



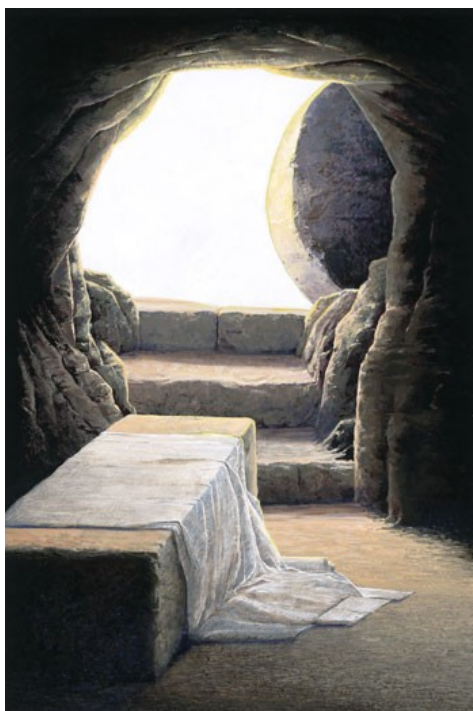
## Is the Resurrection Still Relevant?

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

As we approach the highest festival of the Church year, the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, I want to address the question of whether the resurrection story is still relevant for people today. I know that the whole question seems ridiculous to most traditional Lutherans because the resurrection was the central pillar of the Gospel proclamation in the first century, but there are many Christian Churches today who say – or at least strongly imply – that we must get beyond first century issues and start addressing 21<sup>st</sup> century concerns of the people. I suppose people are asking the question of Christianity “what have you

done for me lately?” One very large church in our vicinity seems to be taking this approach of modernizing the Christian proclamation of Easter to make it more relevant to the concerns of people today. This is by no means unique in the Christian community. Every year this particular church widely publicizes an Easter sermon series that begins on the great festival day and continues for three or four weeks following. There’s nothing wrong with that, of course, but the problem is that the series never deals with the resurrection! A couple of years ago the Easter series was about applying old TV shows like “I love Lucy” to address practical problems of life. I

*generations to come – discover what the Bible says about determining the best path for you.”* The series promises to be “life altering” and “transformational.” The publicity never mentions Jesus or His resurrection even once. Now perhaps this is all a “bait and switch” approach, where the prospect is lured into a seminar about making good decisions only to be confronted with the Gospel proclamation of the resurrection of Christ and its meaning for sinners. I would even have a problem with that whole approach on the basis of 2 Corinthians 4:2 and the example of Jesus and the Apostles, but I have reason to doubt that this is much of a bait and switch.



am certain that excerpts from these shows provided the humorous analogies needed to make relevant points. This year, the series takes off on election themes and talks about the importance of the decisions that we make in life. The advertisement reads, “*Before you make a wrong choice that could affect your health, your relationships, your finances, and your happiness for years – and perhaps*

A couple of years ago the pastor was quoted in the newspaper saying that people are tired of hearing about the resurrection, etc. and that they are more concerned about problems like the economy and jobs. It is as if the actual life, death, and resurrection of Christ – salvation history – is not nearly as relevant and necessary as addressing things that cause people stress and anxiety in their daily lives. The temptation for many who want to make Christianity relevant is to boil down the practical teachings of Jesus to moral principles

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

that can be recast and applied to present issues of life. We can follow such attempts to shift from gospel to law all the way through history and they never end well. Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher, a 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian in Germany, tried to reconcile traditional Christianity with the principles of the Enlightenment to make Christianity palatable to its “cultured despisers”. He is known as “the Father of modern liberal theology” and the empty churches of Europe are a testimony to the value of his work as it was carried forward through a few generations.

The Gospel was, is, and ever shall be the ONLY power of God to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Many people THINK that their primary need in life is for practical wisdom (laws) that they can apply to heal broken relationships or to overcome their depression or to fix their finances or to make them happy and successful, but the law cannot fix our fundamental problem from which all our sorrows, fears, troubles, and conflicts arise. Applying the law, however winsomely and relevantly, is like painting over rust. The “solution” is temporary and superficial at best. The rust will come through again. Our fundamental problem is sin, not just sin in the form of immoral deeds, but sin as the total corruption of the human heart inherited from Adam through our parents (original sin). Jesus tells us that it is out of the heart that all evil words, thoughts, and deeds come.

