



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Newsletter - April 2007

New Sunday Class

Starts April 22

**The Transforming of Our World –
How Christianity and the Kingdom
of God transforms us, our
community, and our church**

As the Called People of God, we are called to be a blessing to the world. What does that mean and how do we go about that? Do you feel that you are a blessing to the world?

On the night that he is condemned, Jesus tells Pontius Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world. "If it were," Jesus says, "my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

What do Jesus' words mean for us as his servants and members of his kingdom? How does the kingdom transform us? Jesus announced the kingdom was beginning with him, and, therefore, it must be among us right now.

On Sunday, April 22nd, Pastor Jeff and Dean Winter will begin a new Sunday morning conversation to explore very practical aspects of how the power of the present kingdom of God can transform us. We'll also explore how that transformation extends to our congregation, community, and church in the world.

We'll use several contemporary texts as guides, but everyone will have something to contribute. Plan now to join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, beginning April 22nd.

Building Committee Report

On Sunday, March 25th, the congregation was presented with seven different areas regarding a new building as recommended by the Building Committee. On April 1st, the congregation had the opportunity to vote on the different options outlined by the committee. The results are in:

Kitchen

- P Remodel and expand present Kitchen --72 votes
- Kitchen in new building --20 votes
- Leave kitchen as is --20 votes

Financial

- Contract and pay 10% of Pledges --4 votes
- Consulting firm \$1000.00 fee --5 votes
- P Conduct our own campaign --72 votes

Youth

- P Include one room in new building for youth --78 votes

Education

- P New Building with class rooms --75 votes

Redo fellowship Hall to classroom --5 votes

Building Location

P Playground side with breeze way connecting buildings--49 votes

Building where portables are --32 votes

Portables

P Remove portables --82 votes

Fellowship hall

Day Care to New Building --28 votes

P Fellowship in new building and day care in present fellowship hall --44 votes

The Building Committee will meet on April 12th and will interpret the results at that time.

Income & Expenditures

The church council has voted to include monthly and year-to-date totals of our monthly income and expenditures in each issue of this newsletter. Below you will see the inflows and outflows for the month of March and for the first 3 months of this year. Thank you all for your committed giving.

March inflows: \$15,430

March outflows: \$16,309

YTD 3-31 inflows: \$43,634

YTD 3-31 outflows: \$41,691

Note: March outflows included \$5,265 towards mortgage reduction that came from designated funds from last year and this year.

How I spent my Spring Break

By Pat Hemenway

During the week of March 12-16, I went on a mission trip!

It was one of the most rewarding things I've done. I worked with around 20 kids between the ages of 4 to 12, teaching them about the last week of Jesus' life on earth.

Out of those 20 kids, only 4 had ever gone to church. And the only thing they knew of Jesus was that his birthday is on Christmas.

After our 5 days together, they can tell you about Jesus entering Jerusalem to cheers, and that He washed the disciples' feet to show that He loved them and to teach them to take care of each other.

They learned that Jesus went to the garden and prayed not only for himself, but for us, too!

And they learned that Jesus died on the cross for them. And He didn't stay dead because He is the Son of God.

They were so eager. It was overwhelming for me!

And WHERE did I go for this mission? Not to some exotic out of the way place... No, I stayed in San Antonio. I went to the day care that is in our own church building.

The kids had a great time... and the day care teachers did, too. (I'm not sure that they had heard the entire story before, either.)

In the past, I had thought of the day care as an opportunity to make "little church members." After my week with these children, I realized that that wasn't what we are called to do. We are called to make "disciples for Christ"!

And that's what I did over Spring Break.

Our Palms - Being Responsible

Excerpted from the
New York Times, April 1, 2007

Clutching a tiny knife in his big calloused hands, Laizon Corzo wound his way through the thick foliage in one of southern Mexico's forested areas in search of living treasures –big, leafy palm fronds. He inspected the leaves, back and front for stains and other imperfections.

Mr. Corzo is one of the indigent farmers who puts palms in the hands of North American churchgoers on Palm Sunday. He is also on the cutting edge of a new movement to harvest what are being called "eco-palms."

Slightly more expensive than the average palm, eco-palms are the rage in churches across the United States because of the social and environmental benefits they represent. They are collected in a way that helps preserve the forest, and more of the sale price ends up in the pockets of the people who cut them.

"We want to be a green congregation," said the Rev. David C. Parsons, pastor of St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. "We are conscious of our footprint on the earth. There is a biblical mandate to do that."

Now operating in a handful of palm-producing areas in southern Mexico and northern Guatemala, the eco-palm project is similar to programs for certified coffee, chocolate or diamonds. But the consumers in this case are churches, and many say that the religious significance of the plant compels them to buy the most wholesome palm possible.

Mr. Corzo, 37, a father of three who has been harvesting palm leaves since he was 5 or 6, used to be paid by how many he delivered, no matter the quality. He would hack away at any old palm and allow the middle man to worry about quality. No more.

