



ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance April 2019

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Find, worship the Lamb of God

"The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household...then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it." Exodus 12:1-2; 6-7

Greetings in the Name of the Lamb of God!

It was early spring, and I was in a New Testament class in seminary, long ago. Still, I remember it as if it were yesterday, so profound an impact that particular class had on me. We were in late Lent, the season of the church that helps to prepare us for the holy wonder of Easter, and my professor read one simple line of John's gospel, *"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).* He then asked this question: "Why was it important for the Johannine community to have John the Baptist announce to all that 'here comes the Lamb of God who takes away sin?' in the first chapter of John's gospel?" We had learned that this early Christian community was most likely Jewish Christians who were worshipping side-by-side in the Synagogue with Orthodox Jews,

and the Orthodox Jews were getting kind of cranky about having those who worshipped Jesus and God, (rather than worshipping God alone) remain in good standing within the Jewish community. In fact, the Christian Jews were

about to be pitched out of the Synagogue because of it, (Google the Jewish Council of Jamnia) and it was vitally important for the Johannine community to

affirm that Jesus was One with God and could/should be worshipped as such.

One of my classmates, a Hermione Granger type, raised her hand and was given kudos for being able to answer it as the professor had hoped. Then he asked another, even more pointed question: "Can it be proven theologically that Jesus was, indeed, 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world' and what difference does it make?"

We all looked at each other, with a 'I got nothin' look on our faces. Even Hermione Granger was stumped.

The professor then asked us to open our Bibles to the 12th chapter of Exodus and read the first seven verses. We each sheepishly read the text. As we read, the professor walked to the chalkboard and picked up a piece of chalk (Yes, we used real chalkboards back then!) and said "One of the most overlooked parts of Easter is its connection to God's salvific acts for God's people, not only at the time of Jesus, but some 18 centuries

earlier. Fortunately, God left clues for us, if we'll just connect the dots." He then put four dots on the chalkboard and connected them in the form of a large rectangle. He then asked us where God instructed Moses to put the blood of the sacrificial lamb. "At the top (the lintel) and on each side of the door." We responded. He then asked, "Why?"

"So the angel of death would pass over God's people, Israel, and they would be saved." we responded.

"Good. Now, fast-forward 18 centuries." he said, putting four more dots on the chalkboard, this time, one dot at the top, one at the bottom and about a third of the way down, a dot on either side. He then connected the dots, drawing a cross on the board.

He then asked where the blood of Jesus most likely was on the cross. "At his head; at his wrists; at his feet." we all said.

"Now, compare these two drawings." Hermione Granger gasped. We all could see it. The blood of the lamb at Passover and the blood of the cross were the same. He then drew a cross in the 'Passover doorway' and said, "The cross has become the Passover doorway of salvation by the blood of the Lamb of God for all people. When John wrote to a people, then and now, he hoped we would connect those dots. I hope you will, too."

I have. Every Easter I remember and give thanks to a God who gave us clues to find our salvation by connecting the dots. This Easter, I hope you will find and worship the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

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News to know

Retreat designed to help children deal with grief

The Center for Life Experience is holding its Healing Kids' Hearts Retreat on Saturday, March 30. The retreat will run from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sternberg Museum, 3000 Sternberg Drive.

The retreat is designed for children ages 7 to 12 who have experienced the loss of a loved one, friend or special

companion.

A trained adult buddy will guide and support the child throughout the day through a variety of activities that may include creating special keepsakes, music, drawing, writing and a balloon launch.

There will also be separate sessions for adults who are tending to the emotional well being of children who have experienced such losses.

Adults will have a chance to learn about resources available for families who are healing from such losses.

All sessions for children and adults are offered free of charge. Children will receive a T-shirt, tote, lunch and snacks. Lunch will also be provided free of charge for adult participants.

SEE NEWS, 10

SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submissions from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to one@dailynews.net.

The ECMA advisory board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication.

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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TRIUMPHANT ENTRY – LUKE 19:28-38

Scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, in their book, *The Last Week*, describe two Passover week processions that are happening at the same time. From the west into Jerusalem comes Pilate. Pilate's procession shows his power, with horses, chariots and shining armor. And from the east, Jesus comes in riding on a colt, a young donkey, wearing ordinary clothes. When describing the scene of Jesus' procession, the author of the Gospel of Luke, may also have had in mind the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9-10. These two verses in Zechariah describe a king who will be humble and will come riding on a colt. And this king will be a new kind of king, one of peace.

As an ELCA pastor, during worship, I proclaim the following blessing to those gathered, "The peace of Christ be with you always." Then, everyone else is invited to respond, "And also with you." The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem calls to mind this simple ritual of sharing God's peace with one another. Peace. Peace in heaven.

Right before we hear the crowd shouting,

"Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven," we hear part of Psalm 118:26. The word "king" has been added to the Psalm they sing, "Blessed is *the king* who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:38). Again, this king that is being praised is a different kind of king.

Jesus is a different kind of king in that he is one in opposition to Empire, the glorification of military strength, and political power. All throughout Jesus' ministry he demonstrated how he was different from the military and political powers of the day. And in the end, as he predicts, he dies a political death; he dies among criminals on the cross.

So why do some churches, mine included, celebrate and honor this day, the Sunday before Easter? In celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (New Revised Standard Version)

Jerusalem, we are remembering that Jesus was and is different from those

around him. He, in human form, was a common person. However, in his ministry and life he was anything but

common. He was always doing the uncommon thing, the "unclean" thing. Jesus touched the dead, ate with tax collectors, and healed the sick. So, it is not a surprise that in Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem after doing ministry, that he does it his own way. He fulfills Old Testament prophecy and continues to show how God's kingdom is different than the kingdoms of the day.

