

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

March 2023

During our Lenten journey we focus on Jesus Christ, who he is and what he did. This season of six weeks culminates in the remembrance and celebration of Good Friday which gives way to Easter, a celebration of hope and life.

Prior to Easter there is what appears to be defeat, the snuffing out of light and life and the victory of evil and darkness known as Good Friday. It goes back to a Jewish holiday; the Passover which every family celebrated on the 14th day of Nissan (March or April), Friday.



Passover was the celebration night when God sent his tenth plague upon Egypt that led to the release of the Hebrew nation. It was a night when the first-born male would die, both man and animal unless they demonstrated their faith by killing (sacrificing) a lamb and putting the blood on the door frames of their homes. It could not be just any lamb. It had to be a spotless and unblemished to be acceptable. It also had to be selected on "Lamb Selection Day" which was a Monday. The lamb would live with the family for a short time, until Friday. Lastly, the lamb could have no broken bones.

This celebration was a bold and loud proclamation about the coming Messiah who John the Baptist declared as the Lamb of God.

So, how is Jesus like the Passover Lamb? Jesus is the perfect Son of God; he never sinned and was spotless. It is very likely he entered Jerusalem on Monday of Passover week which would be "Lamb Selection Day." Jesus lived with "us" for a short 33 years and was sacrificed. On Friday he was killed. Lastly, unlike most crucifixion victims none of his bones were broken.

Not only is Jesus like the Passover Lamb, he is far superior to a lamb. Consider at least these four characteristics. 1) a lamb is an ignorant sacrifice, Jesus is not. 2) before God spoke creation into existence Jesus volunteered or agreed to the plan to redeem fallen man after Adam and Eve sinned. *Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*

3) The blood of lambs could only cover man's sins. Jesus' sacrifice forgives sin and cleanses our conscience. 4) Lambs only served as a picture of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Are you putting complete trust in the Lamb of God for your forgiveness and eternal life?

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Going To Heaven

How Can I Guarantee My Eternal Destination?

Face it. The day we step into eternity may come sooner than we think. In preparation for that moment, we need to know this truth-not everyone is going to heaven. How can we know for sure that we are going to heaven?



Some 2,000 years ago, the apostles Peter and John were preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to a large crowd in Jerusalem. Peter made a profound statement that resonates even in our postmodern world: "Salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4: 12).

Now as then, Acts 4:12 is not politically correct. Today it's popular to say "Everyone's going to heaven" or "All paths lead to heaven." There are many who think they can have heaven without having Jesus. They want the glory, but they don't want to be bothered by the cross, much less the One who died there. Many don't want to accept Jesus as the only way of going to heaven and are determined to find another path. But Jesus warns us that no other path exists and that the consequence for rejecting this truth is an eternity in hell. He told us that "whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:36). Faith in Christ is the key to going to heaven. Some will argue that it's extremely narrow-minded of God to provide only one way to heaven. But, frankly, in light of mankind's rebellion against God, it's extremely broad-minded for Him to provide us with any way to heaven. We deserve judgment, but God gives us the way of escape by sending His one and only Son to die for our sins. Whether someone sees this as narrow or broad, it's the truth. The good news is that Jesus died and rose again; those are going to heaven have received this gospel by faith.

Many people today hold to a watered-down gospel that does away with the need for repentance. They want to believe in a "loving" (nonjudgmental) God who never mentions sin and who requires no change in their lifestyle. They may say things like, "My God would never send a person to hell." But Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven, and He presented Himself as the Savior who offers the only means of going to heaven: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Who will actually enter God's kingdom? How can I guarantee I'm going to heaven? The Bible makes a clear distinction between those who have eternal life and those who do not: "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12). It all goes back to faith. Those who believe in Christ are made the children of God (John 1:12). Those who accept Jesus' sacrifice as the payment for their sins and who believe in His resurrection are going to heaven. Those who reject Christ are not. "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18).

An awesome as heaven will be for those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, hell will be that much more awful for those who reject Him. One cannot read the Bible seriously without seeing it over and over again- the line is drawn. The Bible says there is one and only one way to heaven-Jesus Christ. Follow Jesus' command: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Faith in Jesus is the one means of going to heaven. Those who have faith are guaranteed to get there. Do you trust Jesus?

Source: Answers.Org

Rainbow Fentanyl Trafficking is Rampant Says DEA

A New Jersey woman was arrested after New York authorities found her hiding 15,000 rainbow-colored fentanyl pills in a Lego box. At the time, it was the largest fentanyl seizure to date in New York City, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).



That seizure came on the coattails of the DEA's One Pill Can Kill initiative, which led to the seizure of more than 10.2 million fentanyl pills and about 980 pounds of fentanyl powder during May 23- September 8, 2022. In September, the DEA issued a warning about drug traffickers disguising fentanyl as colorful candy to appeal to children.

"Rainbow fentanyl-fentanyl pills and powder that come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes- is a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction among kids and young adults," said Anne Milgram, DEA administrator.

