

The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

Is a part of the Southeast Michigan Synod

Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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2022



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From the Pastor:

Is anybody listening? Is anybody listening? Please somebody help me! My husband has collapsed and I do not know how to fly a plane! These were the words of a desperate North Carolina woman whose husband had just died of a heart attack at the controls of their tiny aircraft.

Flying was the great joy of her husband's life, but she was never very enthusiastic about his hobby. Nevertheless, she never really paid much attention to how he actually operated the plane. By her own admission, she had never even closed the door of the aircraft by herself! But now here she was 3,500 feet above the earth with no idea of how to keep the plane aloft or even more importantly, how to bring it in for a landing.

Her only thought was to press the button on the microphone as she had seen her husband do so many times before and pray that someone would pick up her desperate signal. *Is anybody listening? Is anybody listening?* Fortunately, someone **was** listening, a seasoned pilot who calmly gave her step-by-step instructions that allowed her to bring the plane in for a perfect landing.

As you all know, during our Mid-Week Lenten worships, we have been focusing on the different intercessions of the Lord's Prayer. I wish I could say that the above story was a perfect illustration of just how our individual prayers work. But, of course, it isn't.

We pray when we have a deeply felt need. After all, we bow our heads, maybe even get on our knees and we pray, many times wondering, "Is anybody listening?"



And wouldn't it be great if suddenly a voice answered and calmly told us what to do, step by step by step, until all of our needs are met and all of our problems are solved?

If only it were that simple.

Sometimes, though, it seems to us that there is no one listening, though in our heart of hearts we certainly live in hope that that isn't true.

There have been people who have left the Christian the faith because they prayed and did not receive what they expected. Conversely, there are others whose prayers have drawn them closer to God than ever even though they, too, may have had to alter their expectations.

So, what is the difference? Is there an art, maybe even a science to prayer? Maybe their focus had been all wrong. After all, have you every noticed that most of the Lord's Prayer is focused on God, and **not** on the person doing the praying?

Maybe that prayer structure tells us that we need to examine how we pray our own prayers. How much of our prayer is centered on ourselves, devoted to our own wants and wishes?

There's an old, old story about a society matron who went to see a famous psychotherapist. He said at the first interview, "Now tell me all about yourself." She needed no second invitation. At the end of the hour the doctor said, "That will do for now. I'll see you again tomorrow." The same formula was repeated several times a week for some weeks. Finally in exasperation the doctor said to the woman, "I advise you to take the first train to Niagara Falls, and there take a long, lingering look at something bigger than yourself."

Let us always remember that prayer is time that is spent in the presence of the One who is far greater than ourselves!

After all, when we give God praise, we don't do it to remind God of who he is **but to remind ourselves who he is!**

God is the Creator and we are the creation.

There is a story about a young stamp collector who wrote to Buckingham Palace asking for a special stamp to add to his collection. His request for the stamp was denied, but he was granted a visit with King George V, who was keenly interested in stamps also. Afterward, as the young boy recounted his experience the stamp itself seemed insignificant. Someone recounting this story stated that "Real prayer is like this, to have fellowship with the King of Kings is far better than to have a specific request granted."

Consider your own prayer life. Is it centered on yourself, or it is centered on God? After all, the entire foundation of the Lord's prayer IS TRUST—trusting in God's love!

Oh, one final thing that I will be unpacking more on Easter Sunday. Do you remember how the Lord's Prayer ends? "For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever." This means that we recognize that God is in absolute and complete control of the universe, and that we have the absolute and complete confidence that God truly hears our prayers And that we have the absolute and complete trust that whatever the answer we receive is in our best interest.

Once there were two men praying. One prayed, "Lord, please help me to hold on." The other prayed, "Lord, please help me to let go." When we have made our earnest pleas to God, then we need to pray for the ability to ~let go."

This is God's world and we are God's children.

Always remember that!

God will **NEVER** forget us or forsake us!

See you in church!

Pastor Fogle



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday
9:30 am

Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm

Good Friday
Noon at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 Six Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152

7pm at Celebration

Easter
Easter Breakfast @ 8:30am
Celebration Worship @ 9:30am
Easter Fair supporting Heifer International
following worship

Each week we lift up Celebration members on a rotating basis.

