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Looking Back at Lent, Looking Ahead to Easter

We are right on the doorstep of Easter, so this is a good time to look back over the last several weeks and also look ahead.

We tried something new this year for Lent! We moved the service times a little earlier, shared a soup supper each week, and only joined together with the whole community for the final Wednesday in Lent.

At first, I thought it would be strange not gathering with the entire Viborg community, since that is “how it has always been” — at least for the last several years. But in retrospect, I think it went very well and was very nice. In our Lutheran roots, Lent is typically a time when we do exactly what we did: review the Small Catechism and hear about the Ten Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, and the Sacraments. In that sense, since we were gathering as Lutherans, it was perfect. It was also pretty cool to see the congregation grow in familiarity with the Holden Evening Prayer service each week. That’s a service both Ellie and I grew up using during Lent. My brother and I led it with my mom playing piano for several years during my junior high and high school years.

It was also amazing to see just how many of us gathered each week. I don’t recall how many attended on Ash Wednesday, but the four weeks of Lent that followed had 50, 50, 60, and 38 people (the last week was when the VH boys headed to the state tournament, taking a bunch of folks with them)! And of these people, nearly all came early to eat together. So for those who were curious how the season would work out, I think we can say it was a success. While the numbers are encouraging, what we should truly celebrate is the sense of community

that came from it. It did not matter which church was hosting — people showed up. It did not matter that the liturgy was new to most — people showed up. It didn’t matter that we had soup five weeks in a row — people showed up. On a Wednesday evening. In the middle of the week. Not once did I get the feeling that people were there only out of obligation — even though it was an obligation for the confirmands. Let’s keep that sense of community strong throughout our churches.

Now, that brings us to Easter. This newsletter will reach your inbox a few days before Easter. So know this: your Easter plans might not be perfect. The food might not all be done at the same time. Your “Easter best” might not fit as well as it did last year. However, Christ was still raised for you! The “reason for the season” is all about Christ’s death and resurrection — His taking your sins upon Himself and raising you up to new life in Him.

I encourage you to come to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. They are essential to understanding the full weight of Easter. It is our sin that sent Him to the cross — our unbelief, our distrust of Him. But just as the thief on the cross looked over at the Savior, we too cry out to Jesus for redemption. And the Lamb of God responds to us in the same way: “[Today] you will be with me in paradise.”

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Max Whitehead

Calendar

Wednesday, April 1

2:00 PM Bible Study

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 PM Worship @ SVLC

Good Friday, April 3

7:00 PM Worship @ OSLC

Sunday, April 5

~~9:15 AM~~ No Sunday School

7:00 AM Easter Worship Service

8:15 AM Easter Brunch

Wednesday, April 8

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 -5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal(Group @ 6:00 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 12

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:30 AM Council Mtg.

Monday, April 13

2:00 PM Circle Group

Wednesday, April 15

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 -5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal(Group @ 6:00 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 19

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, April 22

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 -5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal(Group @ 6:00 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 26

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, April 29

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 - 5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal(Group @ 6:00 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS



Ushers & Cleaners

April Ushers

- ❖ Kelsey & Alex Hanten
- ❖ Tim & Tammy Sorensen
- ❖ Troy & Kayla Larsen

Cleaners Mar 22 - Apr 4

- ❖ Tammy Zimmerman
- ❖ Tonya Rudd
- ❖ Kelli Zimmerman
- ❖ Amy Christensen
- ❖ Emily Thompson

Cleaners April 5 - 18

- ❖ Rita Westergaard,
- ❖ Wanda Kost,
- ❖ Charlene Overgard,
- ❖ Gail Anderson,
- ❖ Kristi Johnson

Cleaners April 19 - May 2

- ❖ Pam Ludens,
- ❖ Sarah Ludens,
- ❖ Lynne Elcock,
- ❖ Kari Novak,
- ❖ Tammy Sorensen

Looking Ahead to May

Sunday, May 3

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Easter Worship Service

11:30 AM Council Mtg.