Mr. Corzo is now paid only for the quality fronds that he delivers –but at a much higher return, so his trifling pay has nearly doubled. The palms are now bundled in his village by women who had no jobs before.

The program began in 2005, with 20 American churches that bought about 5,000 palms. On this Palm Sunday 1,436 churches distributed 364,000 eco-palm stems. Our own Lutheran Church of the Resurrection was one of those churches.

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Pastor's Page

By Pastor Jeff Lange

What did we learn in Lent?

For Lent, we studied the *Last Week in Jesus' Life*, when he accomplished our redemption.

We began our reading with the account of Palm Sunday. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was hailed as *the king who comes in the name of the Lord*. And throughout that last week, Jesus speaks and acts as a king with the authority of God.

On Monday of that week, He pronounced divine judgment on the Temple itself, declaring it corrupt. With the authority of God, he overturned the tables of the money changers –drove out those who bought and sold. After that cleansing, he treats the temple as His own base of operations.

In His teaching, he spoke as Lord and king throughout that week, all the way to the cross. We have listened to Jesus –to the truth. And he told us the truth about ourselves - and the truth about what God expects from us.

Much of His teaching in the last week told us how we, as His followers, will be judged. He used a number a different metaphors.

We began with a parable about a vineyard - and then there was the unfortunate fig tree. The message was the

same. We are to bear good fruit in our lives. The judge accepts no excuses –not even good ones.

Then the metaphors changed to servants entrusted by their master with tasks or responsibilities. The message was that we are to be faithful servants, always ready for the master's return. When he comes, we are to be doing whatever He has assigned us to do.

Remember the parable about the bridesmaids who were waiting with their oil lamps for the groom, so they could escort him into the marriage feast? Five of the bridesmaids were wise, prepared, and five were foolish, unprepared, and thus failed. It's another warning: remain faithful, serve the Lord, and always be prepared to stand before the Lord who will meet you unexpectedly.

In the parable of the talents, we were warned that the master expects us to make good use of the talents he has entrusted to us. He has extravagantly gifted us and expects an extravagant response.

Finally, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, we were admonished to feed the hungry, visit the sick, welcome the stranger.

In the last week, His words have a sharp edge. There is an urgency to his message - and frequent warnings about the ultimate consequences of our action or inaction.

Jesus is demanding. He expects us to take his

teachings to heart, so they will shape our lives.

If we really have to do all that, how could anyone be saved?

In the last week, we saw Jesus and also His disciples. Peter and the other disciples have been followers of Jesus for three years. They stuck it out all the way to Jerusalem.

But on that fateful Thursday night, when the police show up to arrest Jesus, somehow fear overwhelms them. They are not quite ready to die with Jesus. Even Peter denies he ever knew Jesus.

We all want to be faithful servants of the Lord. But are we any less human than Peter and the others? When we find ourselves in situations where we might say and do different things - do we act contrary to the faith we claim to profess?

At the cross, we are judged and yet receive grace. We are judged and pardoned by virtue of the cross. We are judged by the compassionate Christ who stands in our place at judgment - and He suffers our fate for us.

You may not be living up to the high expectations our Lord has for you. But don't give up! Keep listening to his word, and keep trying, relying on the help of His spirit.

The Lord confronts us through his word to challenge us. He keeps prodding us to be more, and to grow into the person we could be.

Listen for Him speaking to you through His word.

What do you give God?

How normal it seems to spend our wages on cars, clothes, the house and other material possessions. We live to hold onto as many "toys" as possible. We value so many things that keep us hungry.

Then along comes Jesus with a promise of new life. What would you give to be in the presence of the one who died for you? How are your resources given up to God?

Mary took her expensive oil and poured it on Jesus' feet while knowing that there was absolutely nothing in this world to which she could give her life that had more value. What do you give God?

Ladies Night Out

Monday, April 30, 6:30

The April Ladies Night Out will be on Monday, April 30 at 6:30 pm, at the Asia Restaurant, located on Culebra Road. For more information, call Joyce at 623-2288.

Amazing Grace

Let's go see it together!

There's a new movie out, titled "Amazing Grace". It is the story behind the song.

We'll plan to see it as a church group on some Sunday afternoon or evening in late April. Watch the church bulletin or the church website for details.

www.lutheran-church-san-antonio.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Sean McMaughan
- 3 - Ron Devitt
Laila Arnorsdottir
- 4 - Mary Ann Anderson
- 8 - Dayton Corbiere
Desiree Corbiere
- 15 - Bonnie Linaberry
- 18 - Audrey Trautman
- 21 - Quinton Teas
- 22 - Nickolas Nystrom
- 28 - Pat Hemenway
- 29 - Sheryle Corbiere

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Dave & Ethel Killenbeck

Please tell Sue (editor, below) if you know of any additions or corrections to the anniversary & birthday lists.



