



Shepherd's Voice

March 20 ~ 27



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Corvallis, Oregon



New Website: <http://svlc-corvallis.org>

Church office: 541-753-2816 or svlc.corvallis@gmail.com

Pastor: 217-898-9063

Our new website is LIVE svlc-corvallis.org

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday, March 20 Palm Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Fellowship Cross+Gen Sunday School Nazareth GG
Monday, March 21		
Tuesday, March 22	10:00am 12:00 noon	Fellowship Bible Study Website training with Cully Larson
Wednesday, March 23		
Thursday, March 24	10:30am 10:00am 6:00pm	Park Place Devotions Set up for Agape Dinner Service Maundy Thursday – Agape Dinner
Friday, March 25 GOOD FRIDAY	10:00am 7:00pm	Assistance with set up for Good Friday Service. Good Friday Service
Saturday, March 26	12:00p – 3:00p	Set up for Easter Brunch
Sunday, March 27 EASTER SUNDAY	9:00am 10:10am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Easter Potluck Brunch Nazareth GG



A PASTOR'S POST - SUNDAY OF THE PALMS & THE PASSION -- MARCH 20, 2016



"Which is more amazing," asked pastor and theologian Karl Barth, "to find Jesus in such bad company, or to find the two criminals (who were crucified with Him) in such good company?" Ironically Barth asked that question in a sermon he preached for the inmates of the Prison of Basel, Switzerland, in 1957. That was almost 60 years ago. But the question is still a good one. It makes me wonder how I might preach a sermon on the passion of Jesus to prisoners condemned in prison.

But there is a sense in which I am preaching as a prisoner among prisoners every Sunday. Are we not all fallen sinners who stand convicted of our sins just as the two thieves were justly convicted of their crimes? The difference is that for Christians, the Judge has intervened and offered Himself in exchange for our freedom from sin death and the power of the devil, paying the price for the sins of the world. He is not only our judge, but "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Craig Bell said it clearly in our Cross+Gen Sunday School class this past Sunday when he commented, "Those three crosses out in front of our church say it all!" He was right. They do say it all.

Three crosses! One is the cross of Jesus. From this cross we hear Jesus say, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." On the second hangs an impenitent thief who rails at Jesus, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" And on the other hangs a penitent thief who asks, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Luke doesn't tell us their names, almost inviting us to ask, in which of these two do we most see ourselves?

But Jesus said to the penitent, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." In a way these are the sweetest words in the whole Bible. They declare the mercy of God to be an open door for all who seek it, any time anywhere. Like Barth's congregation of prisoners from sixty years ago, we are also a congregation of the condemned because of our sin. The only question is whether we can admit our deep need for God's mercy. In which of the condemned do I see a reflection of my own spiritual state?

This is one of the most important things about celebrating Holy Week. Everything in the world around us wants to fill us with lies about how "important" and "deserving" we are. A recent survey said sixty percent of Americans agreed that heaven is the place where "good people go to be rewarded for their good lives."

Based on this survey it is very clear that far from being a "Christian nation" we are a nation of Pharisees who do not understand how much they need the mercy of God, for the true Christian knows that heaven is God's future for those redeemed by God's mercy. Holy Week shows us this need so that we may, with holy joy, celebrate the Easter good news that Christ is risen! There was mercy enough from the cross of Jesus for both thieves. There is mercy from the cross for us all.

I hope you will enjoy our last Lenten Midweek Soup Supper and worship service is this Wednesday, March 16 with Deacon Larry Oliver sharing the message on Job 14:1-14. His sermon theme will be "It is Enough!" I will be serving at Peace in Philomath this Wednesday.

Please remember to sign up for the **Maundy Thursday Agape Communion meal** commemorating the Last Supper on Thursday, March 24. Just call the church office (541-753-2816) and plan to bring a dish to share as part of the meal that evening. We begin at 6:00 PM. The complete Holy Week schedule is provided below. I look forward to sharing a blessed Holy Week with you!

In Christ,

Pastor Joe Hughes

217-898-9063 (voice & text)



March 20 Psalm Sunday

9:00 AM

The liturgy begins in the fellowship hall with the blessing of the Palms. We will process into the worship center together for the service of Holy Communion which will include the reading of the Passion according to St. Luke and conclude with the stripping of the altar (usually done on Maundy Thursday).