Therefore, as you reflect on this day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, I invite you to reflect on how your life is that like Christ's. How are you standing up to the norms of the day and sharing God's love and grace with all those you encounter? For if we remember one thing from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, it is that peace is all around us. Amen.



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PRAYING ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES – LUKE 22:39-46

Prayer can be a tricky thing. If you're like me, you struggle at times with prayer, as it can be strange to be talking without seeing someone else in the room. Yet, we see in Jesus' life that prayer was vitally important to him, therefore how much more vital is it for us?

I'm struck in this passage by the phrase "as was his custom." Jesus, the second member of the Trinity, fully God, yet fully human, had a *habit* of prayer. It wasn't something he is doing on this night just because he knows his time on earth is about to end. It's not something he is doing because he's fearful of what's to come. He is praying because that is his custom — his habit.

If Jesus had a habit of prayer, then it would stand to reason that we, too, ought to have a habit of prayer.

Many people turn to God in times of distress; but what about the other times? Are we conversing with God on a regular basis, developing a habit of spending time with God? If we can't answer that in the affirmative, I believe that should become our number one priority. We must spend time with God if we expect to grow closer to him; to grow into the man or woman God created us to be. Without connecting to God in this way, how can we expect to know his will, let alone follow it?

In this passage, Jesus is praying that some other path might be taken. He is asking the Father if there is another way. In many ways this is another temptation of Jesus — a temptation to walk away from the Father's will, to take a different path. Yet, in the end, Jesus takes the path the Father laid out for him. He submits his human desires to the divine desires of God.

How could he do this? How could he willingly submit to God's plan? I

believe it was because, at least in part, because of his prayer life with the Father. His constant link was through prayer. Through that connection he was able to set aside the human fear and submit to the torture and grief that was to come.

Sometimes God asks us to do tough things. Sometimes God wants to stretch us beyond our comfort zone and have us reach for something more. But if our prayer life is weak, our commitment to following Him may be weak as well. If we don't have the connection to God when things are going well, how can we expect that connection to grow and strengthen when things don't go well?

Having an active prayer life is a key step toward learning who God is and what his will is for

our lives. When trying to develop this habit, it's important to remember that there are many types of prayer and many different ways to pray. In fact, the type of prayer that we often think of — sitting down with our heads bowed and eyes closed — may be one of the hardest ways to pray! At least for me, when I tried to pray like this, I would often find myself falling asleep or my mind wandering endlessly, unable to focus on the prayers at hand. I felt like a failure. I felt like I was less-than because I "couldn't" pray. Then I discovered that there are lots of ways to pray and we each need to find our own prayer practices that work for us.

For example, I love to write. I have found that when I want to spend good time with the Lord in prayer, I need to write my prayers. The act of writing my prayers helps me focus on what I'm doing and also gives me a record of my prayers to go back to. Others I know pray differently — by praying while walking around the neighborhood, or praying on the treadmill, or praying while doing other forms of exercise.



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And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." (English Standard Version)

Some people find kneeling helps them pray. Others may need to stand.

Time of day is also important. If you're not a morning person, don't try to put your prayer time first thing in the morning! Pray when you're most awake and alert.

There is no right or wrong to pray. The point is to just do it. The point is

to connect with God through prayer — written, spoken, unspoken, sung, etc. — so that you can get to know him on a personal, intimate level. Once you have that prayer life developed — no matter what it looks like — you're in a better position to say as Jesus did, "Not my will, but Yours."



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JESUS IS BETRAYED, ARRESTED – LUKE 22:47-53

This powerful passage gives us great insight into some of the events of the week. Jesus Christ knew more than his betrayer and those who arrested Him, willingly submitting to the Father's will. One of our greatest needs is to understand

and trust that our Lord is always in complete control of every situation. When we aren't able to do this, we react in fear and disbelief. This can cause worry and anxiety because we

start to think our futures depend on us, not Him. We think that if we are going to make things better, we need to act. The best way to handle struggles and trials is to remember that God is in control and we are not. This passage is rich with theological truth. God shows his power and control even in the darkest trial. No one takes Jesus' life. He lays it down freely for His people.

Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

Luke tells us that the man who was leading the mob was Judas. Again, Judas is seen as one of the twelve. This was no stranger who was about to betray our Lord, but one who had been there with them, one of the twelve.

Judas was about to do the most hideous act possible. He had already overridden his conscience. He desired payment for his three wasted years of following Jesus. His



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hopes of Jesus taking the throne of King and ruling over everyone had been dashed. Judas was trying to get whatever he could and had sold his soul to Satan for thirty pieces of silver. Judas was feeling overly confident. He was leading at least 600 men armed for battle with weapons and torches. He organized this expedition to go and arrest Jesus. Jesus already knew what was going to happen when he saw the mob, led by Judas. He didn't just know what would happen, he knew

exactly how it would happen. Jesus' question to Judas was not simply asking him how he was to betray Him but rather He was wanting Judas and the others to see the absurdity of how Judas was going to do this evil act. He would identify Jesus to the others by kissing him rather than by pointing and saying, "There he is!" Judas intends to wrap his arms around Jesus and kiss Him on the cheek, embracing Him until the Romans can arrest and bind His hands.

When Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" this was Judas' last chance to repent. This whole time Jesus stays calm. How many of us can honestly say we would be calm with a mob of 600+ bearing down on us?

Next comes a swinging of a sword and someone losing an ear! We learn this is Peter who is swinging the sword. Peter isn't really as bold as we first believe. Peter is intending

to cut off the head of the guy closest to him and we are reminded that Peter is a better fisherman than soldier. He is swinging to cut off the head of Malchus, who ducks, and instead loses just an ear.

