

Grace News

HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!”

It all started with such promise – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the conviction of Mary that this child would be the embodiment of God’s promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised. And then, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” It was over. The world hadn’t changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, “You fool.” This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing

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He Is Risen Indeed*



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible.

THE MOST AMAZING DAY



Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. To be resurrected means to come back to life. No ordinary person could do what Jesus did! That's what makes the day so important. Easter is the first festival Christians ever celebrated. Now, people have been celebrating Jesus' resurrection for almost 2,000 years!

On Maundy Thursday we remember when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and shared a meal with them. On Good Friday we remember when Jesus died on the cross and what that means for us. At the Easter Vigil on Saturday we wait for the good news that we know will come. Then on Easter Sunday we shout the news: Jesus has risen!

On Easter the church is usually filled with flowers. Many times the flowers are Easter lilies, which look like trumpets. Even the flowers want to announce that Jesus has risen! The colors for Easter are white or gold — important colors for an important day. We sing songs that are filled with the word "alleluia," which means "praise the Lord!" We hear the story about women coming to Jesus' tomb to take care of Jesus' body and finding the tomb almost empty. The only one there is an angel, who tells the women that Jesus has risen. What an amazing day Easter is!

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 pray — 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?



GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Us:

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

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Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

Worship: Sunday Morning @ 8:45 @
First United Methodist Church, 191
E. Gladys

Update on Gatherings

Regional Gatherings begin April 7 at Grace First Lutheran in Bend.

Deans, Mission Table Leaders, Synod Council Members, local worship planning teams, cooks and musicians, and synod staff have been working hard to make these events a success. See you at a Gathering near you soon!

Saturday, April 7, 10-4 with sign-ins at 9:30. Grace First in Bend, OR

Saturday, April 14, 10-4 with sign-ins at 9:30. Ascension Lutheran in Medford, OR

Saturday, April 21, 10-4 with sign-ins at 9:30. Peace Lutheran in Pendleton, OR

Saturday, April 28, 10-4 with sign-ins at 9:30. Grace Lutheran in Corvallis, OR

Saturday, May 5, 10-4 with

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He Is Risen Indeed

the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the wisdom of God. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this. This year, Easter falls on April 1. We shall have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We shall say, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.



Oregon Synod Assembly & Regional Gatherings 2018

The Future is NOW! - Welcome to the New!!

Our Oregon Synod Assembly will be May 19, 2018 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Portland.

Here's everything you need to know for Assembly:

Synod Assembly

The Oregon Synod Assembly this year will be a 10-5, Saturday, May 19, 2018, one-day affair at beautiful Gethsemane Lutheran

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Synod Assembly

Dwelling in the Word

Resurrection of our Lord
April 1, 2018
John 20:1-18

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?"*

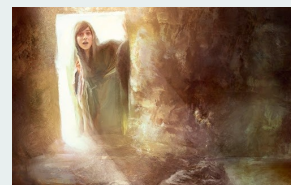
It takes time. It takes time to recognize the truth, even when you see it with your own eyes. It takes time to override expectations, the "givens" in life, to wrestle with the weight of grief. It takes time to recognize Jesus, even when he stands right before you. Slowly, moment by moment, day by day, year by year, the living Lord Jesus finds a place in our hearts and minds. But, it takes time.

There is, I believe, in the heart of every human being competing stories. We have various ways of embracing life shaped by experience, hopes, fears, teaching, witness and experience. Were there only one, clearly true story it would not be so. But it is. So, it takes time (teaching, witness and experience . . .)

In our Gospel reading Mary, Peter and John all have different experiences with the truth there staring them in the face. So do people in our pews and communities today. The lovely thing about John 20 is Mary's encounter with Jesus. She was called by name. She, like you, was sent out to give her testimony. There is no logical argument for the Resurrection. There is no way to convince others that our theology is right, or the only one, or that the Sunday School faith people may find lacking in their adult life has to be maintained. But we can do this - we can be were others are, and call them by name in love - for he has risen, he has risen indeed. And because he lives, we too shall live!

Easter Blessings,

Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke



Serving God's People

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Reader</i> | <i>Refreshments</i> | <i>Acolyte</i> |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Apr 2 | John Larson | Larsons | |
| Apr 9 | Rochelle Meyers | Meyers | |
| Apr 16 | Phil Schmidt | Jean & Cindy Ruhl | |
| Apr 23 | Kathleen Madore | Madores | |
| Apr 30 | Steve Anderson | Andersons | |

Celebrations

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Celebration</i> | <i>Celebrant</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Apr 4 | Birthday | Dan Madore |
| Apr 5 | Birthday | Robert Cozad |
| Apr 9 | Birthday | Emilee Meyers |
| Apr 9 | Birthday | Rayden Nava |
| Apr 14 | Birthday | Nikki Nava |
| Apr 29 | Anniversary | Hunter Lindley |

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Synod Assembly

Church in Portland, OR. We are thankful to the community of Gethsemane for taking on our Assembly!

REGISTRATION opens Friday, March 30, at <https://oregonsynod.elca.regfox.com/oregon-synod-assembly-2018> You may link direction to the registration site from here, or go to the Oregon Synod webpage. www.oregonsynod.org Registration FEES are explained here.

NOMINATIONS are explained and being received at www.oregonsynod.org/nominations-2018 Open positions are shared there. The Nominations deadline is May 12.

RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIAS are explained at www.oregonsynod.org/resolutions-2018. Submitted Resolutions and Memorials are also on this page. The deadline for these is also May 12.

sign-ins at 9:30. Community of Christ Church in Hillsboro, OR

Saturday, May 5, 10-4 with sign-ins at 9:30. West Linn Lutheran in West Linn, OR

April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 Resurrection 9a Easter Brunch 10:30a Combined Worship | 2 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Nest Text 2.0 | 3 8a Coffee Group | 4 9a Starbucks 10:30a Bible Study with Pastor Jim | 5 12p Open Table 1p Quilters | 6 | 7 |
| 8 2 Easter 8:45a Worship 10a Ed. Hour 5:30p Prison Worship | 9 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Nest Text 2.0 | 10 8a Coffee Group 6:30p Leadership Group | 11 9a Starbucks 10a Gather Study 10:30a Bible Study with Pastor Jim | 12 12p Open Table 1p Quilters | 13 | 14 |
| Pastor Inch—Hermiston | | | | | | |
| 15 3 Easter 8:45a Worship 10a Ed. Hour | 16 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Nest Text 2.0 | 17 8a Coffee Group 6p All Church Potluck | 18 9a Starbucks 9:30a Foot Clinic 10:30a Bible Study with Pastor Jim | 19 12p Open Table 1p Quilters | 20 | 21 10a Regional Gathering—Pendleton |
| Pastor Inch—Hermiston | | | | | | |
| 22 4 Easter 8:45a Worship 10a Ed. Hour | 23 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Nest Text 2.0 | 24 8a Coffee Group 5:30p Book Club | 25 9a Starbucks 10a Gather Study 10:30a Bible Study with Pastor Jim | 26 12 Open Table 1p Quilters | 27 | 28 |
| Pastor Inch—Hermiston | | | | | | |
| 29 5 Easter 8:45a Worship 10a Ed. Hour | 30 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Nest Text 2.0 6:30p SS Mtg. | | | | | |
| Pastor Inch | | | | | | |