From Your Pastor

Do April showers bring May flowers? I certainly hope so!!! This has been a crazy winter. Spring plants and flowers mark the festive time of blossoming new growth. It is the colorful contrast to the drab and dark winter months. Spring is also a time to remember the Creator God who has created “everything that exists,” as Martin Luther explains in the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed.

April brings us the Resurrection this year! Easter Sunday is April 21 and is a festival worship of new life given us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this new life in Christ, the New Testament reminds us that we are a “New Creation” in Christ Jesus.

However, not all is rosy and pleasant this spring. With the amount of snow this winter, many are concerned with possibilities of flooding. Deep sadness is felt as we hear news of flooding in several states. The force of nature is an uncontrollable factor in our lives. Prayers continue to surround people whose lives are disrupted or experience tragedy.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been the primary organization we in the ELCA depend to reaching out to people in need. The following information is from their website https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response. Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ’s call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need.

Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Please prayerfully discern your role and response to helping others who need help and hope.

Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Paul J. Erdal, Lead Pastor

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Wednesday, April 3
5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 10
5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 17
5:00-7:00 p.m. Lenten Service of Silence

Thursday, April 18
6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 19
12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 21
8:30 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Easter Worship

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. regarding “Blue House”
Women's Ministry

Mission Outreach. Calvary's Mission Outreach is requesting your help. Bags and the supplies for putting the bags together is almost completely depleted. If you can sew please consider picking up supplies to make a bag or two. The list of items to fill bags is also available in the Fellowship Hall or consider a monetary donation and we will purchase items. Donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, hair brushes and towels can also be brought in the container by the bags. Last year over 250 personal care bags were distributed to organizations in our area. Checks may be made out to Calvary and left with Shirley in the office. Please note they are for Personal Care Kits. If you have questions contact Sonja Horner, Laurel Yost, Jackie Benson or Cathy Nichols.

Mary Magdalene Award. Please submit the name of a woman who you feel should be honored with this award for her above and beyond dedication to the mission that is Calvary. We were honored to have Calvary's Cindy Olson receive this award last year. Contact a WELCA officer with your suggestion.

Conference 6 Spring Gathering. Set your calendar for Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 AM at Lake Park Lutheran Church. The speaker will be Pastor Rod Spidahl. There are wonderful opportunities of fellowship and sharing. Registration is at 8:30 AM.

Exercise: Walk with God Daily.

Vacation Bible School!

Please mark your calendars for 2019 Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 23-26 (evenings) at Calvary. This year, Calvary volunteers will be teaming with Luther Crest counselors for an awesome VBS camp experience for your kids...right here Perham!

Don't miss out on this fun, faith-filled week! Preregistration is required and registration forms will be available starting in April. Questions? Please contact the church office at 218-346-4780.

Pocket Prayer Squares.

Leftover yarn? The women of the Northwest Minnesota Synod request help making pocket prayer shawls to be used at the Synod Assembly June 7-9, 2019 at Concordia College, Moorhead. Either knit or crochet 6 x 6 inch squares. They need 650 squares by the beginning of June. When done you may take them with you to the conference or mail them to: Sue Ellwanger 13604 625th Avenue, Eagle Bend, MN 56446.

Monday Study: Java Jams Bible Study meets Mondays at 8:30 AM in the Mary Room when school is in session. If you’re a mom with school-age children, this study may work well with your schedule as it doesn't meet when there is no school. Women of all ages are very welcome! Check the calendar to verify dates.

Wednesday Studies: Charity Circle meets Wednesday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room. Host is Carol Haugrud. Faith Circle meets Wednesday April 3 at 1:00 PM in the Matthias Room. Study leader is Sonja Horner. Peace Circle meets Wednesday April 10 at 9:30 AM in the Matthias. Study leader is Sue Cacioppo. Hosts are Karen Mathiaison and Darlene Nelson.

Thursday Study: In April we will start a new study, “Prayer: Does It Make A Difference,” a six part DVD series by Philip Yancey. The group will meet Thursdays, 6:30-8 pm, April 4, 11, 25, May 2,9,16. Guidebooks cost $10.50. Call Becky Stolee at 346-3440 if interested.

Children's Ministry

Grade 3 Communion.

3rd Grade Communion Instruction will be held Sunday, April 14 in the Matthias Room from 12:15-1:00 p.m. Parents, if you did not receive an informational letter and would like more information, please contact Pastor Paul.

Jubilee Sunday. April 28, we will conclude Sunday School for the year with a Jubilee Service at 10:45 a.m. The children will lead the service on that day, including ushering, greeting, singing, reading, etc. The Calvary Fishermen will also present FaithChests at both services.

Men's Ministry

MEN SERVE...

Men's Visitation. Kal Schellenberg is the men's visitor for April.

Senior Rides (65+). The Fishermen could use a few volunteers to help with providing rides to the 8:30 traditional service for our seniors. We have a rotation to share the load. Please contact Lee Mindemann (218-298-2010) if you can help.

FaithChests. These wooden chests are given to Calvary kindergarten kids to store faith milestone items. Presentation Sunday is April 28. The Fishermen will be assistants at worship that day; to sign up contact Lee Mindemann (218-298-2010).

