

The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

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FROM THE PASTOR

...and Homer begat Virgil, and Virgil begat Dante and Dante begat Chaucer and Chaucer begat Shakespeare, and Shakespeare begat Milton and Milton begat Melville and Melville begat Joyce and Joyce begat all of the generations to come. For (as Harold Bloom wrote) everyone who now reads or writes in the west, of whatever racial background, sex, or ideological camp is a son or daughter of Homer....

When I was finishing up my undergraduate degree (on the handy-dandy 20 year plan), my degree coursework followed the traditional Liberal Arts path which were holistic, interdisciplinary examinations of a wide range of subject matters ranging across the spectrum including the humanities, the sciences, the social sciences and the fine arts, taught primarily by a bunch of Dominican Sisters with Ph.D.'s.

One of my courses included the reading and the discussion of a number of classic books of literature.

I remember how these books opened my eyes to a wider world. How much sympathy I felt toward the creature in Frankenstein. Goethe's Faust's commentary on the human condition, Shakespeare's sonnets (which I keep on my desk), covering themes such as the passage of time, mortality, love, beauty, infidelity, and jealousy, as well as so many other books.



One of the books that truly illuminated to me that the human condition **really** hasn't changed throughout the eons was Homer's Iliad – a book that I pull off the shelf and read through on a regular basis (the Fitzgerald translation) even now.

One of the oldest works of literature still read by modern audiences, The Iliad takes place toward the end of the 10-year war between Greece and Troy and is filled with heroism, war, mortality, and quite a bit of humor. The section that really opened this book up to me on a personal level was a minor aside where, while Hector was in the process of putting on his armor, he held out his arms to take his baby, but the baby screamed and cried, absolutely terrified by his war helmet, made of bronze with a crest made of horsehair that “tossed like a living thing at every nod.” He and his wife Andromache laughed at this and, after Hector took off his helmet, he “kissed his child and swung him high to dandle him...”

Isn't that just something that any parent would do?

The emotional connections I've received with many works of literature is something I look for when I read what is widely acknowledged as the greatest piece of literature of all, the Holy Bible.

When I read scripture, I tend to look for the human connections. The places where I can resonate with the men and women of ancient times, as a man with 21st century eyes.

In Genesis, take Jacob for example. He was running for his life and had no money or prospects, that is until Laban offered him a job. When Laban asked him what his wages would be, Jacob wanted his daughter Rachel. “So, Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.” What a beautiful exhortation of love! Now of course, things didn't turn out quite as expected, but I don't want to give away the ending for you.

Or, what about Jacob's son Joseph, the baby of the family – and a bit of a brat frankly. His brothers worked and worked out in the fields with the sheep while Lil' Joe stayed home with dear old dad.

So, what happened? Well, in a fit of jealousy, his brothers threw him into a well and ultimately sold him into slavery.

But, of course, that is not the end of the story.

Or, in the New Testament, the story of the Apostle Paul. What a jerk he started out to be! But, even though he was a Pharisee who hated the Christian sect (he was even at the stoning of Stephen, holding the murders coats) he became touched by Jesus and was transformed into one of the greatest champions for Christ.

And what about the women of the Bible? What about Sarah, who when told that she was going to get pregnant as an old woman, laughed! Or, Jesus' great-great (however many greats) grandmother Rahab, the prostitute in the family tree, but who allowed God to work a miracle in and through her. Or Deborah, the only woman judge of Israel, who, when called upon to lead, she bravely stepped up to accomplish what others were afraid to do. Or Ruth, or Esther, or Mary the mother of our Lord, or, Elizabeth, another old woman who wasn't able to have a child—until God proved that God's timing is always perfect with the birth of her son, John the Baptizer. Or, how about that great leader among the disciples known to us as Mary of Magdala.

So many truly “human” stories. So many stories about **us** cloaked in rice paper pages between floppy book covers.

So, pick up a good book – actually, pick up sixty-six good books – all conveniently available to you in one handy volume. And read the stories about you and how God is with you each and every step of your life!

And, of course, as always

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

Pastor Fogle

Holy Week Schedule

Passion Sunday March 24 @ 10:00am

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Worship
and Potluck March 28 @ 6:00pm

Good Friday Conference Worship at Cele-
bration March 29 @ Noon

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) March 31

Worship @ 10:00am

Breakfast @ 11:00am

Easter Egg Dash and Activities
@ 11:00am

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated. —Henri J.M. Nouwen
Lifesigns

Holy PEEPS ®

Intergenerational

Children, youth, adults, families, and individuals are invited to get a shoe box, some PEEPS ® and a bit of imagination to create a diorama of a Bible story or verse featuring PEEPS ® candies. The idea of this Lenten project is to inspire fun exploring the Bible by creating a diorama for our entire congregation and Facebook to see during Holy Week.