March 24 Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM

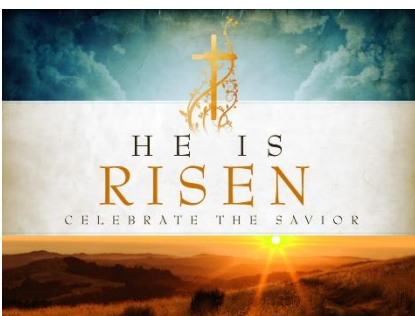
"In the Night He Was Betrayed" is a special "Agape Meal" Holy Communion written by Pastor Joe for Shepherd of the Valley. The service will be a potluck "Agape Meal" communion service. **Worshippers will be asked to bring a dish to share.** Everything will be in the fellowship hall, recalling both the Last Supper, the Jewish Passover, and restoring the Lord's Supper to the dining table as practiced originally by the early church. Note the special time.



March 25 Good Friday

7:00 PM

The "Service of Shadows" (Tenebrae) will be in the worship center at 7:00 PM. We gather in silence in the glow of candle light. The Passion according to John is read. After prayers the service concludes in silence.



March 27 Easter Sunday

9:00 AM Holy Communion

The festival service of Holy Communion welcomes back the "Alleluia," the shout of God's people praising God for the victory over sin and death won through the resurrection of our Lord. Easter Brunch follows the service at 10:30 AM.

Readings for this Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:1—23:56

April 17	50th Anniversary Celebration	9:00 AM Holy Communion
	10:30 AM Catered Brunch	(RSVP's now being accepted. Call 541-753-2816)

Cross+Gen Sunday School Concludes series on LUTHERAN APOLOGETICS

Former atheist and Christian author C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen – not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” But not everyone believes, and certainly everyone does not believe in the same way. Sometimes it happens in our families. Sometimes it happens in the classroom or university lecture hall. Sometimes it happens on the job or at the game. We find ourselves being confronted with someone who does not accept the Christian faith and perhaps argues against it, or someone whose understanding of the Christian faith differs from our own. How does one respond and speak up for Christian faith if one doesn’t feel confident?

On the other hand some things that are publicly espoused that sound like the Christian faith on careful reflection are not really Christian at all. For example, some of the occupiers at Malheur Wild Life Refuge in eastern Oregon are invoking God in their cause. Is that a legitimate use of Christian faith?



Because Christians of all “flavors,” not just Lutherans, face these and similar questions, Shepherd of the Valley’s Biblical Equipping Ministry Team will begin a new series January 31 on LUTHERAN APOLOGETICS in Cross+Gen Sunday School. As a resource a recent book Pastor Joe Hughes, who will be teaching the series, will use *The Christian Faith – a Catechism for the Curious* by Pastor Eric Riesen. Lutheran theologian Carl Braaten has defined apologetics as “the discipline of theology that answers contemporary religious questions drawing from the resources of Holy Scripture and the Christian tradition.” In today’s religious climate we need to be unapologetically apologetic!

Syllabus for Lutheran Apologetics, 10:30 -11:30 AM Sundays

3/20 What about the Church?

Cross+Gen Sunday School Plan for Spring & Summer

The Biblical Equipping Team announces the following syllabus of topics for the Spring and Summer of 2016. If you have suggestions about other topics or speaker of interest please don’t hesitate to share them with Jay McDougal, Biblical Equipping Ministry Team Leader by email at jaymcdougal@comcast.net.

- **March 27: Easter breakfast - no class**
- April 3 & 10: The Resurrection in the New Testament
- **April 17: 50th anniversary brunch**
- Starting April 24: The Great Bible Stories from the Old Testament.

Giving:

Weekly Contribution Goal	\$3077.00
General Fund	\$1947.00
Anniversary	\$450.00
Furnace	\$25.00
Easter Flowers	\$140.00
Hygiene Kits Delivered	10
Attendance	55

Thank you to all who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Valley!

+PLEASE SIGN UP+

MAUNDY THURSDAY service is going to be in the form of an Agape Meal which will be held in the Fellowship Hall. We could use some help setting up for that as the tables will be switched out to the long tables to make a large square so we are all facing each other. We will need people to be at the church by 10:00am to get the transition done. We also need folks to bring specific foods. See the signup sheet outside the sanctuary.

EASTER BRUNCH SET UP to begin Saturday March 26th at 12:00 to 3:00pm. Please sign up outside the sanctuary.



March Birthdays: Scott Hart, 03/06, Cheryl Viner 03/13, Anna Hintzman 03/16, Ellen Chambers 03/21, Bill Randall 03/23, Gabe Havranek 03/24, Donna Pompe 03/24, Nadine Wurtz, 03/26, Bill Chambers 03/28.

March Anniversaries: There is no anniversaries listed for March. If this is in error please let the church office know!