April 3:
Stew Israel
Bud Johnson and Annie Featherstone
Marion Jones
Emily, Nathan, and Oliver Hoste



April 10:
Karin Klein
Miriam Kleven
Ed and Ruth Klosterhaus
Carole Knapp

April 17:
Steve, Andrea, and Christopher Koholff
Linda Krall
Amy Kramer
Justin, Michelle, Madeline, Charlie Lair

April 24:
Sharon and Vann Lee
Dale, Karen, and Alex Lee
Dick and LaVerne Lieberknecht

Celebration Aids Ukraine

On Sunday, March 20, folks at Celebration were encouraged to make donations to help the folks who are suffering from the warring in the Ukraine. The funds will be sent through Lutheran World Relief.

The Outreach Committee provided a special breakfast to emphasize the opportunity. About \$1600 has been collected thus far. We sincerely thank all who participated.



Forum Update

During Lent, Forum will continue to be "live" as part of the Lenten mid-week worship services at church. We will continue with and complete the discussions about the Lord's Prayer in that time.

After Easter, starting on April 20, we plan to return to Zoom when we continue our study of *the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*. In the first three sessions, we have studied the possible places for Jesus' birth (stable or cave?), his occupation (carpenter, stonemason or craftsman?) and how being a forgiving person may be mandatory in order to be a follower of Jesus. On April 20, we'll begin with Session 4 which discusses some of the healings that Jesus performs and how those healing stories can impact your life. It's not too late to catch up, so why not join the zoom on April 20? Just contact me to be added to the Zoom.

By George
evalthaus@comcast.net.

J.O.Y. on Joy Road to resume May 11th!

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) will resume in MAY after our winter hiatus. **This is a change** due to the fact that the second Wednesday in April is Holy Week, which is already a very busy week with many opportunities for worship. J.O.Y. is a great opportunity for a non-Sunday, middle of the day short worship and fellowship. It's also a chance for others who may work on the weekend to join our small group in corporate worship. Please place it on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Yummy!



Recipes for our Tenth Anniversary Cookbook are coming in slowly but surely, and boy do they all sound DELISH! We hope to have at least 200 recipes in our collection – we are about 20 per cent of the way there.

Please feel free to submit more than one recipe. If several people submit the same recipe, each person will receive credit. Do you have some history to share about the recipe? Please do! It will make the book more interesting.

Do you have an idea for the name of the cookbook? We will carefully consider all suggestions.

To share your recipes and suggestions for the name of the cookbook, place them in the vintage recipe box by the mailboxes. More information about the cookbook can be found in the February newsletter which you can access on our website: www.celebrationlc.com.



Mark Your Calendars!

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble will be offering a concert here at Celebration on Tuesday, May 10th at 7pm.

This is a free concert by this award-winning ensemble, however we will have an opportunity to contribute after the concert. 50% of these offerings will be donated to Celebration for its ministries.



*Imagine the blessings
our congregation could provide
for struggling families in need.*

This Easter, we are partnering with @Heifer International to make this a reality by hosting an Easter Fair.

This event will on Easter Sunday (April 17th 10:30-12) immediately following the 9:30 Easter Worship.

Celebration Easter Fair will be outside and feature a few “coin” games, Chamberlin Petting Farm, and yummy cupcakes. The games will be used to collect money for Heifer International – so save up your loose change and check those couch cushions. If you don’t want to play games – that’s OK, you can just drop your change in any one of our collection buckets. Plan on staying after Church to visit Chamberlin Petting Farm (featuring goats, sheep, and a few other fuzzy friends), get a snack and wander and read about all the good things your donation can do.

Heifer International is a nonprofit dedicated to helping struggling families around the world lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Your donation will provide living gifts like goats or cows, which will help families start their journey toward self-reliance by supplying them with nutritious milk to drink, share and sell.



