

St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203

On Easter, the liturgical proclamation is: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" the congregation responds.

There it is . the Christian story in three words - Christ is risen. And that by his resurrection he vanquished sin, death, and all the powers of hell. When Christians celebrate Easter, says Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, "we are really standing in the middle of a second 'Big Bang,' - a tumultuous surge of divine energy as fiery and intense as the very beginning of the universe."

Even after being plainly warned of Jesus passion, death and resurrection on the third day, his closest companions "did not understand any of this". So, when Jesus did rise from the dead, they not only didn't understand him, they didn't even believe in him.

Sure, there are alternate explanations -- the disciples stole the body and created the fiction of Christ's resurrection. Others suggest that the spirit of Jesus lives on in us as a powerful memory and presence, like a favorite uncle who deeply influenced us when he was alive.

These alternate explanations have a common theme: the resurrection is more myth and metaphor than history, something to be taken figuratively but not literally. But that's not what those first doubters came to believe, not by a long shot. To them, Jesus was truly and literally raised from the dead. Even if they couldn't fully understand, or explain it they freely admitted that their "gospel" was a sham and that they were liars if Jesus was not raised from the dead. If Jesus is not raised, the Christian faith is a cruel hoax and a silly fiction.

The women who were the last at the cross were the first to believe. For myself, I believe those original disbelievers, and stand with other Christians across time and space, who have believed, taught and confessed that God raised Jesus from the dead. And so with thousands of others who have similarly believed, I join the chorus, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"



Pastor



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

UNDAY April 17th
10 AM
PROCESSION OF THE PALMS AND READING OF THE PAS-
SION

THURSDAY, April 21st
7:30 P,M
MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, April 22nd
7:30 PM
TENEBRAE SERVICE

SATURDAY, April 23rd
7:30 PM
EASTER VIGIL

EASTER SUNDAY, April 24
6:60 AM
60 TH ANNUAL SUNRISE SERVICE
WASHINGTON
PARK

10:00 AM
EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP



This is the third in a series of articles about the “Albany Lutheran Cluster”. The first article focused on its beginnings and evolution, and the second discussed its current ministries and organization. This time, we begin to consider what possibilities it could present for the future.



A natural question would be: why are we even thinking about the future possibilities of the Cluster right now? After all, these are five independent congregations that have their own Pastors, staff, Council, budgets, facilities/locations, membership, etc. All seem to be relatively healthy and happy with the status quo. Despite that, it is still reasonable to ask this question: Are we positioned to maintain that health and happiness over the next five, ten, or twenty years?+

lo-

The Pastors and Presidents of the Cluster congregations have been reflecting on that question, and as a result, some big-picture trends and observations have begun to emerge. These findings are now being shared at the Midweek Lenten Services, and we are taking time to examine the collective situation we are facing. What can we do together now to assure we all remain strong well into the future?

In thinking about that, it may be helpful to start by recalling how the Cluster has already contributed to our congregational lives-----past and present. Previous articles have discussed this in detail, but here is a summary:

- Mutual support at Pastoral and staff levels;
- Joint worship, fellowship, and educational activities;
- Social ministry projects and programs;
- Administrative cost savings.

For the five Wednesdays of Lent (following Ash Wednesday), the Cluster has been offering Midweek Lenten Services that rotate among the five congregations. Beginning at 6:15 PM, we gather for a light dinner (soup, bread, beverage, dessert), then at 6:45 PM the attendees take part in small-group discussions about the Cluster's future possibilities. Each week, the focus is on a different aspect of our churches' lives, starting with Fellowship, then progressing to Worship, Service, Witness, and Nurture. Together, we are sharing information, ideas, and insights, after which we continue with worship, asking God for guidance and direction. As an alternative, the Cluster Pastors are also leading discussion and worship each Wednesday at noon at St. John's Cemetery Chapel (303 Sand Creek Rd.). Many folks are finding that time more convenient.

Many important questions are being considered during these discussions. For example, how can we do the above four bulleted items better? Are there other things we should be doing? What can we do together that we could not do as well-----or at all-----alone? If there were multiple pastoral staff working together on behalf of all the churches, what kind of diversity in spiritual gifts would that provide to strengthen our individual and collective ministries? What would we lose by bringing our congregations into a closer relationship-----or more importantly, what would we gain? We've already seen that we can save money by doing things collectively, but how can we provide a stronger witness, showing that God is at work among us. How can we more fully live out our call to be God's light in the world?

