



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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March 2024

The Importance of Holy Week

Palm (Passion) Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. On this Sunday, we carry palm branches with shouts of “Hosanna” – which is Hebrew for “deliver us” – in the sanctuary.

We might be inclined to ask, deliver us *from what*? From the Roman oppressors? Or from other worldly powers? If this is the case, then this phrase takes on a highly political message. Or does this call refer to a different kind of deliverance? Like our deliverance from sin. Then we need to ask who this Jesus is that he can forgive sins, and how.

In the New Testament, we hear over and over again that Jesus came into the world for the forgiveness of sins so that we could be reconciled with God. To this end, he paid a price by dying on the cross “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Seen in this context, when Jesus entered into Jerusalem, the crowd’s cheerful – and innocent sounding – chant of “Hosanna” already foreshadowed the events of Holy Week, gives us a glimpse of Jesus’ upcoming Passion: his arrest, his (mock) trial, his crucifixion, and his death.

Many people, even Christians, go through Holy Week as if it did not exist.

Have you ever wondered what Easter would be like *without* the events of Holy Week? Without the Lord’s Supper and the washing of the feet? Without Jesus’ death on the cross? We can take this scenario even one step farther: What would our faith be like without Jesus’ resurrection from the dead?

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul had a very clear answer what the absence of Jesus’ death and resurrection would mean for our faith. He wrote, “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (verses 13-17).

Our shouts of “Hosanna” point to Jesus’ suffering and death. With our shouts of “Hosanna,” it should dawn on us that Jesus went through this Holy Week *for us* so that we can experience the deliverance from sin through his death and resurrection.

Seen in this light, this most solemn Holy Week also contains a promise for us. By allowing ourselves to hear Jesus’ full story during this week, we will be able to experience God’s promise to us to bring forth life from death. Then we will experience a fuller, deeper meaning of the message of Easter.

That Jesus rose from the dead is not a message that rings loud on Easter Sunday only. Every Sunday is a reminder of Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is a weekly Easter celebration. Every Sunday, when we gather for worship, we come together as those who believe that life is stronger than death.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus delivers us from our sin; through his resurrection he promises us a new, eternal life that is anchored in God.

Yours in Christ – our crucified and risen Lord,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

Die Bedeutung der Karwoche

Mit Palmsonntag (Passionssonntag) beginnt die Karwoche. An diesem Sonntag tragen wir Palmzweige in die Kirche begleitet von „Hosianna“-Rufen, einem hebräischen Wort, das übersetzt „Errette uns“ bedeutet.

Der Ruf nach Errettung lädt ein zur Frage: „Errette uns *wovon*?“ Von den römischen Unterdrückern? Oder von anderen weltlichen Mächten? Wenn dies der Fall ist, enthält dieser Ausdruck eine hochpolitische Aussage. Oder bezieht sich dieser Ruf auf eine andere Art der Befreiung, Errettung? Etwa unsere Befreiung von der Macht der Sünde. Dann müssen wir uns fragen, wer dieser Jesus ist, der Sünden vergeben kann. Und auf welche Weise er das tut.

Im Neuen Testament hören wir immer wieder, dass Jesus zur Vergebung der Sünden in die Welt gekommen ist, um uns mit Gott zu versöhnen. Zu diesem Zweck zahlte er einen Preis, als er am Kreuz starb, „um sein Leben als Lösegeld für viele (zu) geben“ (Markus 10,45).

So gesehen gibt uns der fröhliche – und unschuldig klingende – „Hosianna“-Gesang, der bei Jesu Einzug in Jerusalem erklang, bereits einen Vorgeschmack auf die Ereignisse der Karwoche. Dieser Ruf gibt uns einen Einblick in die bevorstehende Passion Jesu mit seiner Verhaftung, seinem (Schein-)Prozess, seiner Kreuzigung und seinem Tod.

Nun gehen aber viele Menschen, auch Christen, durch die Karwoche, als gäbe es sie nicht.

Habt ihr euch jemals gefragt, wie Ostern *ohne* die Ereignisse der Karwoche aussehen würde? Ohne das Abendmahl und die Fußwaschung? Ohne den Tod Jesu am Kreuz? Wir können dieses Szenario sogar noch einen Schritt fortführen: Was bedeutet unser Glaube ohne die Auferstehung Jesu von den Toten?

