

The Herald



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Pastors Page ~ The Three Days

We are well along in our Lenten journey and getting closer to the great event for which this journey prepares: the Great Three Days. These days begin at sunset on Maundy Thursday and conclude at sunset on Easter Sunday. The Three Days include the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. In this one service of worship spanning a three day period, we immerse ourselves again into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In reflecting on the Three Days, author Kathleen Norris describes it as "... a total surrender to worship. Time feels suspended, allowing for focus on

the events commemorated: Jesus gathering with friends the night before his death, to share his last meal; Jesus arrest and execution; and his resurrection." She then reflects that when we are acclimated to normal rhythms of prayer and worship, something as big and mysterious as the Three Days is bound to throw us off.

Yes, the Three Days, the very pinnacle of the Christian year and the Christian life does come as a glorious interruption into our normal schedule and routines. And each year it is wise to welcome this wondrous gift of God. Please make

every effort to participate in every aspect of this great celebration. Someone recently shared with me that when we leave our homes and enter into the liturgy of the Three Days we never come back through our doorways the same.

Such is the transforming and powerful work of the Resurrection.

Peace,

Pastor Bryon +

The Three Days....a total surrender to worship.

The Three Day Journey

Regarded as the Christian Passover, the Three Days is really one liturgy or one service of worship. That is because the death and resurrection of Christ is one mystery that can never really be separated. It is essential that we all celebrate these great days of Christ crucified and risen. It is the center of our year, the core around which everything else revolves. The Three Days is the source form which all other worship and celebration springs.

A word about each leg of the Three Day journey ...

Maundy Thursday –

On this day the season of Lent comes to an end and we enter into our Easter celebration. To signal the end of our Lenten journey, the service begins with a general order of confession and forgiveness, followed by the opportunity to receive individual forgiveness and laying on of hands. We celebrate the Lord's Supper on this night when Jesus instituted the Supper. Following the Lord's Supper, the washing of feet takes place for those who desire to partake. The altar is stripped at and all adornments removed. We leave in silence, with no final blessing. We return to continue the worship of the Three Days on Good Friday. Our friends from Faith Lutheran in

Meadow Vista will join us on Maundy Thursday. This is a wonderful connection to the group from both congregations on pilgrimage in Mexico this same week.

Good Friday – Two services are offered this day, one at Noon and one in the evening. The Noon service, held at Bethlehem, is ecumenical and includes participation from several Auburn area congregations. The elements of this service include the Passion story from John's Gospel, the "Bidding prayer" and the adoration of the cross.

This is a day of simplicity and austerity as we contemplate the love of God. Today we read from John's Gospel because it reveals a victorious Christ drawing all humanity to himself.

Easter Vigil – Just after sundown we assemble for the most festive and dramatic service in the entire Christian year. The Easter Vigil is the cornerstone on which the rest of the church year is built. Again the darkness a new fire is kindled, the new paschal candle is lit and the light of Christ leads the way like the pillar of fire in Exodus. We then sing a song of praise to Christ our light. Then we listen to the stories and sing songs of God's love throughout all

ages including creation, crossing the Red sea, and the promise of deliverance to the exiled. Then water is poured and new Christians are made through the gift of Holy Baptism. Old Christians renew their baptismal vows. All are anointed with the oil of the Spirit. Finally, the darkness gives way to full light as the table is spread and we share in the feast of victory. A big party follows the service. Truly our Lenten fasting has come to an end. This is the holiest night of the year.

Easter Sunday – The celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord continues the festive celebration begun at the Easter Vigil. It is the first Sunday morning after the first full moon after the spring equinox. This is the day the Lord has made and the celebration continues for fifty days until the celebration of Pentecost. The wonderful spirit of joy that began at the Easter Vigil spills over into the Sunday morning fest of victory. But, that's not all. There is still one more opportunity. Yes, our monthly 'Taize' service of Peace, Meditation and Prayer will take place later in the afternoon as an opportunity to prayerfully conclude our Three Day celebration and enter into the great 50 Days of Easter.



Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22, Noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 23, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Holy Communion, April 24, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

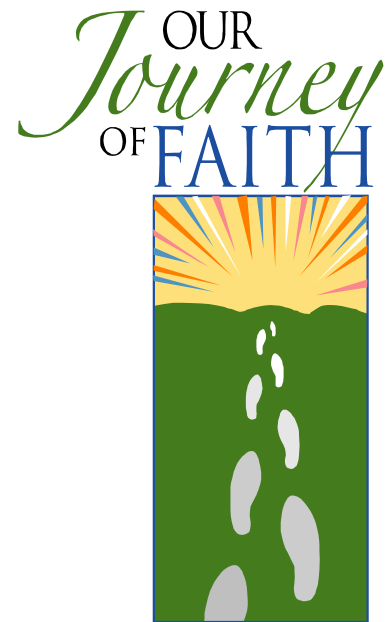
Easter Service of Meditation , Prayer and Peace, April 24, 5:30 p.m.

Journey of Faith News

Our 6 candidates for Journey of Faith continue their progress in Bethlehem's nine month discipling process. Recent updates include:

- Photos of candidates have been posted on an easel, displayed either in the narthex or the fellowship hall. We welcome all in our Bethlehem Community to identify the candidates, get to know them, and ask them about the process.
- Prayer sponsors have been found for our candidates, in addition to their 9-month sponsors. We invite everyone to pray for the faith formation of our candidates.
- On March 12 and 13, candidates took part in the Rite for Continuing Conversion at worship. This was a public sign of their commitment to prayer and worship, and an ongoing exploration and deepening of their faith, affirmed also by the congregation.
- During Lent, the Journey of Faith intensifies: in preparation for the great Easter Vigil, in which our candidates will affirm their baptisms, candidates and sponsors are invited into a process of Lenten devotions and services, a Lenten all-day retreat, contemplative questions for journaling (they were provided with journals) and weekly gatherings to discuss and pray about how Lenten scriptures apply to their lives.

Our weekly format includes dinner as a group, small groups for prayer and discussion, followed by a large group for presentation and discussion of a topic. For any questions on the Journey of Faith, contact our Journey of Faith Team: Pr. Bryon, Loren Clark, Karen Stein, Ruth Dugan, Jan Whiteside, Denise Nelson, Virginia Ward



EASTER VIGIL

God's Big Story

When: APRIL 23, 2011

Where: *Gather in the BLC parking lot around the fire at 8:00 P.M.*

Easter Vigil is a special night. It is a time for some of the greatest stories of our faith heritage unfurled in one setting. In hearing these stories, we connect with the heart of our own faith story. Members of our faith community will be helping to tell these stories.

As the people of God, we have through history ached in suffering, celebrated in praise, begged for help, offered generous service, and in general led lives full to the brim. The stories of Easter Vigil remind us of the range of faithful moments, including both joy and desolation. Witnessing these ancient stories, we discover anew how God's great story is for us. These stories are indeed our stories. God brings us through fire and water, out of death and night, welcoming us into the light of life.



This night we light a new Christ candle from a new fire. By the light of that flame we gather to remember who we are and where we have come from. We gather at the baptismal font, giving thanks for water that is a sign of death to sin and rebirth into eternal life. Tonight, as we welcome new brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism, we remember how on the first Easter Christ welcomed Mary: calling her by name, bringing her out of weeping into the joyous light of Easter morning.

Through the drama of Easter Vigil, our communities of faith are invited to honest reflection and real renewal. On this night we remember that God's great story holds all of our little stories: the joy and fear of a new baby, changing jobs, cancer, celebrating friendship, waiting for new faith to emerge. All of us are written into God's ongoing and welcoming narrative of passionate grace and service.

Easter Vigil Party will follow in the BLC Parish Hall



Delicious Food



Music



Joyful Celebration

We hope you can join us as all ages celebrate together in this joyous occasion!

12 Things You Don't Know About Mrs. Kathy Hamm

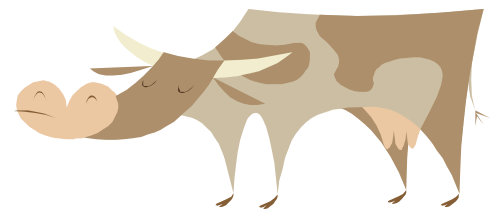
Number 1: I hand raised 3 prairie dogs! When I worked in the Education Department of the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita Kansas, part of my job included taking care of the animals

that we used for our programming. We had snakes, turtles, lizards, pygmy hedgehogs, a chinchilla, rabbits, Madagascar Hissing cockroaches and giant African millipedes. We decided that we would like to have a prairie dog as well. So the

zookeepers lived trapped babies for us. We handled them as much as possible, including carrying them around in a pouch most of the day. We even took them home on the weekends, so they would be used to people. Their names

