

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 10 Russ Brown
Apr 14 Melissa Anderson
Apr 18 Al Fedkenheuer
Apr 18 Riley Woycenko
Apr 19 Bill Strand
Apr 20 Jake Rath
Apr 20 Sebastion Duque Rivera
Apr 20 Felipe Duque Rivera
Apr 22 Nevan McTavish
Apr 27 Bruce Beamer



FOOD BANK

FOOD OF THE MONTH

FOR APRIL

TINNED MEAT

JOIN US FOR

MAUNDY THURSDAY Passover Seder Supper will be held at 6:30 PM April 2nd. Sign up sheet is posted in the basement

EASTER BREAKFAST will be held at 9:00 AM Sunday April 5th. Sign up sheet is posted in the basement

MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Group will meet on Tuesday, April 21st, at 9:30 A.M. at the church.

HLW

The Highwood Lutheran Women's meeting will be on April 9 (instead of the first Thursday, as that is our Seder Supper evening). All ladies are welcome and if you would like a ride, please call Pat at 403-282-6516.

OBITUARY

Lilo Diemel, a long-time member of our congregation passed away on March 14th. She was living just outside Victoria BC where her daughter Brea and family had moved

TREASURER'S REPORT

2 Months ended Feb 28, 2015

Financial Summary

February current offerings were \$9,742, lent offerings were \$105 and church rental revenue was \$297. ELCIC benevolence receipts were \$848 and non budget benevolence receipts were \$475 all being to the CLWR. Total Feb 2015 church revenues of \$10,144 were \$1,073 down from budget. Year to date current offerings of \$16,925 are \$3,975 under budget.

February expenses of \$11,701 were \$332 under budget. Year to date expenses of \$23,021 are \$621 over budget.

Highwood had a net loss of \$710 for February. Highwood's year to date net loss is \$5,509 as compared to earnings of \$508 at Feb 28/14. Building fund – January donations were \$377. Balance in capital account at end of month was \$46,762.

Memorial fund – No change. Balance was \$5,468.

HIGHWOOD HIGHLIGHTS

The Newsletter of
Highwood Lutheran Church
419 Northmount Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2K 3H7
Web Site: highwoodlutheran.com
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PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends:

On April 5th we will again be celebrating the greatest festival of the Christian Church – Easter, the festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord. This day, and its message, gives hope, joy, and strength to Christians the world over; and the possibility of such hope and joy to all who hear it.

Certainly the most immediate impact the Easter message has for us is its announcement of the defeat of death. All people, of every nation, and of every belief, have this in common, that they must deal with death. All people have in common the experience of grief, loss, and sorrow that the death of those dear to them brings. All people have in common fear of their own death. For some, this fear is very strongly felt, and they are very aware of it. For others, they don't think of it often, but it is still there. In fact, for many, the reason they don't think of death often is because of a deliberate attempt to banish it from their thoughts, because it seems so dreadful. Because of all this, the news that death has been defeated is great and wonderful news that has an impact on all people. Of course, just what that impact will be depends on whether a person believes the news. Not all do. But for us who believe, the Easter news is the announcement that death is conquered, that it no longer has dominion, that we need not fear it any more. For us who believe, the good news is that after death comes life. In fact, after we die comes the truest and best life of all – life with the triune God, unstained, unhampered, unhindered by sin.

But there is more. Easter is also powerful in its message because of the great and joyful truth that it is Jesus' vindication. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is God's loud "Yes!" - his ultimate stamp of approval on everything Jesus said and did in his earthly life. That means, of course, that it is also God's loud "No!" - his pronouncement of veto on everything Jesus' opponents said and did.

This means that the message of Easter not only has an impact on our courage to face death. It also has a great impact on our discipleship – on our life of following

Christ and bearing witness to him while we live here on earth.

