



Faith news

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | COLLIERVILLE, TN
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The Power of Stories

The top grossing movies in the past number of years have been the Marvel Avengers Series, with each movie having taken in almost 1 Billion dollars in ticket and movie sales. Is it the cinematography and acting that has caused the success of these movies? How often does the daily news cycle get taken over by one event? People follow every detail as it breaks, longing for the latest tid-bit. Does the news in a city half a country away really matter in people's lives? Consider how much time you spend looking at other people's lives as they post pictures of their vacations and other activities. Does it really matter that much where your friend from 6th grade went on vacation last year? How many hours are spent mindlessly watching shows you've seen a dozen times? Are the plot points of *The Office* actually that intriguing? It is not the acting, or only the special effects; it is not

the personal impact of a single news story on our lives; it doesn't matter what that long lost friend did on vacation; and though *The Office* is a good show it is not a complicated plot. The story, the narrative, and our desire to know those stories draws us in.

Stories are powerful tools in the lives of people. We long for stories. Stories have staying power; they last for years, and sometimes for centuries or even millennia. Consider Homer's *Odyssey* or the *Iliad*; or the works of William Shakespeare; or even Grimm's *Fairy Tales*. We have been reading and telling these stories for generations. These stories tie us together and give us a common experience and way of viewing the world. A similar experience comes out of the shows we binge watch or the cartoons we grew up watching.

You also have those more personal stories; stories of family

and heritage and history. What stories do you tell in your family? Is there some legend about the first generation to come to the United States? What is that anecdote that gets trotted out at every holiday? How excited and sentimental are you to tell the story of how you first met your spouse? How they proposed? The tragic at the time, but funny now, disaster on your wedding day? The birth of your children? Stories have a great power in our lives to shape the way we see the world and make sense of what is happening. This great hunger for a story, I think, drives the distraction addiction. In this month of April as we move from Lent to Easter, as believers, we have a story to tell.

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is a story like no other. It has the power to change lives – eternally. The story of salvation is the only one that can

April 25 - St. Mark, Evangelist

Today is the Feast Day of St. Mark, Evangelist. Mark was the author of the second Gospel, which he composed, according to some Early Church Fathers, when the Christians in Rome asked him to write down the preaching of the apostle Peter. Therefore Mark's Gospel is also sometimes known as Peter's Gospel. Mark, also known as John Mark, was originally from Jerusalem, where the house of his mother Mary was the center of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:12). He was brought from Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 12:25), and it was from this city that they set out on the first missionary journey. When Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them again, but Paul refused because Mark had left them during the first journey. Theories abound as to why Mark

left, but the Scriptures are silent. Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement," was unwilling to give up on Mark so he and Paul split company. Barnabas took Mark with him and went to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas as his new companion (Acts 15:37-40). As it turns out, Barnabas was right. Later, Paul reconciled with Mark and was working with him again (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11). Finally, Mark was found laboring with Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13). Tradition says that Mark was instrumental in founding the Church in Alexandria, becoming its first bishop, and also that he suffered a martyr's death.

Mark's Gospel is short, but it includes many little details that are not in the other Gospels. The Gospel starts out with John the Baptist in the wilderness preaching a baptism for the repentance of sin. Mark tells us that this was in fulfillment of Malachi 3:1. This quick start

reflects the nature of Mark's Gospel, which is very fast-paced.

Mark's Gospel, and Mark himself, is sometimes symbolized as a winged lion. This symbolism is taken from Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. The association may be because the Gospel starts with John the Baptist boldly preaching in the wilderness much like a roaring lion. It is also observed that lions are fearless. St. Mark wrote a Gospel to a church which was suffering from frequent martyrdom, in Rome. Mark wrote with a fearless faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

According to tradition he was buried in Alexandria. This city was conquered 641 by the advancing Islamic military. In 828, two Venetian merchants stole the remains of Mark and transported them to Venice, where a basilica was built to house them.

