

Mt. Calvary Messenger

MT. CALVARY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

908 W. HANSSLER PL.

PEORIA, ILLIONIS 61604

PHONE: (309/688-4321) FAX: (309/688-3062)

E-MAIL: MTCALVARY@MTCALVARYPEORIA.ORG

WEB SITE: WWW.MTCALVARYPEORIA.ORG



Mt. Calvary is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Volume 15, Issue 4

April, 2011



PASTOR'S COLUMN



DEACONESS' MESSAGE

On "Confessing" the Faith

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."

Luke 10:8-9

We've undertaken this topic before, but I am particularly reminded of the struggle we have in confessing the Faith by the District Church Workers' Conference that just concluded on March 21-22. The topic for the conference was "Youth Ministry." The main speaker was Dr. John Oberdeck, who specializes in educating youth ministers, and who came to us from our Concordia University in Wisconsin.

One of the pieces of information Dr. Oberdeck shared with us was the result of a poll taken by the Barna Group back in 2007. Some of you may recognize the name "Barna" - George Barna has been gathering and organizing polling data about Christians and their congregations for almost 30 years now. He approaches his findings from an "evangelical" perspective, which means that not every way he expresses things would satisfy a strictly biblical perspective, but some of his findings are useful to ponder. And the finding from 2007 that has left many church leaders shell-shocked is this: in

(Pastor's Column continued on page 6)

This season of Lent points us to self-examination and repentance. Not that we should forget these for the rest of the year, but this time in the Church year points us even more to our need for the Savior. We are reminded again that we are by nature sinful and unclean, but we remember too that in Christ our Lord we have freedom from sin (Romans 6:3-7). Freedom! So why, you may be wondering, am I still writing about us being slaves of God when we are thinking about being free?!

Freedom - the word is music to our ears, especially as we live in a country that places great value on personal freedom. We are indeed blessed to live in a society that gives us a great deal of freedom - freedom to worship the true God, to assemble for Divine service, to travel, to choose where we will live and where we will work, and so on. But the laws of the land and cultural values are not what define spiritual freedom.

We live in a culture that sees freedom as the ability to be one's own master. Scripture makes it clear, however, that *spiritually* there is no such thing as a "free agent." We cannot be our own master. We are slaves either to sin or to righteousness (Romans 6:16-18) - and as baptized believers it is the Lord who is our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6; I Corinthians 1:30).

(Deaconess' Message continued on page 2)

Deaconess' Message (cont.)

(Deaconess' Message continued from page 1)

No one has the option of thinking: "I'm not going to be anyone's slave" or "I'll decide tomorrow whether I'm going to serve the Lord or to serve Satan." We always belong to one or the other. When God frees us from bondage to sin, we become His slaves (Romans 6:22), unless of course we reject the One who bought us.

So what can we expect as God's slaves? Do we do good deeds as part of our duty as slaves, to try to earn favor with our Lord? Where I lived in New Mexico, many people would perform acts of piety during Lent and Holy Week, imagining that this would somehow make them better people in God's eyes. But this is not what being God's slave is about. Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord is the *gift* of God to His slaves (Romans 6:23). Yes, He has created good works for us to do, and we should not spurn those, but they are not the means to our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Two of the Old Testament themes that I mentioned before in relation to being a slave of God tie in very closely to our Lenten focus:

- God's lovingkindness, compassion and goodness (even though His people are sinful).
- The LORD as the One who redeems, delivers, and atones for His slaves.

Through the prophet Jeremiah (30:10-11, 46:27-28) the LORD tells His slave (the people) not to fear or be dismayed even though He has scattered them. Although He will chasten them justly, He is with them to save them, and He will not make a complete end of them. Psalm 135 calls on the slaves of the LORD to praise Him for He is good (verses 1-3). The psalm goes on to tell of the LORD's wonderful acts, and then we read in verse 14: "For the LORD will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His slaves."

