

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Cross, The Tomb, and The Stone

Neil MacGregor of the British Museum has written a book about the history of the world based on the 100 artifacts found in the museum. Unfortunately, the British Museum does not have in its possession the most critical artifacts without which a history of the world cannot be properly written. He doesn't have the True Cross, the tomb, or the stone in his museum. So, he cannot be faulted for the omissions. These 3 objects have never been located. However, these objects describe a pivotal moment in history, which changed its course.

The larger question for us this Easter is to what extent the cross, the tomb, and the stone have changed world history and our own personal histories. What difference does it make to us that Jesus died on the cross? Does it matter that he suffered? What difference does it make that Jesus lay dead in a tomb for three days? What difference does it make that on Easter morning the stone was not snug and sealed against the opening on the tomb?

The Cross

Prior to Jesus' death, the cross was just a means of executing felons or political dissidents. Tradition has it that the True Cross was discovered by Saint Helena a few years following her son's, Emperor Constantine, remarkable victory over Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in A.D. 312. Since then, pieces of the True Cross have multiplied like Jesus' five loaves and two fishes, and fragments of the True Cross now reside in reliquaries around the world, including a church in Dickinson, Texas. Another superficial proof of the impact of the cross is its ubiquitous manifestations in jewelry. The cross appears in earrings, cufflinks and on necklaces. The cross is a symbol of a religious impulse so powerful that unbelievers often sue to have it removed — even from private property — deeming it to be offensive.

The meaning of the cross runs deeper. The cross of Christ was a stunning declaration of unconditional love, ultimate sacrifice, and victory over sin, death, and the devil. The cross just changed everything. It stands as the hinge-point of history and cannot be ignored, unless you're writing a book about objects in the British Museum.

The Tomb

Without the tomb, the cross fades to nothing more than a heroic story in which the prophet or the hero is killed and evil wins. Like the cross, the tomb is also important to our faith. The tomb is important because Jesus died. He was dead. And dead people in Jesus' times were put in tombs. If Jesus wasn't dead, then the cross is a sham, and the resurrection is gone too. For no more than three days, the tomb is where the dead, lifeless body of Jesus lay. It is also the place where the dead Jesus underwent a transformation, for when we encounter the resurrected Jesus, we discover a Jesus not just alive, not just with a body, but with a glorified, otherworldly body.

The tomb is the site where something amazing happened that prefigures our own future transformation at the great day of resurrection at the end of time. "What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. ... the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 52, 53).

The Stone

Here is the biblical record of the conversation: “The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, ‘Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, “After three days I will rise again.” Therefore, command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, “He has been raised from the dead”, and the last deception would be worse than the first. ‘Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can’ So, they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone” (27:61-66).

The guards posted at the tomb had one job to do. No one, but no one, touches the stone. The tomb is sealed. Keep it that way, or heads will roll. If the stone rolls, your head rolls. And yet, come Easter morning, the stone is rolled away, and those that peered inside saw that it was empty. It’s rolled away, not to let Jesus out, but for those to see it was empty. The stone signifies the power of God. The stone reveals Easter in all its glory and helps us understand the cross with all its degradation.

The Gospel authors write their eyewitness accounts of what happened that first Easter Sunday. Jesus defeated the strong bands of death. His life was taken from him on the cross. His lifeless body was taken down by those who loved their Rabbi. They hurriedly wrapped His body and placed it in the tomb. On that first Easter, the sacred bloodied body rose from dead. Those that came early that 1st Easter did not see the dead body but angels who declared: “He is not here. He has risen from the dead!”

Have a Blessed Easter
Pastor and Julie Steele

APRIL BIRTHDAYS


4-01: Kale Schnettler
4-02: Kristi Luecke
4-04: Gina Fibiger
4-05: Bob Parnitzke
4-06: Rachel Johnson
4-07: Timothy Fibiger
4-08: Barbara Steele
4-09: Amelia Hasler



4-11: Ella Albert
Russ Sholten
4-16: Ken Thompson
Diane Havlinek
4-17: Barbara Gumm
4-18: Juanita Hazen
Ashley Cox
4-27: Connor Paltzer

4-28: Ryan Mengel
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-16: Gary & Cindy Bartz
4-27: Doug & Kristi Luecke

If we missed a member’s birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.



MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Use your Designated Offering envelopes during the months of March and April to support **Lutheran Bible Translators**. The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. To learn more about LBT, visit their website at www.lbt.org

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been so nice to see everyone together in church on Sunday and being able to fellowship again has really been missed. We've had many people coming for the soup suppers. Thank you to everyone who has been serving and participating. The first two soup suppers raised over \$350 in free will offerings for Project Angel Hugs and a summer Youth Gathering trip for Isabella Hasler. Thanks for supporting these causes.