These and other questions are being discussed at our Midweek Lenten gatherings, and it's very important that you add your voice to the conversation. Even if you don't feel you have any ideas to contribute right now, please come and learn. You can provide feedback to the ideas of others and hearing them may trigger ideas of your own. God speaks to and through each one of us.

The next article will attempt to summarize points you've made during these discussions.

+ Christian Symbols +



Coins

The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins – usually shown with a bag or purse – represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).

Without Jesus ...

Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

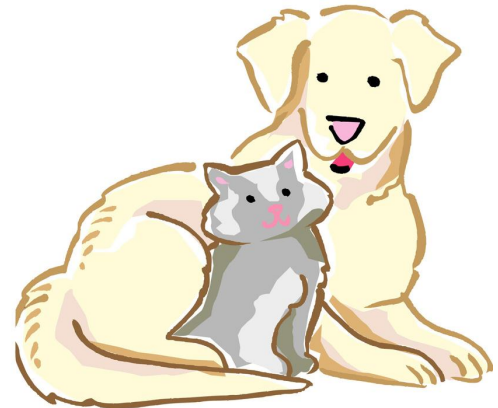
- A chocolate Easter Bunny – empty on the inside;
- An Easter bonnet – easily blown off kilter;
- Last year's Easter outfit – it doesn't quite fit right;
- An Easter lily – it soon withers and dries up;
- A bag of jellybeans – sugary and sweet but lacking substance;
- An unfound Easter basket – full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- A colored Easter egg – looks great but cracks under pressure;
- The Easter bunny – always hopping here and there;
- Marshmallow Peeps – becomes hard when opened up;
- Easter parade – a long journey with no destination;
- An unopened Easter card – a message of love unclaimed.

—David Patterson

CLUSTER COLLECTION FOR APRIL

The Albany Lutheran Cluster collection of items for the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society continues through April. Properly sheltering and caring for animals requires a large range of equipment and supplies. Each donated item helps direct their financial resources to services and programs. Their greatest needs are for: paper towels, canned (wet NOT dry) cat and dog food, kitten milk replacement (KMR), peanut butter, cat litter, newspapers, postage stamps, and copy paper.

They also need swiffer sheets, toilet paper, bleach, hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, cardboard shoeboxes, Fresh Step PawPoints, WeeWee pads, dog toys, plastic cat toys (no catnip), rawhides, Kongs (large or extra large), Kuranda dog beds, cat beds, towels, blankets (smaller/thinner such as receiving blankets), kitchen scales, long handles metal pooper scooper for dogs, large spray bottles, small animal bedding (shavings, straw or paper, no cedar)



HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- ½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



Capital Region CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, May 1, 2011

Walk With the World – CROP Walkers will step off on Sunday, May 1, to vote with their feet for a better world. Please join us this year as we once again walk to stop hunger! There are two ways to participate:

- Be a CROPWalker.** Gather pledges from your family and friends, then join other members of the St. Paul's team to walk Sunday afternoon with the rest of the Capital District walkers.
- Or,
- Sponsor a CROPWalker.** Your pledge provides encouragement for the Walkers and is vital to the success the program.

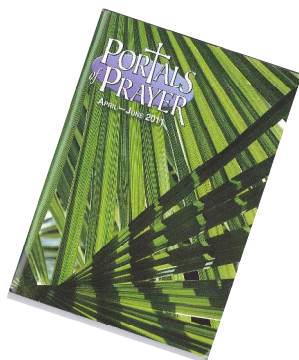
A full 25% of all money raised on the Walk will go to our local Food Pantries (a coalition of over 50 food pantries and soup kitchens in our area), as the needs in our region continue to grow. The remainder will go to programs in more than 80 countries to help provide food and supplies in emergencies such as hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, famines, earthquakes and war; clean water, seeds tools and education to help people grow their own food.

Your participation makes an important contribution to stop hunger and builds our Capital Region communities as caring and compassionate places to live. See Nimmy David or Sheryl Baum for more information.