In 1. Korinther 15 gibt uns der Apostel Paulus eine sehr klare Antwort darauf, was die Abwesenheit von Jesu Tod und Auferstehung für unseren Glauben bedeutet. Er schrieb: „Gibt es keine Auferstehung der Toten, so ist auch Christus nicht auferstanden. Ist aber Christus nicht auferstanden, so ist unsere Predigt vergeblich, so ist auch euer Glaube vergeblich. ... Ist Christus aber nicht auferstanden, so ist euer Glaube nichtig, so seid ihr noch in euren Sünden“ (Verse 13-17).

Unsere „Hosianna“-Rufe weisen auf das Leiden und Sterben Jesu hin. Mit unseren „Hosianna“-Rufen sollte uns klar werden, dass Jesus durch diese Woche *für uns* gegangen ist, damit wir durch seinen Tod und seine Auferstehung die Befreiung von der Sünde erfahren können.

Wenn wir diese ehrwürdige Karwoche aus diesem Blickwinkel betrachten, erkennen wir, dass sie eine Verheißung für uns bereithält. Wenn wir uns daher bemühen, die ganze Geschichte Jesu zu hören, werden wir in der Lage sein, Gottes Versprechen an uns zu vernehmen, dass er in der Lage ist, Leben aus dem Tod hervorzubringen. Dann wird die Osterbotschaft von Jesu Auferstehung auch eine umfassendere und tiefere Bedeutung für uns annehmen.

Die Botschaft, dass Jesus von den Toten auferstanden ist, erklingt nicht nur am Ostersonntag. Jeder Sonntag erinnert an die Auferstehung Jesu. Jeder Sonntag ist ein wöchentliches Osterfest. Jeden Sonntag, wenn wir uns zum Gottesdienst versammeln, kommen wir als diejenigen zusammen, die glauben, dass das Leben stärker ist als der Tod.

Durch seinen Kreuzestod erlöst uns Jesus von unserer Sünde, durch seine Auferstehung verheißt er uns ein neues, ewiges Leben, das in Gott verankert ist.

In Christo, unserem gekreuzigten und auferstandenen Herrn,
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Lessons for March

Lent 3 (Okuli): March 3

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 2:13-25

Lent 4 (Laetare): March 10

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Lent 5 (Judika): March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:32-45

Palm Sunday (Palmsonntag): March 24

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 118:19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Maundy Thursday (Gründonnerstag): March 28

Exodus 24:3-11
Psalm 116:12-19
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
Mark 14:12-26

Good Friday (Karfreitag): March 29

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1 – 19:42

Easter Sunday (Ostersonntag): March 31

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 16
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

YOU ARE INVITED to join us for a *Simple Soup Supper* on Thursday, March 14th @ 6:00 p.m. in the church basement followed by a Lenten Devotion Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

Important : AGM change of date

The Annual General Meeting for St. Peter's has been postponed until Sunday March 17. There will be a combined service at 10:30 am that day which will be followed by a soup lunch and the AGM will start at 1pm. We are requesting soup and baking (dessert) contributions for the lunch. A sign-up sheet for soup and baking (desserts) will be posted in the narthex. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please submit them to Michael Zacharias no later than Sunday March 10. You can contact Michael by phone at 204-582-1334, or by email at michaelpzacharias@shaw.ca.

[NOTE: There will now be both a 9:15 am and 10:30 am service on March 3 with choir practice between services.]

Submitted by Michael Zacharias

Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday, the regular times for German and English services
- Maundy Thursday, March 28. 7PM. Bilingual
- Good Friday, March 29. 9AM German. 11AM English
- Easter Sunday, March 31. 9AM German. 11AM English

Special March Birthdays

Gerda Sickert, 91 on March 2
Hiltrud Boese, 74 on March 14
Erika von Kampen, 93 on March 21
Ingrid Heyer, 71 on March 29

Irmgard Redman, 89 on March 5
Elli Kitzmann, 76 on March 19
Frieda Kreis, 88 on March 25
Arthur Pohl, 89 on March 29

We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's continued blessings!

Special Wedding Anniversary

Lilli and Rudi Mathwig, 63 years on March 11

Congratulations on this milestone anniversary! We wish you the Lord's continued blessings!

The following members of St. Peters were recently called to their heavenly home:

Gustav Rossol, Jan 6, 2024. (He was 92 years old.)

Margarethe Steinmann on Jan 23, 2024. (She was 101 years old.)

Adolf Gesell on Jan 25, 2024. (He was 85 years old.)

Friedrich Klatt on Feb 5, 2024. (He was 93 years old.)

Helga Rossol, Feb 21. (She was 93 years old.)

Our heartfelt condolences go to their families. Please keep their families in your prayers!