<http://ourredeemernewark.org/feast-of-st-mark-evangelist/>

"The Power of Stories", continued...

fill the hole people so desperately long to fill with every other story. Consider the account of Easter- The women go and tell a story to the disciples of what they saw and heard. The disciples on the road to Emmaus run back to Jerusalem to tell the story of what happened. The 10 disciples tell the story to Thomas of what happened on that first Easter evening. The story of Jesus making himself known through his death and resurrection has been called "the greatest story ever told." As those who confess "Jesus is Lord", the story of Easter is ours to tell. It is ours to tell to a world that has an appetite for stories, and longs for a story that fills their heart in a way no other story can. I'll leave you with the first verse and chorus of a well-known hymn about telling the story of

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection...

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

Refrain

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*



Resurrection Reflection

Bruce Acomb

I pray that everyone is doing well as you prepare to celebrate our Lord's resurrection on Sunday, April 21, 2019. I thought I would share a brief message concerning Resurrection Sunday.

Josh McDowell, in his book *A Ready Defense*, writes the following (pages 218-219):

The historical fact of the resurrection is the very basis for the truth of Christianity. To put it simply, the resurrection of Jesus Christ and Christianity stand or fall together. One cannot be true without the other. The apostle Paul emphasized this point when he wrote:

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; your faith also is in vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless (1 Corinthians 15:13-17).

Of course, Paul was responding to the fact that some of the Corinthians were preaching that there is no resurrection (and, by extension, that Christ did not rise

from the dead – see verse 12). Earlier in that same chapter Paul himself taught:

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; After that, he was seen of above 500 brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

As Paul himself testifies, Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection were all done according to Scripture (God's Word in the Old Testament), that we might be saved from paying the penalty of our sins. He even provides a list of eyewitnesses that anyone (at that time) could question, if they doubted that Jesus Christ had indeed risen from the dead.

And keep in mind that Paul himself used to persecute Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). He was transformed from a persecutor/murderer to one of the Apostles, and one of the greatest missionaries of the Christian faith. It is very difficult to explain his transformation if the resurrection were not true.

Of course, besides the testimony of Scripture, we also

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Did You Know The Easter Bunny Is A Lutheran?

Among the things introduced to America by early Lutherans is Saint Nicklaus, Christmas Trees, Hot Dogs, Easter Eggs, Easter Baskets, and the Easter Bunny.

Actually the Easter Rabbit started out in German folklore as the Easter Hare.

In addition to not eating meat while fasting for Lent, pious Christians also did not eat eggs. Sometime around the 1400's parents began telling their children that on Easter morning the Easter Hare would bring baskets of eggs, nuts, and candies to children who had been especially good.



Apparently this trick was so successful in getting children to behave at Christmas that parents adapted it for Easter as well.

In some regions of the country children made special nests out of cloth in hopes that the Hare would visit. In others, the Hare would hide brightly colored eggs in special baskets that the children had to hunt for.

As Lutherans migrated from Germany to America, they brought their traditions with them.

Soon after, German bakers in America began offering chocolate rabbits and chocolate eggs covered in brightly colored foil. Soon after, merchants started offering printed holiday cards with rabbits, chicks, and brightly colored eggs to be sent with Easter greetings.

<https://trinitymemphis.org/2018/03/18/did-you-know-the-easter-bunny-is-a-lutheran/>

Living in Real Time

by Heath Curtis

Saint Paul says that all of us who are baptized are baptized “into Christ” (Rom. 6:3). Now we live “in Christ” as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). Now Jesus’ story is our story—as Jesus Himself told us again and again. What happened to Him will happen to us. A servant is not above his Master. If the world hates us, we know that it hated Christ first. He who would be His disciple must take up his cross and follow Him.