But Jesus answered, and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." (New King James Version)

enemies. Jesus' response here is typical of His message. The disciples still don't fully understand Jesus' teaching. For a moment, evil is allowed to rule.

This passage makes it clear that Jesus is in control and that everyone involved is working on God's time schedule.

It takes a mob of 600 Roman soldiers, the chief priest, servants, elders and the Pharisees to make an arrest that they could have made at any time with just a few people. Something truly divine is happening here. The arrest is unjustified and a complete fraud from a human standpoint; yet Jesus explains why it's happening at this moment...

But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

This is the moment Jesus has been waiting for. This is their moment of brief success. For a short period of time, evil will have success. The plan of God was coming to be exactly as He had planned. The evil plans of man were carrying out God's plans. Jesus now desires to be arrested.

Because Jesus is in control of even His own death proves that He gave His life. No one took it from him. Evil did not overpower Jesus. Jesus is showing his great love for people by obeying His father.

When WE enter into trials and struggles, they will only last as long as God decides they'll last. He is in charge. We have no reason to fear the future. God is good. He loves us. God's GOT this! We serve a great God.

Our Lord is in authority. He stops the disciples from fighting and heals the servant immediately. He heals without faith on the part of the servant. He touches the servant and gives him a new ear. It sounds simple and that is how Luke describes it. The Gospel is about healing and loving your

to cut off the head of the guy closest to him and we are reminded that Peter is a better fisherman than soldier. He is swinging to cut off the head of Malchus, who ducks, and instead loses just an ear.

But Jesus answered, and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM" – LUKE 23:34

These few words, one of the last sentences Jesus utters, sure pack a punch. Having been betrayed, ridiculed, humiliated, and tortured, as his

human body is dying, Jesus' divinity cries out. Was this for the Romans who had just nailed him to a cross? For the people who had chosen to release Barabbas instead

of him? Or for all of humanity who are sinful and to blame for this heinous act? We cannot know what was going through

Jesus' mind, but as he is making the ultimate sacrifice to intervene for all of us, he pleads with God on our behalf.

In her recent book, *Shameless*, Nadia Bolz-Weber describes the scene:

"In the beginning was the Word made flesh, the Living Water, who kept interesting company and taught some

counterintuitive stuff and preached forgiveness of sins and also healed the sick and raised the dead and fed the hungry.

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And that was more than we could bear, so we betrayed and denied and accused and flogged and crucified him. And this Word of God made flesh still spoke only of forgiveness."

Grace is something that is talked about often in the Lutheran tradition. This selfless act of Jesus, to think of us above himself, is a prime example of our undeserved blessings brought about by divine intervention. Time and again, we fall, fail, blatantly disobey, and every time, Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Revised Standard Version)

they know not what they do." And every single time, God, ever the loving parent, heeds his pleading child, the one who willingly interceded for us, and forgives.

How can we expect to act as selflessly as a divine entity? Aren't we lowly, sinful humans who will mess it up anyway? Yes, but if God is willing to give us infinite

SEE **FATHER, 7**

JESUS' DEATH – LUKE 23:44-49

This scene of Jesus suffering on the cross takes me to the many times I have watched and waited at the end of life. Each second can seem like minutes, minutes feel like hours, hours stretch as though days as you watch each breath, hoping for a miracle. The world feels dark and beyond time. I remember being shocked to hear the sound of laughter, the world beyond our vigil going on unaware of our anguish. Even when it is time and the end is expected, the grief and loss of watching a loved one die is heartbreaking.

How much more so when forced to watch the sacrifice of an innocent to maintain a system of cruel oppression? Each day people who are committed to truth and the good of God's people are persecuted for their efforts. Even though a crowd gathered to mock God's Love and Justice, with the women who had been faithful throughout Jesus' ministry, in Lent we stand in witness to the transforming truth of this world-changing crucifixion. The power of God's love overcomes even death. That



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worst of all days is not the final reality.

It is the fleshy reality of Jesus' incarnation that gives me courage and the ability to go on when the world appears most unjust and cruel. Jesus final proclamation; "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" came from a lifetime of faith and trust. Dr. William Barclay writes, "Jesus died with a prayer on his lips. 'Father,

into your hands I commit my spirit. That is Psalm 31:5 with one word added —

Father. That

verse was the prayer every Jewish mother taught her child to say last thing at night. Just as we were taught, maybe, to say, 'Now I lay me down to sleep,' so the Jewish mother taught her child to say, before the threatening dark came down, 'Into your hands I commit my spirit.'

The faith habits and patterns nurtured and practiced over a lifetime are meant to sustain us when we are overwhelmed by grief, loss, rage against injustice, and wrong

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, because the sun's light failed. The temple curtain was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And after he said this he breathed his last.

Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all those who knew Jesus stood at a distance, and the women who had followed him from Galilee saw these things. (New English Translation)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared in his book, *The Strength to Love*, "how he moved from believing things about God to believing in God. He wrote: "The agonizing moments through which I have passed during the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality of a personal God ... Now it is a living reality that has been validated in the experiences of everyday life. God has been profoundly real to me in recent years. In the midst of lonely days, and dreary nights I have heard an inner voice saying, 'Lo, I will be with you.' When the chains of fear and the manacles of frustration have all but

stymied my efforts, I have felt the power of God transforming the fatigue of despair into the buoyancy of hope. I am convinced that the universe is under the control of a loving purpose, and that in the struggle for righteousness man has cosmic companionship."

In this season of Lent know that our Loving God is with you through whatever lonely days and dreary nights you are experiencing. Chains of fear and manacles of frustration fall away in the Presence of the One who breaks all chains and sets captives free.