The theme of redemption is common in the Old Testament "slave" texts. Psalm 34:19-22 points ahead to the crucifixion as John 19:31-36 makes clear. The psalm also speaks of the Lord redeeming the soul of His slaves: "Many are the afflictions of the Righteous, But the LORD delivers Him out of them all. He guards all His bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the Righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His slaves, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned."

Through the prophet Isaiah, the LORD, the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, tells Jacob, His slave, Israel whom He has chosen, not to fear (44:1-3, 21-22), and speaks of how He will bless them. He will pour out His Spirit on their offspring, and His blessing on their descendants. They are to remember these things for they are His slave and will not be forgotten by Him. He has wiped out their transgressions like a thick cloud and their sins like a heavy mist.

The LORD describes Himself in Isaiah 54 as Israel's redeemer (verse 5); He speaks of the everlasting lovingkindness He will show to those from whom He hid His face for a moment (v. 8-10), and the future blessings He will bestow on them (verses 11-17). This is the heritage of the slaves of the LORD, whose righteousness is from Him (verse 17).

Let us rejoice to be the slaves of our Lord. As His slaves we can repent of our sin and still have the hope that Easter celebrates, because He is our Redeemer and our Righteousness.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Zachary Frank
Donna Stutz
- 5.
6. Phillip Benne
Elizabeth Tagge
Sally Taylor
- 7.
- 8.
9. Janet Heien
- 10.
11. LaVelle Borders
12. Mark Allsup
Judy Wright
13. K. T. Zapushek
14. Katie Maske
Harold Pauli
15. Robert Bloom
Linda Meyer-Knight
16. Carla Netters
- 17.
18. Barbara Craig
19. Deaconess Gillian
Rosalie Klockenga
20. Kimberly Beenders
- 21.
22. Bill Barr
Brandt Barr
Amanda Brosowske
23. Suzette Leon
24. Scott Brosowske
Cheris Hoffmann
- 25.
26. Matthew Freeman
Esther Hoffman
Kyle Hoffman
Emma Hoffmann
Jonathan Tagge
27. Randal Maske
- 28.
29. Jeffrie Riebel
- 30.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Jim & Dawn Henderson
- 18 David & Mary Connelly
- 18 Brandon & Laura Abel
- 24 Corky & Marilou Sutherland
- 25 Dale & Vonnie Brinkmann
- 26 Faw & Delcie Lane

Worship Notes

LESSONS FOR THE SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

April 3rd – 4th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 142: Isaiah 42:14-21
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 10th – 5th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-53

April 17th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1-27:66 and
John 12:12-19 (Processional Gospel)

April 24th – Easter Sunday

Psalm 16: Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 28:1-10

THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICES CONTINUE-

Have you tried the Thursday evening Worship/Holy Communion service at **6:00 pm**? It's a great alternative service for those who will be out-of-town over the week-end or want to commune weekly. The service is in a spoken and abbreviated format, but still traditional and reverent. The homily is based on the readings of the "one year" lectionary, so it's not a rehash from last Sunday! Give it a try and bring a friend! It's over before Bell Choir begins.

<i>Where Is It?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Worship Assistants	3
Calendars	4, 14
Christian Education at Mt. Calvary	13
Concordia News	10
Deaconess' Message	1, 2
Kid's Page	12
Mt. Calvary News and Announcements	8, 10
Pastor's Message	1, 6-8
Prayer List	5
Worship Notes	3
Worship & Stewardship/Personnel	11
Youth News	8



USHERS

- 8:00 Bob Wegner
10:45 Paul Fager

ELDERS

- April 3
8:00 Jerry Jungck
10:45 Paul Kroenke
- April 10
8:00 Jim Henderson
10:45 Gary Beenders
- April 17
8:00 Paul Kroenke
10:45 Tom Brosowske
- April 24
8:00 Jerry Jungck
10:45 Gary Beenders



ALTAR FLOWERS

- April 3
Angela Hamm
- April 10
Jim & Dawn Henderson
- April 17
Deaconess Gillian
- April 24
Easter Flowers

COUNTERS

Joan Ross & Carolyn Pauli

GREETERS

- 8:00 Harold & Carolyn Pauli
10:45 Linda Khattar



Lent & Easter Service Schedule



4th Sunday in Lent: April 3, 2011
Holy Communion offered at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services

Wednesday, 4th Week of Lent: April 6, 2011
The Law Exalted.... (Isaiah 42:14-21)
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)
Evening Prayer - 6:45 p.m. (dinner at 5:45 p.m.)

