



Connections:



King of Kings Lutheran Church

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Make The Week Holy

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this Lenten season has been a blessed one for you. Many have focused on growing closer to the Lord through the Discipleship Challenge, which has been a great blessing for King of Kings. As we now approach Holy Week, we again have the opportunity to experience the power and meaning of Jesus' journey to the cross. I pray that you will take the time to worship with us during Holy Week.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28th. This service remembers Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where he was greeted as Messiah and King with the waving of palm branches. In many ways, Palm Sunday is the pinnacle of Jesus' popularity with the crowds of people who so often accompanied him in his ministry travels. Ironically, it is precisely because of his popularity with the people that the religious authorities and governing officials become deeply concerned about the rebellion and revolt of the people. Palm Sunday is a day of celebration of Jesus as King of Kings, but it also anticipates Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and death.

Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the "Three Days" which also includes Good Friday and Easter Vigil. Maundy Thursday or "mandate" Thursday is the time when we remember Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper and the ritual of foot washing. It was on Thursday night before the Passover that Jesus gathered with his disciples for the last time. As they enjoyed a meal together, and as Jesus offered final teachings and instruction, he asked the disciples to remember him by celebrating holy communion when they gathered. He then offered himself in humble service through the washing of feet. This year we will again celebrate communion and participate in a ritual foot washing during our Maundy Thursday service.

Good Friday is perhaps the most difficult, yet most important, day during Holy Week. On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross. As we gather for worship at noon and 7pm, we will read together the story of Jesus' passion and reflect upon what his death means for us and for the world. I have always found Good Friday to be an emotionally and spiritually moving experience each and every year.

Our Holy Week remembrance concludes with Easter Sunday. Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, when he defeated death and the devil, opening up for us the gift of eternal life. Easter is the most joyous day of the year and one deserving of an outpouring of praise and thanksgiving. But the power of Easter is magnified when we participate fully in the Holy Week experience. I encourage you to take the time and experience each day of Holy Week. I pray that this most holy of weeks may be a blessed one.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ben



April 2010

Special points of interest:

- Easter Extravaganza
- Adopt-A-Road
- New Member Orientation

Inside this issue:

VBS Planning	2
Women's Tea	2
The Faith of the Disciples	3
Holy Week Schedule	4
MCREST	4
Youth Programs	5

**The Church Office
will be closed
on
Monday, April 5th
(Easter Monday).**

**There will be no
evening worship
that night.**

Lighthouse Outreach Easter Update

Thank you to everyone who donated a child's Easter basket for our collection for Lighthouse Outreach. 48 colorful baskets filled

with special goodies were collected, as well as various personal hygiene products.



Easter Baskets

Easter Extravaganza

Our annual Easter Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. All Sunday School age children are welcome to bring their friends, family & neighbors along for some springtime fun.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt (please bring your own container to collect the eggs in), crafts, treats and a surprise guest - so don't forget your camera.



It's VBS Planning Time Already

Mark your calendars to save the date for our High Seas Expedition this summer at King of kings. The ship sets sail August 2nd - 6th. Get ready to splash and make waves through God's Word as we plan to transform our church for this incredible journey. To make this a successful trip we need as many hands on deck as we can get.

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/kok

Please visit our website to see the many volunteer opportunities available and sign up today.

Don't forget to register your children for VBS at the website as well.



A Women's Spring Tea

As part of our ongoing effort to support women's fellowship, the Women's Ministry at King of kings will be holding a 'Spring Tea' for women of all ages on Saturday, **May 1st from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Phyllis Bond will be our guest speaker for the event. Phyllis has done several speaking engagements for various area churches. We feel very blessed by God that He continues to put people in our path to help develop women's ministries here at King of kings.

There will be a cost of **\$5.00 per person.**

Please contact Doris Bond, Bobbie Watt or Judy Zimmerman if you would like to help with the planning of this event.

Please watch the weekend bulletins for information about how to RSVP.

Please join us!



The Faith of the Disciples

The experiences we have in life determine so much of what we do, what we think, and who we are. In a very real sense, we are defined by our experience, it shapes the way we view the world and gives us perspective. For the disciples it was much the same, their life with Jesus was dramatic and powerful. They were able to experience the power of God in a transforming and personal way on a regular basis. Can you imagine what it must have been like to be an eyewitness to Jesus' miracles? How much greater would your faith be if you were able to spend just one day with Jesus?

It is natural for us to assume that the disciples were giants of faith who never questioned, doubted, or lost faith. After all, they had front row seats to the greatest story ever told. They were there for the healings, the exorcisms, the feeding miracles, the walking on water, the resurrection, and everything else. It is then such a disappointment when the disciples repeatedly fail. They show a lack of faith, fear, doubt, cowardice, and a hardness of heart. In the Gospel of Mark, the disciples are particularly dim-witted. Time and time again they fail and they never seem to show much progress.

In Mark there are two miracle feeding stories which go a long way toward illustrating the deficiencies of the disciples. The first episode occurs in 6:30-44. The disciples had been sent out into the world to cast out demons, anoint the sick, and proclaim the good news (6:7-13). After returning from their first ministry efforts, Jesus gathers the disciples together to discuss their experience. As they gather in a boat together, a large crowd assembles on the shore and follows them as they drift along. Jesus realizes that as the crowd continues to grow he needed to speak to them. After

teaching them about the kingdom, the disciples realize that it is getting pretty late.

"When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said: 'this is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and village and buy something for them to eat.'"

Mark 6:35-36

Jesus then tells the disciples to gather the food they have and feed the crowd themselves. In utter disbelief the disciples watch as Jesus takes 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, blesses them, and gives them to the disciples to distribute. The disciples then distribute the food and return with 12 baskets of leftovers! They fed over 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish, everyone was fed and filled, and there were leftovers! This is a miracle of God.

