



*From the Pastor*

### THE EASTER SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE



Relax! I'm not announcing or even suggesting an evening service on Easter Sunday, although there is Biblical precedence for it. On the very first Easter Sunday evening, Jesus met with His disciples, celebrated His resurrection and even shared the peace! [Luke 24:36-49 and John 20:19-23] He confirms His resurrection to the disciples by appearing before them, showing them His crucifixion scars and demonstrating to them that it was truly Him and not some ghost by inviting them to touch Him and eating a piece of fish before them. What truly grabs my attention is what

He says and does next. He told them that now, "repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations." "He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" It's as if Jesus couldn't wait to tell them that because He had fulfilled everything in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms that were written about Him, now all sin was paid for and could be forgiven in His name. They were forgiven! They were to go out as witnesses of these things and pronounce forgiveness in His victory and atonement.

Think of it, Jesus' first words to His disciples following His resurrection were to go and preach repentance and forgiveness in His name. The fruit of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the grave, were forgiveness and life. Of course this wasn't the first time Jesus taught and urged His disciples to be forgiving toward one another. In the model and pattern for prayer that He taught, The Lord's Prayer, He spoke of being forgiven as well as being those who likewise forgive. In the Gospel of Matthew He further emphasizes the importance of forgiveness directly following His prayer: "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." [Matthew 6:14-15] Thanks be to our risen Lord for the forgiveness, life and salvation He has won for us on the cross and in the empty tomb! May His undeserved grace and favor also move us to heed His calling to pronounce and preach forgiveness.

Sadly, all too often, we may think of forgiveness as a one way street where we receive the wondrous blessing from our Lord, but fail to see that we are to give witness of His forgiving love as we forgive others. Rather than proclaim love and forgiveness we pronounce judgment and hold resentment. Now, I know of nowhere in the Bible where God has conferred upon His followers the authority to judge. In that Easter Sunday night service He conferred upon His disciples (and the church) the power to forgive penitent sinners and the duty to not forgive those who are impenitent. This is not an appointment to be a judge. Quite the opposite, it is a calling to minister to all people: Penitent - those sorry for their sins; Impenitent - those who are not sorry and repentant of their sins. Jesus paid for the sins of all people and wants all to be saved through faith and forgiveness.

As Jesus' disciples today, as His church, we must share the joy and hope of the forgiveness of sins that we will celebrate in a couple of weeks on Easter Sunday: 1. We are compelled to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us. We will never have to forgive anyone more than what Jesus has already forgiven us. 2. We must forgive others (or be willing to forgive) because the alternative is bitter resentment. "Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others." [Hebrews 12:15 Phillips] 3. We must forgive others because that is God's will and expectation of His followers. If we withhold God's grace and mercy from others which we have received, how can we expect to be forgiven ourselves?

In his book, *They Like Jesus, But Not the Church*, Dan Kimball shares some responses from people that he asked what they wished churches would be like. One of the responses was that the church would be a more loving place. It caught my attention because one would certainly hope that if there were any place where someone could experience love, care and forgiveness, it would be in the church. Ironically, this probably does not surprise many of you. It doesn't surprise me either, sadly, because I have seen how church members have treated one another, how they have treated me, AND how I have treated them. I can't imagine what conclusions non-church members might come to about Jesus and His church with this kind of testimony. I can say that I am ashamed and ask for your forgiveness when I have been less than loving, caring and forgiving. I'd like to make this upcoming Easter season a time for reconciliation and forgiveness as a congregation. Let's take the powerful message of the cross and the hope of the empty tomb with us, incorporating it into our everyday lives in our church, our community and our families. Let's become living Easter celebrations! If that means having a special Easter Sunday night service to commemorate our calling to be forgiving disciples to all nations . . . Amen! Perhaps this much at least: On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday evening, after all the festive services have concluded and the Easter Breakfast is cleaned up; after families and friends have gathered for dinner and all the Easter baskets have been found – pause for a time of prayer to praise the Lord for His grace and forgiveness, to ask for His forgiveness when we have sinned, and for a loving heart of forgiveness toward others.

A most blessed Easter evening to all!  
Pastor Dennis Krueger



## QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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Hello from the quilting group!