Wednesday, May 6

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 -5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal(Group @ 6 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 10

9:15 AM Sunday School (Last Day)

10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, May 11

2:00 PM Circle Group

Wednesday, May 13

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 -5 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation Meal (Class @ 6 PM)

7:30 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 17

10:30 AM Worship Service

Worship Helpers

Sunday, April 5

Reader Youth readers
Acolytes Jolynn Eli & Nora Rudd
Communion Helper Lilly Huber & Kaleb Huber
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Brenda Whitehead

Sunday, April 12

Reader Mitch Larsen
Acolytes Lawson Mellem & Braxton Sorensen
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, April 19

Reader Dawn Kludt
Acolytes Ainsley Hanten & Beau Hanten
Communion Helper Brooklyn Ludens
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, April 26

Reader Amie Larsen
Acolytes Ryker Larsen & Barrett Larsen
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Brenda Whitehead

Scripture Readings

April 2 - Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3 - Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

April 5 - Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43,
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 - Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

April 19 - Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10



!!! EMERGENCY NEED !!!

PLEASE HELP END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Anything you can contribute would be very much appreciated. We do have a fridge and freezer for cold storage items such as meats and cheeses. Barbecue sauce, mayonnaise, sugar, flour, coffee, canned vegetables other than green beans, breakfast bars, toaster pastries, quick or cook oats, pasta, canned fruits, cooking oil, toilet paper and tissues. Thank you so very much in advance!



Join us for the Spring Valley Circle group! We meet on the second Monday of each month at 2:00 PM for fellowship, delicious desserts, and to explore the teachings of God's Word. Everyone is welcome!

ROTATING VENUE BIBLE STUDY



This Bible study takes place on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM with a rotating venue.

For additional information, please contact Pr. Max.

JRVCIS - GRADES 1-6
Wednesdays After School - 5:00 PM

We did it! We made it all the way through Lent while still continuing this group - something we had not attempted in the past. Was it busy? Sure. But it was worth it. The group continues to thrive. We have been going over the 10 Commandments the last couple weeks; not diving too deep into them, but priming their brains for when they might learn them in Sunday School - or helping solidify them for those that are in the midst of studying them.

The highlight is always our trips to the Nursing Home. Most of the kids love it, even if they might grumble a little bit. But when we get there, they are very well-behaved and participate very well! We introduced the song "Shake Another Hand" to the residents, and now each time that we go in, we sing that song and the kids get a chance to greet the residents with handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, and some gentle pats on the head. It is so much fun seeing the interactions between the kids and the residents. You can tell just how much it is appreciated on both sides.

CONFIRMATION - GRADES 6-8
5:45 Meal • 6:30 Lenten Service

The Lenten season is over! Nearly all of the confirmands were at every single service. Not only were they there, but they helped with each one. The kids helped in various ways: reading, ushering, and even leading the service vocally! I am very proud of the kids showing up (yes, they were supposed to) and having good attitudes ready to serve. Next week we will jump right back into our regular Wednesday evening schedule and kick things off with time spent hanging out with our friends at the Nursing Home!

VCIS - GRADES 8-12
Wednesdays • 7:30-9:00

We made it through Lent and served a soup supper before each of the 4 services that we held. In total, we raised over \$1,100! On top of that, we had an anonymous donor contact me about a matching grant where they would match all funds raised up to \$1,000. This will go a long way to get us to Boston. Many of the students have been accruing funds over the last few years and have made their fundraising goals, but the younger students who simply have not had as much time still have a little ground to make up. I am confident that they will be able to make it though.

We have 13 kids signed up to go to Boston as well as 4 adult leaders. A huge shoutout to our leaders who have agreed to spend the week with me and 13 students: Rachel and Zoey Christensen and Denae Mach. I and the kids are very excited.

As I mentioned, we haven't made all of the goals yet! While we still have some fundraisers on the horizon, if you would like to make a contribution without a fundraiser, feel free to let me know! We will gladly accept your generosity at any time.

On a note about other happenings, we will be having our Good Friday service as put on by the youth again this year! This service has evolved over the years, and I am excited to bring it back again this year. I encourage you to join us on Good Friday at Our Savior's to hear Scripture, sing a few verses, and watch as the Youth set the stage in the weight and gravity that is Good Friday. See you then!



Spring Valley
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Easter Brunch

Join us for a special Easter brunch following sunrise service! If you're able, please bring a breakfast item to share—such as rolls, muffins, or pastries. Let's celebrate together with good food and great fellowship!