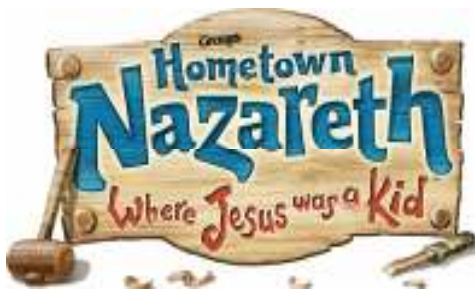
were Yip, Yap and Cheyenne. I even did some behavioral training with Cheyenne and was able to put her in a harness and take her out of her cage on a leash for programs!

God's Global Barnyard



We did it!!!! We've raised enough to buy a cow!!!! We have a total of \$521.90, enough for a cow and twenty one chicks.

Watch the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to see our progress. Could we make it to a cow and a fish farm? What about two cows? The week of March 21 we are collecting for God's Global Barnyard for our Lenten calendar so who knows???



VBS 2011

June 13 – 17 5:30 – 8:30 pm

I am so excited about our new VBS program! After our opening celebrations we are going to visit Nazareth and talk to Mary and her neighbor, visit the marketplace and play hometown games. We will be travelling in Tribes, so everyone in the family can participate. There are opportunities for all ages – from running a stall in the marketplace, to guiding a tribe, to helping fix dinner to participating in a tribe. Everyone will be looking for God Sightings and we will talk about places you've seen God during the day and post them for everyone to see. Watch for more details coming soon and if you anxious to help – just let me know. *Mrs Kathy Hamm*

Wholistic Health For the Soul ~ Dignity in Caring

We are simply told to take care of our neighbor.

“Love the Lord your God will all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and , Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

We all enjoy stories. We love hearing stories of others whom we respect and cherish in our lives. If we listen carefully, there is a variety of character traits in each story....and a lesson in ethics also. One usually remembers a story because it had an ethical or moral happening. It is through the story tellers' experience of doing or acting in God's image that gives the story meaning for the storyteller as well as us, the listener.

But do we enjoy or invite strangers to tell us their stories? C.S. Lewis once wrote that “the most uninteresting or dull person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship...there are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.” Out of story connecting, we learn compassion. We may feel fear, anger, or disagreement, but in looking at the stranger as Jesus would,

we might ask, why should I not give time and dignity to listen?

In the story of the good Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, a Samaritan, stops, bandages wounds, listens to his story of being beaten and attacked by robbers and left to die by his own people. Jesus gives no guidelines or criteria for determining who is entitled to be treated with dignity....we are simply told that we are to take care of our neighbor. This entails the caregiver to feel emotion and to act on that feeling without prejudice.

The human rights advocate, Jonathan Mann suggests four general ways we violate human dignity by: 1) ignoring one another, 2) seeing others only as members of a group rather than an individual, 3) transgressing another's personal space, and 4) humiliating another. The attacked Jewish man experienced all of these.

This gives us pause to realize that the spiritual dimension of ethics is so important. In this world we are broken images of God. We need God's grace and forgiveness on a daily basis. Lent gives us time to come to God in humility and dependence, reducing the pride and arrogance that leads us to think we are better than our neighbor or that serving some people is beneath our dignity.

On Monday evening, May 9th at 5:00 PM, we will have an opportunity to hear Joe Teixeira's presentation “In Our Own Voice”. His program “puts a face” onto mental illness by bringing two folks living well with their illnesses, and how faith sustains them in their walk. Let us pray to be open in spirit to learn more about reaching out to our neighbors in need. Please mark your calendar and come enjoy a meal with fellow Samaritans.