THE RESURRECTION – LUKE 24:1-12

Luke has told us in his version of the gospel that many women followed Jesus, as well as the disciples. Some of these women including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, watched as he was placed in the tomb. They returned there on the third day to give his body the proper preparation for burial. When they arrived at the tomb with their spices, imagine their complete surprise and perplexity! The stone at the entrance of the tomb was rolled away and they could not find the body of Jesus. Two men in dazzling clothes announced that "Jesus is not here, for he has risen," just as he had told them he would do. The apostles do not believe what the women report to them, but Peter runs to the tomb to see for himself. He



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was amazed at what had happened.

So, Jesus was crucified, but also risen, just as he said he would. The women moved from terrified spectators of the empty tomb into believing witnesses of the resurrection. The drama foretold by Jesus continues on in Jerusalem and the news begins to spread to his followers. The entire world would never again be the same – not for the women, the disciples, and not for countless millions of others as the good news of the resurrection has been retold again and again in the life of the church.

As we continue on in the season of Lent, we journey with Jesus to the cross and finally to the announcement at the tomb, "He is risen."

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands

of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

THE ASCENSION – LUKE 24:45-53

There are times the Bible confuses me. I doubt such a statement inspires your confidence in me as a theologian, but this admission is rooted in my humanity. The difficulties that I have personally witnessed, in addition to the many I have heard about, make me long for the day when Jesus comes again. More than this, in fact, they make me think, “If Jesus had been here, he could have taken this situation and solved/fixed/ healed/provided/ brought freedom/broke the chains/encouraged/brought peace...” (You get the picture.) But Jesus isn’t here.



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Now travel ahead with me to a point after Jesus has risen from the dead. He gathers with his disciples for one final spiel before his feet lift off the surface of the earth and he floats up into the clouds. Right after Jesus’ departure, the disciples do something totally unexpected—at least for me.

Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (Luke 24:52–53, NIV)

Final goodbyes are hard. Just ask someone who has buried a loved one. More than likely you have had to give final goodbyes yourself. The disciples are facing a sort of final goodbye in this passage: Jesus is leaving just as he said he would, and yet **the disciples are acting in a way that I did not expect.** *The text says that they “worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”*

Maybe they were delusional ... or maybe they finally understood a truth far more powerful and a vision far greater than that moment in time (specifically that moment when Jesus ascended). I want to propose that they caught two specific things related to God’s vision and promises: (1) That Jesus would come again and (2) that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, was coming. Jesus himself promised that he would come

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.”

Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. They worshipped him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God. (Good News Translation)

again (Matthew 16:27), and we saw earlier that when Jesus left, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7). The very presence of Jesus, the Holy Spirit of God, the essence and fullness of our Father in Heaven lives inside of the Christian. What I write about is a mystery, and yet it must be completely true, or God is a liar. Jesus is not in some particular “locale” that we must travel to in order to see him or touch his robe. This is the way it used to be (see Mark 1:35-39), but not anymore. To quote an old hymn written in 1933, “He lives within my heart.”

Yes, Jesus ascended. Yes, he went up into the heavens and promised that he is coming again. And, yes, he is right now living in the walking temples of God — that’s you — just as he promised and is written in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

So, may you be filled with “great joy.”

May your face light up with worship. May your house be a place of celebration and thanksgiving because Jesus did something that not a one of us could do on our own. He paid for our sins. If we “repent” (Luke 24:47) his promises are for us.

One final note: Jesus makes a vitally important declaration in this passage: *and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* (Luke 24:47, NIV)

Preaching in Jesus’ name must continue. Repentance, saying we are sorry to God, and turning from our old life of sin and following God’s instructions for our lives, are important if you plan on following Jesus. Be bold. Be his witness. He has promised power from on high to help you. Let’s rejoice in all that God has done and in all that he is going to do. It’s Easter time! Peace to you and yours.

Father, from 5

chances, maybe we can give ourselves and others another chance? If at first you don’t forgive, try, try again.

It is hard because, just like us, each other person out there is a sinner — someone who’s wronged us, someone who’s just going to mess up again.

But as Bolz-Weber asks us, “Are they complex, hurting, wonderfully made children of God with whom I deeply disagree, or are they only as I want to see them — sinners?” Here again, we need

that grace from God. It is not within us to be able to forgive, but with the help and guidance of God, at least we can try.

Sometimes we even struggle to forgive ourselves. We caved and ate that cake, even though we gave up desserts for Lent. We raised our voice to a friend during an argument, even though they were right. In Romans 7:15, Paul writes, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” In those moments, it is impera-

tive that we lean into God’s outstretched arms, and listen to our loving parent.

Bolz-Weber describes that parental voice we should heed: “God’s voice is found in the warm singsong of a mother to her newborn, the one who says, ‘You are beloved.’ God’s voice declares us clean, justified, forgiven, and new. It imparts to us a worthiness that has nothing to do with our efforts or our accomplishments or becoming some imagined ideal.”

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we strive to be church together. It is impossible to work, live, worship, etc. together without forgiveness. Being in relationship with one another requires a give and take. When we forgive, we are giving and taking the chance to see each other as the children of God we are, instead of just those measly sinners that Jesus could have easily betrayed, as we did him

Message at the Top: Dealing with blind love

It is rare for modern media that we find agreement between that media and what Jesus said in the Gospel. But if we listen to Halsey's song "Without Me," we will hear agreement with Jesus as he tells us not to retaliate if someone harms us.

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow."

The song is the story in song of a friend that the lady in the song helped, but appar-

ently he has forgotten her now that he feels better. Love was blind she sings, and now it has cost her the relationship because he has left. She has allowed herself to be "used" by her boyfriend, and now that he has broken up with her, she is realizing what has truly happened.