Thursday, 4th Week of Lent: April 7, 2011
Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.



5th Sunday in Lent: April 10, 2011
Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 5th Week of Lent: April 13, 2011
Life for the Dead.... (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)
Evening Prayer - 6:45 p.m. (dinner at 5:45 p.m.)

Thursday, 5th Week of Lent: April 14, 2011
Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 17, 2011



Procession & Blessing of the Palms, Reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew
Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services

Monday of Holy Week: April 18, 2011
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.
Evening Prayer - 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week: April 19, 2011
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.
Evening Prayer - 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week: April 20, 2011
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.
Evening Prayer - 6:45 p.m.

The Triduum: The celebrations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter were the first regular festival in the Church's calendar - dating back as far as around 150 AD. In fact, together, they were seen as one great "service" of worship - with the congregation simply dispersing between the various parts of the liturgy, but never really ceasing the receiving of God's gifts in Christ or their worship - hence the ancient name for these services is *the Triduum*, "the Three Days." We earnestly entreat you to join us for the "Three Days" at Mt. Calvary as we again celebrate Christ's great work by which our redemption is accomplished.

Maundy Thursday: April 21, 2011



Holy Communion - **11:15 a.m.**
Holy Communion & the Stripping of the Altar - **6:30 p.m.**

Good Friday: April 22, 2011



Noon Prayer & Commemoration of the Cross - **12:00 p.m.**
Tenebrae - **7:00 p.m.**

Saturday of Holy Week: April 23, 2011

Easter Eve Vespers - **7:00 p.m.**
(this special service features the reading of the history of the moments in salvation history that lead up to Christ, prayer, the renewal of baptismal vows, and the lighting of the new paschal candle)

Easter Sunday: April 24, 2011



Holy Communion & the Easter Proclamation - **8:00 a.m.**
Congregational Easter Breakfast to follow (Continental)
Holy Communion - **10:45 a.m.**

Prayer List



Prayer Notes: Folks have asked from time to time “who all are we praying for?” Here’s a partial list with reference to their relation to the congregation. If you know of anyone who

needs to be added, or who can be removed, please let Pr. Long or Judy know.

- † Babe Culp - member
- † Geri Nordstrom - member
- † Lena Nordstrom - member
- † Andrew Willetts - friend of Long Family
- † Herb Schmedt - member
- † Corrine Johnson - sister to Sally Taylor
- † Martin Honig - relation to Judy Honig
- † Richard Johnson
- † Jacob Achterberg - grandson to Ron & Lilliann, nephew to Linda Khattar
- † Elwin & Phyllis Basquin - parents to Luann Claudin
- † Don Peterson - father to Vicky Brosowske
- † Mikayla Schauble - friend to Maxwell family
- † Mary Bonesteel - friend to Long family
- † Ethan Saunders
- † Stephanie Hampton
- † Alice Mauschbaugh - member
- † Gail and Jonathan von Holten - friends of Jarod & Jessica Harmon
- † Beth Beenders - member
- † Sharon Wenger - daughter to Tom & Sally Taylor
- † Kathy Hafley - daughter to Tom & Sally Taylor
- † Tom Boulter
- † Sandy Kissner - relative to Connie Kissner & family
- † Joel Hoffmann - son to Cheris Hoffmann
- † Gerald Hull - brother to Sally Taylor
- † Pr. Hoech & family - our “TIM” missionaries
- † Wilma Kost
- † Robert Kissner - member, deployed military
- † Brandt Klawitter - grandson to Gwen Klawitter, deployed military chaplain
- † Eric Lonn - friend to Horst family
- † Greg Browning - member
- † Gary Smith - Brother-in-law to Rick Laredo
- † Donald Browning - Grandfather to Tina Maxwell
- † Shirley Poole - Mother to Luann Cooper
- † Grace Burdett - mother to Rick Laredo
- † Beverly Watkins - member
- † Dave Maxwell - husband to Tina
- † Cass Warren - sister-in-law to Carol Wessler
- † Amanda Wilson - member
- † Charles Sommers - friend to Cheris Hoffmann
- † Connie Johnson - sister-in-law to Pam Barr
- † Elizabeth Rein - member
- † Judy Kindstrom - niece to Carol Warren
- † Kieth Philips - cousin to Larry Bentz
- † Larry Bentz - member
- † Pr. Paul Park - chaplain at Lutheran Hillside Village
- † Barry Johnson - brother to Pam Barr
- † Elinor, Paul, and Cheryl Rosenak - friends to Cheris Hoffmann
- † Bill Hartmann - friend to Bob & Cindy Wegner
- † Leah Whittaker - friend to Molly & Mary Horst
- † Ronny Norman - brother to Joan Waldron
- † Ken and Anne Crank - family to Phyllis Knebel
- † Joan Waldron - member
- † Julie Hafley (and unborn child) - granddaughter to Tom & Sally Taylor
- † Carolyn Vahle - cousin to Judy Honig
- † Pr. Glenn Niemann - St. John’s, Pekin
- † Tim and Paula Lynch - niece and her husband to Phyllis Knebel
- † Bill Meisner - friend to many
- † Wendy Foote - member
- † Melanie Francis - friend of a member