Randi Olson, FCN

Daily Lectionary for April

F Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:22-31
Ephesians 5:1-9
Sa Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:32-34
John 1:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
M Psalm 146
Isaiah 59:9-19
Acts 9:1-20
Tu Psalm 146
Isaiah 42:14-21
Colossians 1:9-14
W Psalm 146
Isaiah 60:17-22
Matthew 9:27-34
Th Psalm 130
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8—3:3
Revelation 10:1-11
F Psalm 130
Ezekiel 33:10-16
Revelation 11:15-19
Sa Psalm 130
Ezekiel 36:8-15

Luke 24:44-53
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
M Psalm 143
1 Kings 17:17-24
Acts 20:7-12
Tu Psalm 143
2 Kings 4:18-37
Ephesians 2:1-10
W Psalm 143
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Matthew 22:23-33
Th Psalm 31:9-16
1 Samuel 16:11-13
Philippians 1:1-11
F Psalm 31:9-16
Job 13:13-19
Philippians 1:21-30
Sa Psalm 31:9-16
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34
Sunday of the Passion
Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66
M *Monday in Holy Week*
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11
Tu *Tuesday in Holy Week*
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36
W *Wednesday in Holy Week*
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1—19:42

Sat. Easter Vigil
Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18
Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10
M Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11
Tu Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17
W Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-7
Matthew 28:1-10
Th Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5
F Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Sa Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

April Birthday's

Gretchen Hecker
Julie Magee
Noah Daly
Bernie Beadles
Melody Brady
Austin Twietmeyer
Harry Fake
Jane Roach
Jane Classon

Kathy Daly
Agnes Bensley
Sandy Frame
Cassie Ramirez
Dakota Hecker
Bernice Herrold
Lois Thompson
Beth Untalan
Cheryl Vannier

Sandy Wademan
Samuel Robinson
Megan Williams
Bill Thompson
Grace Ewald
Krista Greenlee



A Message from Bryan Whiteside, Director of Youth Ministry

As many of you know there is a team here at Bethlehem that have been working on a local community-organizing project with issues related to adolescents and their families in Auburn. As we began to have conversations with parents and teens it became apparent that families are extremely stressed out by an overwhelming busyness due to homework, sports, and extra-curricular activities. This has put our team on a three-month quest to learn everything we can about the local education system. We have talked to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and principals about the stress and frustration with the education system.

As you can imagine, a very larger picture has been painted for us through these conversations. There are many places for improvement and all parties involved are doing everything they can to produce happy, healthy, educated students with the resources provided to them. I must say that everyone that we have talked to have been people of great integrity who are passionate and dedicated to the students of the greater Auburn area.

The fascinating thing that our team has noticed in this listening campaign is that all parties involved have many of the same frustrations and each party feels that they do not have the power to do anything about it. Parents, teachers, students, principals, etc. have voiced the complaints but none of them voiced these complaints to one another! There is not a lot of time or space for dialogue between all of these groups.

The local organizing ministry here at Bethlutheran, along with Placer People of Faith Together and the Placer County Youth Commission has seen this communication and has decided to do something about it. The groundbreaking documentary *A Race To Nowhere* will be shown April 12 and 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the Old State Theater in downtown Auburn as an opportunity to bring all of these voices together to discuss the health of the teens in Auburn. Please make it a priority to be at this event that could potentially lessen the burden of hundreds of families in our community.

*You won't want to miss this if you care about the
teens in your life!*

A RACE TO NOWHERE

April 12 and April 27

7:00 PM

Old State Theater (downtown Auburn)



Women's Ministry

GOOD NEWS GIRLS



Women's Fellowship

We will be meeting Thursday, April 28th at 10a.m. in the fellowship hall. Ruth Dugan is the study leader and Donnetta Barnhart is our hostess. The study will be; "Unity in Diversity". This lessons focus is "Barriers to Resurrection". The main text is Mark 16:1-8. All women are welcome. Join us for a morning of study and fellowship. This month's study should be a lively discussion, and we are all Bible illiterate



Facilities Project Update- And a Big Thanks!

Thanks to all for your contributions to the Five Year

Facilities Plan. The first major project of exterior repair and painting has been completed. A great job was done by the contractor, Joel Sizemore. Finally the dry rot has been repaired!

Two projects are planned for 2011. One is replacement of the furnace and air conditioning units for the Fellowship Hall and office. That equipment is VERY OLD! It will be replaced for safety and efficiency. The other project is replacement of the office computers as they are overloaded, outdated and need to be networked together

for efficiency and data storage.

The funding drive initiated last year for the Five Year Facilities Plan continues. Approximately \$30,000 will be needed for the projects this year. Your contributions to this fund- call it "building fund"- in addition to your regular offerings, will make it happen. Thanks for your support.

