



Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church

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April 2018 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of Ascension,

It certainly looks like any hopeful wishes for an early spring are gone. Even though the spring season officially started over a week ago, March is once again proving itself to be a winter month in our part of the country. While we have not had any terrible or severe winter storms in our area (yet), we have seen our share of snow and below average temperatures lately. If it is true that weather usually evens itself out, perhaps we'll have an above average April.

March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament, is about to come to a close with the championship game to be played on April 2nd. I don't know that anyone still has their bracket intact. I did pick Loyola – Chicago to win two games, but I certainly did not pick them to win four and make it the Final Four. I did not pick University of Maryland Baltimore County to beat Virginia. UMBC became the first 16 seed to beat a number 1 seed. Had I known that UMBC's nickname was the "Retrievers", so named after the official state dog of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever, perhaps I might have picked them. It all comes down to Michigan and

Loyola – Chicago, Kansas and Villanova; and who can win two more games.

As I write this we are in the midst of Holy Week, the week that begins with Palm Sunday and culminates on Easter Sunday. I must say that I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy our sermons series for this Lent season. All the readings for the sermon texts are from the book of Hebrews. The theme was and still is: "Jesus Is Our Great High Priest". The book of Hebrews is one of the least understood books of the Bible. This is because the letter to the Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians, not to Gentile Christians like you and me.

Those early Jewish Christians were being enticed to abandon their faith in Christ and to return to the practices of the Jewish faith. They were being encouraged to return to the civil and ceremonial laws that God had given to his people Israel. Many of these religious practices had become ritual and habitual for many Jews, even as they often simply went through the motions. Life was not easy for those early Jewish Christians. The writer to the Hebrews shows them that in Christ they have something far

superior to what they had in practicing Judaism.

Since Jesus was a Jew, he too followed those same civil and ceremonial laws that these early Jewish Christians had followed before Christ. This included Jesus celebrating the Passover on Maundy Thursday with his disciples in the upper room. Jesus would institute the sacrament of Holy Communion at that Passover meal. The sacrament of Holy Communion replaces the practice of celebrating the Passover for Christians today.

We can see how all the Old Testament rites and rituals culminate during Holy week as Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday, Jesus offered himself on the cross once and for all for all the sins of the world. On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, displaying victory for us over sin, death, and the devil. Because Jesus lives, we too shall live forever with Jesus in heaven. "I Know that my Redeemer Lives!" A blessed Easter to all of you.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Lloyd Schlomer



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Upper Mississippi LWMS

Spring Circuit Rally

Let's show our faithful support for our WELS missionaries by attending the Spring Rally on

Saturday, April 28th, 2018

Christ, Baxter, MN

9:30am – 2:30pm

Cost: free-will offering which goes towards operating costs of the circuit, missions and speaker honorariums.

Refreshments and lunch provided by

ladies of Christ, Baxter

**It is a wonderful and fun way
to serve the Lord.**

Guest Speakers: Speaker Karen Kroll, wife of Missionary Dan Kroll, Cameroon, Africa

Please come enjoy food, fellowship and mission work being accomplished by the LWMS (Lutheran Women Missionary Society).

Childcare is available during the rally.



Starting June 2018, if anyone is interested in taking on the monthly newsletter, please speak to Trisha Dominguez. This amounts to about a 1-2 hr. commitment per month.

GPLHS SPRING CONCERT



Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, SD, will present their spring musical April

12-14. The musical this year is "Hello Dolly". There will be four performances: Thursday at 10:00 in the morning, Friday at 12:30 and 7:00, and Saturday at 7:00. Grade school students are invited to the matinee shows free of charge. The Friday and Saturday evening performances have a \$5 charge for adults to attend.

JESUS CARES MINISTRIES
A MINISTRY OF THE LUTHERAN HOME ASSOCIATION



We continue to meet once a month for our Jesus Cares Ministry. This ministry is for those with intellectual and development disabilities. This is an underserved group of people in our community.

We do devotion, a short Bible lesson, crafts, music and a snack. While the ministry is going well, we do not serve a lot of people and could serve more.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this ministry, please refer them to our Jesus Cares team.

Any questions, talk to Darlene Schlomer.

If there is information you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please either drop a note in Trisha Dominguez's mailbox or send an e-mail to: newsletter@ascensionmoorhead.org

*****All information for the May newsletter is due April 24th*****