"Found you when your heart was broke; I filled your cup until it overflowed, took it so far to keep you close, I was afraid to leave you on your own. I said I'd catch you if you fall, put you right back on your feet just so you could take advantage of me. Tell me, how's it feel sittin' up there? Feeling so high, but too far away to hold me. I'm the one who put you up there. I don't know why, thinking you could live without me. My love was blind."

It is the case of what Jesus was speaking

of during his Sermon on the Mount when he was speaking of retaliation and revenge. He said quite directly: there is to be none. Our tendency is to respond like for like as is found even in Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus knew that, of course, because he knew those Scriptures well. He goes to the extreme, exaggerating as it does. He says that even if the other person deserves it, the Christian law — his law — is that we never "turn our back" on someone.

In the song, there are many ways in which she could respond, of course. She could say words that are not at all indicative of being a good person; she could do actions that hurt him and let others know what he did. But as if listening to directions that Jesus gave, she chooses not to do that. It is obvious from the song that she is a little bit angry. But that is to be expected. The anger will dissipate; retaliation leaves a lasting residue.

The person who manages to stay away from retaliation and revenge will usually have

a better life. Jesus knew that. It is good for modern media to be aware of it also.

Good and gracious God, we are often driven by the way we feel, and when we are hurt, we have the desire to get back at the person who has hurt us. Give us the grace to listen closely to Your Son's words about revenge and retaliation. Be with us, we pray.

THE GOSPELS IN FR. MIKE'S TOP 5

[as of 3/15/19]

[see www.frmikescully.com]

- 1 – "Without Me" / Halsey Matthew 5:38-42
- 2 – "High Hopes" / Panic! At The Disco Matthew 12:15b-21
- 3 – "Be Alright" / Dean Lewis Mark 3:1-6
- 4 – "Happier" / Marshmello Matthew 26:47-50a
- 5 – "Eastside" / Benny Blanco featuring Halsey and Khalid John 21:1-3a

Message at The Top

Fr. Mike Scully

michael.scully@capuchins.org



RESURRECTION, from 6

Henri Nouwen, world-renowned spiritual author, wrote the following reflection on this season just several weeks before his death in 1996. "Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and the familiar, and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust, and a new love. The death and

resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just a historical event that took place a long time ago, but an inner event that takes place in our own heart when we are willing to be attentive to it. True repentance is an interior attitude in which we are willing to let go of everything that prevents us from growing

into spiritual maturity, and there is hardly a moment in our lives in which we are not invited to detach ourselves from certain ways of thinking, ways of speaking, ways of acting, that for a long time gave us energy but that always need to be renewed and recreated." (*Called to Life, Called to Love:*

Lenten Reflections.)

When we dare to enter into that intimate relationship with God, listening attentively to God speaking to us, then the announcement of "Jesus is risen!" can truly be a celebration. The proclamation of the church, "Christ has died, Christ has risen,

Christ shall come again," shall be known to the very deepest place of our being. Our lives will be transformed into a living and vibrant testimony to God's great love for all the world. May the resurrection celebration be a time that all of us will nurture our inner life to the praise and glory of our Savior.

Ask a pastor

Q: Dear Pastor, Whatever happened to Easter hats? I remember folks wearing their special bonnets to church every year along with their new, spring clothes. Why don't we do this anymore?

A: Thank you for a short trip down memory lane! I'm barely over 50, but I too remember lots of hats on Easter Sundays during my early childhood services at our Presbyterian Church.

Sadly, like everything else in our culture, the dignity and pizzazz of holiday apparel has relaxed, to say the least. People simply don't or won't make the effort

to dress up anymore. Men boast about swearing off their neckties and refusing to go anywhere they can't wear blue jeans. Requiring a dinner jacket at a five-star restaurant today could stimulate a discrimination lawsuit. The nylon hosiery industry is nearly bankrupt since women don't wear them anymore, and spotting a woman in a skirt and heels is as rare as a unicorn herd. Americans could be winning the globe's Worst Dressed Nation award this very year! I stand guilty myself, truth be told. If anyone visited my office unannounced, they'd find me swathed in sweatpants and sneakers, sometimes pa-

jammas, a T-shirt and probably a zipped-up athletic jacket frayed at the cuffs. I work alone ... but still.

What happened to us?

During the Great Depression (and generations past), people utilized Easter to debut a new garment or hat. In those days, anything new was a substantial luxury and you wore your "Sunday best" to church. Since most people were financially strapped, the purchase of a new item (or at least the material to sew it) was made once per year, in the spring. These new clothes dovetailed nicely with Easter and were worn proudly to that

special church service. Today, our clothing is now relatively inexpensive, with the floodgates opened to international trade and global supplies, so we buy what we need throughout the year. Our closets are stuffed with nice things, but we select our comfortable favorites. The excitement of owning something precious and new to wear has mostly lost its luster.

The Easter bonnet was made famous in Irving Berlin's song "Easter Parade" in 1933 and later graced the musical scores of numerous films.

Adrienne Greene pastors a small community of faith in West Harrison, IN.

The greatest victory in human history

Greetings Bible readers. Happy Resurrection Day! If you haven't been to church for a while, let me invite you to attend church this Easter. Most area churches will have special services that celebrate the greatest victory in human history; the victory over sin and death, won by Jesus Christ on your behalf. Come and party with one of the congregations listed on the back of this publication, we would love to have you!



Bible Reading Plan

Pastor Steve Dinkel

Liberty Foursquare Church
lfcfsd@ruraltel.net

Word, it is His law. As I study it, He writes it on my heart. Psalm 119:11 promises that His Word will keep me, protect me, and transform me. That's one of the benefits of Easter!

