

**There's a Place for You at SOP!**

Volume 27  
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APRIL'S LUTHERAN WITNESS



## From the editor

Bloggers will convince you Lent is about purging your closets and simplifying your life. Television will inform you Easter is a time to question whether or not Jesus really existed. And Facebook will ironically tell you Lent is really just a time to get off social media. When it comes right down to it, Lent and Easter are getting the short shrift.

This month, we're turning off the TV and exiting out of Facebook. We're talking instead about how we observe Lent within our own families, what makes Good Friday truly good, and whether or not giving things up for Lent is something Lutherans do.

We're discussing all things Easter too. We're learning about the Easter Vigil service, covering things we should and shouldn't expect to hear in Easter sermons, and remembering why Christians – in the midst of a world of darkness and death – are a resurrection-remembering people.

You can clean out your closets and listen to the History Channel's take on Jesus' hair color. But this Lent and Easter, learn instead from your Savior, who hangs on a cross for you, lies in the tomb for you, and is risen – and returning! – all for you.

*Adriane Heins, Managing Editor*

The Lutheran Witness

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# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Bible Hour, 8a Worship, 9a	3 Quilters, 10a	4 Study, 6:15p	5 Sup, 5:45p Lent Wor., 7p Choir, 8p	6 Study, 10:30a MW teens, 6:30pm	7	8 MPB, 8:30am Church WD, 10am
9 Bible Hour, 8a Worship, 9a	10 Quilters, 10a BOD, 6:30pm	11 Study, 6:15p	12 Sup, 5:45p Lent Wor., 7p Choir, 8p	13 Study, 10:30a MW teens, 6:30pm	14	15
16 Easter Serv. 9am Brunch, 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt	17 Quilters, 10a LM, 7pm	18 Study, 6:15p	19	20 Maundy Thur, 7pm	21 Good Friday, 7pm	22 Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
23 Bible Hour, 8a Worship, 9a	24 Quilters, 10a	25 Study, 6:15p	26	27 Study, 10:30a MW teens, 6:30pm	28	29
30 Bible Hour, 8a Worship, 9a						



## Birthdays of the Month

- 4-8 Geoffrey Flemmons (B,21)
- 4-9 Evan McDonald (B)
- 4-16 Tommy Wray (B)
- 4-18 Keeley Ausburn (B)
- 4-22 Adrianna Womack (B,6)
- 4-25 Helga Killion (B)
- 4-27 Carol Mayerhoff (B)
- 4-29 Ashley Davenport (B)
- 4-30 Jessica Moreth (B)



- 04/05 Lent #5 Service @7:00pm  
Meal @ 5:45-6:40pm
- 04/13 Maundy Thursday Service @  
7:00pm
- 04/14 Good Friday Service @  
7:00pm
- 04/15 Easter Vigil Service @  
7:30pm
- 04/16 Easter Service @ 9:00am  
Meal @ 10:15am/Easter egg hunt



# Holy Week



## Monday

Jesus cleanses the temple and curses the fig tree; God prepares those who will accept His sacrifice



## Palm Sunday

Jesus entered as a king; God prepared His sacrifice



## Wednesday

Judas betrays, Mary perfumes; God waits for the response to the invitation



## Tuesday

Jesus teaches in the temple for the last time; God sends the invitation to come enjoy His sacrifice



## Holy Thursday

Jesus offers His body and blood in the last supper; God offers His sacrifice



## Good Friday

Jesus dies on the cross; God accepts His sacrifice (a sweet smelling aroma)

## Resurrection Sunday



Jesus is risen; God gives us eternal life in Jesus (the real treasure)



## Bright Saturday

Jesus takes the saints from Hades to Paradise; God receives His saints to Him



# Treasure Map



## All Roads Point to the Cross

In an effort to provide direction, common purpose, priority, and a roadmap to follow, the BoD got together earlier this year to map out the top areas of interest in 2017. While other things might come up along the way, these are the four subjects that we plan on spending the majority of our time and energy on as we navigate the year. We wanted to be sure to communicate those items to the congregation for the sake of transparency and so we can all work together with one accord. The top four items are as follows:

### *Outreach:*

In addition to meeting the needs of our congregation inside of SOP, as the BoD, we wish to continue to focus on and support efforts outside the walls of SOP. These efforts come in the form of evangelism and/or service to those in our community. This can be accomplished through leveraging existing “programs” such as the REACH committee or through new projects such as Each One Reach One or the reinstatement of our Men’s Breakfast and its associated service emphasis. Additionally, our outreach efforts can be as simple as asking someone to attend church with us and encouraging others to do the same or reaching out to those within our SOP family that have been noticeably absent to ensure they know they are missed.