EASTER IS GOING TO BE HERE SOON!! Please let Donna Pompe or a member of the Altar Guild know if you would like to donate Lilies, Daffodils, or Tulips to adorn the Altar for our Lord's Resurrection Day! If you would like to donate funds you may do that by indicating on your check or envelope 'Easter Flowers'

COUNCIL UPDATE: Callie Santora and Pastor Joe will be trained on how to update the new SVLC web site, and they would like one more person to volunteer for the training. March 19 is a work day at the Church beginning at 9:00 am. The room across the hall from the copier room has now been set up as a meeting room. The next Voter's meeting will take place on April 24 and there will be a lunch after the meeting"

+COMMUNITY+

LUTHERFEST 2016

We who served on the Lutherfest Planning Team (photo below) are so grateful for all who participated in Lutherfest 2016 on February 28 – sponsors, vendors, and especially YOU, our guests. Thank you for helping us raise over \$9,000 that will support Luther House programs and outreach in the coming year! There's high interest in continuing the tradition by hosting a 5th Luther House Beer and Cheese Pairing early in 2017. As soon as we know date and location we'll let you know. For now, just know that we're amazed by your participation and thrilled by your generosity!

SPRING TERM ACTIVITIES AT LUTHER HOUSE

Spring Term is always fully-packed and this year is no exception. The Luther House Student Leadership Team has outlined a busy course of activities for learning, enjoyment, and inspiration. They plan to engage

in another habitat restoration project on or near Earth Day. Team Luther House will give a report to the Vineyard Cluster WELCA conference on April 23 about their winter service trip to Roseburg's Casa de Belén transitional living community for homeless teens and their families. Saturday of OSU Moms and Families Weekend we'll offer a hike that includes mothers of Luther House students. Now a tradition, we'll host the "May the 4th Be With You" all-day film festival on May 4. Some of our active students will again have key roles in organizing and hosting Mi Familia Weekend where Pr. Jim is scheduled to give the invocation. May 17-18 students and others will participate in the quadrennial Ministry Site Review. And, of course, commencement will bring festivities to honor our grads and celebrate the year together. All this is in addition to regular weekly Tuesday lunches, Thursday Morning Prayer, and Sunday Supper and TableTalk. The current SLT is recruiting new members to join continuing members as the leadership team for the 2016-17 academic year. How blessed we are to have such energetic student leaders and engaged student participants!

LUTHER HOUSE FILM

Visit the Luther House home page at www.luther-house.org where you'll find a short film that tells a little about what we do and why students think it's important – in their own voices. Click on the nighttime image of Luther House in the upper left corner to start the short six-minute film. A second, longer film is in the works. We'll let you know when it's ready for viewing.

WHAT MAKES FOR A WELL-LIVED LIFE?

This is the theme of Pr. Jim's annual Luther House teach-in Sunday mornings April 17, 24, and May 1 at Grace Lutheran Church. Growing out of structured conversations he had with students last winter, the three-part series explores qualities that make for a well-balanced life, practices that help undergird those qualities, and the place of community in keeping us healthy. Each week will include interactive elements and reflections from students themselves. Meet in Ronnenkamp Hall from 9:45-10:45 each week.

THE NEW ORGANIST 2016 is a course in Church Organ skills for the pianist. It will be 3 sessions (April 9, 23, & May 7) 1:00 – 4:00pm in Eugene. Please see the informational flyer on the big bulletin board next to the main entrance doors to the church. Deadline to sign up is April 1.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to assist Evergreen Hospices' Samaritan Transitions program. This is a free service that matches volunteers with people who are experiencing serious, life limiting illness. Volunteers help with errands, food shopping, pet care, and other aspects of life that can become difficult during a serious illness. Please contact Transitions coordinator at 541-812-4664 if you are interested in volunteering.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH is celebrating their 125th anniversary on April 10th starting with service at 3:00pm followed by dinner. Please RSVP NO LATER than March 27th.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE – COMING TO CORVALLIS Come see the Concordia University Wind Ensemble in concert on their spring tour. Friday, April 1 @ 7:00 pm The concert is FREE and open to the public. Zion Lutheran Church.

PLEASE START WEARING YOUR NAMETAGS AGAIN! The anniversary celebration team asks that all members and friends of SVLC please start wearing their name tags again when on campus. This is especially true during Holy Week and as we prepare for guests and visitors to our anniversary celebration on April 17. Let us know if you need a new name tag.



COUNTDOWN!!!

50TH Anniversary Celebration

33 Days until April 17th

Joyfully Serving the Shepherd for 50 Years.



RSVP REQUIRED

FOR THE ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH &
CELEBRATION

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE **NO LATER**
THAN MARCH 31ST

Please Notify the Church Office When...

...You or a family member is going to be hospitalized. **Please let the hospital know you are a member of Shepherd of the Valley.**

...You or a member of your family is hospitalized.

...You have a change of address.

...Your phone number has changed.

...Your email address has changed.

...Members or you family are students attending school away from home or are living at a different address.