Pastor's Column (cont. from page 1)

the general population of the United States, among people 16 to 32 years in age (I don't know how this particular segment is chosen), 82% had an *unfavorable* impression of "the church" (which Barna takes to mean the kind of "organized" Christianity one encounters in a local congregation or in a structured denomination). Let me repeat that: **82% unfavorable.**

This begins to impress upon on one the enormity of the task before us in our call to witness to the hope that is in us. We are not going out into a world that is waiting to hear what we have to say, or that is even all that interested in seeing what we are doing. Rather we go out into a world that thinks it has heard quite enough from Christians already, and frankly wishes we would be quiet.

And that leaves us with a curious task - we know that we are called to confess the Faith - but we are also live at peace with all in as much as it depends on us. So how to do we carry the Good News to a world that thinks it has already had enough?

First, we return to the root meanings of confession and witnessing. To confess is literally to "say the same as." That is, when we "confess" Christ before men, at the simplest level we are simply saying the same about Jesus as what the Scriptures say - that He is born of Mary, fully human, and begotten of His Father, fully divine - that He is our Lord and Savior, Who died for our sin, and by Whose death and resurrection we have new life. And that's just the beginning. But the interesting thing about confession is that it is a "neutral" term - in the sense that it doesn't necessarily carry either an active or passive implication - it doesn't say whether you need to be out knocking on doors to tell people about Jesus, or whether it is enough to simply recite the Creed in worship - both can be confessions of Christ "before men," or in a public

sphere. You can be seen in church - your action is making a confession along with your words. Indeed, a whole other realm of confession is how you treat others and deal with challenges of day to day living. What do your actions confess? Trust in Another Who loves you and has redeemed you, or trust in this world and its ways? We need to be aware of our confession - both in terms of our words and our deeds. Both need to be line with the Faith delivered to us through the prophets and apostles.

Similar observations can be made about "witnessing." The core of this word points to giving evidence about what you know to be true. Think simply of a witness in the courtroom. So you can see that there is a close relation between witness and confession - for what we know is true is really nothing other than what is revealed to us in Scripture. Now, we might add to confession an account of how the Faith has influenced and been important in our own lives - and that is a kind of witness as well - but we want to make sure that the truth of Jesus is primary.

And when we keep "confessing" and "witnessing" in the right perspective, then we do not have to be afraid of the world's unfavorable view. We can go about our business without worry for what the world does or doesn't like. For the temptation, in these latter days, is to try to make the world like us, or to go after the world to tell them how wrong they are. I like to refer to it as the "woo or shout" phenomenon: we either desperately try to do whatever it takes to make the world to notice us in a positive light (woo), or we increasingly find our message aimed at getting the world to see how doomed it is apart from the Church (shout).