Yes, it's a contest too! There will be on-line voting and, yes, there will be prizes!

Project/Contest Rules:

- Open to EVERYONE
- Dioramas should illustrate a Bible story or verse.
- Dioramas should be made in a standard-size shoe box.
- All characters should be represented using PEEPS ® . You may also use non-perishable food items, craft supplies, and items found in nature.
- Include a small index card with a title, your name, and a 2 to 3 sentence description of theme which will be displayed with your diorama in the exhibit.
- Judged on: Creativity, use of materials, difficulty, realism, craftsmanship, and creativity.
- Bring in your diorama by March 24th , voting will take place all during Holy Week.
- Dioramas can be taken home after the Easter Sunday worship service.



Maundy Thursday

Worship/Potluck Dinner

We will have combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on March 28th Beginning at 6:00pm.

This will begin in the Gathering Space with a potluck dinner and the Maundy Thursday part of the service. After that, we move into the sanctuary for Good Friday worship.



There will be a sign up on the Communications Board.

10th Anniversary Cookbooks Still Available

There is still an opportunity to purchase Celebration's 10th Anniversary Cookbook. It makes a great Easter present for the chefs in your family, or a thoughtful hostess gift if you are dining at someone's home. It's great to keep a few on hand in case you need a last minute gift. They are available in the Welcome Area (aka the Narthex) and are still only \$10.00.

Guest Preacher on Bold Women Sunday

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, April 7, when Pastor Sarah Mayer-Flatt will be our guest pastor. Pastor Sarah is our Southeast Michigan Synod Storyteller. In this role, Pastor Sarah shares stories of her own, as well as stories that are part of our shared life in southeast Michigan. It is sure to be a memorable service!

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10th . Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.



Food Pantry Information

Thanks to your generous support we are able to continue to support the Good Hope Food Pantry in Garden City. The food pantry provides food for hundreds of families a month who struggle with food insecurity. They say "anyone is welcome...if you are hungry, come and be fed".

They would appreciate your continued support perishable food items. This month, the pantry is in need of any non-perishable food items, or monetary donations; Cereals, boxed Sides, Canned Fruits or Vegetables, Pasta, Tuna, Soup, Mac and Cheese, etc. There are so many families in need of help these days. Good Hope pantry is very appreciative of all donations. Monetary donations need to be made payable to the Good Hope Food Pantry.

The next Bring One Sunday is March 10 th . If you, or, someone you know is experiencing food insecurity have them, call the Good Hope Food Pantry, (734) 427-3660, during the week Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:00am - noon. They will be able to set up a pick-up date and time.

If you have questions regarding this ministry, contact Greg and Gloria Tapper at 734-427- 1142 or Getapper@yahoo.com.



An integral part of our Sunday worship experience is the Fellowship Hour held after worship each week.

Fellowship hour offers visitors their first opportunity to meet our congregation, while also providing current members and friends an opportunity to share and socialize. None of this would be possible without the hosts who make coffee and clean up each week!

What does it mean to host coffee hour?

- Bring in a variety of foods; coffee cake, muffins, bagels and cream cheese, fruit, veggies, donuts... or whatever you wish to bring. It doesn't have to be fancy.
- Make sure plates, napkins, and silverware are available.
- Make sure food is ready to serve after worship
- Clean up

It is so easy! Please consider signing up for a week. You can do it by yourself or as a group. See the Communications Board to sign-up.



This month's live streaming has been sponsored by:

March 3-24: Hewitt Hammer in memory of Janice's birthday and their 67th anniversary

March 31: Charlene Tennant

Easter Altar Plants

Thank you to all who purchased plants for Easter:

- Brian and Kathy Goodykoontz in memory of Jeanne and Charlton Goodykoontz.
- Stewart Israel in memory of his wife, Kathy.
- Kristina and Christopher Wommer
- Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Joe Grasley, Bob and Pat Reed.
- Mike and Linda Bierbaum in memory and celebration of their families.
- Tim and Debby Hoepner in memory of Walter and Evelyn Hoepner and Bob and Carole Jahnke.
- Charlene Tennant in memory of Susan Finnegan and Matthew Staeb.
- Margaret Grasley in memory of Joe Grasley, Dottie and Larry Dubyak, Martha and Bill Miller, and Lou and John Marchak
- George and Sally Evalt in celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection. He lives!
- Carole Hakala in celebration of her great niece Ellie.
- Barb and Ray Smith in memory of Helen Brown and Elena Smith
- Ciro and Megan Troncoso in memory of Ana Chritina Troncoso and Carmen Luz Rivera
- Vi Hakala in celebration of Johnathan Schilling
- Larry and Georgia Hartsell in memory of Beryl and Georgia Miller and Smokey and Ruth Hartsell
- Luan Purcell in memory of John Purcell
- Larry and Christine Snowden
- Greg and Gloria Tapper in memory of Dick Schalk, Ray and Lucille Tapper
- Dennis Bramigk in celebration of life

Women's Bible Study

Scripture and Nature:

Teachers of faith

Rivers: Springs of life and hope

Fresh water. Most of life on our planet depends on it, and the story of God's saving work flows alongside it, through stories of biblical rivers that offer a vision of flourishing creation. Together we'll journey from the rivers in Eden to the prophetic springs in the desert, and from Jesus' baptism at the river Jordan to the crystalline river of life in Revelation. We'll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination.