Tom Larson, Facilities Team

From Our Worship Coordinator

I have been working on the schedule for the Holy Week services. Many of you have already had an email or a phone call from me. I want to thank all of you who have agreed to take a part in those services. These are our Holy Days and I invite you to become involved. As we think back to the original Passover, we notice that all those who believed took part in the meal and marking their door posts with the blood of the lamb. I encourage all of you to take part, in some way, with the services during Holy Week.

Stephen Ministry Update



Journeying Through Grief: A Resource That Can Help

One of the tools used by the Stephen program at BLC to help those in our congregation who are grieving a loss is a set of four books written by the founder of Stephen Ministries, Dr. Kenneth Haugk. The "Journeying Through Grief" series are each about 44 pages long with short, easy-to-read chapters written in a caring and personal style.

The books arrive at four crucial times during the first year after a loss. Book 1, "A Time To Grieve," is usually sent 3 weeks or so after the loss. Book 2, "Experiencing Grief," follows in 3 or 4 months. Book 3, "Finding Hope and Healing," arrives 6 months after; and book 4, "Rebuilding and Remembering," is sent 11 months after the loss.

The books blend frank information about the grief process, Biblical truths, and stories, interspersed with poems and quotes about grief. Each book is intended to help the reader better understand what he or she is experiencing while providing hope and encouragement for the journey.

The books have been well received by several parishioners. If you are interested in learning more about these books, or know someone whom you think might benefit from them, check in with any Stephen Minister who can help you make arrangements.

Prayer request: Please pray for our Stephen Ministers in training, and for those providing the training, that the process may continue to be enriching, fulfilling, and directed by the Holy Spirit.

- your Stephen Ministry Team

Presidents Message

Lent is often thought of as a somber time. For some, this idea has been shaped by years of thinking that in order to experience Easter, we must focus on giving something up for a period of time. While we often might enter into periods of prayer, fasting, and abstinence during Lent, we must not overlook the fact that Lent gives us an opportunity for spiritual renewal and purpose. The pathway of Lent provides us an opportunity for deeper commitment to a way of life that is rooted in our Baptismal Covenant

Our Lenten journey this year, as defined by so many spirit-led activities at our church, may remind us more clearly of what God wants to do in our lives to renew and rejuvenate us. Through prayer and our personal "alms giving" we can deepen our walk into a rich, transformative prayerful experience. These weeks of Lent may have elements of sacrifice, but the process can teach us new things. Through quiet reflection, we may be more open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. By opening our minds and hearts, we all have the ability to learn deeper meaning as God draws us to Him (like the Samaritan Woman at the Well) to offer us a drink of his everlasting love and acceptance.

During this important time in the life of the Church, Passion week will offer us an opportunity to experience God in one continual service—from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday to Easter Vigil to Easter morning. Each of our services will provide you a rich worship experience. We hope that you are able to participate fully in what will sure to be a most meaningful time as we witness the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and experience with him the events that led up to his death and resurrection. We will soon celebrate the wonderful truth of a risen Messiah—our victorious Savior who gave his life for us.

I pray that this time in our church year brings our congregation to greater unity and peace as we worship together and listen to His leading.

-James Anderberg

Evening Service of Meditation, Peace & Prayer

The Evening Service of Meditation, Prayer, and Peace continues on the last Sunday of each month at 5:30 PM. The next service is April 24th. This contemplative service features 'Taize' music.



Auburn Ecumenical Lenten Series Continues
7:00 PM every Wednesday



FASTING PRAYER
WORKS OF LOVE

April 6 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street

April 13 Sisters of Mercy, 535 Sacramento Street.

Offerings will be given to Catholic Social Services, The Salvation Army, The Gathering Inn, Auburn Inter-faith Food Closet

To my Bethlehem family: I wish to thank you for all your cards and contributions to Bethlehem.

I love you all!

Etta Bonilla

Dear Bethlehem Friends:

Vern, Jane and I want to thank all of you for your prayers!

Your support really is strengthening all of us in this time of serious health situations!!

Thank you! We feel your support and God's Love!

The Mierkeys



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Sharing Christ's Love

We Are on the Web

www.bethlehemplutheranauburn.org

Worship Services

Saturday Evening 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Evening Service of Meditation, Prayer
and Peace— Last Sunday of the month
at 5:30 PM



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22, Noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter,

April 23, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Holy Communion, April 24,
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Service of Meditation, Prayer, and
Peace, April 24, 5:30 p.m.