We continue through the Covenant books in our Old Testament readings. Although these books can be a challenge to read through — they serve to remind us of reality of how perfect Jesus is. He fulfilled the law completely, for you and for me!

Our New Testament readings continue through Paul's Epistles; some of the most instructive writings in the New Testament. I enjoy the Corinthian letters because of their practical instruction about the Holy Spirit. Take

Jesus established a New Covenant with us on Easter Sunday; a Covenant where He writes His law on our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 10:16). That is why I study God's

April		
1....	☐ Leviticus 19.....	☐ 1 Cor. 4
2....	☐ Leviticus 20.....	☐ 1 Cor. 5
3....	☐ Leviticus 21.....	☐ 1 Cor. 6
4....	☐ Leviticus 22.....	☐ 1 Cor. 7
5....	☐ Leviticus 23.....	☐ 1 Cor. 8
6&7..	Weekend Review	
8....	☐ Leviticus 24.....	☐ 1 Cor. 9
9....	☐ Leviticus 25.....	☐ 1 Cor. 10
10..	☐ Leviticus 26.....	☐ 1 Cor. 11
11..	☐ Leviticus 27.....	☐ 1 Cor. 12
12..	☐ Numbers 1.....	☐ 1 Cor. 13
13&14..	Weekend Review	
15..	☐ Numbers 2.....	☐ 1 Cor. 14
16..	☐ Numbers 3.....	☐ 1 Cor. 15
17..	☐ Numbers 4.....	☐ 1 Cor. 16
18..	☐ Numbers 5.....	☐ 2 Cor. 1
19..	☐ Numbers 6..	☐ 2 Cor. 2
20&21..	Weekend Review	
22..	☐ Numbers 7.....	☐ 2 Cor. 3
23..	☐ Numbers 8.....	☐ 2 Cor. 4
24..	☐ Numbers 9.....	☐ 2 Cor. 5
25..	☐ Numbers 10.....	☐ 2 Cor. 6
26..	☐ Numbers 11.....	☐ 2 Cor. 7
27&28..	Weekend Review	
29..	☐ Numbers 12.....	☐ 2 Cor. 8
30..	☐ Numbers 13.....	☐ 2 Cor. 9

time to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of 1 Corinthians 15. Here the Apostle Paul discusses the importance of the Resurrection of

Jesus. May the Father also write these words on our hearts and minds.

Happy Easter, and hope to see you in church on Sunday!



St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices:

(785) 628-1446

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: www.heartlandparishes.org

Fr. Jarett Konrade

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



1805 Vine Street - Hays, Kansas

Fr. Barry Brinkman, Pastor

Parish Office: 785-685-7339

Website: www.ihm-church.com

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5 PM - Sunday 8 AM - 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday Spanish Mass - 12 PM

Weekday Mass Schedule:

MWF 6:45 AM - TTh 8 AM Tuesday Spanish 6:30 PM

Reconciliation: Saturday 4 PM and Thursday 5 PM

News, from 2

Shoebox 'Craft Night' is April 3

Operation Christmas Child will have its monthly "Craft Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at First Baptist Church, 12th and Fort during "Kingdom Kids," a joint youth group between First Baptist and Hays Christian churches. Participants will be making items for inclusion in shoebox gifts for children around the world.

Rachel Albin, area coordinator, said, "We will be partnering with their youth from preschool through high school. We will be crafting some of the same items we have made the past several months — craft stick puzzles, Easter egg maracas and ring ribbon dancers.

"If you want to take some of the items you make that night for your own shoeboxes or for your church's shoeboxes, that's absolutely fine," Albin said. She added that if participants have crafts they are working on for their own shoeboxes, they are welcome to bring them along.

"This will be a fun time when we can gather together as an inter-denominational group and work on projects and share ideas. But, most of all, it's a way to keep the excitement of Operation Christmas Child going throughout the year," she said. Participants do not need to have special skills, she added.

Albin and her staff plan to host a shoebox craft night every month through October, and she is looking for other churches willing to host one.

Donations for supplies are always accepted and appreciated, Albin said.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization headquartered in Boone, N.C., and led by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

More information is available by contacting Albin at (785) 639-1325 or at ralbinmk@yahoo.com.

Lent, Holy Week services scheduled

Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main, has scheduled the following Lent and Holy Week services:

Lent services, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 3, and April 10; Palm Sunday services, 8:30 and 11 a.m. April 14; Maundy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m. April 18; Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m. April 19; Easter Sunday service, 9:30 a.m. April 21.

Author to speak at women's brunch

Author Lisa McGrath will be the featured speaker at the United Methodist Women's Spring Brunch at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh.

McGrath's book, "The JOurneY Between Us" tells the true story of how



McGrath

McGrath's faith not only helped her overcome trials and tragedies in her life, but also how it grew as she learned to trust God's plan and timing.

McGrath will share how her faith, family and friends blessed her with the support and strength to persevere and find hope, peace, love, and especially joy in her JOurneY.

McGrath and her daughters, Lilian and Lynsi, will also be providing special music for the event. The event is free, and a nursery will be provided.

FHSU students helping with Salvation Army project

The Easter Bunny is coming to Big Creek Crossing in April, but students at Fort Hays State University are the ones who will be hopping for joy as a result.

Students in a Leadership 310 class are partnering with the mall to raise money for the Paper Pantry offered by the Salvation Army office in Hays.

John Hubschman, Copperas Cove, Texas, junior, said Big Creek Crossing is donating to the pantry 15 percent of the money spent when children have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, who will arrive at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6. (Other picture times are listed below.) The mall will also be collecting monetary donations.