Now that the days are longer and getting warmer we think about cleaning out our linen closet. When you do please remember the quilting group with any clean sheets you have decided to part with. They are needed for the backing to our quilts. All sizes are most welcomed and if they are small we add to them to other pieces so that they will be long enough for our quilts.

Thank you so much to Anne Neudecker for the material she has given to us. Also thanks to Anne's friends Nancy and Helen who live in the same park as Anne for the material they have sent over. Thank you Julie Reed for the bed dust covers and thank you Kathy Sessions for the material, batting, and sheets that she donated. All these gifts are most welcomed for our work for LWR.

If you would like to drop in and see our ongoing projects you are most welcomed. We usually quilt on the 4th Saturday of each month except for October when we meet the first part of the month to assemble kits. In November and December we take off for our work in the boutique. If you want anymore information call Linda Olson at 276-0373 and I will try to answer all questions. Come see us in April and if you would like we have take home projects you can work on and return to us. Thank you all for your prayers and support. May God Bless each and everyone of you.



We had nine ladies participate in Game Night last month. The "snacks" we enjoyed were more like a feast! At the brief meeting before the games it was reported that we sent \$495.54 in mites to the District LWML treasurer. This covered the period from November 2013 to February 2014. Don't forget to bring your mites on the first Sunday of each month and place them in the large Mite Box on the counter. Keep your Mite Box to fill up again - every penny adds up!

Our Mother's Day event this year will take place on the Saturday following Mother's Day, which is May 17th. Plans are in the works for that. The date was changed so anyone interested could attend the LWML Spring Rally being held on Saturday, May 10th at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Menifee. Registration for the Rally begins at 9 am with the program - on Prayer - starting at 9:30 am. The cost is \$5 and this includes morning refreshments and a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of Good Shepherd. Watch for a sign up sheet in the church lobby to fill out if you are interested in attending the Rally.

There will be a District LWML Convention this year June 13-15 being held in San Diego. Any one interested in attending, check out the PSD LWML website at [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org) for more information. Also, let Ruth Ann Krueger or Marge Clark know if you plan to attend. Each LWML local society was asked to donate a gift card and related item for the Zone auction basket being prepared for a Silent Auction that will be held at the convention. Shepherd will be donating a \$25 gift card for Cold Stone to go in the Zone "Night Out" basket.

We discussed the Annual Holiday Boutique that will take place on Saturday, November 8th. If anyone of you has a craft idea that you would like to share with the group, please contact any member of the committee: Marge Clark, Jan Schatz, Laurie White, or Paula Winn. And remember, start thinking about and making craft items that we can sell at the boutique.

The last item discussed was participation in filling shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child." Watch for more information on that project, also.

If you have any questions about LWML or upcoming events, please contact Ruth Ann Krueger or Marge Clark.



**MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES AND SOUP SUPPERS** continue on the first two Wednesdays in April, the 2nd and 9th. Please join us at either the 4 pm or 7 pm service and be sure to come and have some delicious homemade soup in between at 5 pm.



Our youth will be serving Easter breakfast from 7 am to 10:30 am. The suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. There is a sign up sheet on the counter in the church lobby if you plan to come. Please sign up so they know approximately how much food to prepare. Thanks!

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:30 am Sunday School lesson on Easter Sunday. You can help by donating filled plastic eggs and Easter novelties like books - with the Easter story would be a plus - or other prizes. One large plush and two regular-size plush bunnies would be appreciated. Contact Sue Anna (924-8567) if you need more information.



## Un-apologetic column 12

### Can I Get A Witness Part III

Hello again friends! Last month I gave you a brief history of the Jehovah's Witnesses, along with an introduction into their theology and beliefs. This month I would like to offer some strategies for interacting with the JW's, and offer some practical tips to help you defend your beliefs.

A good place to start your conversation is to discuss Jesus himself. The Watchtower Society denies the deity of Jesus, but to do this, they have to ignore what scripture says about Jesus. Jesus claimed to be God. He used the name of God (I Am), said He and God were one, and stated He and the Father were one. Jesus had the nature of God. He knew all, had the power to heal, knew future events and had control over the natural world. He was also worshiped as God. One of the best examples of this is in John 20:28, when Thomas sees the risen Jesus. His response is to state "My Lord and My God!" All this would seem good evidence that Jesus was in fact God. So how do JW's get around this? They make the problem go away by changing what scripture actually says.