This great truth of our life in Christ finds no greater or more beautiful expression as the drama of Lent, Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. The whole liturgical year walks in Christ, but something is different about these days that we set apart as holy each spring. For most of the Church Year, we live in a kind of time-lapse video. In the long season after Pentecost, we walk through all of Jesus’ teaching and healing ministry. This is time-compressed: That’s three years’ worth of teaching, healing and miracles crammed into about six months. The time compression is even more pronounced in Advent—thousands of years of prophecies about the coming of Christ in four weeks.

But now during Lent we slow down to real time. The time compression goes away. Now we will walk in Christ through the story of Christ day by day, hour by hour. Christ’s story is our story now, so when we tell this story, we don’t just tell it or read from the Scriptures in the few minutes that this would take. We actually slow down and live it in Christ in real time.

Christ fasted for forty days. We fast for forty days. Christ processed into

Jerusalem on a Sunday. We celebrate Palm Sunday waving our branches and calling out our Hosannas to Him who has come in the Name of the Lord. Then there’s the quiet intensity of Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday. Can you imagine what was building in the heart and mind of Jesus as He pondered what lay ahead of Him? The services appointed for these days are likewise quiet meditations on the Passion.

And now the Triduum, the Holy Three Days. We gather by night on Thursday to keep the New Passover, to receive the very Lamb of God who now comes to us in His body and blood. On Friday, we gather around the very hours in which Jesus hung upon the cross. Next comes Saturday, the Old Sabbath that Christ has now fulfilled by His great rest in the tomb, and as the sun goes down on that old Sabbath, we gather for the Easter Vigil, the transition from old to new, from Lent to Easter, from death to Life. And then Sunday—the empty tomb, the angels in white, the lilies, the trumpets. He is risen; we shall rise!

The Rev. Heath Curtis is director of LCMS Stewardship and pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Edwardsville, Ill., and Trinity Lutheran Church, Worden, Ill.

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<https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/living-real-time/>

“Resurrection Reflection”, continued...

have external witnesses (such as the Jewish historian Josephus) and archeology that bear witness to the historicity of Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

As Christians, we are called to “*be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*” (1 Peter 3:15b). In order to be ready to defend our faith, we must “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). I would encourage you, if you are not already doing so, to read and study God’s Word on a daily basis. The continual study of God’s Word will help us to “*be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Ephesians 6:11b-12).

So you can be confident in the fact that **Christ is risen!!!**

Did you know the LCMS has two new Commissioned Ministers from Faith?

* Alexis Acomb has accepted a call to St John Lutheran School, Defiance OH

* Kara Harbin has accepted a call to Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN

We are extremely proud of these two young ladies of Faith.

What makes LCMS church workers DIFFERENT?

Each of our LCMS professional church workers is equipped with solid theological training in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. They are prepared to serve the people of God and are ready to care for them when life's tough challenges come their way. <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=3095>

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

Fact or Fiction?

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my Client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."



<https://www.truthorfiction.com/atheist-holiday/>

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Sunday 8:15/11:00 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 1:30pm Futsal 5pm Confirmation 7pm Sr High Youth	1 7am FLP	2 7am FLP 6:30pm Council Meeting	3 7am FLP 5pm Family Meal 7pm Lent Worship Service Praise Team Rehearsal	4 7am FLP 6pm FLP Parent Coach	5 7am FLP	6 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters
7 Sunday 8:15/11:00 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 5pm Confirmation 7pm Sr High Youth	8 FLP Teachers Appreciation Week 7am FLP	9 FLP Teachers Appreciation Week 7am FLP 6pm Trivia Night @ BooyaS 6:30pm Elder Meeting	10 FLP Teachers Appreciation Week 7am FLP 10am LWML 5pm Family Meal 7pm Lent Worship Service Praise Team Rehearsal	11 FLP Teachers Appreciation Week 7am FLP	12 FLP Teachers Appreciation Week 7am FLP	13
14 Sunday 8:15/11:00 Palm Sunday New Member Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 12:30pm Eggstravaganza 5pm Confirmation 7pm Sr High Youth	15 7am FLP	16 7am FLP 5:30pm Ladies Dinner and a Movie	17 7am FLP 12pm Church Office Closed 12:30pm FLP Board Meeting 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	18 7am FLP Church Office Closed 7pm Maundy Thursday	19 Church Office Closed 7pm Good Friday Service	20 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters
21 Sunday 8:15/11:00 Resurrection Sunday 7am Easter Breakfast 8:00am Sunrise Service 9:30am Celebration Service 11am Hope Service	22 7am FLP In-Service	23 7am FLP 6pm Trivia Night @ BooyaS	24 7am FLP 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7pm Sr High Youth	25 7am FLP	26 7am FLP 6pm Futsal	27 11am First Responders Luncheon
28 Sunday 8:15/11:00 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship Noon FIA Kids 1:30pm Futsal 5pm Confirmation 7pm Sr High Youth	29 7am FLP	30 7am FLP	1 7am FLP 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7pm Sr High Youth	2 7am FLP	3 7am FLP	4 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters 6:30pm Spring Trivia Night