### *Financial:*

We intend to continue our focus on being good stewards with the resources that God has so richly provided. We will continue to examine our expenses through the lens of “Does this expense support the goals and mission of SOP and what we are working toward?” We have the ultimate goal of transitioning off of the interest only arrangement through LCEF by December 2017.

### *Educational Opportunities:*

We (alongside the LMs) would like to provide an atmosphere at SOP conducive to Spiritual growth. This includes adding more educational and bible study opportunities at SOP, but it also includes equipping the congregation with the tools necessary to teach and learn the Faith at home.

### *One Body Many Parts:*

Within our congregation, we have many groups and people that have specific purposes that work together to make SOP flourish. Without those groups we could not function and no one group can do it all. Some examples of the many groups include Lay Ministers, Kitchen Klub, REACH, Sunday School, Youth, Church Office, Choir, 2 Point Parish Committee, Bible Studies, etc. As the BoD, it is our responsibility to coordinate and support the various groups in their efforts as well as encourage transparency from each group so the congregation can also support and share in the successes of the respective groups. While historically, we have done an okay job of this, it is our intention in 2017 to build a greater connection to each group. We will accomplish this through increasing our presence at group meetings (where appropriate) and creating a rotation for a representative of each group to attend at least a portion of a monthly BoD meeting to share relevant material.

It is our hope that you will all join us where possible as we strive toward these initiatives. We welcome any ideas and/or feedback along the way. In 2017, we look forward to building on momentum from the previous year and are confident we can continue to make positive strides in the future.

Michael Flakoll  
On Behalf of the SOP BoD

### Theological Jargon: Sanctification

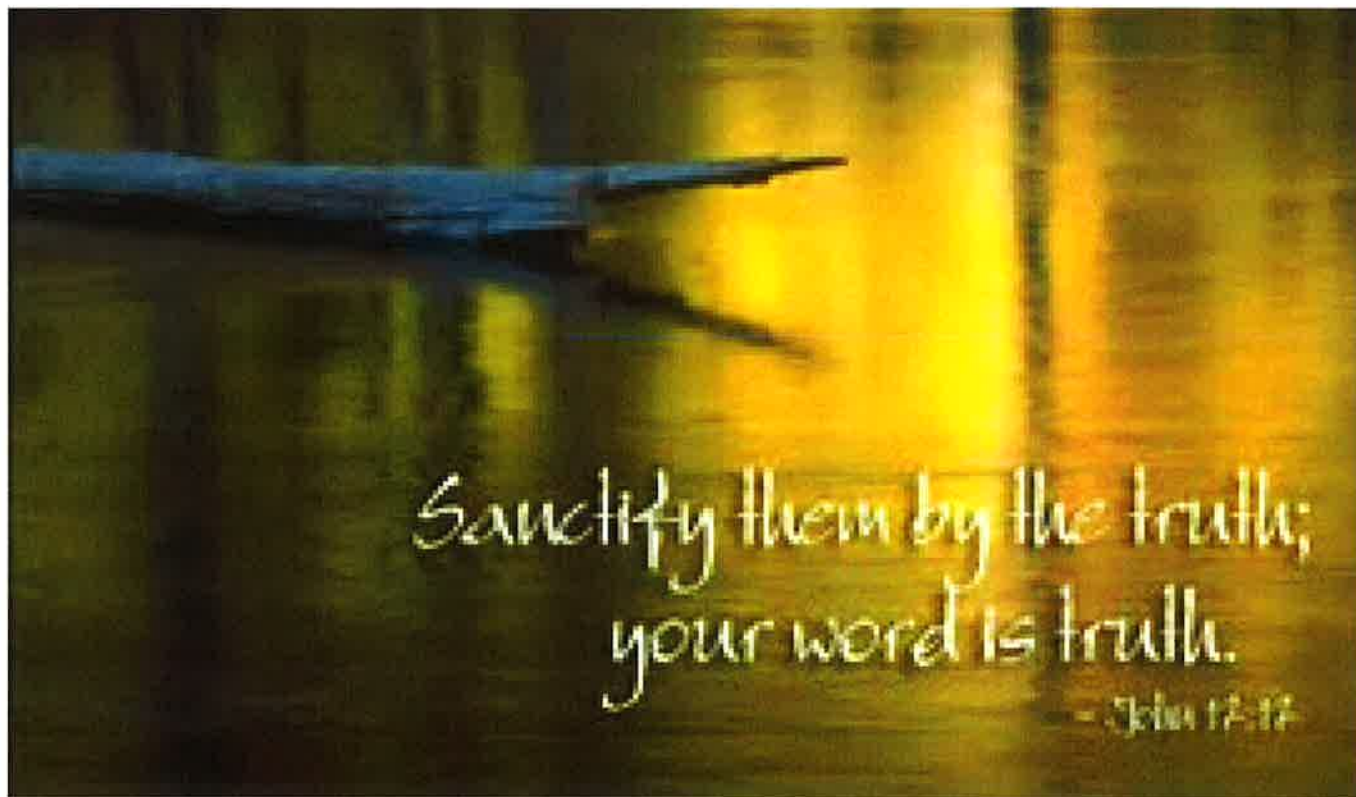
Another word that we often use when we discuss the Christian faith is sanctification. Sanctification means to sanctify something. Sanctify comes from the Latin word “sanctus.” Each Sunday in our service we sing a canticle called The Sanctus. It’s called that because the first word in its Latin translation is sanctus. There isn’t a whole lot of mystery to the meaning of this word. It simply means “holy.” So, to sanctify something is to make it holy. For something to be called sanctified, it has to be made holy. The way that something is made holy is that the Word of God is added to it. Without the Word of God, the bread and wine in Holy Communion are just bread and wine. Without the Word of God, the water in Holy Baptism does nothing. Without the Word of God, nothing is holy and there is no sanctification. When we talk about sanctification in terms of a Christian’s life, we’re talking about how our lives are made holy by the Word of God and also talking about how that manifests itself in doing good works.

