



Church of the Savior - Lutheran
Paramus, NJ
February, 2019

The Savior's Call

I recently attended my daughter's all-county choir concert. It was a beautiful performance. The choir was composed of approximately 100 female students between 7th and 9th grades who came from all the school districts in Rockland County. The song that stood out to me was "When I am Silent." Its lyrics were simple, yet haunting. The students sang in perfect harmony. I listened with chills as the choir, made up of girls of different ages with all different backgrounds and experiences, sang these words:

Who will sing my song when I am silent
Who will count the colors of the dawn
Who will follow the larks flight
Who will here its song
When I am silent
Who will sing for me

The line "who will sing my song when I am silent" has rattled through my mind all week. Having these young women, on the verge of adulthood, singing these lyrics reminded me of how much brokenness still exists in the world. They are entering a time where they will have more opportunities than previous women have experienced, but yet there will still be road blocks out there. There will be people who may deny them or judge them simply because they are a woman, or who may deny them because of their color. Then this song will become prophetic instead of just haunting.

Invariably as I listened I began to think about Jesus and the radical grace he preached. A grace that comes to all people. I thought about the equality he engaged and championed by breaking social norms whether it be eating with tax collectors or talking to a Samaritan woman at the well.

I thought of the famous women in the Bible, as well as the women whose names we don't know. I am grateful for the women who were not silent, in particular the two Mary's, Martha and Joanna on that Easter morning being the first to give witness and voice to the Resurrection of Jesus. Thank God they were not silent.

We are called to love all people, and to stand up for those without voice. It may not always be easy, it may require courage, but we can have faith in Jesus. As we approach the end of the Epiphany, I urge us all to continue to follow the Star of Jesus. We look for those who do not have a voice, and we speak for them. May we have the courage to follow the star even to places we may not want to go and sing for them in bright color.

~Pastor Paul

MY FAITH JOURNEY AND HOW EPIPHANIES HAVE LIT THE WAY

By: Dave Johnsrud

Since I work from my home office I walk our dog, Cassie, in the woods after lunch every day. It's a wonderful time to reflect and pray especially during the times that my parents were sick and dying. Cassie was a Yellow Lab with a special emphasis on Retriever. Her favorite game was me throwing a stick up ahead on the path as we walked through the woods. This epiphany came to me when she would take off so fast that I had to throw the stick far and high just to get it to land in front of her.

One time the stick didn't go far enough and it came down with a clunk right on her head. I expected her to yelp in pain and shy away from me. Instead, she looked around until she found the stick and came bounding back to me with eyes shining and her tail wagging. At that moment I saw her heart filled with love and forgiveness. In an instant, I saw Christ's love and forgiveness all encompassing without limits. The image of Jesus filled with light and the love that surpasses all understanding filled my heart and mind.

Epiphanies like this and other special moments in life light the way and help lead us forward on our journey of faith. Faith Journeys are much like real journeys in life. These bright moments are the points we remember and we strive to reach again and again. And just like life's journeys, we are not always ready for the new inspirations and can not always remember the earlier revelations.

It's hard to be ready all the time for an epiphany. I was ready for my dog to show me God's love because I was very prayerful at the time. The ground was prepared and the seeds were sown. Everything was in the right place for the Spirit to move me and lead me forward on my Faith Journey.

Similarly, it's not always easy to keep the spirit alive when repeating familiar rituals. Traveling over the same ground or running through the same motions that lead to an earlier breakthrough moment in faith do not always bring the same feelings. Like coming over a mountain pass at sunrise takes your breath away the first time, the next time it brings a little less.

I still walk that same path day in and day out and I consciously remind myself to remember the gift of God's love. As I cross the very stream where we were that day, I say a prayer. The image of Jesus' light and love that came to me then is still with me.

In spirit with the season of Epiphany, I would like to finish with a story how the faith journey of the three kings has helped light my own journey of faith. Betsy, the kids and I were in the middle of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season in New York City, seeing the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, at Radio City Music Hall. The opulent glitz of the costumes and the hundred Santa's, etc. did little to recollect the true meaning of Christmas. But the finale of the show was the Nativity scene done very simply and sweetly with live animals.

I was struck by the journey of the three kings. All my life I have been taught and prepared to welcome Christ into my life. There was never any question he was born and had died to save us from our sins. But these Kings had no such preparations or teaching in their lives beyond the prophets' assurances that the Messiah was coming. Yet they traveled across the desert following a star to visit the newborn baby Jesus. We have seen the Nativity over and over again where they are a part of it. The faith that has been carefully brought up in me since I was a child paled alongside of the tremendous faith these three Kings had to travel so far through the desert.

