

# SPIRIT Filled

LOVING AND LIVING THE WORD



Cross+Roads



Sharing the life changing message of Jesus Christ

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2015

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## Message from the Seminary President

*The North American Lutheran Seminary recently published its first newsletter. Below is an excerpt, a message from the seminary president, the Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin, STS. (You can read the entire edition online: <http://thenals.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NALS-Newsletter-April-2015.pdf>)*



Dear Friends in Christ,

He is Risen is the cry of those who come to the empty tomb. He is Risen, indeed!

We celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection this month and the next—50 days, 7 Sundays of unbridled joy. We give thanks for what God has done for us in raising Jesus from the dead. We give thanks for the word spoken by the Risen Christ to Mary Magdalene, “Go, tell my brothers.” We give thanks for the faithful witness told by the apostles. We give thanks for all who, through the many centuries, have passed the account of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord unto us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen, indeed!

As a seminary of the church we are forming and preparing pastoral candidates for a vocation of proclamation. As St. Paul writes, “Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead,

then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” (I Corinthians 15:12-14) At the center of the Christian faith is the belief that the One who was crucified on Friday has conquered

death and now lives and rules for all eternity. St. Paul, along with the other writers of the New Testament, wrote such words down so that they would be spoken aloud in the gathered assembly. They wrote the words down with the power of God still in them, and it is our calling as the church to proclaim these words of Holy Scripture so that their power may again be released in this generation. In these holy words lies the power of God to heal, to forgive, and to set free. Through these words God gives us hope: hope that death will not be the last word, but life eternal.

The North American Lutheran Seminary is seeking candidates with such a passion to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. Do you recognize someone in your congregation whom God might be calling to such pastoral ministry? Someone whose life is already being shaped by God's mercy and goodness in such a way, that through the disciplines of prayer, study, and service, God would call

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Pr. Dennis M. Roser**

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Dear Friends,

When I meet with families to plan the funeral for their loved-ones, I like to suggest that we include one of the Church's Easter hymns. In fact, it is in the singing of these hymns within the funeral service that we begin to understand the power of Christ's Resurrection that is narrated in these hymns. How it must confound the devil for us to gather around the casket of someone near and dear to us, and sing out Christ's victory over death! He, who would rob us of our joy in Christ, is therefore robbed of his delight in our suffering!

In Genesis 3, we learn of how our old evil foe caused our first parents, Adam and Eve, to rebel against God's clear command, and so plunged us into sin. St. Paul teaches us in Romans 5 that as sin entered into the world through Adam's rebellion – death entered in through his sin. Following Adam's sin, the curse of death has hung upon our human race. If you have any doubts about this, please take a look at Genesis 5. In that chapter, Moses narrates the genealogy of Adam's descendants.

Many readers would prefer to skip over the genealogies, altogether, but they are actually very important. God has a particular reason for revealing each of the genealogies of the Bible to us. For example, Matthew begins his Gospel with a retelling of Jesus' genealogy. He does this in order to establish that Jesus is descended from Abraham, so that through his Gospel he can make the case that Jesus is *the* promised offspring through whom the whole world would be blessed. It may seem like a rather uninteresting way to begin a book, but everything which follows is told in light of the fact that Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise given to Abraham - which was the theme of the whole Old Testament.

Similarly, the genealogy of the descendants of Adam narrated in Genesis 5 is critical, because it reveals to us dramatically the curse of death that hangs over humankind because of sin. Typically, when we read this genealogy, we are focused upon the names and how many years they lived – at least until we begin to daydream about why God wants us to read this stuff. However, when one examines the structure of this genealogy, we see that there is a refrain that repeats over and over again: "so and so lived, they had children, and they died." You will notice a standard format for each generation: (1) so and so lived so many years, (2) had a son (3) lived for another period of years, and had other sons and daughters, (4) he lived these many years, (5) and he died. God has intended for you to have ringing out in your ears over and over again the message: "and he



died, and he died, and he died, and he died, and he died, and he died, and he died, and he died . . . ." As this refrain rings out, we hear the curse of death, which now hangs over us also.

This is what gives Paul's words in Romans 5, their force:

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12-17).*

Dying in our place – and in the place of the whole human race – Jesus has accepted the penalty of death on our behalf. Since he had no sins of his own for which to be put to death, he was able to be a substitute sacrifice for ours. Dying for the whole world, Jesus has opened the way of eternal life for all who believe in him and trust in his death for the forgiveness of their sins.