St. Peter's Singers

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

We resumed our choir practices for Lent, Holy Week and Easter on Feb 18th. We will practice every Sunday (except on March 17) between services 10:15am-10:45am in the basement. All ages are invited to join with our joyful group of singers. No music reading experience necessary.



KUWALA
CHRISTIAN GIRLS SCHOOL
— SHINE GIRLS SHINE —

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

As we reported last month, our sponsored duplex teacher's residence is finally almost completed.

You may recall that we were asked to provide a dedication inscription as well as name for, what is now called, the **St. Peter's Assembly Hall** and the sponsored single teacher's residence, **Kanata House**. Now, we are asked to name our sponsored second teacher's duplex residence. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jerry Roehr, roehr@mymts.net, as soon as possible so that we can select a name from all the submissions.



This picture shows the newest free-standing building, the "Science Lab", which must be the finest in Malawi. We can't imagine how the girls must feel when they come from a home with a dirt floor and no running water to be able to learn in a facility like this. As you can see from the second picture, the lab will have its own water supply and sewer system. They are truly built to North American standards.



All the supply lines for the individual stations will be under the tiled floor. The room will have a large TV screen, and the plan is to have a class or two taught from Winnipeg by a science teacher via a satellite link. We continue to coin the phrase: "When you educate one girl, you will change a nation".

I would also like to encourage everyone to read the excellent, very detailed Kuwala article in the current edition of the NALC monthly Newsletter. Additional information on Kuwala can be found on their website: kuwala.org

Kesete Family. As previously reported, the family is trying to sponsor Gytome's brother Mehari to immigrate to Canada. As you may remember, Mehari was missing for a few weeks in the war-torn area of northern Ethiopia and is now in Addis Ababa. Pastor Tom has worked with CLWR, and we have asked Pastor Gemichis Buba, who has his permanent residence in Addis Ababa, to assist. In the last three weeks, Mehari has been able to fill out the first immigration papers in Addis Ababa with the help of a translator.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

John Longhurst. The Free Press is the only newspaper in North America with a dedicated religious news staff; our congregation supports this effort with a \$500.00 annual donation. John writes: I hope you will share the crowd funder information with your clergy, parishes, places of worship and members. That's the best way to continue to garner support for this project—which continues to be the only one of its kind in Canada and the U.S.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

If you need to contact the church office, please note that the office hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am - noon
Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday - office closed

Submitted by Gudrun Neeth

The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, March 23, at 8AM. Gerhard Hammerling and Steve Herbst will function as hosts. In order to help us with the food purchases please RSVP by calling the church office (204.775.6477) or sending an email to stpetersoffice@mymts.net or signing up in the Narthex.

NALC Continental Youth Gathering 2024 *(An announcement from the NALC website)*

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

—Isaiah 43:1

Join us for an exhilarating journey of faith and fellowship at the inaugural North American Lutheran Church's Continental Youth Gathering (CYG) from **July 1–4, 2024**, nestled in the heart of Texas at [St. John Lutheran Church, Boerne](#).

NALC youth will rally around the powerful theme *"We Belong: 'I Know My Own and My Own Know Me,'"* a testament to the profound connection we share in Christ. The mission of the CYG is to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to not only grow in their faith, but to be encouraged by connecting with other believers throughout North America.

The CYG isn't merely an event, but a milestone in nurturing a robust community of believers across North America. It is a space where youth can dive deeper into scripture, engage in earnest conversation with peers and leaders, and encounter God in a fresh, transformative way. Over four days, attendees will join together in:

- ☐ corporate worship,
- ☐ scripture study,
- ☐ large and small group sessions,
- ☐ and mission events that reach out to the broader community.

The **exciting line-up of speakers**, ranging from pastors to specialists in life affirmation and mental health, are geared to ignite conversations that resonate with the youth on personal and collective levels. Our **musical guests**, the Lurvey Brothers, will elevate our spirits with their unique blend of song leading, fostering an ambiance of joy, reflection, and togetherness. This gathering stretches beyond the traditional boundaries, welcoming Home Teams from other confessional Lutheran bodies to partake in this monumental event. With each session, we delve into what it means to belong—to Christ, to the Church, to our communities, and to each other, echoing the profound truth of our theme passages from John 10:14–15. As we anticipate the glorious days of CYG 2024, we remain rooted in the promise of Isaiah 43:1, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

With only 500 spots available and a deadline for registration on April 15, 2024, be sure to mark your calendars and register *as soon as possible*. Should you have any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Pastor Teresa Peters, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry and organizer of this event, at tpeters@thenalc.org.

Any submissions for the April 2024 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, March 28, 2024. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews@gmail.com