As I pointed out last month, The Watchtower Society has made several significant changes to the text of the Bible in the New World Translation. I think it is fair to ask why they feel it necessary to make obvious changes to scripture that are not supported by the manuscript evidence available to us. Changes to passages such as John 1:1, where they insert an "a" so that it reads "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God." You can see how the insertion of this one letter changes the meaning of the passage. I own a Bible study program for my computer. In it, I can compare over 30 different translations of the Bible. None of them render the text with the "a" inserted. In fact, no other translation ever produced added the "a", with the lone exception of the New World Translation. How can we trust an organization that feels it necessary to make unsupported changes to a text simply to support its own errant theology?

The Jehovah's Witnesses make much of the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation Chapters 7 and 14 as the only members of the "Anointed Class." According to their teaching, Charles Russell and his Bible study group, as well as first century believers and a few "witness-like" believers are guaranteed to be in this group. But if we look at what the group described in Revelation actually consists of, it is radically different from what the Watchtower claims. The 144,000 are described as Jewish male virgins. If we hold to scripture, Charles Russell (who was married and assuredly not a virgin), the female members of his Bible study, and any non-Jewish member would not be in the 144,000. Often the JW will try and state that the description given about the 144,000 is simply figurative. But if the description is figurative, why can't the number in the same passage be considered figurative as well? It would seem that again, scripture is at odds with Watchtower teachings.

The final problem I will address facing the Jehovah's Witnesses is one of authority. As Lutherans, we recognize the authority of the Bible. But JW's go a step further. Not only is the authority of the Bible recognized, but the authority of the Watchtower Society as well. In fact, as I pointed out last month, it is their belief that you cannot be saved outside of their organization. As we have seen, other groups make this claim as well (i.e. The Catholic Church, The Mormons). But the Watchtower Society has a long track record of unfulfilled or incorrect prophecies (see last month's article for a detailed list). According to Deuteronomy 18:20-22, anyone making false prophesy is not to be listened to. The New World Translation has not altered the text of this passage, so you can point it out to them in their own Bible. If they hold to the authority of scripture, does it not teach that we should ignore the teachings of the Watchtower Society based on the false prophecies it has made over its long history?

I hope this series has been helpful to you. I have certainly learned a lot by researching and writing it! If you have found any other effective strategies that have worked for you in the past, please feel free to let me know. I always enjoy talking to you all about different ideas and approaches to witnessing. Next month I will offer a quick strategy to defend the resurrection of Jesus, known as "The Minimal Facts Approach" which was popularized by Gary Habermas and Michael Licona. See you next month!

Your Servant,  
Drew Covert

**Central City Lutheran Mission, San Bernardino sends a hearty "Thank You!" for your recent donations. Among other impacts, your generosity made possible:**

A single woman who lost all of her belongings because she could not go back to the car in which she had been living, felt much better with 2 full changes of clothes.

Homeless folks, whose main form of transportation is their FEET, were delighted with replacement shoes.

A young homeless man whose best clothes were jeans and tennis shoes, was invited to interview with a financial company. A suit donated by SVLC on the weekend was the perfect fit for this young man on Monday when he came for a confidence boost and got a dress for success makeover. God is good!

The cash donation to Client Support Services from your Holiday Boutique has helped move homeless men along to employment and housing via items like bus passes and fees for identification. Homeless men are getting to job interviews, medical appointments, agency appointments, and work. As a result of securing CA ID cards, Driver's Licenses, and Birth Certificates, and having a stable place for sleep and meals, men living in the shelter secured employment, and some even have obtained housing.

Thank you for your partnership in mission.

Marilyn Kraft, Central City Lutheran Mission  
[www.cclm.org](http://www.cclm.org)



### WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Do you have shoes, warm clothes or old sleeping bags or blankets in your closets or attic that you don't use or probably won't need? Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino needs old useable shoes and warm clothes especially for men but they also accept and distribute women's and children's items (washed please). You may give them to Pastor Ron or Ruby or bring them to the office. In the cold months CCLM takes in 70 homeless men each night who frequently need shoes and blankets and something soft to sleep on.