Today, we know the pain of loss that follows death – but the day will come when we will know the joy of eternal resurrection. This promise for all who believe is kept safe in Heaven by the eternal God Who is always faithful. Trusting in Him, we can mourn with hope – knowing that sin, death, and the devil are those whose time is waning. In the very face of death, let the Church's worship resound with alleluias and Easter refrains – and may the devil be confounded.

In Christ Jesus,

*Pastor*

**The Calvary Crossroads is published monthly. All news articles should be submitted to the church office by the deadline listed on the church calendar. Electronic submissions are preferred (email: [kim@calvarylc.com](mailto:kim@calvarylc.com)).**

**If you received this issue via email only and would like to receive a printed copy in the mail, please contact the Calvary church office. Printed copies are available at church also.**

## It's About Our Family

### Births

Congratulations to Jon & Megan Sayas on the birth of a son, Benjamin Scott, on April 3.

### Baptisms

We rejoice with Jackson & Tiffany Schlieve on the baptism of their daughter, Olivia Mae on April 4th. Olivia's Christian sponsors are Mike Rogers and Clare Barrie.

Blessings to Connor Robert Allan Voss, son of Philip and Jill Voss, baptized on April 12.

Connors Christian sponsor is Matthew Voss.

God's blessings upon Benjamin Scott Sayas, son of Megan & Jon Sayas, baptized on April 19.

### Deaths

Our deepest Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Betty Schraith who passed away April 8.

*Please inform the church office of any births, deaths, illnesses or if you have change of address/contact information or a change in any other family situation.*

## Thank You Notes

**From Linda Berger & family (Linda, Dale, Dan, & Emily Berger and Marge Skarie):** Thank you to all of you who have been so supportive, continually asking how my parents are doing. And sending your warm greetings to them. We so appreciate Calvary's great team who

provided treats and prepared for the funeral luncheon, and especially Grace, Mary, Ruby & Barb for your service & support. We are so blessed to be members of such a loving congregation. God bless you all.

## Prayers

Please check the weekly bulletin for those people needing our urgent prayers. If you have any prayer requests, please call or email the church office. We ask for continued prayers for:

**Ongoing prayer concerns:** Lori Smith; Bev Meinke; Elizabeth Bruns (mother of Carol Rooney); Chris Clemens (father of Jessie Brovold); John Kirch (brother of Laurie Kretschmann); Mark Rogers (son-in-law of John Ellison); Brian Holman (grandson of Ron & Jean Holman); Mary Ellen Puls (sister of Craig Busche); Maureen Schulz (sister-in-law of Sallie Schulz); Ginny Mc Bride (friend of Judy Kestly); Sara Schmidt (daughter of Rev. Cathi Braasch); Jonathan

Burmeister (friend of Calvary); Reese Schisel (cousin of Nick Huettl); Carol Bzdusek (sister-in-law of George & Terry Bzdusek); Gordon Evans (friend of Chet Elliott).

**Shut-Ins:** Lowell Sonderman; John Ellison; Marge Fuller; Marge Blockland; Dottie Riemer; Ruth Yankus; Liz Gjenvick; Jean Anderson; Sam & Mary Moen; June Johnson; Donna Polizzi, Marj Skarie; Mickey Rash; Bill Rash Jr. (son of Mickey Rash).

## May Calendar Highlights

*Check the church calendar for complete listings.*

Fri	1	Revolve Lock-In
Sat	2	Worship; Name Tag Weekend
Sun	3	Worship; Name Tag Weekend; Theater Outing
Sun	10	Worship; Mother's Day
Mon	11	Serenity Inn Meal Program
Tue	12	Deacon Meeting
Wed	13	Council Reports Due
Sun	17	Worship; Food Sunday; Sunday School Celebration; Endowment Spring Event
Mon	18	Monday Morning Movie
Tue	19	Crossroads Deadline; Congregation Council
Sun	24	Worship; Pentecost
Mon	25	Memorial Day; Church office closed; SVdP Meal Program
Thu	28	Crossroads Assembly; Men's Ministry Gathering

## Message From the Seminary President

*(Continued from page 1)*

them to preach his word week after week in his holy assembly?

Encourage them to explore the vocation of pastoral ministry. Have them visit our Seminary Center in Ambridge or our House of Studies in Charlotte. Put them in touch with our NALS Faculty and/or Registrar so that we, too, may engage them in this important

conversation of discernment. The generations to come need faithful pastors who will preach "in season and out" (2 Timothy 4:2) so that all people will come to know the saving love of the Risen Christ.