Here in the midst of the most commercial displays of the Christmas story was a message, an epiphany that brightened my faith journey. I would have never expected God's Spirit to reveal such a beautiful lesson in such clarity in these surroundings. It shows you can never know when God is going to speak to you.

I would like to end with a simple prayer to God to make me ready to hear his word and recognize his spirit and feel his love at all times. And to please help me to remember his gifts to all of us and specifically the special moments and epiphanies that have lit the way and guided me on my journey of faith. The prayer below about Zechariah recovering his voice after the birth of John the Baptist is what inspired me to write this devotion for the Men's Breakfast several years ago:

Holy God, there are times when I fail to recognize your promises and sing your praises. Help me find my voice, that I may speak your word and sing of your glory. Amen.

UPCOMING Events



FEBRUARY

Feb 24 Coffee Hour Follows Worship

MARCH

Mar 2 Men's Breakfast 8am
Mar 5 Food Offering Sunday
Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Celebration
Mar 6 Ash Wednesday
12pm & 7:30pm Worship
Mar 10 Congregational Meeting
Coffee Hour Follows Worship
Mar 13 Mid-week Lent Service
Soup 6pm - Service 7pm
Mar 20 Mid-week Lent Service
Soup 6pm - Service 7pm
Mar 24 Coffee Hour Follows Worship
Mar 27 Mid-week Lent Service
Soup 6pm - Service 7pm

APRIL

Apr 3 Mid-week Lent Service
Soup 6pm - Service 7pm
Apr 6 Men's Breakfast 8am
Apr 7 Food Offering Sunday
Apr 9 Church Council Meeting - 6pm
Apr 10 Mid-week Lent Service
Soup 6pm - Service - 7pm
Apr 14 Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins
Coffee Hour Follows Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6
12:00pm & 7:30pm
Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes.

MID-WEEK LENT

Soup at 6pm in MPR
Service at 7pm
March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 10

HOLY WEEK

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 14

10am Worship and procession of the palms; led by our worship band. A reading of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of St. Luke

Maundy Thursday - April 18

Services at 12pm & 7:30pm

Good Friday - April 19

Services at 12pm & 7:30pm
7:30pm Adoration of the Cross, as we stand before the cross of Jesus, remembering our sins, giving thanks for his sacrifice, the cost of our salvation.

Holy Saturday - April 20

9:30 & 11am Easter Egg Hunt with prizes, refreshments, music for children. Everyone is invited and you may bring your friend??

Easter Sunday - April 21

10am Festival Eucharist proclaiming "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus.



INTERESTING LUTHERAN FACTS

- The Lutheran Church is the oldest Protestant tradition.
- Martin Luther issued the “Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences” that became known as his “95 Theses” in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517.
- Lutherans went viral nearly 500 years ago, when Martin Luther and his allies used the new media of the day — pamphlets, ballads and woodcuts — and circulated them through social networks to promote their message of the reformation of the church.
- Following the practice of naming a “heresy” after its leader, the name Lutheran originated as a derogatory term used by Johann Eck during the Leipzig Debate in July 1519.
- Rather than “Lutheran,” Martin Luther preferred to describe the reformation as “evangelical,” which is derived from the Greek word meaning “good news.”
- Generally speaking Lutheran teaching can be summed up by “Three Solas”: (1) Grace Alone; (2) Faith Alone; (3) Scripture Alone.
- Luther’s Small Catechism (“Der Kleine Katechismus”) was published in 1529 for the teaching of children at home by their parents.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"JOURNAL OF LUTHERAN ETHICS"

Explores today's issues through lens of faith

Many voices online today express sentiments on current events and moral issues, but it's hard to find sources you can trust. One of the most dependable, according to many church leaders, is the "Journal of Lutheran Ethics," now in its 17th year as a ministry of publishing.

The "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" is a free, online, bimonthly source for people who want to probe social and moral questions in church and society from a perspective of faith. The articles are written by scholars, pastors and experts in their fields with a broad spectrum of readers in mind. Each issue includes articles on a particular theme and reviews of recently published books related to theology or social issues. Recent issues have focused on theological education, interreligious dialogue, economics and racism.

Check out the "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" at ELCA.org/jle and sign up to receive emails alerting you to each new issue.



PRAYER VENTURES: Suggestions for prayers every day, all year long

When it comes to prayer, there is no shortage of people and situations to include in our prayerful conversations with God. Sometimes it helps to have a little prompting though — reminders of special concerns of the church and world, ELCA programs and ministries, special occasions in the church calendar or ideas for ministries to remember in prayer that might otherwise slip by us.

ELCA Prayer Ventures offers such prayer suggestions for every day of the year. Prayer Ventures can be used for personal prayer, adapted for use in worship, posted online or shared with members. They are posted for download a month in advance at [ELCA.org/en/ Resources/ Prayer-Ventures](http://ELCA.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures) and featured daily at living.lutheran.org. It's free and fresh each month!