### Weekend Retreat for Single Lutherans Coming Up in July

Are you widowed, divorced, or never married? Come and be part of the Lutheran Singles' Association (LSA) Summer Conference over the Fourth of July weekend in Wichita, Kansas!

The retreat will begin Thursday evening, July 3rd, with registration, dinner, and entertainment. On Friday, July 4th, and Saturday, July 5th, participants will hear the keynote speaker, Pastor Paul Rosburg from Wyoming, plus participate in workshops on faith, health, and finances. There will be a BBQ Dinner with live music on Friday evening, and a Chuck Wagon Supper on Saturday. The retreat ends Sunday, July 6th, following a morning worship service and lunch.

More information about the LSA Summer Conference is available at [LutheransOnline.com](http://LutheransOnline.com). Type "Lutheran Singles' Conference" in the space at the top of the page in order to bring up the registration form. Or contact Nancy Taylor at [conference@lsalcms.org](mailto:conference@lsalcms.org) for more information. Lutheran Singles' Association holds a biannual summer conference, other smaller events, and publishes a quarterly newsletter called The Soloist.

#### Here are five great reasons to join us in Kansas this July:

1. Hang out with lots of other Lutherans! Southern California is a long way from the Midwest, where most Lutherans seem to live. The singles' conference will introduce you to new friends from across the country who share your Christian beliefs and traditions.

2. Visit a (beautiful) new place. If you enjoy traveling, you've probably realized that it's not much fun doing it alone. Attending a Lutheran Singles' Conference is like taking a trip with your best friends. (And if you prefer a little privacy, you can always request a single room.)

3. Find friends your age. Lutheran Singles' Conferences include men and women from different age groups. They are NOT only for those in their 20s or 30s. Unfortunately, often singles in their 40s or 50s are no longer included in church-sponsored groups. Lutheran Singles' events, however, welcome members of all ages.

4. Enjoy an (almost) even ratio of men and women. It's rare to have a singles' event with an even number of men and women, but Lutheran conferences come close.

5. Meet Mr. or Miss Right! You could meet that special someone at the next summer conference.

If you still aren't sure about attending our weekend retreat in July, don't forget the inexpensive cost, beautiful location, dynamic speakers and presenters, plus all the first-class entertainment. See you in Kansas this summer!



## 30 HOUR FAMINE



Members of our youth group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on April 26<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. From 6 am on the 26<sup>th</sup>, to 12 pm on the 27<sup>st</sup>, our youth will fast to help raise awareness and money to fight world hunger. The program is put on by World Vision. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to fight hunger. All funds raised for this event will go directly to World Vision.

Physical needs matter to God. That's why Jesus' miracles include things like healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and feeding 5,000 hungry people. Kids rate high in God's eyes. Jesus is pretty clear in Matthew 18:5—"Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

Without money for food and other essentials, kids don't eat. Since that matters to God, it matters to us!

Here's the really good news: We're not just helping for a day, or a month, or a year, because World Vision doesn't just give handouts; they stay over the long haul to help families become self-sufficient. That means we're helping kids and their families overcome hunger and poverty for a lifetime. Want proof? In the last 20 years, the number of kids who die every day because of hunger, disease, and poverty has dropped from 40,000 to just over 20,000—thanks in part to efforts like the 30 Hour Famine and people just like us.

I will be making announcements at the end of services leading up to the event letting you know how you can help in our efforts. If you have any questions, or would like to donate and will not be at Church prior to the event, you may contact me at 951-525-8111, or by email at [lcmsdrew@outlook.com](mailto:lcmsdrew@outlook.com). Thank you all for your support!

Yours in Christ,  
Drew Covert

### Power Point Schedule for May:

#### 8:00 AM

May 4th: Josh Stange  
May 11th: Bud Kenefick  
May 18th: Luke Hamann  
May 25th: Gerry Klepps

#### 10:45 AM

Amanda Johansen  
Jim Wilson  
Abby Covert  
Bob Maurer

If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or [lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com](mailto:lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com). Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!