People today don’t really want to see the real source of their problems – they just want to fix what hurts at the moment. People definitely do not want to look down

the road to see the end of their ways, eternal death. They do not wish to see past “relationships, finances, and – most of all, happiness.” Like people today in our country who do NOT wish to look down the road and consider the long term effects of massive debt on a country so long as they have what they want today, many people are spiritually myopic in their desire for “relevance” and refuse to consider the higher and most important things of life. Thus, the resurrection of Christ may seem like a nice memory of something that happened a long, long time ago in a far away place that has little impact on life today.

If, however, one fully recognizes that life does not consist in the abundance of things possessed in this world, or even in a good marriage partner or happiness, the resurrection of Christ becomes extremely relevant. The resurrection of Jesus is the heart of the Gospel which sets us free from those powerful enemies against which the law is absolutely powerless: sin, death, and devil. All the treasures of Christianity, the forgiveness of our sins, the assurance that Jesus is the Son of God, the assurance of the truth of God’s Word, and the hope of life after death is anchored to the resurrection of Jesus. Faith in that resurrection saves us, not just from temporal problems, but from our fundamental problem of sin and its temporal and eternal consequences. As the resurrection was boldly proclaimed in the first century, so it needs to be boldly proclaimed today so that we might be transformed through the living hope begotten through the resurrection of Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer has spoken most eloquently on the need for Christians to find their lives in Jesus

rather than try to incorporate Jesus into their lives. He wrote:

*It is not in our life that God’s help and presence must still be proved, but rather God’s presence and help have been demonstrated for us in the life of Jesus Christ. It is in fact more important for us to know what God did to Israel, to His Son Jesus Christ, than to seek what God intends for us today. The fact that Jesus Christ died is more important than the fact that I shall die, and the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead is the sole ground of my hope that I, too, shall be raised on the Last Day. Our salvation is “external to ourselves.” I find no salvation in my life history, but only in the history of Jesus Christ. Only he who allows himself to be found in Jesus Christ, in his incarnation, his Cross, and his resurrection, is with God and God with him.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, pg 54)*

JESUS IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!  
ALLELUIA!  
AMEN.





Mark your calendars to attend our Vacation Bible School this summer! The dates of our Amazing Desert Journey will be June 18-22. Children of ages 3 years (toilet trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (completed) are invited to come join us in our Oasis, where Jesus gives us His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation- all of which strengthen and refresh us for the Journey.

**WE NEED YOU!!** Through the dedication of our members and friends who volunteer at VBS, we minister to 150+ children each year with the Gospel

of Jesus Christ. If you aren't part of VBS yet, why not call today? If you can help some days, just one day, every day, or in advance, we have many levels of involvement to suit your schedule and interests. Please prayerfully provide support in one or more of these ways:

- Enroll your children or grandchildren in the Amazing Desert Journey.
- Volunteer to help. There are many jobs to do, even if you cannot be here during VBS.
- Donate supplies to help with expenses. Watch for notifications in the church bulletin or notices at the VBS table in the narthex to see how you can participate.
- Pray for our volunteers and the children and families who participate.
- Come to our Muffin Madness April 15<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall. This is a fundraiser for our VBS program.

Contact:

Barbara Brewer ([barbbrewer@gmail.com](mailto:barbbrewer@gmail.com)) 817-897-4463 or Merissa Nuse ([mernuse@aol.com](mailto:mernuse@aol.com)) 918-671-2529

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## Merissa Nuse by Stephanie Gutierrez

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This month I had the pleasure of getting to know returning member Merissa

Nuse. Merissa returned to Texas recently from Oklahoma. Merissa was a charter member of Messiah. She was contacted by Pastor Huebel many years ago as he was calling on Lutherans in the area to inform them of plans to start a new congregation. Merissa has many fond memories of the early days of Messiah. She was very touched to see that the congregation and school are growing upon her return to Texas.

Merissa has three adult children, Jennifer, Greg, and Christopher. Jennifer lives in Detroit with her

husband Dillon and their son Carson. Jennifer is a med tech and Dillon works for Ford. Not only does Dillon work for Ford, but he is the designer of the new Ford Fusion! Son Greg recently married and lives in Oklahoma with his wife. Christopher is in art school in San Francisco.