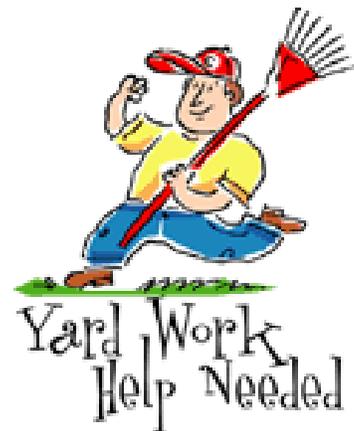
If you are interested in helping or willing to help during the Easter Fair event, watch your weekly newsletter for the Sign up Genius Link, or contact Donna Stempien at 734-904-0596 or at dstempien@att.net

If you think things are bad now, rumor has it that the next variant plays the accordion.

Put on Your Helping Shoes!

Spring is coming and it's time for our annual Spring clean-up of the church grounds. Please come join us on **Saturday May 7, 2022** - 9:00am to 1:00pm.

The Scouts will help *but we also need our members to lend a hand and show our appreciation.*



Please come ready to rake, trim trees and shrubs and make the flower beds ready for planting.

Bring One Sunday

April 10

The Good Hope Food Pantry is in need of non perishable donations to help with Easter Dinner.

Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, Boxed Sides, Pasta Salads, Potatoes, and things to make desserts, cake mixes, frosting, pie filling etc. will fit the bill. All non perishable food donations are greatly appreciated, as well as monetary donations. Please make checks payable to Good Hope Food Pantry,

Greg or Gloria Tapper
Getapper@yahoo.com
734-427-1142

Copy Cats??

If you see people around Celebration wearing grey T shirts with garden pots pictures on them, they are not copying each other, they are members of the garden team, getting steamed up for the summer season.

If you would like to join this hardy group, see Carole Hakala. cehakala@aol.com. (Last summer we met to garden on Tuesdays. 2022 schedule is yet to be determined.



More Crafty Connections in April

At our inaugural gathering in March, six crafters got together with their individual projects and spent almost two hours working on them. We had scrapbookers, knitters, crocheters and stitchers in attendance, and we had a lot of fun chatting and getting to know each other better, all while doing something we love to do – craft! We plan on getting together twice a month: on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm, and the last Wednesday at 10 am. In April that will be April 11 (7 pm) and April 27 (10 am). Why not come and join in the fun?! You don't have to come every time we meet, and don't need to be there the whole time. Feel free to invite a friend, neighbor or relative. For more info see the March newsletter. We hope to see you there!



Women of the ELCA

Women's Bible Study

In previous sessions, we looked at how the Bible uses expressions such as "kingdom of God," "kingdom of heaven" and "eternal life." These phrases usually refer to living in a world that is ruled by God, experiencing life as God intends. The Bible often speaks of this as a present reality. We experience God's power and presence now in many ways. And yet the Bible also make clear that God's ultimate rule is still to come. We will not fully experience what it means to live in the reign of God until Jesus returns or until we enter into the resurrection life beyond death.

In the final session of *The Kingdom of God* we will explore the future life and the hope that awaits us all.

The Women's Bible study group meets on the third Wednesday (April 20) at 1:00 pm.

The Bible study material for April may be found in Laureen Preston's church mailbox.

Mission: Action

We continue to collect underwear (100% cotton, dark colors, in girls' sizes 8, 10, 12 or 14) and washcloths for the kits. If you are traveling, we are also collecting the small bars of soap from motels (just the soap). Travel size bars of soap are also available at Target and Rite-Aid.

Please put your donations in the basket under the mailboxes.

Bring in the last of your clean pill bottles. We will not longer be collecting them after the first week in April.

Women's Group to Pack!

The women of the church are inviting you to help them pack . . . Easter baskets for those folks who aren't able to worship in person. This will take place during coffee hour right after the Palm/Passion Sunday service.

Our first attempt at this was in 2021 and we found that the recipients enjoyed the visit from the deliverers as much as they appreciated the goodies and other surprises in the baskets. Please put this on your "to do" list.

If you were wondering...

The WELCA board has decided not to hold a Salad Luncheon this year. We are hoping to continue this in 2023 when there are more folks in regular worship attendance. Sorry.