On March 14th, the Council voted to recommend that we pursue an upgrade to Bethany's streaming capabilities. We currently have a temporary set up that we would like to make more permanent. The upgrade includes a permanent installation of a 30X zoom camera on the balcony wall which can be programmed for pre-determined camera angles as well as a microphone in the sanctuary which will provide clearer audio. As mentioned previously, we were awarded a grant from the Siebert Foundation for \$2,200 as a Lutheran initiative to improve streaming capabilities across the churches. In addition, we plan to connect the sound system down to the Clyde and Betty Bawden Fellowship Hall and upgrade the wi-fi's reach throughout the church. We will be scheduling a voter's meeting for April 10th after the service to gain congregation approval. Please watch the church bulletins for the announcements.

Since last month, Lisa Willadsen agreed to serve a term as Council Secretary. We welcome her to the Council, and thank Jill Mengel for faithfully serving as well as helping Lisa transition. We are still looking to add another Elder. Please reach out to Andy Fibiger to volunteer as an Elder.

Dori and I wish everyone a Happy Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

God Bless and to God be the Glory!

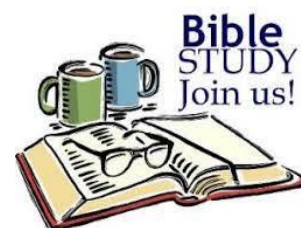
Todd Matte - Council President

Special VOTERS' MEETING

On Sunday, April 10th following the church service, please plan to stay for a brief special Voters' Meeting to approve the recommended upgrades to our streaming capabilities as explained above by Todd Matte. Following the meeting, we will enjoy some cake and fellowship to celebrate Bethany's 113th Anniversary!

BIBLE STUDIES TO BEGIN IN APRIL

- Sunday Morning Adult at 8:45am starting April 3
- Tuesday Morning Men's at 9:00 am starting April 5
- Thursday Morning Women's at 10am starting April 7



All three Bible Studies will all be studying the book **"What Does it Mean to Be Chosen?"** by Amanda Jenkins, Dallas Jenkins, and Douglas S Huffman. The books were ordered by the church but if you did not have a chance to sign up, you can still attend. We have a few extra books, and they are also available on Amazon. Contact the church office if you still need a book.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Only two Soup Suppers left! Join us in the fellowship hall starting at 5:00pm before our Lenten Worship.

March 30: Hosted by the Pranges, Kaepplers, Gumms, and Strengers. All proceeds will benefit Love INC. Soups will be Chicken Noodle and Cheeseburger Soup.

April 6: Hosted by the Haslers. All proceeds will benefit Isabella Hasler's trip to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Texas this summer. Soups will be Creamy Chicken & Wild Rice and Minestrone.



COLIN EDWARDS AT BETHANY

Colin Edwards, Executive Director of Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi), will be at Bethany on Sunday, April 24 to speak to the congregation during the church service about the wonderful things going on in this mission.



EASTER FLOWER DEADLINE SOON!

(call the church office if you'd like to get your order in before the deadline)

If you would like to purchase a flower to decorate the altar area on Easter, please fill out the form below. Payments can be made by cash or check made out to **Bethany Lutheran Church**. Your order and payment can be placed in the offering plate, the Altar Guild mailbox in the communication room at church or mailed to Shirley Mueller, 1714 Autumnwood Ct. Sheboygan, WI 53081. Plants may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service.

Deadline to order is Sunday, April 3.

Easter Lilies:

___	One Stem, 5+ blooms.	\$ 9.50
___	Double Stems, 9+ blooms.	\$19.50

Blooming Plants:

Please circle choice of color you prefer

___	6" Hydrangea - pink, blue, white	\$19.00
___	6" Azalea - pink, red, variegated, white	\$19.00
___	6" Mum Plants - yellow, purple, white	\$10.50
___	6" M. W. Geranium - pink, purple.	\$11.00
___	6" Reiger Begonia - pink, yellow, orange, white	\$12.50
___	6" Tulips - red, pink, purple, yellow.	\$ 9.50
___	6" Hyacinth - pink, purple, white.	\$ 9.50
___	6" Daffodils - yellow.	\$ 9.50



Given by: _____

* In Memory of _____

* In Honor of _____

* Other _____

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Lent Services

March 30 6:00 pm - Rev Bryan Osladil (Our Redeemer, Sheboygan)

April 6 6:00 pm – Rev Wayne King (St. Mark, Belgium)

Palm Sunday

April 10 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

April 14 NO SERVICE AT BETHANY (see below)

Good Friday

April 14 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 16 10:00 am w/Holy Communion



St. Paul Lutheran Church
with Bethany Lutheran, Kohler

"WE REMEMBER CALVARY"

*Maundy Thursday
April 14, 7:15 PM*

Join us for a special service
featuring a Holy Week
cantata written by
Joel Raney.