Merissa works for a custom door company doing inside sales. She lives in Aubrey between Denton and Frisco. Please welcome Merissa back to Messiah!



**make your views seem silly rather than discussable."**

I suppose that I should at least credit Prof. Rorty with not resorting to subterfuge, and being honest enough to inform me up front what he and his colleagues have in mind for my offspring and yours. He has also provided "straight from the horse's mouth" evidence that those who have been long stating their belief that many of those in academia are either overtly or covertly attempting to render irrelevant the faith "once and for all handed down to the saints," (Jude 3) are not merely looney conspiracy theorists who are tilting at windmills. It must be acknowledged, of course,

that not all college professors are in Dr. Rorty's camp. I know of a wonderful pair of Lutheran Christian faculty members in Terre Haute, Indiana. They are husband and wife, and both are members of the music faculty at a state University there. I know of another faculty member of a University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, who teaches in their Aviation Department, and is a fine Christian gentleman. Nonetheless, Professor Rorty is by no means alone in academia, as is evidenced by what follows.

Another snippet from D'Souza:

**Psychologist Nicholas Humphrey argued in a recent lecture that just as Amnesty International works to liberate political prisoners around the world, secular teachers and professors should work to free**

**children from the damaging influence of their parent's religious instruction. "Parents, correspondingly, have no god-given license to enculturate their children in whatever ways they personally choose: no right to limit the horizons of their children's knowledge, to bring them up in an atmosphere of dogma and superstition, or to insist they follow the straight and narrow paths of their own faith."**

Odd how Mr. Humphrey has no reservations about insisting that Christian students abandon their faith to follow the straight and narrow path of his own faith in secularism, and that he is no less dogmatic than the most rigid religious fundamentalist. How ironic that those who's salaries are primarily paid by the parents of the students at any given institution of "higher" learning, are often dedicated to belittling and demeaning the faith and morals of those parents. As Christian parents, we attempt, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring up our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." We bring them to church, have them Baptized, witness to them and teach them the faith, bring them to confirmation classes, Sunday School, Bible Study and Youth Group, only to hand them over to those whose intention and purpose it is to undo everything that we have done, or more to the point, everything God has done through us. St. Peter was right, of course. The devil does indeed prowl about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. And from his point of view, our children are most definitely on the menu.

One option, of course, is that we

*(Continued on page 5)*

What follows is a quote from Dinesh D'Souza's book, *What's So Great About Christianity?*

**Philosopher Richard Rorty argued that secular professors in the universities ought "to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own." Rorty noted that students are fortunate to find themselves "under the benevolent *Herrschaft* of people like me, and to have escaped the grip of their frightening, vicious, and dangerous parents." Indeed, parents who send their children to college should recognize that as professors "we are going to go right on trying to discredit you in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to**



encourage the children that God has entrusted to our care to go to Christian colleges and Universities, like the Missouri Synod's synodical colleges, the various branches of Concordia University system. When the course of study to be pursued is taught at one of the synodical institutions, there is an excellent opportunity to have our children attend a University that will affirm the faith in which our children have been raised, rather than having it assaulted, mocked, and denied. However, not all fields of academic inquiry are taught within our Synodical system, and often Christian students find themselves attending secular colleges and universities, if for no other reason than that is where an education in their field of interest is available.

And even if we are able to forestall the challenges that will come to our children's faith (and to our own) within the academic world, those same challenges will come through other avenues throughout the remainder of their lives. Our entertainment media, our news media, and our literature are filled to overflowing with challenges to our faith. Evolution is presumed and taken for granted throughout western culture (even though the very science that evolutionists believe supports their faith has in fact repeatedly disproven evolution - check the excellent videos in our congregation's library, or ask to borrow from my own collection of creationist video collection). A radically different (im)morality is the culture norm, particularly when it comes to sexual morality (another issue addressed in D'Souza's book). For many, civil government has replaced God as the source of all good, and has become in many ways

the real "American idol." It was by no mistake that a candidate in the last presidential election cycle was referred to in very specifically Messianic terms, with very religious fervor.