Both of those responses unfortunately appear to

Pastor's Column (cont. from page 6)

feed right into reasons the 16-32 year olds gave for their unfavorable impressions. They claimed the church is too judgmental, not accepting of homosexuality, too political (in a conservative way), hypocritical, insensitive, not accepting of other faiths (sic!), and out of touch/old-fashioned. As you can see – if we try to change our proclamation and practice to address those criticisms, we only risk being as hypocritical (pretending to be one thing when we are, in fact, something other) as we are perceived to be. On the other hand, if we continue to harangue the world with an ever more shrill voice, we convince them that we really are insensitive, judgmental, and so on. It seems that we are in “no-win” territory.

Except for one thing: The Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation! The Word accomplishes that for which God purposes it, and it does not return to Him empty.

St. Paul once commented to the Corinthians that God hath chosen the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. Right now we are in an era when God is letting the Church appear to be a weak thing before the world – at least here in North America. We hear of scandals, we see weak and confused confessions and faith. Many otherwise faithful congregations fail to maintain financial viability, while many congregations that cater to every “wind of doctrine” attract droves of followers.

We live in complex times – but not hopeless. For the gates of hell shall not prevail against Christ's Church – and the Lord has promised to raise up and sustain faithful confessors in every age. The generation growing up around us (and within us, for the statistics on “Christian” youth and their involvement in church are pretty dis-heartening too) – may not be disposed to give us a fair hearing, and outreach that is done in keeping with what Scripture

gives us may seem to yield little fruit. But the Lord is faithful – and He will gather a people to Him, whether we can always see how that is happening in our immediate context or not.

Indeed, at the conference, we heard two different prescriptions for how to approach the situation facing us. One presenter told us that classic Lutheran emphases on things like Jesus' atonement, that we are in this life justified and sinners at the same time, that we all have specific callings in the world and the gifts in faith to serve others in those callings, that the sacraments address our need for concrete and experiential aspects for faith to hang on to – these and other classic “Lutheran” doctrines would all seem well suited to address the concerns and needs of the current generation. We simply need to “stay the course,” and remember to be warm, genuine, engaging, and open to all those who walk through the doors of our congregations. Another presenter literally told us that we need to change what we like and find comfortable in order to reach a “different” generation, and that we need to share Jesus with the same intensity that the media “hypes reality stars.” Otherwise, he claimed, the church's proclamation will get lost among all the other media and messages that bombard the current generation.

Friends – we are given to confess Christ in word and deed – at church, at home, and in the public sphere, wherever that may be. And we are given to do that in humility, with sincerity, and I would say, quietly. Never hide that you are who you are, that you know Jesus is your gracious Lord and Savior, that you worship Him, listen to His Word, and love to receive His forgiveness. Do what you know is right – and don't be afraid of being thought of as “narrow,” “judgmental,” “hypocritical,” and so on. On

(Pastor's Column continued on page 8)

Mt. Calvary News and Announcements

(Pastor's Column continued from page 7)

the other hand - understand that while we cannot give up the truth about right and wrong, and while the Church must certainly stand for life and for the sanctity of marriage, among other public issues - we are not called to go out and pick fights. We are called to love - and within love, we hold up what is right.

So go forth - with a realistic understanding of where we are in the world - and with the cheerful confidence that the Lord continues to do His work, regardless of the polls.....

Yours in Christ,

FROM CAMP CILCA



The theme this year is "Jail Break! Breaking the Bonds of Sin and Living a New Life in Christ!" There are camp sessions open for all ages during the summer. Check out their schedule at www.cilca.org and to register your child for a week at camp. If you register and pay in full by April 9th, there is a \$15.00 discount.