It’s very important to remember to keep last month’s word, justification, and sanctification in the right order. In order to live a sanctified life--indeed, in order to do good works--one must first be justified. As we confess in the meaning to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, “[We] cannot by [our] own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ [our] Lord or come to him, but the Holy Spirit has called [us] by the Gospel, enlightened [us] with his gifts, sanctified and kept [us] in the true faith.” (Luther’s Small Catechism) We can in no way improve our standing before God. That has to be done to us and in us by some outside force. The Holy Spirit working through the Gospel is that outside force. The Holy Spirit delivers to us the benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection.

So there is no cooperation on our part when it comes to our justification, but once we have been justified we *do* cooperate in sanctification. Through the Holy Spirit’s work faith is increased daily, love strengthened, and the image of God, which was lost since the fall of man into sin and that we lack because of original sin, is renewed.

Where does the Holy Spirit do this work? He does it only through the Word of God, through Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar. We come to these things to be renewed and strengthened in the faith so that we can live lives of service, doing good works for the benefit of our neighbors. After all, God doesn’t need your good works, but your neighbor does!

In Christ,  
Pastor Vandercook





## Easter Vigil - What's that?

We're all familiar with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, but there are probably not as many of us that have ever been to - or perhaps even heard of - an Easter Vigil. While it may be new to us, it's actually a very old service. We're going to have an Easter Vigil here at Shepherd of Peace this year on April 15 at 7:30pm. Here are few notes about the Vigil and what to expect:

The Vigil of Easter, which is celebrated at the end of Holy Saturday as the conclusion of the Triduum ("Three Days" in Latin - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are the first two), ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. The Vigil connects the days of Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, with the culminating celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

In some places throughout the early centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil, which means "keep watch," through the night in expectation of Christ's return. A vigil in expectation of Christ's return at Easter became a common feature of the celebration of His crucifixion and resurrection. The vigil consisted of prayer, psalms and hymns, and readings, especially from the Old Testament, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection at dawn with the Lord's Supper. As the Church gathered in vigil, she waited in hopeful expectation for the appearance of the resurrected Christ in those most recently born in Him, the newly baptized. During the vigil, those who had prepared throughout Lent to be joined to Christ were baptized. At the dawn of the the new day at Easter sunrise, the newly baptized joined the entire Church in the chorus of alleluias at Christ's resurrection from the dead.

While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. As a service of watching ushers in the resurrection, the Vigil of Easter is comprised of six parts: the Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Holy Baptism, the Service of Prayer, the Service of the Word, the Service of the Sacrament.

Because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum, the service ends with the Benediction, which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum, and the Easter Acclamation: Christ is Risen!

The service actually begins outside of the church building. We'll be gathering around a fire on the steps outside the main entrance. The new paschal candle for 2017 will be lit from this fire as well as individual candles given to all in attendance (the ones we use for Christmas Eve). We will process from there, following the paschal candle into the dimly-lit sanctuary which will already be decorated for Easter.