Newsletter Editor :
Sue Pichotta 641-7717
sue@icons-icons.com

Articles, announcements and news for the newsletter are always welcome.

Date	Deacon	Lector	Communion Assistants	Basket Carriers
Apr. 15	Rick Barrows	Jane Martinez	Reta Gochee Dean Winter	Beverly & Kattia
Apr. 22	Sean McMaughan	Dorris Curtis	Rick Barrows Mark Laneman	Grace & Elena
Apr. 29	Bob Schoonover	Ophelia Lastra	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	Laila & Beverly
May 6	Tonia Faile	Carly Montgomery	Bob Schoonover Carl Mincemoyer	TBA
May 13	Dean Winter	Mary Ranney	Tonia Faile Michael Forbes	TBA
May 20	Rick Barrows	Joyce Swartz	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	TBA
May 27	Reta Gochee	Lorena Guerrero	Rick Barrows Sean	TBA

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaners	Saturday Church Cleaners
Apr. 15	Ken & Janice Doxtad		Tony & Bess Teschendorf	3rd Sunday Ken & Janice Doxtad	3rd Sat. 4/21 Tonia Faile Joyce Swartz
Apr. 22	The Jenkins Family		Lorena Guerrero J. Talamantes	4th Sunday Jane Martinez	4th Sat. 4/28 Bob Schoonover
Apr. 29	Bill & Bonnie Howells		Check with Lorena	5th Sunday Laura Craig	1st Sat. 5/5 Mareta Gochee
May 6	Tony & Bess Teschendorf		Jeannette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Margie Perales	2nd Sat. 5/12 Bernie & Dee Schurade

Fiesta Sunday

April 22

By Carol Reaves

Viva Fiesta!

On April 22, Resurrection will be presenting their version of NIOSA, so ladies and gentlemen, get out your guayaberas and Mexican dresses and join in the fun!

This event is being held specifically to extend a special to all of our recent church guests, who will be receiving personalized invitations, and to welcome new members being brought in that day.

The menu will not require any dishes to be provided by members of the congregation. The proverbial clipboards will not be circulated until April 15, as we do not wish to intrude on our Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

Most menu items are labor-intensive and will be prepared by Fellowship Committee members or purchased outright with monetary donations provided from the congregation members (who will not be donating food items).

We are also asking you to lend any brightly colored decorations that signify the event, such as large paper flowers and serapes or chili-inspired swags. They can be brought to the church on Saturday morning, April 21, while the committee is decorating. For questions, call Carol Reaves, 684-7148 (home), 867-4869 (cell, but only if not home) or carol8223@aol.com

Our annual picnic is also approaching - May 20...

Save the Day! Picnic Sunday

May 20

Our annual picnic-in-the-park will be held on May 20 this year. As usual, we'll have a wonderful outdoor Sunday service, followed by a fun and tasty picnic lunch.

This year's theme is "Puro Potluck". No menu will be established or suggested. Just surprise us with your favorite potluck dishes, and don't forget to bring the recipes.

Sally Schwab is coordinating collection of recipes for the cookbook, tentatively titled "Feed Them and They Will Come".

Save the day... and maybe set aside a little extra time to help with setup, tear down or clean up, too. See you there!

Congratulations, Mark!

LCR member Mark Laneman has been accepted to St. Mary's University School of Law here in San Antonio. He will become a full-time student in late August. He'll be leaving his active-duty status with the Air Force at that time, but he expects to remain active in the Air Force reserves.

Good luck, Mark!

— TM

If you have any announcements or news, please let me know! I love to include tidbits about our church family in the newsletter.

Just send me your news -- and don't worry about how it's formatted, I'm happy to write it up.

-- Sue Pichotta, editor

There's nothing I can do, I'm just one person!

By Bob Schoonover

How many times have you said, "I'm just one person. It won't matter if I attend church today. No one will miss me." Or, "My little offering won't be missed."

Your presence will be missed. So will your offering. Every person is important to the total work of our church. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT. NO ONE CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE!**

You are one of God's children! He has prepared a special place in Heaven just for you. Jesus promised that. Now if you are that important to God in eternity, then surely you are important to His Work here on earth.

God paid a tremendous price to save you from your sin. His son Jesus Christ had to die on the cross of Calvary so that you would have the opportunity to become one of God's children.

You are just one person. ...but you are important to God and His work.

As a Christian you are called upon to share the message of Jesus with a lost and dying world. Jesus has called you to be His witness. As a steward of the many blessings of God, you are instructed to be found faithful. That means if God sees fit to provide His physical blessings to you; you should be willing to invest a proportion of those blessings back into God's work.

God has a purpose for you on this earth. Part of that purpose is for you to invest your time, talent, and treasure for Him. And his requirements are not a burden; they are a joy.

Yes, you are just one person. ...one person for whom Jesus died. A person that God is depending upon to get his work done!