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Our Lord Jesus himself demonstrated how the resurrection of the body will work. His rising authorizes Him to perform mine. And yours. My Redeemer lives. Yours does, too." *Rev. Mark Jeske, speaker on "Time of Grace"*



Peoria Area Lutherans for Life generally meets at 6:30 pm the 4th Monday evening of the month at Mt. Calvary. Their next meeting will be on April 25, 2011. Please join them.



YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Spring clean-up day is Saturday, **April 9th**, beginning at **1:00 pm**. The Property Board is inviting you to help and will award points for faithful service.

We're also helping with the Easter Breakfast again this year. Set-up is **Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 am**, and then we'll serve at **9:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 24th**. You will earn points for good work.



Youthful Minds

There are two activities this month where your help would be appreciated:

- 1) The Board of Property has declared **Saturday, April 9th** as Spring clean-up day. They are planning to work on the church yard to get it ready for summer. If you have an hour or two to help them, your time and effort would be greatly appreciated.
- 2) The Mt. Calvary Youth will be setting up and serving the Easter Breakfast this year. The Youth Board has invited you to help them set up on **Saturday, April 23rd**, beginning at **9:00 am** and again on **Sunday, April 24th**, serving the continental style breakfast.

Again, any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.



EASTER FESTIVAL CHOIR

During Lent, the Adult Choir is rehearsing at 7:45 pm on Wednesday evenings (immediately following the Lenten service). We invite anyone who would like to sing with the choir, but can't make a yearly commitment, to join us for these rehearsals and sing with us for the Lent and Easter season. Please join us.



SENIOR CLUB MEETS

The Mt. Calvary Senior Club will meet on April 1st at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish to share, your own table service, and an appetite for good food. Everyone is invited – they do not check IDs at the door!

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY



Our Board of Property is planning a Spring Clean-Up Day. They would like to prepare the yards for summer, clean the planting beds, and put down mulch. Please put April 9th, 1:00 pm to finish (rain date - April 16) on your calendar and plan to help where help is needed. Remember, many hands make light work! Youth, you can earn points for helping.

ATTENTION ALL SINGLES

This July, the Lutheran Singles Association (formally ILSA) will be having a Conference in Illinois. Pastor Joseph Cunningham, from Valparaiso University will be speaking on the "Ships of Life" - Friendship, Fellowship, Worship, etc. It takes place July 9 - 12, 2011 just north of Springfield, IL at Camp Cilca. There are also plans to visit the Lincoln sights and other activities. To get a copy of the flyer please see Theresa Johnston at church, ask in the church office, or e-mail Lois Hesse at loishesse@ctitech.com, the conference chair.

Singles Conference



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of:



- † Hazel Rein, mother of Joella Michel, who was called to her eternal rest on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 and given Christian burial on Saturday, February 26, 2011;
- † Jane Bremer, who was called to her eternal home on Sunday, February 27, 2011, and given Christian burial on Friday, March 4, 2011;
- † Leonard Jones, (longtime member of Mt. Calvary) who was called home on Thursday, March 3, 2011, and given Christian burial on Monday, March 7, 2011;
- † F. Paul Klokkenga, brother of Harm Klokkenga, who was called home on March 10, 2011, and was given Christian burial on Monday, March 14, 2011; and
- † Ralph Nitz, father-in-law of the Rev. Derek Riddle, who was called to his eternal home on Thursday, March 10, 2011, and given Christian burial on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

May these families find comfort, hope, and peace in the Lamb of God, Who gave His life that we might have life.

LWML CONVENTION

The 34th Biennial LWML Convention is only two months away, and it is right here in Central Illinois. Registration information and forms can be found at www.lwml.org or in the winter Quarterly.

If you have never been to a National LWML Convention, come to Peoria June 23rd to 26th and you won't be disappointed. Come to the inspiring opening worship service, watch all the magnificent District banners enter the convention hall, and spend time with thousands of LWML sisters in Christ, "Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge." *They realized they had been with Jesus... "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

Acts 4:13b and 20 (NKJV)



News from Concordia

What's New and Exciting at Concordia: Visit their web site www.concordiapeoria.com to find out.

Thank You!

Everyone at Concordia truly appreciates the support the Mt. Calvary family gives us - from your prayers and financial support to your participation in our events. We hope you'll take a few moments to check out the Concordia bulletin board here at church - we've posted photos from several recent events and we think you'll recognize a few faces!

If you want to keep up on what's happening at Concordia on a regular basis, you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaPeoria>

CLS Band Needs Your Help

Donations are needed for healthy snacks, bottled water, juice boxes, and fruit for the band's Washington D.C. trip. The band will also continue to collect aluminum cans through April. The children in the band appreciate all of your support. They will leave on Friday, April 15th. **The send-off concert will be at 6:30 P.M., April 8th at Concordia. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Concordia Scrip:

Scrip is a program that allows you to make the purchases you already do and help Concordia. Enrollment forms and more details for the Concordia Scrip program are available from Luann Claudin, Concordia School, or the church office.

Scrip is now also online at [Concordia.scriporder.com!](http://Concordia.scriporder.com) Members need simply to contact one of the Scrip leaders to get an ID and password. If you aren't enrolled, call the school to sign up.

FROM LCMS LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF AND HUMAN CARE

Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan's northern island of Honshu, LCMS World Mission reports that all of our missionaries and their families are safe as well as those in our partner church, The Japan Lutheran Church. However, the Japanese people are going to need much help in restoring order. As needs are assessed, The Rev. Glenn Merritt, director of Disaster Response for World Relief and Human Care says they will respond appropriately as requested. The Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, asks that we join in prayer for the earthquake victims and their families, and, during this Lenten season, make use of the historic discipline of caring for the needy (Matt. 6:2-4). Donations for relief efforts can be sent to: LCMS World Relief and Human Care; PO Box 66861; St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Make checks out to LCMS World Relief and Human Care and note "for Japan Disaster Relief" on the memo line.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

Did you know that in 2010 your donations to the "Mouse" allowed Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria to give \$15,500 to each LSSI and Lutheran Hillside Village? Please continue to remember the "Mouse" in your spring cleaning (and your prayers, too!). We appreciate all donations including clothing, furniture, linens, kitchen items, toys, etc. Our **immediate need** is someone with a truck to occasionally pick up furniture donations. Could this be a service project for your men's group? Store hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 - 4:00 and Saturday: 10:00 - 3:00. The store is located on the corner of Sheridan and Main; Ph: 673-2363. Bring donations to the back door - it's so easy!

We are so blessed with this opportunity to share His love in and with the Peoria community! *From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16*

HOT CROSS BUNS

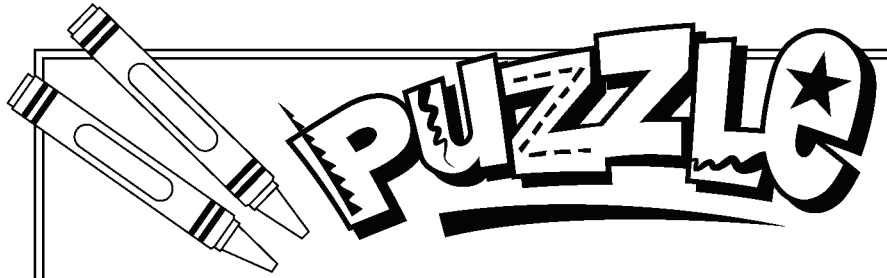
Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame

1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand

1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

“... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____, _____ its _____, and
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____.
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 and _____.” HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

Christian Education at Mt. Calvary

Sunday:

YOUTH:

Sunday School:

Age 3 through grade 6 meet downstairs.

Grades 7 through High School Students meet upstairs in room above the kitchen.