Easter Service—He is Risen! 9am

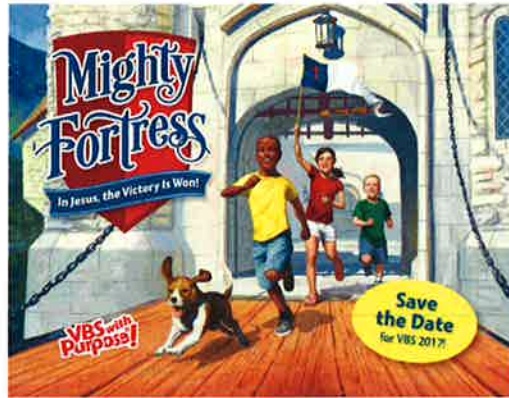
Potluck Brunch—10:15am

Easter Egg Hunt—Following





VBS dates are June 8th and 9th from 5:30-8:30 and June 10th from 9:00am until 12 noon. This year we are adding an Adult VBS to the lineup. Dinner will be provided on Thursday and Friday and breakfast on Saturday! Please call Georgie to sign up and help us showcase His Mighty Fortress!



April 8 @ 10am!

It is time to get us cleaned up and ready for Easter! Every hand is needed to make His house beautiful!

Voices lifted to the Lord are needed! Please consider adding yours to our choir! Janet Elwood is the director. You can talk to her or any of the other choir members to get started. The normal schedule of rehearsal is every other Wednesday evening.

#### A NOTE OF



The Kitchen Klub has had their hands full these past several weeks what with the Lenten meals, memorial service and those under the weather. We'd like to thank them and those that stepped in to lend a helping hand. We are grateful for their service to the members of this congregation and our community.



## DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT OUR SOP YOUTH ARE UP TO?



Let me introduce you to this young lady!!!!

She has been a member of SOP since 2005!

She is an active member of SOP Senior Youth!

Her favorite part of SOP?...”We act like a family...if you need anything at all...all you have to do is ask and everybody is willing to help!”

She has been on her school’s robotics team for years, where she programs the robots. This year they had to develop a robot to be used on a farm. It had to be able to do farm chores, such as picking tomatoes or taking care of pigs, without destroying them.

Have you guessed who she is yet?

She will spend this summer in Nebraska with her grandmother and Aunt working the farm.

She attends 11th grade at Parkview High School where she is a straight A student taking no less than 4 AP classes: Physics, Calculus, US History, and English.

Her ultimate goal after she graduates high school and attends university would be either an Architect or Forensic Scientist.

Guessed yet?

Her favorite pastimes? What she does for fun and to relax after all of that brain energy spent in her AP classes and Robotics?

Well...for one, she likes to doodle...so heads up for anyone looking to have memorabilia for one of our up and coming stars...she doodles on her church bulletin each week.

In 6th grade she started in the National Archery in Schools and is a natural. This year she placed 3rd at the State Tournament out of over 700 female students earning her a scholarship. But she doesn’t do it for the prizes or the trophies, she just enjoys it.

Even if you have guessed it...look for her on the last page!

teens





Our Choir will be presenting great music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. This is our gift to the Lord and to the Congregation.

This Saturday is Men's breakfast. We'll eat breakfast (provided by Pastor this time) and follow that up by beginning our study of Man Up! – The Quest for Masculinity, a new book by Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer. If you'd be so kind as to pitch in \$10 to help cover the cost of the books, that would be great!



#### **ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Spring Zone Event on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, Arkansas. It will start with registration at 8:30 a.m. and praise service at 9:15 a.m. The theme is International Missions and the main speaker for the day is Pastor Joel Fritsche, Missionary in the Dominican Republic. There will also be a special lunch program by Sue Nolte, local stained glass artist with "Glass from the Past." Registration, which includes lunch, is \$10.00. Let Esther Mahnken know by March 27<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend and also if you would like to ride with her from Trinity Lutheran Church that day. We would like to have as many women as possible to attend this event to show support for our Missionaries.

**"Sensing God"** is the theme for the **Women's Retreat** May 19-21. The theme verse is Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Retreat organizer Heidi Cox said, "God's love for us is extravagant, a sensory feast surrounding us, delighting us with His creation and stirring in us a desire to create as well."

Ladies will:

- SEE (star gazing)
- HEAR (music & God's Word)
- FEEL (creative expressions made by hand)
- SMELL (fragrant aromas mentioned in the Bible)
- TASTE (an afternoon tea -- as well as tasty retreat meals)

The Women's Retreat is \$90 for those who stay overnight in the cabins, \$60 for those who attend only the meals and sessions. Those who register and pay by April 20 can take \$10 off the registration fee.

To register, email [director@lutherancamp.org](mailto:director@lutherancamp.org) or call 501-652-6304. Check the Lutheran Camp website for details: [www.lutherancamp.org](http://www.lutherancamp.org).

# Sarah Marie Shepherd