For He rises from the dead and that we might sing as in an eternal spring. He rises from the dead and we find hope where once we only knew loss. He rises from the dead and we are so filled with his love that we

cannot stop ourselves from sharing it. May Christ's resurrection power fill you as you walk in his eternal love.

*Dr. Amy C. Schifrin*

Dr. Amy C. Schifrin  
President, North American Lutheran Seminary

## May Mission of the Month: Mission Servant Week

Each year Calvary sets aside one week for members to go out into the community together and do hands-on mission work. Watch for more details about this summer’s Mission Servant Week and then plan to join other Calvary workers as we reach out into the community by helping with many meaningful projects and tasks.

Some of the projects already in the works include:

- Letters/ cards to our service men and women serving overseas.
- School kits and school supplies for Lutheran world relief etc.
- Toiletry/health items for St. Vincent De Paul guests.
- Food and volunteers for Waukesha Food Pantry.
- Toddlers on a Mission- work with kids at Old Age Homes such as Heritage and Congregational Home

- LSS- Hickory Hills Project- Painting fence and trimming trees, shrubs.
- Calvary Clean up- Trim bushes and spread mulch.
- Kitchen Clean up
- Toy cleaning in nursery

Your financial contributions to Calvary’s Mission of the Month during May fund the various projects. Any leftover funds are dispersed to the groups we have worked with during the week. Use your weekly offering envelopes or a white pew envelope to contribute and note “Mission of the Month” on your check and/or envelope.



### May Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Calvary’s Cupboard last month. Items collected are taken to the Waukesha Food Pantry. The next Food Sunday is **Paper Goods Sunday**, with collection May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Recommended items include paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins, tissues, paper towel, and toilet paper, sandwich and trash bags. Other items of need are canned meats, fruits or vegetables, soups, cereals, and cleaning products. If you prefer to make a monetary contribution, please mark your envelope or check with the notation “Food Pantry”.



### Music Notes from Gene Traas

As I write this, buds and leaves are finally appearing on the local flora. This also means that Alleluia Choir, Celebration Ringers, and other groups are gearing up for the end of this festal year (that’s liturgy-geek-ese for “program year,”): Easter, Pentecost, and summer weeks after Pentecost. To those groups I say, hang in there, we’ll be together for just a few more weeks.

Things don’t come to a complete halt between Pentecost and September, though. Here’s what’s going on for summer music at Calvary.

Summer handbell camp (dates TBD). At the request of Celebration Ringers, I’ll be leading sessions on music reading for handbell players, followed by a couple of sessions on ringing technique. If you have been curious about Ringers, this would be the time to sit in—watch your calendars.

Summer Choir, June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th. A low-impact way to test choral waters. Summer Choir meets in the Choir Room on these dates at 8:00AM. An anthem (either very well-known, or something that can be assembled in one short rehearsal) will be rehearsed, and sung at 9:00AM service.

Summer Music. Contemporaries, soloists, duets, trios, quartets, instrumentalists, visit the Choir Room and sign up for a Sunday (or a Saturday – or both!). Sign up early to reserve your weekend. If you don’t, you will be subjected to dull and lugubrious organ music (or worse), and you don’t want that, do you?

Have a great spring. He is risen indeed: Alleluia!

### Board of Deacons: May 2 Fellowship Time

After worship on Saturday, May 2, the Board of Deacons will sponsor a fellowship time. This is a bimonthly event to give Saturday worshippers a chance to chat with each other and their

deacons. Snacks, lemonade and decaf coffee will be served. We hope you can stay for it!





## Hey YOUTH!

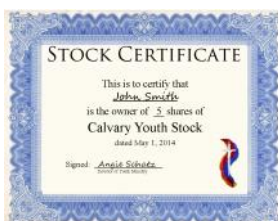
**All of our youth events are open to ALL youth of that age! Feel free to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, grandkids, etc. More Kids = More Fun!!!**

### STOCK SALE

*Summary Information about the fund:*

The Calvary youth program is truly an amazing and growing opportunity for both the youth and our congregation! God is doing wonderful things in the lives of these kids, and the development of their faith journey depends on you. These youth have a fire for God in their souls, and it is our responsibility as fellow members in the body of Christ to add fuel to that fire and help it grow.

Throughout the past year, these kids have bonded through playing and praying together. This next year holds many new and exciting opportunities for all of us!



*Stock purchase information:*

Calvary Youth Stock (CYS) is available for purchase at a cost of \$25.00 per share. This is a limited 150 share offering. Shares may be purchased by families or individuals, as well as In Honor or In Memory of an individual(s). The Youth stock shares are unique in that they are a one-year investment. You will have the incredible opportunity to repeat this investment every year!

