walking dead, or even a reanimated body that has come back to life. We are talking about resurrection—new life! Is this why those who were first encountered by Jesus neither recognized him or were afraid when he first appeared? This was something far beyond their comprehension, and faith? And, is this what we are called to in the invitation to Lazarus to “come out” (John 11), or the promise of making all things new (Rev. 21), or maybe even the “new thing” that God promises (Is. 43:19) that God promises that God will do? Is this the promise that we live into through our baptism—joined to the death of Jesus in order to be raised like him—to new life? “For this I come, that you might have life, abundantly”. (Jn. 10)



for us, then I think we might see not only the urgency but the beauty and holiness of this moment in time," she said.

"Why can't the ELCA be the church that models for the rest of this country what it means to have these difficult conversations?" Eaton asked. "And trusting in our baptism, also believe and understand that we will never be snatched from Christ's hand. I challenge us to do that."

The webcast and resources about this church's ongoing racial justice work are available at ELCA.org/webcast.

ecclesiastical - and he knows this is indeed the place prophets often die.

I don't see any value, personally, for setting myself up to suffer personal harm. Who does? However, my sense of personal integrity is indeed tickled by this text. What matters to me? What am I willing to march on Washington for? What price am I willing to pay to be who God has called me to be and say or do what God has called me to say or do?

Personally, I am fed by sermons that help me wrestle with such questions. And, realistically, it is generally not a matter of what I think, or my pastor tells me to think. Generally I want to know who is asking such questions *with* me, and who is willing to make changes or take risks side by side. I need *you*. I need a community to live and act with integrity.

How lonely Jesus sounds in this week's lesson. How he wants a gathered community, friends, trusted companions, disciples. I bet there are a lot of lonely people in our pews who want exactly the same thing. It's not just a matter of people to hang with. Let's delve into Lent!! It's a matter of people willing to wrestle, listen and act.

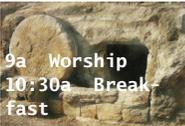
Bless them this week,

Bp. Dave



Would you like something in the monthly newsletter. Please get any article, idea, or photo to Pastor Inch by the 15th of each month. Thanks

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8am Coffee @ Pheasants	2 6p Soup Supper & Worship @ G&M	3 9:30a Quilters	4	5
			Pastor Inch—Hermiston			
6 4 Lent 9a Worship 10:30a Education Hour	7 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants	8 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 6:30p Leadership Mtg.	9 10a Gather Study 6p Soup Supper & Worship @ FUMC	10 9:30a Quilters	11	12
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
13 5 Lent 9a Worship 10:30a Education Hour	14 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 6:30p Warming Station Brd Mtg	15 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	16 9:30a Foot Clinic 6p Soup Supper & Worship @ G&M	17 9:30a Quilters  Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18 7p Tapping Into Faith	19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
20 Palm/Passion Sunday 9a Worship 10:30a Education Hour	21 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants	22 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	23 10a Gather Study	24 Maundy Thursday 9:30a Quilters 7p Worship	25 Good Friday  7p Tenebrae Service	26 Holy Saturday 9a Prayer Vigil
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
27 Resurrection Sunday  9a Worship 10:30a Breakfast	28 Annunciation of Our Lord 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants	29 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Book Club	30	31 9:30a Quilters		
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Mar 6	Steve Anderson	Joni & Steve Anderson	Emilee, Mischa
Mar 13	Dawn Largé	Dorothy, Dawn & Ruth	Micah, Chloé
Mar 20	Phil Schmidt	Cooper Family	Joseph, Lucas
Mar 27	Dot Hensley	Easter Brunch	Mickenzie, Karlee

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Mar 2	Birthday	Kevin Hedgepeth
Mar 4	Birthday	Gavin Rosenburg
Mar 16	Birthday	David Largé
Mar 17	Birthday	Dwight Osborne
Mar 18	Birthday	Steve Anderson
Mar 22	Anniversary	Robert & Sheila Cozad
Mar 24	Birthday	Jacqui Sellers
Mar 30	Birthday	Kathleen Madore

(Continued from page 4)

Rise and Shine

Make a cross banner. Draw or trace the shape of a cross in the center of a sheet of construction paper. Choose a contrasting colored sheet, and center and glue the cross on it. Make several sheets, using different cross shapes, if desired. To make a banner, turn the sheets face down, tape the edges together, and add loops at the top. Carry the banner in a worship processional at the beginning of your service.

Explain that the butterfly, as it emerges from its cocoon tomb, is a symbol of the risen Christ. Fold a 3" square of paper in half. Draw half a butterfly shape along the fold and cut it out. Decorate with chenille wire antennae and glue on dots of colored construction paper, if desired. Glue the end of each butterfly to a craft stick. Insert the stick through the bottom of a foam cup and pull it down to hide the butterfly. Print "JESUS IS RISEN!" on the outside of the cup.

At your family service, read Mark 16:1-6 and sing a hymn or two. Close with a prayer of thanks for the blessing of salvation. At the "Amen," say, "Jesus is risen!" and push up the sticks of the butterfly cups.

(Continued from page 5)

What's in the Pipes

Discussion Questions

- The residents of Flint make up a tiny, tiny percentage of the population of the United States, so why do you think the water crisis in Flint became a major national news story?
- God calls us to be good stewards of all our gifts. What can you do to care for the gift of water?
- Ms. Walters was determined to find out the truth and would not stop asking questions until she got answers. Why do you think she was so persistent in her pursuit of the truth?

Posted by John Wertz, Blacksburg, VA., February 16, 2016 to faithlens