The Women's Bible study group will meet on Wednesday, March. 20th at 1:00 pm. Copies of the Bible study available from Laureen Preston's mailbox.

All women are invited to join in the study and fellowship.

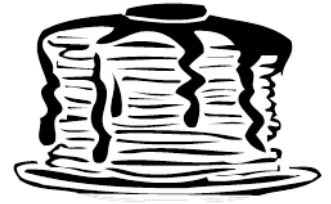
Pill Bottles Collection



We will continue collecting empty pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries through March. All pill bottles are accepted. They need to be cleaned out and the label removed. (Goo Gone might help with that) Place your donations in the big pill bottle container under the mailboxes.

A Fat Tuesday

Thank you



The pancakes were flipped on the griddle and the sausage was sizzling in the pan.

Everyone had their fill of pancakes with all the topping and sausage at the Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Days for Girls

Please continue to support Days for Girls by donating the following items for the kits:

100% cotton flannel and quilting fabric

Girls underwear, colors if possible

Brief style only, 100% cotton

Sizes 8, 10, 12 or 14

Gallon Ziploc freezer bags (original Ziploc closures; not sliders)

Wash cloths

Travel size bars of soap or soaps borrowed from motel stays

Please put donated items in the basket beneath the mailboxes.



March Birthdays

- 1 Dave Evancho
- 2 Tina Truskowski
- 4 Greg Tapper
- 5 Linda Krall
- 6 Lisa Albert
- 9 Kathy Groff
- 12 Luan Purcell
- 13 Dave Preston
- Kristina Reid
- 14 Cheryl Evancho
- 17 Brian Goodykoontz
- 19 Rosemary Smith
- 21 Gladys Seeger
- 22 Pat Patzer
- 24 Jon Call
- 25 Bill Albert
- 30 Lily Szczembara



Each Week we pray for our members on a rotating basis. This month we pray for:

- March 3 Jon and Karen Call
Catherine Carter
Robert and Janet Clisch
Beth and Tom Codd
- March 10
Judy Dauss
Matt, Adrienne, Reagan, and Nolan Dent
Brian and Sandi Doyle
Gregg and Diane Droste
- March 17
Bill and Patty Erwin
George and Sally Evalt
Dave, Cheryl, Ashley, and Amber Evancho
Gary and Linda Evanko
- March 24
Gary and Lori Fernyhough
Laurel Fick
Larry and Marge Flores
Pastor Jim and Heather Fogle
- March 31
Katie Frank
John Gambotto
Julia Gardner
Marjorie Gask



March Anniversaries

- 18 Dave and Cheryl Evancho
- 19 Gregg and Diane Droste

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Thanks

Thank you, my family of God, for the prayers, calls and cards I received during my recent hospital stay.

Lois Zilka

March Daily Devotions

Friday, March 1
Psalm 19
Exodus 19:9b-15
Acts 7:30-40

Saturday, March 2
Psalm 19
Exodus 19:16-25
Mark 9:2-8

Sunday, March 3
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Monday, March 4
Psalm 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday, March 5
Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Wednesday, March 6
Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Mark 11:15-19

Thursday, March 7
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday, March 8
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Saturday, March 9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13

Sunday, March 10
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Tuesday, March 12
Psalm 107:1-16
Numbers 20:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wednesday, March 13
Psalm 107:1-16
Isaiah 60:15-22
John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 14
Psalm 51:1-12
Isaiah 30:15-18
Hebrews 4:1-13

Friday, March 15
Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 30:1-10
Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Saturday, March 16
Psalm 51:1-12
Habakkuk 3:2-13
John 12:1-11

Sunday, March 17
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Monday, March 18
Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 43:8-13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tuesday, March 19
Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 44:1-8
Acts 2:14-24

Wednesday, March 20
Psalm 119:9-16
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
John 12:34-50

Thursday, March 21
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Deuteronomy 16:1-8
Philippians 2:1-11

Saturday, March 23
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:10-16
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sunday, March 24
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-39
[40-47]

Monday, March 25
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wednesday, March 27
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thursday, March 28
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, March 29](#)
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, March 30
Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18

Sunday, March 31
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9