The Mission of Faith Lutheran Church is:

Embracing Our Community – Connecting as Christ's Family

Just as Jesus spent time embracing His community with His care, the people of Faith believe we are strategically placed to reach out and share His Good News with our community. Our goal is to advance the Gospel and make Christ's love known to all. Living the Gospel. Proclaiming the Gospel. Advancing the Gospel. Through Christ's love at Faith Lutheran, friends become family.

Connect as Christ's Family

Rev. Rob Harbin, Senior Pastor, Pastor.flc@comcast.net

Rev. Clayton Sellers, Associate Pastor, pastorclayton@faithcollierville.com

Jenny Whitely, Worship Leader & Missional Minister, flcmusic.jenny@faithcollierville.com

Dina Foshee, Preschool Director, flpfaithcollierville@gmail.com

Ann Lipe, Preschool Associate Director, flpfaithcollierville@gmail.com

Christine Acomb, Church Office Manager, office@faithcollierville.com

Lisa Blair, Accounts Payable & Receivable (Mon & Thurs), finance.flc@comcast.net

Mark Scott, Church Council President

Bruce Acomb, Head Elder

Alan Lang, Treasurer

Ardith Morgan, Property Trustee

Announcements and/or Articles for Happenings or Newsletter, please email office@faithcollierville.com

507 New Byhalia Road, Collierville TN 38017

Church Office: 901-853-4673

Preschool: 901-853-0050

Church Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Friday 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Website: Faithcollierville.com

BIRTHDAY

Erika Bradshaw	April 1	Hayden Hurdle	April 13
Ethan Clayton	April 1	Janessa Mai	April 13
Hannah Hurdle	April 1	Donna Morris	April 13
Corbin Swinderman	April 1	Addie Vietzke	April 13
Earlene Coltharp	April 3	Alex Vietzke	April 20
Hayley Setterlund	April 3	Helen Rodgers	April 23
Lillian Johnson	April 4	Connor Holliday	April 26
Bruce Kueck	April 5	Maria Johnson	April 26
Preston Sauls	April 5	Frank Landry	April 26
Tonya Jost	April 7	Olivia Nelson	April 26
James Morgan	April 7	Bicknell Hall	April 27
Joseph Myers	April 7	James Kuhlmann	April 27
Tony Holliday	April 9	Emily Sellers	April 28
Marianne Hooper	April 9	Danielle Ostrander	April 29
Buddy Mote	April 9	Camryn Swinderman	April 29
Jack Myers	April 10		
Andria Regalado	April 10		
Greg Whitely	April 11		
Laura Janke	April 12		
Stacey Johnson	April 12		

ANNIVERSARY

John & Kathy Christiansen	April 3
Billy Ray & Maria Johnson	April 5
Ben & Hillary Sauls	April 13
Warren & Cindy Nevill	April 17
Jim & LeeAnne Holliday	April 22
Garrett & Courtney Gilmore	April 27