730 County Road PPP
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

BLESSINGS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT LOVE INC



With so much sadness in the World, we as Christians, are forever reminded of all that need our love and support. There is no Greater Blessing than helping a Neighbor in Need! Please take a minute to review some of the areas that we still need volunteer support and see if it is in your heart to join us in any way.

- Intake Specialist Team – Tues., Wed., or Thurs. 10am-2pm. Choose your day. Volunteers answer initial phone calls from our Neighbors, listen to their stories, collect pertinent information, and provide hope for their future. Training provided.
- Childcare Team – Part of New Way program, takes place on Thurs. nights, 6:00- 7:30pm. Volunteers provide age-appropriate care for the program participants' children. Planned activities are provided.
- Moving Team – Primarily evenings and Saturdays a few times a month, 3-4 hours. Volunteer roles on this team include coordinating moves, assessing moves, helping on moving day (no packing involved). See our website for a full list of opportunities

The Volunteer work we do with an open heart is very meaningful. ❤️

The Power of Prayer

"God, where are you?" Sheila asked this question many times as she prayed fervently for an affordable vehicle to cross her path. Her 1991 car was nearing its last miles, and Sheila relied on having a car to get to work. Sheila called Love INC and found that many others would join her in prayer and continue to walk with her through this difficult time. Slowly the vehicle declined and eventually it smoked from the hood when she drove it. Everyone kept praying, but one day the vehicle was too dangerous to drive. Without a vehicle, Sheila would be restricted to working at the two closest work sites to her home. She feared she would not work enough hours to make ends meet, and her finances were tight due to health issues. As Sheila worked at the new locations, her supervisors began offering her additional work opportunities. Soon she was surpassing her previous income. Within two days of having no car, Sheila found a vehicle in better condition and more affordable than any she looked at! All this time Sheila wondered why God was not answering her prayers, when truly He was, in His timing. *"I used to resort to prayer after realizing other resources were out of reach for me. Being a low-income person, prayer is basically the only thing I can afford. But, I was reminded that prayer does work; in fact, it is the best resource we all have, and we should boldly and faithfully use this powerful means to communicate with God and ask for blessings."*

Sheboygan County Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

Partner Banquet

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Blue Harbor Resort Conference Center
725 Blue Harbor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

RSVP to: 920.254.6566 or
rick.cawthon@goodnewsjail.org



THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

Sunday, April 3
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Alter Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

Shua Yang
Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Maggie Faucher
Rachel Johnson, Julie Steele
Steve Hazen
Patrick Johnson

Wednesday, April 6
6:00 p.m.

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:

Jason Mengel
Steve & Diane Marotz
Colin Mengel

Sunday, April 10
10:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

Andy Fibiger
Mattes
Elanore Faucher
Kristine & Maggie Faucher
Mary Ann Fibiger
Ken Thompson

Friday, April 15
1:00 p.m.
Good Friday

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:

Lee Gumm
Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Katelynn Regutis
Shirley & Ray Ottman

Friday, April 15
6:00 p.m.
Good Friday

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:

Gerry Luebke
Hazens
Aidan Brooks

Sunday, April 17
10:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday
w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

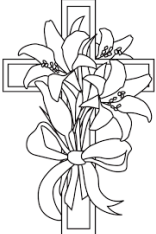
Brian Faucher
Fibigers
Maggie Faucher
Gina & Madison Fibiger
Todd Matte
Andy Fibiger

Sunday, April 24
10:00 a.m.

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

Jason Mengel
Ray & Shirley Ottman
Ryan Mengel
Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Sharon Werner
Dan Fibiger

April 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
03 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	04 6:30pm Elders	05 9:00am Men's Bible Study	06 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	07 10am Women's Bible Study	08	09
10 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship Palm Sunday	11 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	12 9:00am Men's Bible Study	13	14 10am Women's Bible Study 7:15pm Cantata Service - St Paul, Sheboygan Falls *No Service at Bethany*	15 1:00pm Good Friday Service 6:00pm Good Friday Service	16
17 10:00am Easter Worship w/HC Easter Sunday	18	19 9:00am Men's Bible Study	20 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	21 10am Women's Bible Study	22	23
24 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	25	26 9:00am Men's Bible Study	27 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	28 10am Women's Bible Study	29	30