SURVEY

Confusion widespread in U.S. about Bible

Ligonier Ministries' State of Theology survey reveals the following beliefs among Americans:

- 44% say that Jesus was a great teacher, but He was not God.
 - 73% agree with the claim that Jesus is the "first and greatest being created by God."
 - 58% believe that God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
 - 56% agree that worshipping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.
 - 55% believe the Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.
 - 53% disagree with the claim that even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.
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CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023

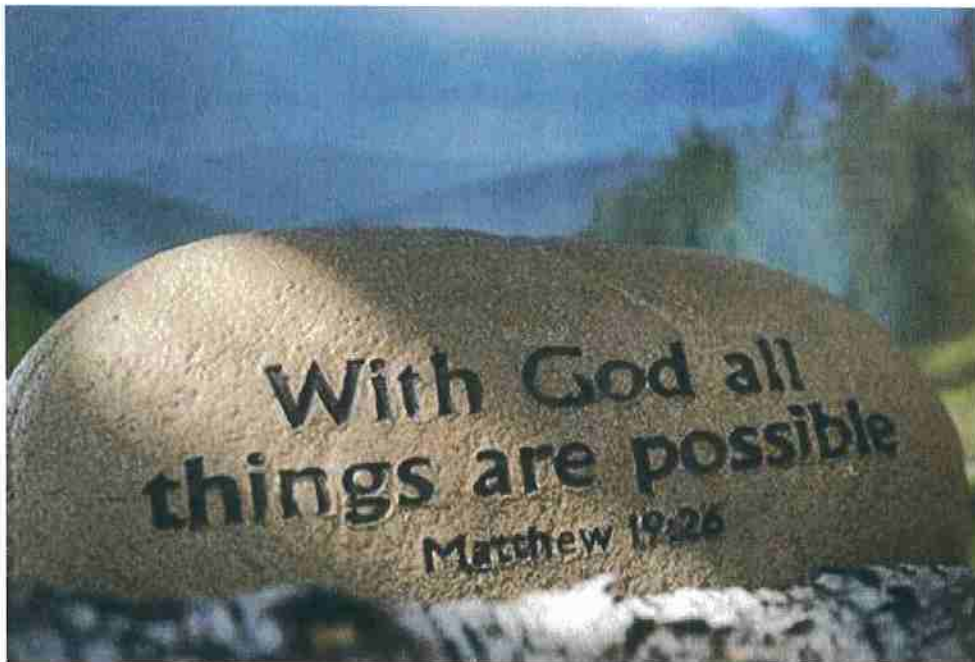
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|---|--|
| CHAIRMAN: | JIM DONTJE |
| SECRETARY: | VAL JOHANSON |
| TREASURER: | ANGIE LAWRENCE |
| TRUSTEES: | JESSE STENSRUD BOBBY SNITZER BILL KEEL |
| DEACONS: | GREG FLUGUM STEVE ABELE SARAH KEEL |
| FINANCIAL SECRETARY: CEMETERY COMMITTEE: | AMANDA CINK SHERRY FLUGUM MATT SWANSON RANDY STENSRUD |
| ALTAR GUILD: | BOBBI ELBERT (ALTAR CLOTHS) JAN/DEB (COMMUNION) |
| HEAD USHER: NOMINATING COMMITTEE: | BRANDON CINK DIANE SWANSON DEB STENSRUD JAN ABELE |

I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORD

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you Psalm 9:10

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32-33

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. Proverbs 3:5-6



MARCH SERMONS & SCRIPTURES

MARCH 5TH, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

MORNING WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

SERMON: Sukkot

OT Lesson: Leviticus 25:3-4 & Exodus 31:14-17

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 4:9-11

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 26:69-75

MARCH 12TH, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

SERMON: Yom Kipper

OT Lesson: Leviticus 23:26-32

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:31-36

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 27:11-26

MARCH 19TH, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

SERMON: Chanukah

OT Lesson: Daniel 9:20-27

Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3-12

Gospel Lesson: John 10:22-31

MARCH 26TH, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

SERMON: Purim

OT Lesson: Esther 4:9-17

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:28-39

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 27:35-44



Bible Quiz

Women of the Bible

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- ___ What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?
- ___ Who was Jacob's mother?
- ___ Who did Abram marry?
- ___ What was the name of Moses' sister?
- ___ Which woman was a seller of purple goods?
- ___ With whom did David commit adultery?
- ___ What was the name of Ahasuerus' new queen?
- ___ What was the name of Yeshua's (Jesus) mother?
- ___ What did Ruth do to Boaz while he was sleeping?
- ___ Which female judge described herself as 'a mother in Israel'?
- ___ Who did Yeshua appear to first after His resurrection?

1. Deborah
2. Mary
3. Miriam
4. Sarai
5. Daughter-in-law
6. Esther
7. Bathsheba
8. Rebekah
9. Lydia
10. Mary Magdalene
11. Uncovered his feet and lay down next to him



MARCH 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Communion Greeters: Dave & Alicia Reese Reader: Jack Smith Sound: Greg/Bobby Griefshare 2:00 PM LLS Rehearsal 12:00 PM B-Day: Bobby Snitzer | 6 | 7 | 8 Confirmation 4:30 PM | 9 Quilting 10:00 AM | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Daylight Savings Greeters: Bill & Sarah Keel Reader: Sherry Flugum Sound: Steve/Donna Griefshare 2:00 PM LLS Rehearsal 12:00 PM | 13 | 14 Council Deacons Meeting 6:45 PM Council Meeting 6:30 PM | 15 Confirmation 4:30 PM | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 |
| 19 Greeters: Don & Sue Reese Reader: Cathy Michlis Sound: Derek/Rachel LLS Rehearsal 12:00 PM | 20 B-Day: Matt Keel | 21 Women's Bible Study 2:00 PM | 22 Confirmation 4:30 PM | 23 Quilting 10:00 AM | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Greeters: Denny & Pat Hagen Reader: Sue Reese Sound: Devoni/Bobby Griefshare 2:00 PM LLS Rehearsal 12:00 PM | 27 | 28 | 29 Confirmation 4:30 PM | 30 | 31 | B-Day: Deanna Jordan |
| VOLUNTEERS USHERS: JIM & COOPER DONTJE CUSTODIANS: DON & BOBBI ELBERT ACOLYTE: SOPHIA REESE | | | | | | |