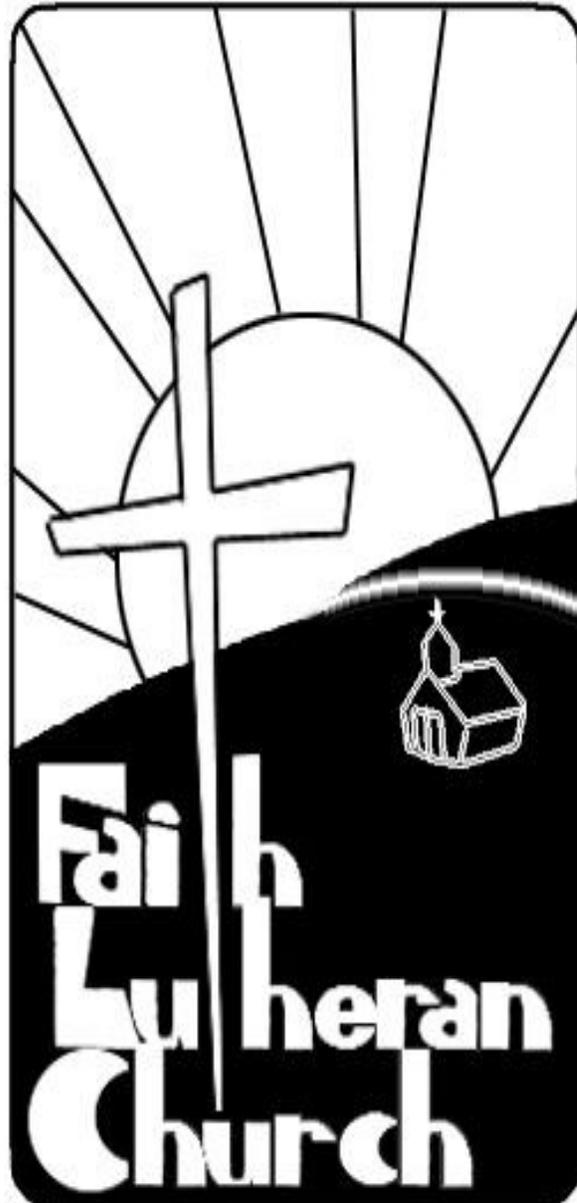


The Grapevine

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Clippings from the Vinedresser

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.” Luke 24:1-3



“...Jesus arose triumphant—over our hatred, over our attempts to throw off God’s mantle of love.”

This is a story with which we are very familiar: Jesus rose from the dead. We celebrate this great event every Easter with breakfasts, early services, and the refrain, “The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.” Each Sunday is celebrated as a little Easter (which is why Sundays are not counted as days of Lent). Jesus has risen. Each time we gather to bury a loved one, we are comforted by the words that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so too will we be.

But what exactly does that mean and more particularly, what does it mean for us? We can find almost as many explanations as there are churches. Christ has triumphed over death; he is victor. Jesus died to pay the wages for our sin, the perfect sacrifice offered to God. God then raised him as a sign that Jesus’ sacrifice was accepted. And on it goes. All have their merits.

But I like to think of the resurrection in this way. In love for humankind, which was created in God’s own image, God desired to pour blessing upon blessing. But we are a sinful lot, and time and again we turned our backs on God and spurned God’s gifts. We have used every trick in the book to stop God from loving us. We willfully disobeyed in Eden; we harassed the royal visitors at Sodom; we murdered our masters in Egypt; we chose other gods to take God’s place while Moses was up on Sinai; we grumbled when we God led us through the wilderness; we cowered when



God directed us into the Promised Land; we quickly forgot God when the blessings of the new land came raining down upon us; we took advantage of the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the immigrants who lived among us. Still God continued to try and bless us. In maybe, and I say maybe because God is a God of surprises and may still have a few tricks up the divine sleeve, in maybe a last ditch effort to show how deep was God’s love, Jesus came: the Son of God; God in the flesh, living and breathing as one of us; revealing just what God is like, what God expects, and how God loves. And what do we do? Why, we kill him of course. In the most vicious, cruel way we could think of, we strapped him on the cross and left him to die. (And let’s not throw the blame on the Romans or the Jews: we did it; we were there; we continue to do so each time we sin.)

