

The Trumpet

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church-The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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April 2017

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Submissions for the next Trumpet are due May 4. Your letters, articles, and photos are welcome!

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, our readings on Sunday come mainly from the Gospel of Matthew. This is the case as we near Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, April 9th, our reading will be the Passion Narrative from Matthew - chapters 26 and 27. On Easter Sunday, we will hear the account of Jesus resurrection from Matthew 28. It would serve you well to take time to read these chapters from the Bible as these days come nearer.

One event in Matthew's Passion Narrative that is quite beautiful is found in Chapter 26:1-13. Here is how it reads from the English Standard Version:

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people." Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

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Pastor's Page Continued

This event is very important to Jesus. He pledges that her actions will be remembered as long as the Gospel is proclaimed. Our observance of Holy Week and Easter will be strengthened if we can understand better what this event was all about. Here are some thoughts to guide your meditation:

1. Jesus begins by predicting that he will be crucified after two days. He had predicted His death to His disciples before this time, but here He tells them that the time is close – two days.
2. Jesus had many followers in addition to the twelve disciples. It is likely that this woman was one of His close followers. She hears what Jesus said, and she takes it to heart. Her Lord is about to die. What can she do? She cannot stop it. She cannot run from it. She can only do what she can to comfort and bless Jesus before He dies. So she takes this expensive perfume. The text points out that it was VERY expensive. It was also very fragrant. She pours it on His head. It runs down His head, soaking his hair and beard and clothes. The fragrance fills the room and covers Jesus. In doing this she confesses that she has heard the word of Jesus about His death, and she believes it will happen. She anoints Him for burial. What faith this must have taken!
3. The disciples are offended that she did this. Matthew tells us that all of them were offended. Why? They thought it was wasteful – the perfume could have helped the poor. They hadn't taken Jesus prediction to heart as the woman had. It is good to help the poor, but in this case, Jesus was about to die. Special notice should be given to His words as a testimony that they believed Him. Their response shows they were not ready for the events that were about to take place, a fact that is borne out when they ran away from Jesus and when Peter denied Him.
4. Jesus defends the actions of the woman. He knows that they came from her faith in Jesus words. He was dearer to her than any possessions. She used what she had to bless Him and prepare Him for death and burial. Her actions came from faith in what He had said. Therefore whenever the Word is proclaimed, calling on people to believe the message of salvation through faith in Jesus, she is remembered. In a time of fear, she believed and acted even when others shouted her down. Jesus is pleased with her and commends us to follow her example of hearing and believing His Word.
5. The fragrance of the perfume would have stayed with Jesus. The aroma of this anointing would have been powerful even at the dark times of the next days. The fragrance would have wafted from Jesus even as he is arrested and flogged and crucified and buried. All those around the cross would have smelled it. Jesus Himself would have smelled it. It served as a fragrant reminder that Jesus was the sacrifice offered by God to pay for the sins of the world. Indeed the fragrance of this offering would have hung on Jesus even as He came out of the tomb – a testimony to the true physical resurrection of Jesus.

This woman did something that took great faith. She gave a blessing to Jesus. We follow her example when we take Jesus' words to heart and believe them and trust in Him. God bless us with such faith now and forever.

In Christ,

Pastor Horn

"in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another"

Member Updates

Ray and Evelyn Lovell

Their phone number is the same.



Budget Update

As of March 30, 2017

Income: \$47,661.02

Yellow Envelopes: \$24,545.00

Loose Plate and Holiday Giving: \$4,585.42

FLC Lease: \$17,187.00

Thrivent Choice: \$224

Scrip Income: \$71

Expenses: \$55,785.77

Difference: (\$8,124.75)

Total number of members signed up to give electronically: 9

*Are you a Thrivent member? Are your Choice dollars directed to Gloria Dei?

*Do you go to the same gas station and grocery store? You can use gift cards bought through Scrip to buy your groceries or gas. The gift cards are easily reloadable online as well. If you need more information or you have any other gift cards you would like to buy from Scrip to benefit the church, let Heather know.

Catechism Convocation

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

The Word of Truth vs. the Word of Falsity



Saturday, April 22, 2017

8:30am-3:00pm

Concordia University Irvine

1530 Concordia West

Irvine, CA 92612

Matins at 9:00am, The Rev. Scott Stiegmeier, preaching

Speakers: The Rev. Alfonso Espinosa, "Cult and Occult and Christian Deviations"

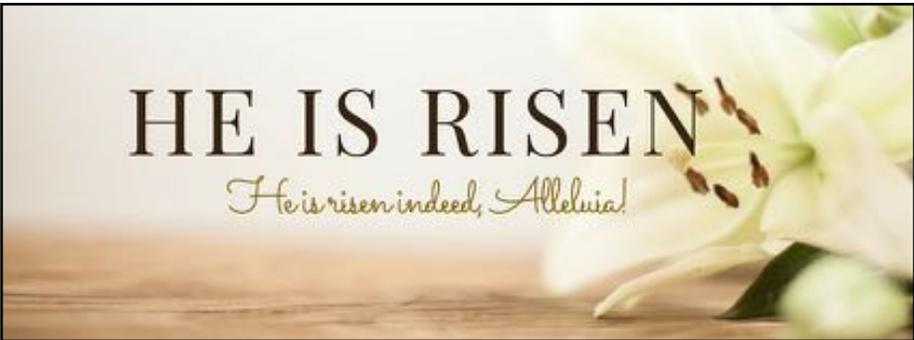
The Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg, "Justification/Sanctification/Life Through Means of Grace"
Lunch

Q&A Session with Pastor, Espinosa, Pastor von Hindenburg, Pastor Dargatz, and Pastor Parks
Divine Service at 2:00pm, Pastor Horn preaching

Sign up sheet is in Boettcher Hall or you can sign up at smallcatechism.com.

Youth Update

Thank you for supporting the youth group at our bake sales so far. We will also be making deviled eggs a week or two after Easter to support our Higher Things trip. We are signed up to go to the Higher Things conference in Bozeman, MT from July 18-21. Pastor, Heather, Mark, Nate, Rachel, and Maggie are signed up to attend. If you would like to learn more about Higher Things, check out higherthings.org.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9, 9am

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 14, Noon Devotions

Good Friday, April 14, 7pm service

Holy Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil, 6pm

Easter Breakfast April 16, 7:30-8:30am

Easter Divine Service, 9:00am

Easter Egg Hunt after Divine Service

Alternatives Women's Center

Gloria Dei has a long history of supporting Alternatives Women's Center in Escondido. Alternatives is a pro-life pregnancy center that assists pregnant women with pregnancy tests, early obstetrical ultrasounds, referrals for adoption services, pregnancy and parenting education, and needs for baby clothes and other items. Alternatives also has a mobile clinic through which they reach out with pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and education to the colleges nearby and other communities. This Epiphany, we supported Alternatives with a baby shower drive for baby items, and on Saturday, March 25, we participated in the Walk for Life. We are also doing a Baby Bottle drive right now. Please bring your baby bottles back to church the Sunday after Easter. Thank you for all you do to support Alternatives; they are always grateful for all of our support.