Brethren:

The Knights of the Holy Spirit will be meeting on Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see all there.

Blessings,  
Ric the Compassionate

### Easter Blessings from SVLS

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Easter season is a perfect time for us to be thinking of the "new creation" that will be happening around our school. Utilizing our school building to bring more families closer to God is such a blessing. Pre-registration for the fall is going fantastic! Our classes are filling up and we still have over four months before it begins. Most of our new families are referrals from current or previous families which speaks loudly for our wonderful teachers.

It's also time for "spring cleaning"! We will be cleaning out cupboards and cabinets, closets and sheds! We will be getting rid of all damaged and broken things and will need to replace some of them. We would like a Little Tikes kitchen and house if you know of anybody who would like to donate to the school. They must be in good condition with no cracks or breaks.

#### Upcoming Events:

March 24 – Apr 4 Kindergarten Spring Break **No Kdg class**  
April 18 Good Friday – **School closes at 12:00**  
April 20 Easter Sunday –He is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Please continue to pray for God's many blessings on our school and a smooth transition.

In His Service,  
Linda Williamson, Director



## GRADUATES!

Members and friends graduating from all levels of school, mark your attendance card with this information or contact the church office so that we can include it in our next newsletter and upcoming announcements. Please let us know of any special awards or recognitions and we'll include that information also.



**ISRAEL & JORDAN - June 2014** with Pastor Leland and Marcia Lantz of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Laguna Woods. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Disciples, Abraham and David. Stand on the Mt. of Beatitudes and hear the blessings of Jesus. Sail on the Sea of Galilee on a 1<sup>st</sup> century replica fishing boat. Walk the Way of the Cross to the site of Jesus' crucifixion. Celebrate His resurrection at the empty tomb. Legendary Bible sites come alive! Visit the Dead Sea; floating on the water, take a cable car ride at Masada, Jerusalem, with the Western Wall, Bethlehem, and much more. Join Pr. Leland & Marcia (and Marge Clark) on this wonderful journey. There is plenty time to sign up - trip flyers are available in the rack in the church lobby.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**A Biblical Tour of Israel & Jordan:** (November 18-28, 2014) An Experience of a Lifetime! A complete tour of Israel & Jordan plus many extras such as visiting Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, a cruise on the Sea of Galilee, going up to Mt Nebo where Moses died, Petra and much more! Arrangements can be made for departure from any airport. Rev Darold Reiner (LCMS) (Former LWML International Counselor) is leading this tour from Kalispell, MT. Contact him at 406-890-1149 or reiner@centurytel.net for a brochure.

## Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food

### Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.



## JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE



This is a plea that you help build the Prayer Army we need so badly. Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastor, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



**DON'T FORGET  
YOUR FOOD  
DONATIONS FOR  
CAP  
EACH SUNDAY!**  
Thank You!

## NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:

**Magazines and greeting card fronts.  
Bring to the church or office.**

## Spring Into Savings with LCEF's Young Investors (Y.I.) Club



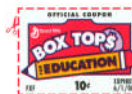
**Help the children in your  
life spring into healthy sav-  
ings and sharing habits.**

There is nothing more reassuring than knowing that your child is God's child, saved for eternity by His grace and love. Now your child's savings can help others experience God's love and grace through the sharing of the Gospel. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers the Young Investors (Y.I.) Club StewardAccount® with features such as: Minimum of \$25 to open account; Premium interest rate on balances up to \$1,000; Savings grow with the child, and are accessible; Interest compounded and paid monthly; Extra credit for good grades and community service for school-age students. Learn more at lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM  
In the Fellowship Hall  
Presented by Suzy Langhorne  
Certified Instructor  
FREE! Please join us.**

## SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

*The sponsors appearing on the back "The Lutheran Hour" and other Lutheran Hour Ministry broadcasts can be heard on KKLA Radio 99.5 FM and KPRO 1570 AM. Check out lhm.org or the radio*



**MORENO VALLEY MASTER CHORALE** presents

***Music of the Masters***

*Schubert's "Mass in G" and including music by Mozart, Bach & Vivaldi.*



The concert will be performed at SVLC on Sunday, April 6 starting at 4 PM.