So that would be it. God’s plan a bust. Lying in shreds in a freshly hewn tomb. But not so fast! God was not finished yet. In the most dramatic event of all history, God blasted the stone away and Jesus arose triumphant—over our hatred, over our attempts to throw off God’s mantle of love. God was declaring, “See! Nothing you can ever devise will stop me loving you. Ever!”

No wonder we shout Hallelujah. God is unstoppable, or as Jesus said, “With God, nothing is impossible.”

Thank you, Lord Jesus. For I, and all of us, are sinners in need of your love. Thank you that you love us no matter what. May our lives forever reflect our gratitude.

Alleluia! Amen.

Lent and Holy Week

Here is our schedule for the rest of Lent and Holy Week:

Lenten Lunches: Wednesday, April 5, 12, noon, Northminster United

Maundy Thursday: Seder and Potluck, April 13, 6:00 p.m., AH

Good Friday Service: April 14, 10:30 a.m., AH

Sonrise Service: April 16, 8:00 a.m., Upper Room (12th floor)

Sonrise Breakfast: April 16, 9:00 a.m., CH

Traditional Easter Worship: April 16, 10:30 a.m., AH



Please note: we have a sign-up sheet for the Seder Meal. We need to know exactly how many are attending so we can set the tables accordingly. (Tables are set for the exact number plus one for Elijah.)

Plan to arrive early for the Sonrise Service: the Upper Room fills up quickly!



Sunday School

The Sunday School children will be busy this month. They will be processing through the church on Palm Sunday (April 9) and singing at the Easter Sonrise Service, on Easter Sunday. Please have your children there a few minutes early each of these Sundays.

Paint Night

Although Winter was easy, we welcome Spring with Open Arms!!!

Join us for **Paint Night**, Friday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m., in Cana Hall.

Cost for Paint Night is \$20 per person

(Tickets must be purchased in advance, please see Lori Wilson, Shelly, Dayna or Charlotte)

Please bring your favourite beverage, and a shareable snack.

(This is an over 19 event)

We will paint this



April 2017



<p>Coffee: 2: Fellowship Hour 9: Helen Linkie 16: Sunrise Breakfast 23: Lori Wilson 30: Gabriele Albrecht</p>	<p>Counters: Laurie Ikeda Charlotte Wolfenborg</p>				1
<p>2 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Faith Council, 6:30</p>	<p>5 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Women's Circle, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>9 Sunday School and Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>12 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Seder/Potluck, 6:00</p>	<p>14 Good Friday Service, 10:30 a.m.</p>
<p>16 Sunrise Service, 8:00 Sunrise Breakfast, 9:00 Traditional Worship, 10:30</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Finance, 9:00 a.m. Paint Night, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>23 Sunday School and Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>26 Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27 Pint with the Pastor, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>30 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Readers: 2: Vivian Roth 9: Laurie Ikeda 16: Donna Jennings 23: Elke Rosenau 30: Bernie Roth</p>	<p>Flowers: 2: Love Plants 9: Donna Jennings 16: Liles 23: Carol Plath 30: Vickie Goddard</p>	<p>Ushers: 2: Vivian Roth, Arlene Jacobs 9: Laurie Ikeda, Donna Jennings 16: Irv and Helen Linkie 23: Elmer Plath, Philip Plath 30: Andrew Mountney, Joel Mountney</p>	<p>Communion Set-Up: 2: Leslie Morrow, Carol Plath 16: Vivian Roth, Wendy Becker Communion Servers: 2: Irv Linkie, Laurie Ikeda 16: Volunteers</p>	<p>29</p>