The disciples see this all unfold. Not only do they see Jesus bless the food, they also distribute the food to the crowd. The miracles take place in front of them as they pass the baskets around and see that everyone is filled. This experience was powerful and witnessed personally by the disciples, yet they cannot overcome their doubt and fear. Immediately after the crowd is filled, Jesus sends the disciples away to the boat, sends the crowd home, and goes off by himself to pray. When he returns to the disciples he sees that the wind has picked up and they are struggling to row the oars of the boat. Jesus approaches the disciples by walking on the water. When the disciples see him they are terrified and cry out. Jesus then says: "Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid." After Jesus gets into the boat the text goes on to say: **"they were utterly astounded for they did not under-**

stand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened."

The disciples witnessed first hand the miracle of the feeding of 5,000 people. They were there and participated, they played an active role in the miracle. After that takes place, Jesus walks on water and they are still stuck on the loaves. They are terrified and amazed and astounded by Jesus, their hearts are hardened because they can not understand how Jesus fed the crowd. Their experience of the feeding of the 5,000 was so confusing and bewildering that they simply cannot get past it. In fact later in Mark 8:1-10 Jesus again feeds a large crowd with 7 loaves and a few fish. One would think that after just experiencing the first feeding miracle the disciples would believe Jesus could do it again, but when it was time to feed the people the disciples still disbelieve. "How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?" (Mark 8:4) They simply cannot get past themselves and see God at work, they cannot overcome their lack of faith and doubt and trust that with God all things are possible.

The disciples just don't get it. This is a common sentiment for biblical scholars when they analyze the disciples in Mark. Time after time they fail to truly understand who Jesus is. They have moments of faith followed by complete ignorance and doubt. They are failures. This may be what Mark has in mind in the writing of his gospel. No one ever truly understands who Jesus is or what his mission is all about. If no one in the story ever gets it then it is up to us, the reader, to understand. **If the Good News of Jesus Christ is going to be shared with the world we have to do it. The question of the gospel is for us to answer: Who do YOU say Jesus is? What will your life be?**

Continued on page - 4 - >>>

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday ~ March 28th

(featuring First Communion)

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 1st

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday ~ April 2nd

12noon & 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ April 4th

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

There will be **NO** Sunday School on Easter Sunday



There will be **NO** evening worship on **Monday, April 5th.**

The Faith of the Disciples *continued ...*

On the other hand, I think our disciple friends may get a bad rap. It is true they fumble and bumble their way through. It is true that they demonstrate a lack of faith, fear, doubt, and understanding. But they also are faithful, dedicated, and persistent followers of God. They hang in there and do not give up. For me, the disciples are a model of faith because they are truly human. They oscillate between faith and doubt just like us. If the disciples who spent every moment of every day with Jesus still had doubts, then perhaps we should give ourselves more grace when we struggle with doubt and fear. If the disciples have their good and bad moments, up and down faith then maybe this is just how it goes. Perhaps Mark is trying to paint a

realistic picture of what following Christ is like: moments of trust, grace, and enlightenment and periods of confusion, doubt, and fear.

Imagine if we shared this message with people struggling with their faith. Would they be comforted? Would they realize they are not alone? Would they grow closer to God?



Please check out Pastor Ben's blog at:

<http://biblestudyinsideout.blogspot.com/>

MCREST Time Is Getting Closer

With April upon us MCREST is just around the bend. This month we will kick off the MCREST volunteer drive with a MCREST meeting on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. at King of kings. This meeting is open to all who want to serve. Please RSVP to RandalRoss@gmail.com if you plan on attending.

Sunday, April 11th we will have sign up sheets available with the days

and times when help is needed. It is our hope to have no less than 45 volunteers from King of kings.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and feed God's people. Please give prayerful thought to volunteering some time during the week of May 9th - May 16th.

We look forward to working with you.



MCREST

An Update From Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school on April 4th (Easter) or on April 11th due to Spring Break for the kids. They will resume on April 18th.

**OUR NEXT
NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH
@ 1:00 PM**

**Call the Church office if you would like
to attend or have any questions.**

CONFIRMATION (7th & 8th grade)

April 1 ... Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7:00 pm
April 2 ... Good Friday Worship @ 12noon or 7:00 pm
April 7 ... Spring Break
April 14 ... Guest Speaker
April 21 ... Fellowship Event - Laser Tag
April 28 ... Spirit Night @ Holy Grounds

CHAOS (9th - 12th grade)

April 7 .. Spring Break
April 14 .. Youth Weekend Prep
April 18-19 .. Youth Weekend
April 21 .. Fellowship
April 28 .. Spirit Night

Youth & Children's Programs

Sunday School (preschool - 6th grade)

† Will meet at both
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

For more information contact
Stacey Lambert
248-561-3473
or the Church office
586-566-8660

Confirmation (7th & 8th grade)

† Meets on Wednesdays from
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Check the schedule for
specific events.

For more information contact
the Church office
586-566-8660

C.H.A.O.S. (9th - 12th grades)

† Meets on Wednesdays
at 8:00 p.m.
Check the schedule for
specific events.

For more information contact
Tim Mackey
586-532-9032



King of kings Lutheran Church
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Pastor Ben Sandin

We're on Schoenherr Road, just north of 21 Mile Road

Join us for weekly worship:

We have Contemporary Praise Worship
& Sunday School
at **BOTH** 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

Contemporary Praise Worship, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.



*Join Us For
Easter Worship
on Sunday, April 4th
at
9:30 or 11:00 a.m.*