



Redeemer's Christian Connection
April Newsletter
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Pastor's Corner



This month began with the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, where we received the fruit of the cross: Jesus' death in payment for our sins on Good Friday and His resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. The following article by Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil is an insightful reminder of how the death and resurrection of Jesus applies to our daily lives during which we bear our share of crosses.

We all love a parade. We can picture it in our mind's eye: Jesus on his donkey, the palms waving, the crowds cheering, and little children singing: "Hosanna!" But Palm Sunday leads to Good Friday. And Holy Week helps us remember that the only way to glory is through the cross; the only way to victory is through affliction; the only way to life is through death.

So let's turn our attention to another parade, the one that came towards the end of Holy Week: The Good Friday parade, when the soldiers led Jesus out to Golgotha. Very little about that procession is recorded except the curious detail that they met Simon of Cyrene on their way out and that the Roman soldiers forced him to carry the cross for Jesus. Whatever the reason, this man Simon was the one picked to bear the cross of Jesus. And he is not alone. We all have our crosses to bear as well.

Can it really be so? Can it be possible that the God who loves us with an everlasting love could take away our security, our health, our loved ones—and still be a God of love? Is it possible that he may lay a cross on our backs, like the cross that was placed on Simon's back? Can we just go merrily on, mouthing our pious platitudes and pretending life is grand?

Well, of course, we can't. but we don't need to. And that's just the point. We know that God is at his best when life is at its worst. Our hope is not built upon our job security, our health and welfare, our physical comfort, or our income. All is not right with the world just because God is in his heaven. No, all is right with the world because God was on the cross—because God himself died on that cross on Calvary, paying the penalty for all of our sin and rebellion.

Holy Week keeps us honest. We don't have to pretend that everything is just peachy. It isn't. But nobody—least of all God—promised you a rose garden. He has not promised that you will be healthy, wealthy, and wise. But he has promised that there will be strength for every weakness, hope for every heartache, peace in all turmoil, and consolation in every pain. For Jesus has already been stricken, smitten, and afflicted so that we might find health, healing, and comfort in his holy wounds.

Simon had his cross that day, and we will have ours as well—a burden, a hardship, an affliction: each especially designed to drive us to repentance, to draw us to our Father's arms, where we find shelter and peace. The One who shared his cross with Simon will share your cross with you. For Jesus Christ is with you in your cross, whatever it may be. And with his body broken and blood outpoured, we find forgiveness for all our sins, life in all its fullness, and eternal salvation.

Prayer: Gracious Gods, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His come, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Hymn of the Month



Even though our hymn of the month for April is found in the Lent section of the “One and All Rejoice” hymnal, it can be sung throughout the church year. For the King of Glory comes to us as a baby in Bethlehem, on a Donkey on Palm Sunday, as our Resurrection Lord on Easter Sunday, and every Divine Service through His Word and Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

The refrain of this hymn is based on Psalm 24 - *“Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.”*

Stanza 1 refers to King of Glory as Immanuel, recalling Isaiah 7:14 - *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

Stanzas 2 and 3 recall Jesus' ministry, curing people's illnesses, and His death to atone for sin (our greatest illness, which results in death). The promised Savior was born in our flesh and died for our sins, so that (through our Baptism and faith in Him) He can raise us from the dead with Him and share with us His heavenly kingdom. No wonder we lift up our voices and let the world know, *“The King of Glory Comes!”*



This hymn uses an Israeli folk tune, reminding us of our connection with God's people in the OT who had faith in the promised Savior, and all Christians today and in the future who trust in the Savior; whom we now know as Jesus Christ, *“The Lamb of Salvation!”* (Revelation 7:10).



Birthdays

Jenean Hovel—April 4th
Gary Gates—April 8th
Michelle Clubb—April 11th
Rachel Oberheu—April 12th
Emmett Main—April 16th
Rick Oberheu—April 16th
Karen Jetley—April 16th
Amber Miller—April 19th
Ron Cumins—April 20th
Heidi Weber—April 22nd
Renee` Beck—April 23rd
Evelyn Kruger—April 23rd
Lisa Althaus—April 25th
Cornelia Reynolds—April 26th
Michelle Scarbrough—April 26th
Mary Hinz—April 26th
Sharon Althaus—April 28th



Baptismal Birthdays

Rebecca Cumins
Lowell Kindschy
Jeanne Nelson
Helen Austin—April 1st
Ken Weber—April 3rd
Andrea Van Fossan—April 7th
Stephanie Sidor—April 7th
Teagan Scarbrough—April 8th
Jackie Robirds—April 10th
Phillip Dwyer—April 25th
Jenean Hovel—April 27th
Macy Weber—April 30th
Emmett Weber—April 30th

Wedding Anniversaries



Ralph and Nancy Seeley—April 7th
Buck and Marie Buchholz—April 23rd
Frank and Vicki Candelaria—April 27th



THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of March to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
3-3-2021	25		\$425.00	
3-6 & 7-2021	75	63	\$5,225.00/\$795.00	\$4,455.06
3-10-2021	28		\$1,118.03	
3-13 & 14-2021	70	54	\$1,885.50/\$148.00	\$4,455.06
3-17-2021	29		\$1,400.00	\$4,455.06
3-21-2021	75	65	\$2,850.50/\$36.00	
3-24-2021	29		\$905.00/\$100.00	\$4,455.06
3-28-2021	107	81	\$3,842.00/\$41.50	\$4,455.06

“Life Thoughts In The Church Year”

April 4 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Sinful selfishness made human flesh an agent of death. Jesus Christ's resurrection claims our bodies as instruments of life again. Since abortion and assisted suicide do not bring life, they cannot come from God—or from God's people. Receiving life as His gift sometimes means waiting (Isaiah 25:9), but this wipes away tears from every face (Isaiah 25:8).

April 11 – Easter II – Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29) that even an embryo is a life worth having. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed that even becoming incapacitated or uncommunicative is a life worth living. Blessed are we who believe the Risen Savior proves every life precious!

April 18 – Easter III – “Repentance and forgiveness should be proclaimed in His name to all” (Luke 24:47). We should proclaim repentance and forgiveness even unto those who promote or take part in sins against the sanctity of life. If God blots out our guilt for killing the Author of life (Acts 3:15, 19), will He not do so for those who have had a hand in abortions?

April 25 – St. Mark, Evangelist – Mark's Gospel makes known how the Lord loves all lives and every body. His appearing as embryo and baby (2 Timothy 4:8) has shown us His strong arm (Isaiah 52:10) and His gentle heart. And this good news makes humankind beautiful from head to heel (Isaiah 52:7)—no matter how small or how frail we may be!