MEN LEARN...

Men's Breakfast. Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7 a.m. in the Matthias room. A hearty breakfast is followed by a study of the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. All men welcome!

MEN HAVE FUN...

Men's Lunch April 4 at noon at The Cactus. No meeting or study, just food and fun.


Entry point is Little Gabbro Lake. Contact Dave Knudsen as the list is already filling up!

Youth

Wednesday, April 3
Wednesday, April 10
5:30 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper
Youth Serve—Free Will Offering

Sunday, April 14
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Palm/Passion Sunday Breakfast
Youth Serve—Free Will Offering

Wednesday, April 24
6:00pm
G5-6 Cooking Class/Pizza Party
G7-9 Bowling at The Cactus
Condolences to family and friends of Marie Wang of Apple Valley, Minnesota who passed away Friday, March 8.

Thank you for your support as we have journeyed with Lynne and her battle with cancer. It is so appreciated. Just knowing the countless ways our family and friends are with us, makes the way easier. We are grateful. — The Kovash Family

Taylor's Hope Benefit

Sunday, April 7, from 11am to 3pm, come to the Prairie Wind Middle School and support the Matt and Trica Johnson Family as they face a long road ahead with 4 year old Taylor's battle with Leukemia. Join us for a family friendly fun day including a performance by Imanick!, face painting by the Painted Turtle, carnival games, bouncy house, snow cones, cotton candy, food, a cake walk, silent and live auctions and more! Monetary donations can be mailed to or dropped off at United Community Bank Attn: Taylor's Hope Benefit, PO Box 249, Perham, MN 56573.

If you'd like to share words of encouragement with the family, you can do so on Taylor's Caring Bridge site: https://tinyurl.com/caring-bridge-taylor-johnson.

A New Connection!

Starting in June, the Calvary Connection will be published semimonthly instead of monthly.

Take the news home with you on Sunday morning or pick it up anytime you're at the church (to receive Calvary news by snail mail please contact the church office). Calvary news will be available in print form (not part of the Sunday worship service folder but a separate document), e-mail and at www.calvaryperham.com.

A monthly calendar and birthdays will be available the last week of the month prior.
Every now and then one is awed to witness a moment of—what is the word?—“redemption,” should I say? I was privy to just such a moment recently. Allow me to share the story with you.

The story begins with the earthquake-tsunami-Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011. At that time, Jim and I received about 200 prayer shawls that we were able to share with families in a remote fishing village that had been decimated by the tsunami. A non-Christian woman named Chieko was the unexpected catalyst for this ministry event.

Somewhat to my surprise, Chieko told me sometime last year that she felt the desire and need to visit some of the Minnesota churches that had sent the shawls, to express her thanks face-to-face. So she and I made a kind of gratitude pilgrimage, visiting several churches and sharing her non-verbal appreciation to them through offering the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Everyone loved meeting Chieko. They could not communicate through words, but once again I was reminded of how little we actually need “words” to say what needs to be said.

One morning, we were attending a worship service in a large ELCA congregation. Chieko couldn’t understand a word, but I could tell she was nevertheless drinking in the music, the space and the spirit of worship. After the service, one woman came up and introduced herself as Jill. She then took both of Chieko’s hands, and looked her in the eyes, her own eyes brimming with tears. She said, “I am here to greet you on behalf of my father. He fought your people in World War II. He is now in heaven, but I am sure he would want to ask your forgiveness for any suffering he might have contributed to your people.” Chieko was floored, and immediately responded, “Oh, our country did so many things for which we must ask forgiveness...” and the two women, one clad in silk kimono, the other in Midwestern wool, hugged and cried upon each other’s shoulders. Then Jill said, “Wait a minute!” In a few moments, she had brought a beautiful prayer shawl from her office in the church, and wrapped Chieko up in it. Chieko wore that shawl her entire time in Minnesota.

Before leaving Minnesota, Chieko told me, “I know that Jill’s words carried the weight of decades. I cannot get it out of my mind. I cannot leave before giving back something to express my own heart to ask for and receive forgiveness.” Chieko looked in her suitcase for the most valuable gift she could find. It was a decorative Japanese fan, depicting the beauty of the seasons. After our departure friends from that church delivered Chieko’s gift to Jill.

As I witnessed this gesture between the two women that Sunday morning, I was aware in some deep place that this was more than two women connecting. It was something huge, like “Peace and Reconciliation” personified. I don’t know how to explain what I felt. But somehow, though it involved two women, it felt like the earth had shifted.


Carol Sack
Jesus is Risen!

Complete the sums on the tomb stone...

... then find the hidden message from Luke 24 v 6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside the Connection</th>
<th>Volume 27, Issue 4</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Your Pastor</td>
<td>Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Ministry + Men’s Ministry</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry + Youth Ministry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You For Fighting Hunger! + Life Events</td>
<td>Taylor’s Hope Benefit + MS News + A New Connection!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From our Missionaries in Japan</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Carol Sack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Puzzle Page:</td>
<td>Jesus Is Risen!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THANK GOD.**  
**SHARE JESUS.**  
**HELP OTHERS.**