The Book of Proverbs (22:6) says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents these days could use some help that way. While in times past our culture in general tended to support parents who raised their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that is far less the case now. Thanks be to God, we at Messiah have the great blessing of a Lutheran school, staffed with an administration and teachers who are dedicated to imparting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our children, to strengthening and supporting their faith, not destroying it. They are all about preparing our children to live in a world that is either indifferent or overtly hostile to our faith, and to equipping them to not just hold out, as if hidden behind the walls of a fortress, but to go forth in the world to challenge the challengers, to defend and champion the Gospel, to be Christ's witnesses in this lost and fallen, yet redeemed world. Those very professors and academics who have such disdain for the Gospel and for the Lord Jesus Christ have been redeemed by Him. He bore their sins on the Cross, paid the redemption price for them, and reconciled them to the Father, every bit as much as He has redeemed us. Holy Scripture says that "God wills all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge

of the Truth." How wonderful to think that it might the challenge thrown back, the Gospel spoken by one of our own children, that might kindle faith in the heart of a Richard Rorty or Nicholas Humphrey. The Word of God living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, even when wielded by some young student standing up for his or her faith in the public arena. When and where the Word of God is spoken, there the Holy Spirit is working, hidden, to be sure, but working nonetheless. The Word through which the Holy Spirit works is both our defense against the deceptions of the Devil, the World, and our own flesh, and the means by which we can attack and defeat the forces of unbelief.

As was said before, "The Devil prowls about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." He hunts us. He hunts our children. Armed with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can not only defend ourselves when he comes, we can do a little hunting ourselves.



# CSAF Fine Arts Festival

**Congratulations to our 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade MLCA students who attended the CSAF Fine Arts Festival on March 1<sup>st</sup>.** (CSAF, Christian Schools Artistic Fellowship/Christian Schools Athletic Fellowship, is a league of over 50 Metroplex Christian Schools which offers competition in a variety of sports and fine arts activities in elementary through high school divisions. MLCA joined the league last year.)

Our school was well represented in Art and Music. We received many compliments from the judges on how well behaved and professional our students looked and performed. Superior, Excellent, and Good ribbons were awarded for all participants in Art and Music. Below is a listing of the music entrants and their rankings. Art ranking are on the next page.

**Instrumental Ensemble** 7th Superior  
(Hand bell Choir -Kyle Anderson, Matthew Blaschke, Chase Carter, Brian Lang, Malorie Lang, Kaitlin Stacy)

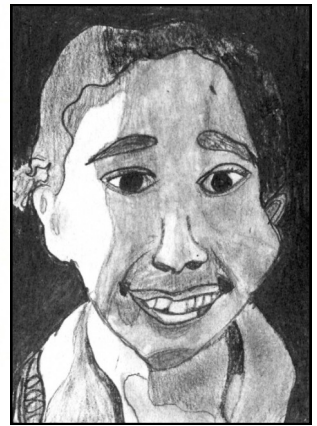
**Vocal Ensemble** 4th/5th Superior  
(Madison Chapa, Katie Cashion, Bailey Heitman, Sarah Trollope, Samantha Anderson, Hannah Blaschke, Avery Davis, Hannah Essen, Shannon Fugate, Victoria Green, Hannah Lovas, Madison O'Brien and Aidan Richmond)

**Vocal Solo:**

Samantha Anderson	5th	Superior
Hannah Blaschke	5th	Superior
Aidan Richmond	5th	Superior
Hannah Essen	5th	Superior
Madison O'Brien	5th	Superior



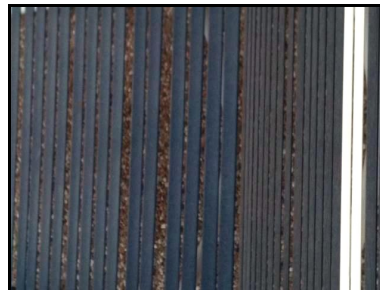
4th Gr. Sculpture:  
Left: Ron Geffre  
Above: Grace Nankivell



5th Gr. Pencil Drawing:  
Victoria Green



6th Grade Painting (Watercolors):  
Above: Payne Chapa  
Left: Emma White



Middle Sch. Photography  
Matthew Blaschke, 7th Gr.



Middle Sch. Pencil Drawing  
Kyle Anderson, 7th Gr.