Tickets: Adults \$15 / Seniors, Students & Children \$10.

For information contact Ruth Van Hala at 951-485-8414.

## Un-apologetic column 13

### Minimal Facts about the Resurrection

Hello and welcome again! In keeping with the Easter season, I would like to spend this time talking about, appropriately enough, the resurrection. Jesus rising from the dead is central to Christianity. Indeed, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:19 that if Christ is not raised from the dead, we are to be pitied! If it were proved that Jesus was not raised, it would be a deal killer for our convictions. People have tried to come up with alternate explanations for the resurrection from the first days following it right up to today. And predictably, Easter is open season on attacks against the historicity of the risen Christ.

Happily for us, there are some brilliant scholars working on defending the historicity of the Resurrection. Dr. Gary Habermas and Dr. Michael Licona have written an excellent book titled "The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus." In it, they use what is described as the "minimal facts approach" to the resurrection of Jesus. The facts they site in the book are granted by nearly all Biblical scholars, even skeptical ones. After listing the facts, the authors explore several different theories of the resurrection to see which one fits the facts best.

So what are the facts that nearly all scholars recognize about the resurrection? First, Jesus died on a Roman cross. Second, the disciples had an experience in which they believed they saw Jesus raised from the dead, and it changed their lives. Third, the church persecutor Paul had an experience that changed him from being an enemy of the church to its greatest champion after having an experience with Jesus. Fourth, Jesus' brother James was transformed from a non-believer into the leader of the Jerusalem church after he believed he saw the risen Jesus. And lastly, the tomb was empty. While space does not permit me to do so, all these facts are described and attested to not only in the New Testament, but also in outside sources hostile to Christianity.

Now that we have our facts, we can look at some alternate theories and see if they fit the facts. Suppose for instance that the disciples actually stole the body from the tomb, and Jesus didn't rise. That might explain the empty tomb, but it wouldn't explain how Paul and James were transformed, as they had separate experiences of Jesus. Also, the disciples would have known they were spreading a lie about Jesus rising from the dead. None of them benefited from this deception if it occurred. Instead, they were beaten, tortured and killed. It seems if they were lying, at least one of them would have fessed up under such persecution.

What if someone else stole the body? First, who would have done this? Surely not the Romans or the Jews. If they had the body of Jesus, they would have produced it to stop the spread of the wild tales of him rising from the dead. What if someone unknown took the body? That might explain the empty tomb, but we still have the problem of Paul and James having different experiences at different times of the risen Jesus. It is also unlikely simply a missing body would be enough to convince the disciples that were cowering in the upper room to go out boldly and proclaim a risen Christ.

Suppose this was just a delusion brought on by grief, or a hallucination. Could the disciple's grief and longing for Jesus have actually caused them to believe he was alive when he wasn't? While this is possible, it doesn't explain the empty tomb. Again, all the Jewish leaders would have had to do was to produce Jesus' body, and it would have stopped the disciple's cold. In addition, Paul was not in a mindset that would have him wishing Jesus was alive. The problem with the hallucination theory is that hallucinations are not a group phenomenon. Hallucinations are individual events, and groups do not have hallucinations of the same things.

These are just a few of the common alternate theories to the resurrection of Jesus. There are more, but none of them fit the facts as well as the truth that Jesus actually rose from the dead. There is a flaw to this conclusion as well though. To make our theory work, you have to believe in the supernatural. This is a step many are unwilling to take, and it prevents them from accepting the conclusion that Jesus actually rose, even when it is the best explanation of the facts as presented.

I hope this article encourages you in this Easter season, and fills you with the confidence that we serve the risen Jesus. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Your servant,  
Drew Covert