Watch for the Quilt Raffle

We are going to raffle a quilt on Mothers' Day. Tickets will be on sale after worship starting April 24. The quilt will be on display and tickets are \$1.00 each. We'll have more information as it becomes available.



Order Your Easter Plants! Deadline April 3rd

Order forms are now available for Easter plants. A form is included in this newsletter and are also on the glass table in the Welcoming Area and in the office. We are using a new greenhouse this year so prices are different. Lilies are available in single, double, and triple plants, we also have tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth. All except the lilies will be in a variety of colors. **The deadline for orders is Sunday April 3rd.** Order forms and payment can be either mailed in, dropped off at the office, or put in the offering plate. Please be sure to mark the envelope "Easter Flowers". Also, checks need to be made out to *Celebration Lutheran Church*. **Plants can be picked up Sunday, April 17th after the worship service.**

Living Altar Flowers to Resume!

Living altar flowers will resume on Easter Sunday, April 17th. Please consider sponsoring a vase for \$23 each. A vase may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call or email the office (officeclc@celebrationlc.com),

You may put your payment into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail it directly to the church.

This month's sponsors are:

April 17:

Rick and Jodi Reed in celebration of Victoria's 18th birthday

April 24:

Tim and Debby Hoepner in celebration of Tim's 70th birthday.



7 Deanna Holt
9 Bob Clisch
Carole Knapp
Victoria Reed
Chuck Truskowski
11 Hewitt Hammer
13 Amber Evancho
Zachary Hurd
Alaina Timmerman
19 Laurel Fick
20 Callie Ross
22 Larry Hartsell
Trudy Buelow
23 Amy Kramer
26 Tim Hoepner
28 Ray Smith



7 Cliff and Maureen Switzer
9 Pastor and Heather Fogle



Live Stream Sponsors

April 3 Rick and Jodi Reed in celebration of Victoria's 18th birthday

April 10 Robert and Janet Clisch in celebration of Bob's birthday

April 17 Marion Jones

The remaining April dates are available to be sponsored.

APRIL DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Thursday, April 1
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

Friday, April 2
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 *or Hebrews*
4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, April 3
Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 4
Acts 10:34-43 *or Isaiah 25:6-9*
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or Acts*
10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 *or John 20:1-18*

Monday, April 5
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:1-19
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tuesday, April 6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:20—2:4a
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wednesday, April 7
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Song of Solomon 3:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Thursday, April 8
Psalm 133
Daniel 1:1-21
Acts 2:42-47

Friday, April 9
Psalm 133
Daniel 2:1-23
Acts 4:23-31

Saturday, April 10
Psalm 133
Daniel 2:24-49
John 12:44-50

Sunday, April 11
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 20:19-31

Monday, April 12
Psalm 135
Daniel 3:1-30
1 John 2:3-11

Tuesday, April 13
Psalm 135
Daniel 6:1-28
1 John 2:12-17

Wednesday, April 14
Psalm 135
Isaiah 26:1-15
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, April 15
Psalm 4
Daniel 9:1-19
1 John 2:18-25

Friday, April 15
Psalm 4
Daniel 10:2-19
1 John 2:26-28

Saturday, April 16
Psalm 4
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 22:24-30

Sunday, April 17
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Monday, April 18
Psalm 150
Jeremiah 30:1-11a
1 John 3:10-16

Tuesday, April 19
Psalm 150
Hosea 5:15—6:6
2 John 1-6

Wednesday, April 20
Psalm 150
Proverbs 9:1-6
Mark 16:9-18

Thursday, April 21
Psalm 23
Genesis 30:25-43
Acts 3:17-26

Friday, April 22
Psalm 23
Genesis 46:28—47:6
Acts 4:1-4

Saturday, April 23
Psalm 23
Genesis 48:8-19
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, April 24
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Monday, April 25
Psalm 95
1 Samuel 16:1-13
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 26
Psalm 95
1 Chronicles 11:1-9
Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday, April 27
Psalm 95
Micah 7:8-20
Mark 14:26-31

Thursday, April 27
Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:1-7
Acts 8:1b-8

Friday, April 28
Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25

Thursday, April 29
Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:1-7
Acts 8:1b-8

Friday, April 30
Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25