Jesus' life – the things he did and said, the example he set – were one great big rejection of the values of the world and the values that, by nature (sinful nature, that is), all humans have. It can be put very simply. By nature, all people's values are basically self-serving. Jesus taught, by word and by example, the opposite – that the only life worth living is one in which we live to love and serve God, and to love and serve our neighbor; forgetting about self! Jesus taught that we can trust God to take care of us and our needs.

The world hated this message! Service of self had been the accepted philosophy for so long – it had reigned supreme, without any effective challenge for ages and ages in all ancient civilizations. It resented this challenger. So it stood up to do battle, to silence this irritating troublemaker. The best way, it thought, to silence him, was to kill him. So Jesus was killed. Apparently – seemingly, that is, - the philosophy of the world had won out. On the surface, it looked like service of self was now going to continue to be the reigning philosophy of life. But God had other ideas. He raised Jesus from the dead, serving notice that the reign of death was over, and the reign of self-service was over too! For he is the final judge and jury; he is the ultimate authority who declares who was right and who was wrong in this struggle. And he decided in Jesus' favor. He vindicated Jesus.

So now, as you and I continue to live, and to bear witness to truth by word and by example, we know what side God favored. It was the side Jesus represented – the side of love and service to God and neighbor. That is the way of life that we pray our lives will bear witness to. And that's just exactly what it is: THE Way OF LIFE. Self-service is the way of death. But in Christ, and in all who follow him, it is the way of life.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter,

Pastor Horst

BISHOPS MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ –

I thank my God every time I remember you... (Philippians 1:3).

This year I am inviting you to reflect on portions of Paul's letter, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi (1:1b), as you gather for church council, adult study, youth group, coffee group and are engaged in learning, discernment and reflection together. Relying heavily on the writings of Fred Craddock and of David Lose, each article will include a brief reflection on a Scripture passage, questions for reflection and discussion, and a prayer. I encourage you, as we begin, to read Paul's letter in its entirety in one sitting; remembering as you read that this is a letter – of Paul – to a church.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who,

though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with
God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the
point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

Seeking to describe for the Philippians the mind or spirit or wisdom of Christ that they should imitate, Paul employs the strategy of a wise pastoral leader: he invites them to consider their own words. This passage about Jesus was most likely a hymn, you see, a hymn that the Philippians had probably sung in their worship on numerous occasions. Now, knowing of their struggles, of their hardship, or the threats both external and internal that they faced, Paul invites them to sing that hymn again, this time taking most seriously what it says about Jesus and, in this way, how they might draw encouragement from it.

Much can – and has! – been said about this “Christ hymn,” but here I draw your attention briefly to the contrast of the “original form” of Jesus and his “chosen form.” Though “in the form of God” he did not shield himself from difficulty; he did not request the privilege of his station; he did not exalt himself or exploit his status in any way. Rather, he chose to be found “in human form,” subject to all that afflicts humankind;

all, that is, that afflicts us.

This is Paul's understanding of the “incarnation” – God's willing choice to take on our lot and our life in Jesus so that God might identify with us wholly and completely. There is nothing, that is, that we experience – no fear, no joy, no sorrow, no pain, no disappointment, no hope, no betrayal, no dream, no failure – that God has not also experienced. God knows us fully and completely through Jesus, the Son of God who chose not to be exalted but rather to live our life, even to the point of death.

And not just any death – in the one line scholars believe Paul added to the familiar hymn – but the humiliating death of being executed as a criminal on a cross.

Why? So that we might know God's profound love for us; God's desire to be in complete solidarity with us; and God's commitment to be always for us. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Read and Reflect: Philippians 2:5-11

Discuss and Reflect:

What in this reading leads you to say, “I wonder about...”, or, “I noticed...”

Comment on the following: This is Paul's understanding of the “incarnation” – God's willing choice to take on our lot and our life in Jesus so that God might identify with us wholly and completely.

Comment on the following: Why? So that we might know God's profound love for us; God's desire to be in complete solidarity with us; and God's commitment to be always for us. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Pray together: Gracious God, remind us always of your love for us; your solidarity with us; and your commitment to be always for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen (Philippians 4:23).

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Larry

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada