

Looking Back, Looking Forward

As I write this month's *Messenger* article Dawn and the boys and I are gearing up for a long-awaited Easter vacation in Texas. We'll be spending what I'm sure will be happy and relaxing days at my parents' house in Kerrville.

As we pack for our trip I recall our family trip to Texas in the spring of 2013. Conversation during that visit to my parents was dominated by the topic of my recently diagnosed thyroid cancer, my recently received call from Beautiful Savior, and, of course, Dawn's pregnancy (she was carrying little Benji at the time). What a lot to think about! You all may remember those days too, as Pastor Thompson would update you after the service as to what he and the Board of Elders had learned from me about my health situation and what I was deciding about the call.

God truly blessed me and my family at that time, in answer to your prayers and the prayers of many. He brought me through my May 3, 2013 thyroidectomy and led me to accept the call to serve as pastor here. Now Dawn and I can look back on three years of good health for me, as we also look back on three wonderful years with God's people at Beautiful Savior. (And of course three years of joy with our darling son Benjamin!)

By now the reader probably knows that Dawn and I are anticipating the birth of a third child in late September. That is certainly something to look forward to! We eagerly anticipate celebrating our baby's Baptism in the midst of you dear saints. And we look forward to Baby Groth "Growing" up here among you.

Perhaps my reminiscing above led you to some of your own reminiscing. What have the past three years brought in the way of changes for you and your loved ones? As we look back we can all see the gracious presence of God along our life's way, for He is true and faithful to His people. Even when we stray, He seeks us, in order to gather us close to Him again in forgiving love.

The glorious season of Easter is now upon us, and we are reminded that God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). We are also reminded that "in the Lord our labor is not in vain" (v.58). These truths give us great confidence to face and embrace the future. While reminiscing can be fun, our life in God's kingdom moves ever forward, never back. As God's people whom He has marked with water and His holy name, we have a unique role to play in this world. Toward what kingdom service is the Holy Spirit leading and empowering you, going forward? Loving, humble service in the home, with spouse and children? Contribution of time, talent, and treasure to the life and ministry of Beautiful Savior in Broomfield? Prayer and labor in the name of Jesus in our community and beyond?

I'm looking forward to the future with all of you! Yours in Christ,

Pastor Groth



THOSE SERVING IN APRIL

Ushers

Dave Esslinger
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown
Domino Mbise

Rick Mericle
Wayne Mericle

Elders

<u>4/3</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>4/10</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>
<u>4/17</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>4/24</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>

Acolytes

<u>4/3</u>	<u>Johnathan Acker</u>
<u>4/10</u>	<u>Joey Weinstock</u>
<u>4/17</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>
<u>4/24</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich & Katelynn Rose</u>

<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Shirley Quinlan & Martha Vinquist</u>
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HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA! We have just been guided through another ship and celebrate with our families, friends and church family. We have heard the story of Christ's resurrection and it has touched our hearts.

Christ has accomplished His work through the preaching and teaching of His word. He has touched the hearts, touched the people and brought to Him people who need to be saved. Through His wonderful celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. Many opportunities were available to work God has reached out to His people.

God's love has always reached out to His people through action. God's action reached out to Adam and Eve after the fall. He reached out to Abraham and gave him a child when he was one hundred years old. God's love totally covered the people of Israel during the Exodus. God's action, in love, can be seen in the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who laid down His life for all people.

God's great love action also calls to us to reach out to His people. We can share God's love with those around us in many ways. Sharing is one love action which moves from God, to us, to others. What do we have to share? We can share kindness, respect, friendship, and many earthly blessings. We can look around and find ways to reach out with God's love action to others in their need. Easter is a great time to share all we have so others can be touched by God's word.

Sharing our faith with others can be a challenge, often made more so by the stress we add to the process. A lot of times, we feel sharing our faith is an obligation, something we are supposed to do. We do not need to impose on others. We forget that the Holy Spirit is always at work and ready to help. With God's love at the center, we build a relationship with others and when opportunity presents itself, we share God's actions in a natural way.

We can be more prepared and trained to share God's word and actions of love when we listen to God's word ourselves regularly. We can read the Bible and join Bible class. Our Thursday morning Bible Class will begin shortly and Sunday morning Bible class is available to all. Daily devotions and walks with God also bring us closer to Him. In the Denver area a group called Dare to Share trains all age groups how to reach out in Christ's name. The Lutheran Layman's League will help add "salt to your conversation." It is called Mission U. It is an organized group which will take you from beginning to end in how to share your faith. More information can be found on www.lhm.org/missionu/speakersseries.asp.

SERVE THE LORD AND "DARE TO SHARE!"

Elder, Cliff Evans

Resources: "The Lutheran Witness", February 2016 and "The Lutheran Layman", March - April 2016

stir **UP**
the gift
of which
God is in
2 Tim 1:6 **you**



April Birthdays

April	1	Charlie Weinstock
	3	Daria Boniek
	9	Dorothy Ruff
	12	Jeanne Mericle
	13	Katelynn Rose Joey Ruckman
	14	Shirley Ehlers
	15	Wendell Slate
	17	Nancy Slate
	18	Pat Seifert
	22	Dawn Groth
	23	Mark Robey
	24	Doris Hintz
	25	Patti Golden
	26	Keara Woodburn
	27	Brandon Brech
	29	Justin Adams

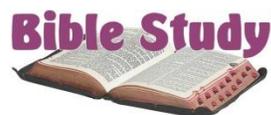


April Anniversaries

April	2	Mari & Kathy Robey
	15	Carl & Jan Sylvester
	19	Bob & Charlotte Davis
	24	Lou & Martha Vinquist

Adult Information Class Begins Saturday, April 23

A new session of Adult Information Class, in which the faith and confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is presented, will begin on April 23 at 9:00 AM. The once-a-week class will run approximately three months. There is no fee for this class, which is open to all—those wishing to learn what Lutherans believe, and also Lutherans desiring a review and deepening of the teachings learned long ago in Confirmation class. Each Saturday class will last 90 minutes. Our materials will be the Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation as well as the video series from Lutheran Hour Ministries, "God Connects". Please call the church office (303-469-1785) if you have interest in this class.



"Special Feature" for Bible Study Hour, Sunday, April 10

A movie is on our agenda for the first Sunday Bible Study after Pastor Groth's return from Texas. *The First Rosa: Teacher, Confessor, Church Planter* is a 42-minute film about a fascinating figure in Missouri Synod history, teacher-missionary Dr. Rosa J. Young, "the mother of black Lutheranism in central Alabama." This film, to be shown at 10:30AM on Sunday, April 10, is sure to spark thoughts and ideas among our young people about the exciting challenge of a career in church work.

The Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., director of LCMS Black Ministry, said: "Many people go through life anonymously, never using their God-given gifts to affect the lives of others. Others, from their early years, pray for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of some and by doing so change the course of history for untold thousands. Rosa J. Young was such a person, an ordinary lady who prayed to be used by God to serve a few, but God blessed her with the extraordinary gift to bless so many" (February 2016 *Reporter*, p. 9).



Thursday Morning Bible Study Resumes April 7 Month-long Topic: "All About Angels"

Join us in the fellowship hall at 10:00AM beginning April 7 for a new study lasting about four weeks. "All about Angels is a 4 session study that offers a clear, informative look at the biblical teachings about these servants and messengers of God, with an emphasis on how His grace and providence are demonstrated through these beings. What do angels look like? How do they protect us? What sort of "super-powers" do they possess? What happens when they fall? Well suited for youth, young adults, and adult Bible study participants, this study helps shed a clear light on an important part of God's creation—which many are trying to remold in their own image" (from the Concordia Publishing House website).



“The Lutheran Hour” Sermon Schedule for April 2016

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. “*The Lutheran Hour*” began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on 1400+ North American radio stations! Please tune to **850 KOA (AM)** at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings **OR** go on-line to **www.lutheranhour.org** (24/7) to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous sermons.

- Apr. 3rd** ***“Blessed Are Believers”*** (John 20:19-31)
By faith in Jesus, you are blessed - even as your struggles continue.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- Apr. 10th** ***“Breakfast with Jesus”*** (John 21:1-14)
Jesus shows up and shows us that God is close and God cares.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- Apr. 17th** ***“Confidence for Life”*** (John 10:22-30)
Jesus’ miracles were signs of God breaking into a sinful world, but the religious leaders saw it as a threat to their kingdoms.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)
- Apr. 24th** ***“One-upmanship”*** (Revelation 21:1-7)
Heaven will be more beautiful than we can imagine; it will rectify our problems and satisfy our most profound longings.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or mbrown_llrmd@comcast.net with any questions you may have about “*The Lutheran Hour*” or any of the excellent **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of our Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, please visit **www.lhm.org** or call **1-800-876-9880**. *THANK YOU!*



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Our Stewardship Message

(April 2016)



The greatest surprise about Easter is not that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead, out of the grave, that He conquered death and hell, and comes to meet you as He promised. The greatest surprise is that He did all that and is not angry. There is no fear for us in His return because He is not angry. He bears no grudge. He seeks no vengeance. He comes to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus lives and is not angry. Imagine that. He is not angry. He doesn't blame those who killed Him. He doesn't blame you. For no one takes His life from Him. He lays it down of His own accord. He gives Himself into death to win us back from sin, death, and hell. He does it willingly without coercion. He does it sacrificially, Him for us. He gave what was His to give. Thus His petition to the Father from the cross, "Forgive them" is granted to you in His resurrection. He comes alive out of death to forgive and to give His life to you.

There is nothing to be afraid of because Jesus is raised from the dead and is not angry. Thus we are free—free from worrying about how to make it up to Him, and free to give as He has given to us. He gave Himself as a gift, His life in exchange for our death, willingly and sacrificially. And so it is that we are now free to give in like manner: willingly, joyfully, sacrificially, with what we have been given.

We give to the church because it is in the church where our eyes have seen and our ears have heard that Jesus lives and is not angry. It is here where we learn of God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ. It is here where we continually receive that message of life, where He visits us to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

So do not be afraid. Jesus lives, and He is not angry. The sacrifice has been made. The debt is canceled and forgotten. Righteousness is declared. Jesus lives. He lives, and He is not angry. You are restored. You are reconciled to the Father in the Son. Your future is assured: Jesus lives. It is not just death and Hell, the devil and his demons, that are undone. Your sins, your fear are undone. They are gone, forgotten, destroyed. Jesus lives. Hallelujah! Jesus lives. And because He lives, you are just. You are right with God, pleasing and delightful to Him. You are forgiven, clean, pure, holy, and filled with His good works and with His Name. He is not angry. He is glad to have you. He wants you. He loves you. He gave everything that is His to and for you, willingly and sacrificially. In faith and trust in Him, let us do likewise.

We are "Consecrated Stewards" to the Glory of God!



In Christ, for the Church and the World

“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.” (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

Dear Family in Christ:

MERCY BEGETS MERCY – Making disciples and loving our neighbors!

(By: Rev. John A. Fale, Executive Director, LCMS Office of Int’l Mission-The Lutheran Witness Mar.2016)

Matthew reports that shortly after Jesus began His public ministry, He called to Peter and Andrew as they were fishing, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men”(Matt. 4:19). Shortly afterwards, He called James and John to also follow. Matthew then notes that Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in synagogues, preaching the Gospel, and healing people of all sorts of diseases and afflictions.

Jesus modeled for these first-called apostles what it means to bring God’s mercy to people in need. The text from Matthew reports that word of what Jesus was doing reached the ears of Gentiles throughout Syria, which was hundreds of miles away. Yet they came. I imagine they carried loved ones on carts and stretchers, even as they do today in many parts of the world when the LCMS sends a Mercy Medical Team. They came because they needed the mercy of God. Even though Syrians held Israel in disdain for centuries they humbled themselves because they were desperate to have their loved ones healed.

What did they receive when they arrived? The compassion of Jesus. He cared for their souls as He preached the Gospel to them, and He healed them of their diseases and afflictions – some with only a spoken word, others with a human touch.

As they received the mercy of God through the Gospel and through healing, many continued to follow Jesus. The mercy of God in witness and mercy “caught” them, if you will. The Holy Spirit called them by the Gospel, even as He does today. And they followed.

Likewise, Jesus sent His apostles to proclaim to everyone the Good News of God’s mercy and to heal (Luke 9:2). The apostles continued the ministry of Jesus, preaching the Gospel, baptizing people and teaching them to observe the Lord’s Supper as Jesus instructed. Part and parcel of their apostolic care was caring for those who were in need. Their model of ministry was the very life of Jesus. Wherever the apostles went, they proclaimed the forgiveness of sins in Jesus, healed those with diseases, collected offerings for those affected by persecution and provided for the poor. Through this ministry, the Holy Spirit converted unbelievers by the droves.

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Luke notes in the ministry of Peter, “And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (Acts 5:14).

The apostles were doing only what they were commanded to do by Jesus: making disciples and loving one another. As the Holy Spirit brought people to faith in Jesus as the promised Savior, congregations were formed. Pastors were appointed to be “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Cor. 4:1).

Believers assembled for worship, receiving Jesus’ gifts of merciful forgiveness in Baptism, Absolution and Holy Communion. They gathered to encourage one another with “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19). Immersed in mercy and love and encouragement, the people of God showed mercy to others. When Jesus comes to people, giving of Himself in mercy, their hearts are changed and they “bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matt. 3:8).

This model of mission and ministry, witness to Jesus and doing acts of mercy, has endured for nearly two millennia. The one ought not to be done to the exclusion of the other. It was not meant to be so. As the Body of Christ, we witness to Jesus and show acts of mercy in our vocational calls and as the holy Christian Church. Our lives in Jesus center on being served by Him in Word and Sacrament and in serving the proclamation of the Gospel and serving others. If I may, we exist to fulfill our Lord’s commands: Make disciples of all nations and love our neighbor.

In bringing scriptural clarity to the doctrines of good works and love and fulfillment of the Law, the Lutheran Reformers emphasized the organic relationship of the doctrine of justification by grace and good works. Where justification of sinners through Jesus is preached and believed, God creates genuine love for God and for one’s neighbor. People redeemed by Christ love God and love their neighbor. The Body of Christ lives to serve out of love for God and love for the neighbor.

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has been blessed with this clear confession of the faith. We are biblical, apostolic and Lutheran. That is our identity. Our mission and ministry reflect that of Jesus, the apostles and the orthodox church throughout the ages. That is why we continue to connect our programs of mercy with our local congregations, our missionaries and our global partner churches. We continue the work of Jesus, what it means to be faithful fishers of all people. And He blesses, just as He has for two millennia.

So, why should our congregation do acts of mercy? One word captures why every congregation (indeed, every Christian) should be moved to show mercy to the people around us: **Compassion**. Filled with Jesus’ love, bathed in His compassion and anchored in His grace, we do acts of mercy because we are people of compassion shaped by God’s mercy. **To God be the Glory!**

Your fellow servant in the Lord;
Mike Brown, President
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School
Ph: 303 438-5766 / E: mbrown_presbslc@comcast.net

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7)