Julie Smith, Ellis County coordinator for the Salvation Army, said the Paper Pantry helps people who are in need by providing them, free of charge, personal hygiene items, toilet paper, laundry soap and cleaning supplies.

"Some of our clients are in desperate need of help. They may find it hard to ask for help when they feel broken in spirit, hopeless, and left with a feeling that no one cares about them . . . But God cares," she said.

The students, who selected the name. The Salvation Leadership Team, "chose this project because we all thought that this was a great cause that was needed in our community," Hubschman said.

"When Julie came to speak to our class, we realized that people were unaware that there was a Salvation Army office in Hays or of the services they offered.

"She explained how people were going without some of the basic necessities like toilet paper because they could not afford to buy any. She talked to us about how people would break down and cry just from her asking if they needed a pack of toilet paper. We all jumped at the chance to work with Julie and the Salvation Army so we can raise awareness and generate donations to help this cause," he added.

Hubschman said, as of press time, the students have also organized these other collection efforts during April:

The Hays campus of North Central Kansas Technical College will be holding a competition between

different departments of study to see which one can collect the most toilet paper. Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill will be collecting tangible items and monetary donations. Celebration Community Church also will be collecting items.

Pictures with the Easter Bunny will be available at Big Creek Crossing at:

Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 7, noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday April 14, noon to 5 p.m.

Monday, April 15, through Friday, April 19, 5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In March, collection drives were held at High Plains Baptist Church and New Life Center Assembly of God Church, both in Hays, and the Good Samaritan Center in Ellis. In addition, the following restaurants collected monetary donations: Taco Shop, Freddy's Frozen Custard, Arby's and Qdoba Mexican Grill.

Other students on The Salvation Leadership Team are Taylor Shipley, Hoxie senior; Shelby Luerman, Ashland senior; Whitney Miller, Spearville senior, and Daisy Ramirez, Garden City senior.

Smith had nothing but praise for the students. "Letting our clients know there are people who care about their situation, and that God loves them, offers them a sense of hope through difficult times," she said.

The full list of needed items includes laundry soap, 12-count toilet paper, dish soap, bleach, fabric softener sheets, paper towels, window cleaner, shampoo and conditioner, body wash or bar soap, trash bags, sponges, bathroom cleaner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, sanitary napkins and tampons and facial tissue.

People may also drop off tangible or monetary donations at the Salvation Army Office, 203 E. Seventh.

Liberty Foursquare schedules two speakers

Liberty Foursquare Church, 400 E. Seventh, will have two special speakers during the month of April.

Lance Ivey, a traveling evangelist and teacher, will speak at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 7. Pastor Steve Dinkel said, "Lance encourages people to live out the destiny that God specifically designed for them."

The second speaker will be Dr. Peter Burgos, a medical missionary with Wesleyan, World Missions, who has served in Asia for many years. He will share some of his experiences on the mission field at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. Burgos was formerly in family practice in Colby.

Free-will offerings will be taken at both events. More information is available at (785) 625-6245.

ECMA sets monthly meeting

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA) Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, April 10, at First Baptist Church, 12th and Fort. The full board will meet at 10 a.m. The ONE Magazine Advisory Board will meet at 11:45 a.m.

Presentations to the board must be scheduled in advance with the ECMA president at president@ourecma.com.

Sidewalk Prophets to present concert

The musical group Sidewalk Prophets will present a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the Fort Hays State University campus.

Sidewalk Prophets is a contemporary Christian music band from Nashville, Tenn. The band consists of lead vocalist David Frey, rhythm guitarist Ben McDonald, lead guitarist Shaun Tomczak, bass guitarist Cal Joslin, and drummer Justin Nace. After signing with Word Records, the group released its debut studio album, "These Simple Truths," in 2009.

Tickets start at \$8 and may be purchased at <http://kprdradio.com/wp/sidewalk-prophets/>.

'Spring Fling Fashion Show' is April 13

Hays After 5 Christian women's group will be having its annual "Spring Fling Fashion Show" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Smoky Hill Country Club, 3303 Hall St.

The show will feature the fashions of LuLaRoe, a faith-based online business featuring clothing for women and children. Kayla Ford of Ellis has been a LuLaRoe retailer for about three years. Women who work in the fashion industry will be recognized and honored at the event.

While the firm offers clothing for children in sizes 2T to 12, the fashion show will feature items solely for women through size 24. An online catalog is available at <https://shop.lularoebless.com/Kayla-Ford>. Ford may be contacted at (785) 726-1234 or at lularoekaylajeanford@gmail.com.

Also on the program will be inspirational speaker Pat Rohling of Valley Center. Rohling, a former hairdresser and postal worker/supervisor, will share how she got her nickname "Peaches."

The cost of the event, which includes brunch, is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Monday, April 8, to daisymae0917@yahoo.com or to (785) 202-1036. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

Trinity Lutheran schedules Holy Week activities

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort, has scheduled the following activities during Holy Week:

Service with Holy Communion at 10:15 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14.

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m. April 18 with foot washing and Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service at 6:30 p.m. April 19.

Easter Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. April 21 with Holy Communion. A potluck breakfast will take place at 9 a.m. prior to the service.

Pastor Marie Sager said, "All are welcome to join Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA to experience Jesus' journey through Holy Week."

Father Kapaun subject of presentation

Award-winning reporter Roy Wenzl will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20, in the Schmidt Gallery of the Hays Public Library, 1205 Main. Wenzl will be discussing his book, "The Miracle of Father Kapaun."

Emil Kapaun grew up on a farm in Marion County, Kansas. He was ordained as a priest in 1940 and became a United States Army captain who served as a chaplain during World War II and the Korean War.

