

Pastor Sailer's Page

Faith Lutheran Church
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EVERYDAY REASONS FOR LENTEN ALLELUIAS

While we forgo the use of our Alleluia's in worship, they still ring out in our daily lives this Lenten season.

In last weekend's Pastor's Page, Pastor Kory explained why we avoid singing our Alleluias during Lent. *Alleluia* is a Hebrew word that simply means "praise the Lord." The Lenten season focuses on our sin, our defiance against the God who made us and still provides for us, richly, daily. Lent focuses on repenting of our sin. It focuses on Jesus making the journey to Jerusalem to die a gruesome death for our sins.

As Pastor Kory explained, in view of our sin and Christ's undeserved death for our sin, it's hard to sing a hearty Alleluia. And so, for a time – the 40 days of Lent – we "bury" the use of the word Alleluia, until we let it rise again in worship on our joyful, triumphant worship on the Festival of the Resurrection, April 5.

And yet, in our day-to-day lives, there are many good reasons to breathe an "Alleluia" to our God...even during Lent. The reasons abound in your life and mine!

First and foremost, how can we help but say or sing, "Alleluia!", since we know so well the depth of God's grace, which is so much a part of each and every day of our lives? That grace of God, as seen especially in the saving work of Jesus, is the most important reason we breathe out "Alleluia" every day. For every day, we sin. Every day, God forgives. Alleluia!

But there are many more reasons...like these:

Sarah and I returned home in the wee hours of last Tuesday morning after a quick trip to visit my parents, Calvin and Kathy Sailer, along with my sister Kelli and her family, in Albuquerque, NM. Mom and Dad, who will soon turn the corner to the decade of their 80's, are doing well. For this we say, "Alleluia!"

Many of you know that our office secretary, Lan Kuhlmann, and her husband, Anthony, are new parents. "Alleluia, Lord," for the gift of Ana Hope Kuhlmann, born on January 25, and scheduled to receive the new life in Christ in Holy Baptism on March 1. Alleluia!

While Lan is away, Rachel Heirigs is assisting our congregation as office secretary. And she is doing a terrific job! Alleluia! By the way, Rachel's husband, Joshua, is the Director of Christian Education at Zion Lutheran Church here in Sioux Falls. In January, he was selected as the "Outstanding New Director of Christian Education" by the National Association of Directors of Christian Education. Quite an honor! Alleluia, Lord! (And congratulations, Josh!)

Alleluia, Lord...

...for warm homes;

...for warm clothes;

...for family;

...for a church family;

...for friends;

...for books;

...for cell phones that can help us connect with people far away (enabling us even to see them while we speak with them);

...for suppers with church family before mid-week services;

...for a serving, Christ-centered congregation;

...for _____;

...and for _____.

I just can't completely bury "Alleluia"! And neither can you! *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

An update on District President Nominations

Some weeks ago, I informed you that I have been nominated by several congregations, including our own, to be the next District President of the South Dakota District of the LCMS. Recently, I was informed by the Secretary of the District, that I am indeed one of the three nominees whose names shall appear on the ballot for the election. The election takes place Monday, April 13, at the District Convention. I'll keep you posted!