ADULTS:

A Walk Through the Old Testament: St. Augustine once quipped "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New." This reminds us that a basic understanding of the Old Testament is important in order to have a fuller understanding of God's work in Jesus Christ. Join us as we walk through the big events, works, and prophecies of the Old Testament that herald the coming of Christ and His work to redeem us. **Meets in the Parish Hall during the Bible Study hour.**

Women's Class :

This class is studying various Old Testament prophets. **They meet in the nursery room during the Education Hour.**

Wednesday:

Men's Bible Study:

What kind of challenges and attacks does Christianity face from an increasingly secular and hostile culture? How should we, as a church or as individual believers respond? Join us as we explore these issues and others while we read "Modern Fascism: The Threat to the Judeo-Christian Worldview" in our Men's Bible Study. **Meets 6:30 am at Bob Evans on Big Hollow Road.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Luke! On hiatus until May 4th. After years of moving through Old Testament history, the Wednesday night class has at last broken through to the New Testament! Join us as we begin to read through the Gospel according to St. Luke with its wonderful emphasis on Jesus' grace, His fellowship with sinners, and the journey of the life of faith. **Class meets in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm.**

Thursday:

Afternoon Bible Study:

The Gospel According to St. John: Sometimes simply called the "Fourth Gospel," this account of Christ's work and teaching was given as a supplement to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John is given to focus on Jesus' divine nature, the power of His word, and that faith in Him is what brings life now and in eternity. Join us as we read through this powerful witness to Jesus. **We meet at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.**



March 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

May 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

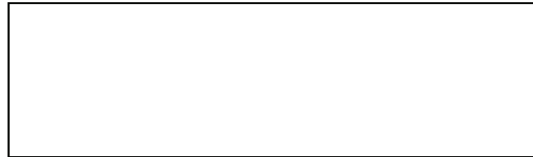
Saturday

<p>3 4th Sunday in Lent 8:00 a Worship/Holy Communion 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Classes 10:45 a Worship/Holy Communion</p>	<p>4 6:30 p Board Meetings 7:30 p Administrative Council</p>	<p>5 9-11 a Food Pantry 7:00 p Women of Mt. Calvary</p>	<p>6 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer Lunch follows 5:45 p Congregational Supper 6:45 p Evening Prayer 7:45 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 8:30 a Pastor has Chapel at Concordia 1:00 p Bible Study 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir</p>	<p>8 10:30 a Youth Confirmation 1:00 p Spring Clean-Up</p>	<p>9 10:30 a Youth Confirmation 1:00 p Spring Clean-Up</p>
<p>10 5th Sunday in Lent 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:15 a Anchoemen Rehearsal 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Classes 10:45 a Worship 12:00 p Worship & Music Committee 7:00 p Ruckle/Stutz Cell Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 11:30 a Circuit Conference</p>	<p>13 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer Lunch follows 5:45 p Congregational Supper 6:45 p Evening Prayer 7:45 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 8:30 a Pastor has Chapel at Concordia 1:00 p Bible Study 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 10:30 a Youth Confirmation</p>
<p>17 Palm Sunday <i>Sunday of the Passion</i> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Classes 10:45 a Worship</p>	<p>18 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:45 p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>19 4:30 a Board of Elders 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:45 p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>20 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:45 p Evening Prayer 7:45 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 Maundy Thursday 11:15 a Worship/Holy Communion 6:30 p Worship/Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar</p>	<p>22 Good Friday 12:00 p Noon Prayer & Commemoration of the Cross 7:00 p Tenebrae</p>	<p>23 Holy Saturday 9:00 a Easter Breakfast Set-Up 7:00 p Easter Eve Vespers</p>
<p>24 Resurrection of Our Lord 8:00 a Worship/Holy Communion 9:30 a Easter Breakfast 10:45 a Worship/Holy Communion</p>	<p>25 St. Mark Evangelist 6:30 p Lutherans for Life</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 4:45 p Executive Committee</p>	<p>28 8:30 a Pastor has Chapel at Concordia</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 10:30 a Youth Confirmation</p>



Mt. Calvary

Evangelical Lutheran Church
908 W. Hansler Pl.
Peoria, IL 61604



Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The purpose of this congregation shall be:

- *To spread the kingdom of the Word of God by :
 - ◇ *the preaching of the Word of God,*
 - ◇ *the administration of the Sacraments,*
 - ◇ *and the religious instruction of youth and adults according to the confessional basis of the Lutheran Church; and**
- *To foster Christian fellowship and charity.*