April 2014

**Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 5:30 PM School Board (O)  5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	<b>2</b> 4:00 PM & 7 PM Midweek Lent Services (S)  5:00 PM Soup Supper (H)  6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)	<b>3</b> 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)  9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)  10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H)  7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM School Chapel	<b>5</b> 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread  2:00 PM Luke Hamann - Eagle Court of Honor (S-H)
<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H)  12:30 PM Grace Korean  6:00 PM Jr / Sr Hi Youth (Y)  6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H)	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)  7:00 PM Women of Faith TLC (H)	<b>8</b> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Y)  7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Womens Faith Journey TLC (O)  4:00 PM & 7 PM Midweek Lent Services (S)  5:00 PM Soup Supper (H)  6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)  9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)  10:00 AM School Chapel  10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H)  12:30 PM Staff (O)  7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H)  <b>11:00 AM -7:00 PM NO ELECTRICITY ON CAMPUS - EDISON REPLACING TRANSFORMER</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H)  12:30 PM Grace Korean  6:00 PM Confirmation (O)  6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H)  6:00 PM Sr. High Youth (Y)  BP Screening after Services	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's	<b>15</b> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)  6:00 PM M & M Directors (O)	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)  7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)  9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)  10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H)  7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (S)	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM School Chapel  12:00 PM Good Friday Service (S)  7:00 PM Good Friday Service (S)  School & Office Close at Noon	<b>19</b> Hall Set Up for Easter Breakfast (H)
<b>20 EASTER</b> 6:00 AM Sunrise Service (Outside)  7:00 AM - 10:30 am Breakfast Served (H)  8:00 AM & 10:45 Festival Services (S)  9:30 AM Sunday School & Egg Hunt (Y)  12:30 PM Grace Korean	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)  7:00 PM Women of Faith TLC	<b>22</b> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Y)	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Womens Faith Journey TLC (O)  6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)  7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)  9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)  10:00 AM School Chapel  10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H)  12:30 PM Staff (O)	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Good Grief TLC (H)	<b>26</b> 6:00 AM 30 Hour Famine Begins  7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's  9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)  2:00 PM Pack 210 Pinewood Derby (H)
<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H)  12:00 PM 30 Hour Famine Ends  12:30 PM Grace Korean  6:00 PM Confirmation (O)  6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H)  BP Screening after Services	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)  7:00 PM Praise Team (S)			

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am -- 3:30 pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY





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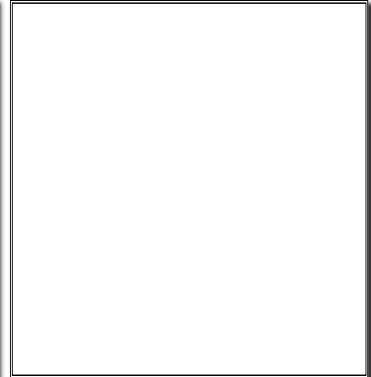


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## ***The Shepherd's Staff***

**WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM**  
**5th Sunday of the month - One service only at 9:30 AM**

*"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi*

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**DENNIS KRUEGER, SENIOR PASTOR**  
**RON KRAFT, EMERITUS PASTOR**  
**LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**



### **Lent & Easter Schedule**

Midweek Lent Services April 2 & 9 at 4 & 7 PM  
Soup Supper served at 5 PM

Palm Sunday, April 13  
Service times - 8 & 10:45 AM

Maundy Thursday Service April 17 at 7 PM  
Good Friday Services April 18 at Noon & 7 PM

Easter Services: Sunday, April 20  
Sunrise Service at 6 AM  
Traditional Service at 8 AM  
Praise Service at 10:45 AM

Easter Breakfast served 7 AM to 10:30 AM  
Sunday School & Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 AM

## **April 2014**

### **MILITARY BIBLE MEMORY STICKS**

We have received donations for 22 so far !



Our Lenten and Easter mission project is one we've done before, but well worth repeating - to donate a "Company's" (100) amount of Bible Memory sticks through the "Faith Comes By Hearing" organization to our men and women serving in the military. Each digital Bible-stick costs \$25. Faith Comes By Hearing also makes an additional Bible-stick available to the family of the military personnel at no extra cost. That means if we meet or surpass our goal we could be giving away potentially 200 or more Bible Memory Sticks. Also, through an anonymous FCBH donor, every donation received by April 30th will be matched so be sure to bring in your donation by then.

Faith Comes By Hearing has sent over 400,000 of these Bible Memory Sticks to our men and women serving in the armed forces. That amounts to 10 million dollars in digital Bibles. When you make your donation please write on the envelope and on the memo line of your check, "Bible Memory Stick." Thank you in advance for your generous participation.