While serving in Korea, he was captured in 1950 and died in a prisoner of war camp the following year. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and is being considered by the Vatican for canonization as a saint. Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita is named for him.

Wenzl spent 21 years as a reporter, photographer, and editor for "The Wichita Eagle" newspaper. His book on Kapaun was published by Ignatius Press in 2013. The event is free and open to the public.



Wenzl

North Oak sets Easter service times

North Oak Community Church will have worship services at 9:30 and 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 21.

The church, located at 3000 Oak St., will have children's and youth Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. A nursery will be provided for children through age 4.

Easter sunrise service planned

First Baptist Church of Hays will be having a special Easter sunrise service from 6:45 to 7 a.m. Sunday, April 21, at Dusty Glassman Ball Field, Milner and East Fourth St..

In addition, the church will have Sunday School at 9 a.m. and worship service at 10:30 a.m. at the church at 12th and Fort.

Easter sunrise service at cemetery, new series, and egg hunt

Hays Christian Church of Hays will be having a special sunrise Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at Fort Hays Memorial Gardens, several miles west of

Hays on 12th St, on Sunday, April 21. Of the unusual venue, Pastor Daniels said, "The first Easter was at a cemetery, too!" The sunrise service is less than 30 minutes and includes singing and a devotion. The church will follow-up the service by going to breakfast together at a local restaurant.

Later that morning, Pastor Kevin Daniels will begin a new series entitled, "Serve," focusing on the need for followers of Christ to be living their faith through service and acts of love for all people. Children's Church will be provided for grade 5 and below.

Following the service will be the annual Easter egg hunt for all ages of children on the church grounds. All are welcome.

'Divine Mercy Sunday' celebration set

The Catholic parishes in and around Hays will celebrate "Divine Mercy Sunday" with an hour of prayer and benediction at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 500 E. 19th St.

The service will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, as well as prayers, music and meditation. All Christians are invited to participate in the special service.

Devotion for Divine Mercy began in the 1930s when Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, said she received special communications from Jesus asking her to spread the message of his mercy.

Faustina died in 1938 at the age of 33. She was canonized as a saint in 2000 in Rome by Pope John Paul II. At that time, the pontiff said the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, would become an official feast day of the Catholic Church.

Salvation Army gearing up for summer camp

The Salvation Army is accepting registrations for its summer camp through Saturday, May 11.

The camp, for youngsters ages 8 through 12, will take place Tuesday, June 25, through Friday, June 28, at Three Trails Camp in Kansas City, Mo. The 40-acre camp will offer activities involving arts and crafts, nature, the Bible and recreation.

"All activities are Christian centered," said Julie Smith, the Salvation Army's Ellis County coordinator.

Cost of the camp is \$20, which includes round-trip transportation, lodging, activities and meals for all four days, Smith said. More information about the camp is available at <https://threetrailscamp.org/>.

Registration is available by contacting her at (785) 621-2794 or Julie_smith@usc.salvationarmy.org.

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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
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Sat. Mass: 6:30 p.m. Nov. thru April
Sun. Mass: 7:30 a.m. May thru Oct.
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Sun. Mass: 8:45 a.m.
Fr. John Schmeidler
735-2777
fidelis@ruraltel.net
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**ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship with Holy
Communion: 10:30 a.m.
394 St. John-St. Andrew Rd.
Get off the Ellis exit on I-70,
and go six miles North
on the paved road
726-3207



**LIBERTY
FOURSQUARE
CHURCH**

Pastor Steve Dinkel
Sunday Services: 10 a.m.
Wed. Services: 7 p.m.
High School Youth Group
Royal Rangers and Mpact Girls
Clubs (Aug. - May)
400 E. 7th 625-6245
www.libertyis.com

**MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

(LC-MS)

Christ Centered, Family Strong,
Mission Minded

Pastor Rocco Mallardi
We gather around Christ's gifts
every Sunday @ 8:30 & 11:00
Wednesday evening education
classes for all ages
Starts @ 5:00

2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Rev. Mike Rose, Sr. Pastor
Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Dir.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Service: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast
on KAYS 1400 AM

WOW Worship on Wednesdays:
Meal 5 to 6 pm

Worship 5:50 to 6:10 p.m.

Children/Youth/Adult Programs

6:15-7:15 pm

305 W. 7th 625-3408

**ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

Rev. Harvey Hillin

Sunday Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.

2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442

stmichaelshays@gmail.com



No matter where you are
in your faith there's
a place for you at C3.

Welcome home.

For more info on service times
and styles, visit us online at
celebratejesus.org
or download our app C3hays.

**WESTVIEW
CHURCH**

Pastor Wes Oakley, D. Min.

Associate Pastor Tim Nunnery

Children's Pastor Jeremy McGuire
Sunday Service: Adult & Children's
Church, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service: Elevate Kids,
R3 Youth & Midweek Adult Service,
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Service: R3 Live
College, 8:00 p.m.

3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359

www.westviewchurch.tv

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

(ELCA)

The Rev. Marie Sager

2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044

Sunday 10:15 a.m.

(Holy Communion

is Celebrated Every Sunday)

Fellowship Following Worship

www.trinityhays.org

tlchays@eaglecom.net

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

The Rev. Celeste Lasich

Nursery available

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Adult Study Group: 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.

Youth Group Sun. evenings

www.haysfpc.org

pastorcelestehays@gmail.com

2900 Hall 625-2847



Pastor Ken Ediger
Associate Pastor Dave Buller
Youth Pastor Jeff Neher

Worship Service:
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.

Nursery &
Children's Church Available

Wed. K-12 programs

3000 Oak 785-628-8887

www.northoak.net