**NOW ENROLLING**  
**2 YRS. - 8TH GRADE**

**[WWW.MLCATEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.MLCATEXAS.ORG)**

**2 YRS. - PRE-K: 817-431-6139**  
**GRADES K-8: 817-431-5486**

MESSIAH  
CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
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Above. L-R: Brian Land and Kaitlin Stacy: Middle School Sculpture entries

## CSAF Art Results

Name	Grade	Ranking
<b>Grade 4-6 Sculpture:</b>		
Ron Geffre	4th	Excellent
Bailey Heitman	4th	Excellent
Josiah Makrum	4th	Superior
Grace Nankivell	4th	Superior

<b>Grade 4-6 Pencil Drawing:</b>		
Samantha Anderson	5th	Excellent
Hannah Essen	5th	Excellent
Victoria Green	5th	Superior
Aidan Richmond	5th	Excellent

<b>Grade 4-6 Painting:</b>		
Payne Chapa	6th	Excellent
Emma White	6th	Excellent

<b>Middle School Drawing:</b>		
Kyle Anderson	7th	Excellent

<b>Middle School Photography:</b>		
Kyle Anderson	7th	Good
Matthew Blaschke	7th	Excellent
Brian Lang	7th	Good

<b>Middle School Sculpture:</b>		
Kyle Anderson	7th	Excellent
Matthew Blaschke	7th	Excellent
Chase Carter	7th	Excellent
Brian Lang	7th	Excellent
Malorie Lang	7th	Excellent
Kaitlin Stacy	7th	Superior

## ITBS Results

**MLCA students took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills the week of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012** and overall, this is our best scoring year yet! A special thank you to Ms. Sandy McDougall who assists the school with analyzing results. Below is a breakdown by class. The Percentile Rank is for all schools (both private and public) who take this test:

Kindergarten —	97 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade —	87 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade —	93 <sup>rd</sup> Percentile Rank
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade —	98 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade —	97 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade —	99 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade —	86 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Rank
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade —	92 <sup>nd</sup> Percentile Rank

Congratulations to our students who work hard every day!



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**Talk Radio for Holy Week: April 2-9**

***The Events of Holy Week***

Dr. Paul Maier of Western Michigan University

***The Last Supper According to Luke's Gospel***

Dr. Arthur Just of Concordia Theological Seminary

***The Last Words of Jesus from the Cross***

Pr. Bill Cwirla of Holy Trinity Lutheran-Hacienda Heights, CA

***The Passion of Christ***

Dr. Norman Nagel of Concordia Seminary

***The Hymn, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"***

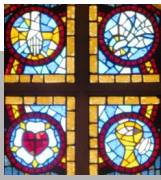
Pr. Will Weedon of St. Paul Lutheran-Hamel, IL

***Luther on the Passion of Christ***

Pr. Paul McCain of Concordia Publishing House

**Listen at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)**





## Messiah Lutheran Church & School

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

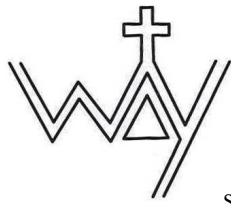
Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)



## Youth News - Summer Retreat

This year's  
summer youth  
retreat, **open to**

**all incoming 9th graders to  
graduating seniors**, will be  
held on June 4—7 in Port  
Aransas. Time will be spent  
each day in Bible study, group  
fellowship activities, and, yes,  
on the beach. In past years, these retreats have been huge factor in the closeness of  
our youth group, and many valuable and strengthening discussions on a variety of  
topics have occurred in this place with little to no outside distractions.



The cost of the 4 day trip is \$75.00 per person. An initial, non-refundable, deposit  
of \$45 is due on April 29. This will cover all expenses except for one meal on the  
way down to Port A. On May 20, immediately following the early service, a youth  
and parent meeting will be held to give out trip details. The balance is due at that  
time.

Letters with more information will be in parent mailboxes by Easter Sunday. If you  
have any questions, please see Pastor or Marcia Huebel.

## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday, April 1, 8:00 a.m. —Congregational Procession,  
beginning outside

10:45 a.m. —Children's Processional.  
(Children meet in library at 10:30am.)

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. —Divine Service with Communion

Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. —Service of Darkness (Tenebrae)

Holy Saturday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. —Prayer Vigil begins (until 7:00 p.m.)  
7:30 p.m. —Service of Confession and Absolution

Easter Sunday, April 8, 6:30 a.m. —Easter Sunrise with Communion  
8:00 a.m. —Easter Breakfast (freewill offering taken)  
9:30 a.m. —Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. —Divine Service with Communion