Both Articles Reprinted from *Seeds for the Parish*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER • MARCH 1, 2019

About World Day of Prayer

Since the nineteenth century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in many areas of concern for women and children, recognizing the critical role of prayer in mission work and their call to promote world peace through worldwide mission work. The first organized “day of prayer for the world” was held in Canada on January 9, 1920. The United States soon followed on February 20, 1920.

Now, hundreds of thousands of women (and men, youth, and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service and other materials. Women of that country’s national WDP committee interpret scripture within their cultural context and prepare a worship service; women around the world lead the services.

World Day of Prayer is supported by sacrificial and benevolent mission offerings given by individuals through these annual services. Each of the 170 countries celebrating World Day of Prayer has an ecumenical committee of women representing many cultures, races and faith traditions. Each country’s committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year. Offering grants are made to women and children’s groups in each country. World Day of Prayer USA promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration. For more information, visit the World Day of Prayer USA website at www.wdp-usa.org.

“Come—Everything Is Ready”

This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer (WDP) Committee of Slovenia call us to worship with the words: “Come—everything is ready.” We are invited to learn about Slovenia’s history and rich culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God’s profound love. One phrase in the worship service especially captures the ideas we will explore: “Welcoming God, in your love, you have prepared a table for all, and you inspire us to open our hearts and our homes to offer a place to the ones who are not yet at the table.” Who isn’t at your table yet? Who isn’t at your World Day of Prayer service . . . yet? The women of Slovenia challenge us all to widen our circles, to expand our communities. The theme of the worship service is the invitation from Luke: “Come, Everything is ready.” The table is ready and open to everyone. God’s house is to be filled with joy and presence, to smell like food, to be occupied with conversation, no matter the excuses of the privileged. The door of God’s house is open to those from the streets. Come, there is a place for you. Let’s build and strengthen the communities around God’s table.

WDP’s guiding principles affirm that “prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another.” Through the worship service, we listen to the people of Slovenia. They take us to their communities and through their concerns. Their everyday life is woven into their prayers. They invite us to follow prayer with action. WDP’s motto “Informed prayer leads to prayerful action” affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence.

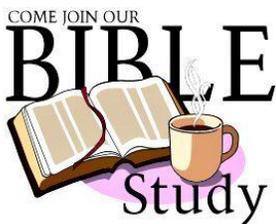
Let us walk in faith and prayerful action!



FUN FRIDAYS CONTINUE ...	
Feb 15	Cooking With Ms. Ginni
Mar 1	Movie
Mar 15	St. Patricks' Day Party
Mar 22	Tae Kwon Do

California theme week and dinners are sadly over. The multipurpose room looks a bit simple now. The children always miss the exciting atmosphere of the room once theme week is completed. Parents have already been asking "what is the theme for next year?" Shhh. We have a theme chosen, and it will be a little bit different from this year.

The children are well adjusted to school by this time of year. They have made friends, learned how to relate to one another, mastered some important skills, and the four year olds are well on their way to entering Kindergarten. We still have many things to learn and experience in the coming months. Colors, public speaking (show and tell), a water recycling program for the four year olds, and St. Partick's Day. In the meantime, please pray for no snow days.



Come, be nourished and encouraged by the Word of God!
 Connect and learn with others in the family of faith.
 Join us for Bible study with Pastor Paul Miller.
 Sundays, right after church (or coffee hour), from 11am to 12:30pm.

Happiness is ...

"Blessed are you who are poor,
 For yours is the kingdom of God."
 ~Luke 6:20

Word Search

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|--------|--------|
| RICH | JOY |
| LAUGH | POOR |
| WEEP | REWARD |
| HEAVEN | RICH |
| HUNGRY | LAUGH |

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L W M C F X Z H U D F K N S Q
J C G P E K G U U A K F Z H H
O E E E U U J O Y N N M C H A
P E W J A Z N P T V G I W A M
W T C L I Q J O U S R R J P Q
S X A R M R V O R S V A Y H P
S H D M C I L R R T A C T U L
O Y E Z Y C A M X E Z X U N K
B D X A Q H U H S W W S M G S
B D R B V A G W A P Y A V R N
Q U Q E P E H D B U O X R Y C
E P V U W X N K Y L V O M D E
K X H P B A J L X Z B M R Z D
J O Y J E Q R L O T P N V U N
X W H G Q C L D E L R D T M A
  
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Pastor Paul Miller

CONTACT US

The church office
will be closed
February 18
in observance of
President's Day.



God's Work, Our Hands

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