Portals of Prayer

April—June

Copies are available in the back of the church or call 463-0571.



Spring cleaning



Sweep over me, Lord
And brush out my sin!
Replace it with faith,
And live here within.
Amen.

On the loose

In John Masefield's play *The Trial of Jesus*, Pilate's wife, Procula, asks one of the guards about the crucifixion. He tells her about Christ on the cross and says, "Jesus' body has been buried, but I don't think he is dead."

"Then where is he?" Procula asks.

The soldier replies, "Let loose in the world, lady, where neither Roman nor Jew can stop his truth."



- 3. DIANE KINGSTON
- 6. CHARLOTTE JOHNSON
- 7. ARTHUR FRIESE
JEFFREY HARRIS
Solomon Gebreyes
- 8. THOMAS RAGONI
- 9. HERMANN KAHLER
- 15. ZACHARY BAUM
- 20. S. DAVID DEVAPRASAD
- 26. MEGAN CALAMARAS



ELDER
Marty Hempel

| DATE | FLOWERS | SERVICE STEWARD | Communion Assistant | ALTAR COMMITTEE | Coffee Hour |
|------|--|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4/3 | The Devaprasad Family in memory of Mary Berger | Martin Kahler | Lori Seim | Erika and Annetter Kahler | The Harris Family |
| 4/10 | Ray Peter in memory of wife Esther | Martin Kahler | Lori Seim | | The Ragonis |
| 4/17 | Lori Seim | Tom Calamaras | Anne Ragoni | Maary Boshea and Alida Earl | The Kahlers |
| 4/24 | The Harris Family | Tom Calamaras | Anne Ragoni | | Will and Martha Kratz |

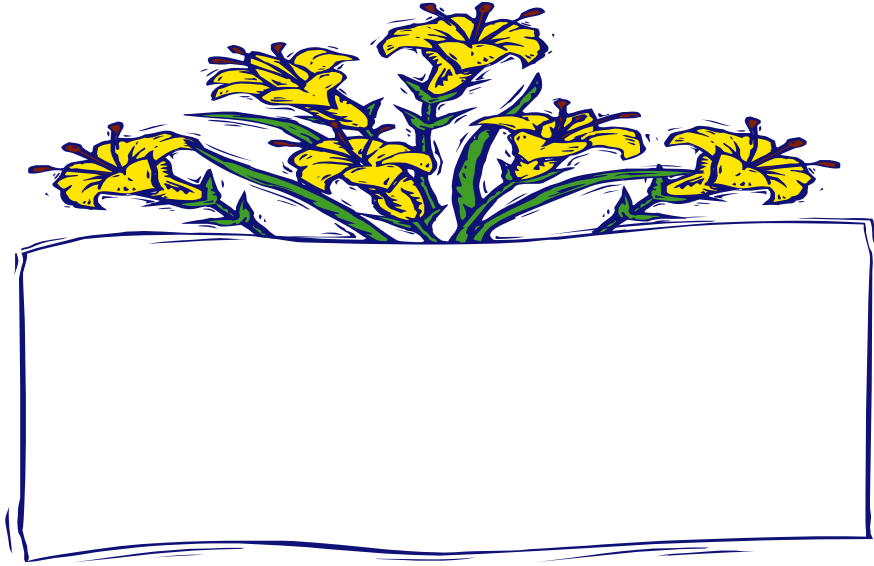
April 2011

St. Paul's Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="7">Mar 2011</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | | Mar 2011 | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="7">May 2011</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | | May 2011 | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | |
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| <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>6:30 PM ESL CLASS</p> | <p>6:30 PM ESL CLASS</p> <p>7:00 PM PLANNING COUNCIL</p> | <p>7:30 PM DARTS</p> <p>FINALS</p> | <p>6:00 PM MIDWEEK SUPPER/ MEDITATION @ ST. JOHN'S</p> <p>6:30 PM ESL CLASS</p> <p>8:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>6:30 AM EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE -WASHINGTON PARK</p> <p>10:00 AM EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP</p> | | | <p>7:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church
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LISTEN EVERY SUNDAY
“CHAPEL TIME”
WROW 590 am
6:30 am