

April 15, 2022

Dear People of God

As we approach the end of Holy Week may you find peace and love in His name.

Friday

Have you ever wondered why Good Friday is “good”?

The disciples watched as Jesus cried out, “it is finished.” But what was finished wasn’t Jesus’ life—it was everything separating us from God’s love.

“God with us” became “God for us” by giving up His life to rescue us.

Jesus suffered so that our suffering world could know God personally ... that’s what makes Good Friday “good.”

We hope you can join us for our Good Friday service, as we remember the Stations of the Cross, which begins at 7 pm.

Saturday

On Saturday, our Easter Egg hunt begins at 3 pm sharp. Come on out and meet the Easter Bunny and let’s have some fun finding our hidden Easter eggs.

Sunday

Our Easter celebration begins with our Easter Breakfast at 8:30 am.

At 9:30 am we come together to celebrate and give thanks for Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. *He is risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

I wanted to share with you an Easter prayer (written in the first person). As you read, may it bring you peace, strength, hope and love.

Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen

News from the Pews

Survey*****

In a few weeks I will be sending out a survey on *Congregational Vitality*. This survey comes to us through the ELCA. This will be an online survey and takes about 10 minutes (give or take) to complete.

Your input is valuable!

Vital congregations may be large or small. They may be growing, shrinking, or holding steady. The key to their vitality is that they experience God's active presence in everyday life and live as disciples of Christ. This way of describing vitality points to the relationships between the congregation's members and God, each other, and the world.

These relationships are at the heart of what it means to be church and are summed up by Jesus in scripture through the Great Commandment "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission when Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

God calls all people and congregations beyond survival and into an abundant life. As Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

This survey is an important tool we have, to see where we are and where we should go, as we further God's ministry into 2022 and beyond.

I truly appreciate your time with this survey and know that your input is valuable.

Please check your inbox for the survey on either Sunday, April 24th, or Monday, April 25th. The last day to participate in the survey is Monday, May 9th, so please be prepared to take the survey as soon as you receive the email (so you don't forget).

Thank you!

Youth Sunday ~ May 1st

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1st as our youth take over St. John's. Our amazing youth will be leading worship through song, prayer, and funny skits.

"Come and see" our youth share God's amazing love with everyone.

A shout out to our youth. *Thank you ~ You Are Amazing!*

Book Club

Saturday, May 14th at Hebron Library 10 am.

Mark your Calendars

Monday, May 16th council meets 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 24th Worship team meets 9 am (Zoom)

Peace and love,

Pastor Debbie

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