The purchase of this stock does so much more than just provide money for church camp and a mission trips. It is a way to have a sense of ownership in the growing faith of these amazing individuals, whom God created in His image!

*Return on your investment: Exponential!*

Don't miss out on this limited time offering of the investment of a lifetime! Stock shares will be available for purchase beginning April 27<sup>th</sup>. Get yours before they are gone!

### CHRISTIAN T-SHIRT SALE

Since the average t-shirt is read over 3000 times before it is thrown into the rag bag, you really can feed thousands with just one serving! When you put on a Christian t-shirt, you make yourself a walking talking billboard for Christ!

The youth are selling T-shirt from Good News Clothing! These make great gifts for others, or yourself! T-Shirts are just \$16 each -no shipping charges (Extra charge for 2-4X )

All proceeds from the sale will go to support the Youth Ministry Summer Mission Trip and Bible Camp! Orders are due on Sunday, May 10.



**TRIVIA NIGHT** – An evening of fun for the WHOLE family!

*Saturday, May 30, at 6:30 pm*

**What:** Join us for a fun-filled night of trivia, laughter, and fun! This will be an entire evening of entertainment. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams. There will be a Rock/Paper/Scissors tournament as well! Snacks, beverages, and dessert will be provided!

**Where:** Fellowship Hall, at Calvary

**Who:** You and your team! (each table will make up an 8-person team) Team members may be any age! Hint: (the bigger the age span the better!) If not registering an entire team, we will match up players make teams for you.

**Cost:** \$10 per person, or \$75 per table/team (teams are 8 people)

*All proceeds from this evening will benefit the Summer youth trip & camp.*



### BRIDGE, CONNECT AND REVOLVE MAY MEETINGS

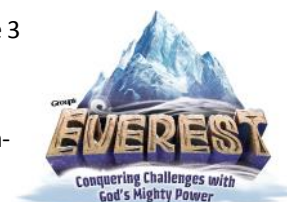
As summer is right around the corner, year-end party plans are in the making! Unfortunately they are not finalized at the time of this publication. Please watch the weekly Connections, bulletin and youth board for specific details!

### "Everest" VBS: August 3-7

Sign-up your little climbers for an epic expedition of praying and playing! The cost is \$15 per child. Children age 3 (fully potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to attend. More information is available on the church website, or contact me!

This week is not just for kids! We are running this week, in-house; which means we will need your help. Whether you can help for an hour, a day, or the whole week. We need help before during and after VBS, both behind the scenes and hands-on.

Don't miss out on *this awesome week, that is fun filled, high energy, and God driven!!*



## Look What's Been Happening!

At right: Several youth and adult helpers make lefse for the spring bakery sale orders. A big "THANK YOU" from all the youth for the support of the congregation members through your orders.

Below: Calvary celebrated Palm Sunday with "Philippe" the donkey (led by Chuck Giuliani), processing around the church, raising palms and singing.

Calvary's choir, led by Director of Music, Gene Traas, provided beautiful music as we began Holy Week 2015.

Pastor Roser, lector Jon Sayas, and the entire congregation partook in reading the Passion on Palm Sunday.





## Look What's Been Happening!

At right: Youth Director Angie Schatz leads the children (and adults) through the path of Holy Week at the Good Friday Children's Service.

Below: Fourth grader, Megan Schatz received her First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Megan shared her gift of music, providing prelude music for the Maundy Thursday service.



Below: Calvary members enjoy a bountiful potluck Easter breakfast between worship services.



## Cal's Committee Corner: Budget & Finance



The budget and finance committee oversees the financial affairs of the congregation,

making sure they are being conducted effectively, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all bills and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies. The committee reports directly to the Congregational Council.

Responsibilities of the Budget & Finance Committee include:

- Ensuring there is proper internal control over the counting and depositing of offerings.
- Preparing the yearly-proposed budget of the congregation and presenting it to the council. (The treasurer presents the proposed budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.)
- Assisting in filling the position of treasurer when a vacancy exists.
- Being responsible for the timely communication of financial information to the Council and to the congregation.

This committee consists of 4-6 Calvary members, including the church treasurer, and works in collaboration with Calvary's financial secretary.

Current Budget & Finance members are Jim Brostowitz, Andy Schatz, Ron Foster, Gordy Gunnlaugsson, Cindy Rooks and Kris Molitor.

The budget & finance committee is one we here very little about, but they humbly and faithfully go about their duties throughout the year. We invite your prayers for this committee throughout the entire year as they oversee the proper use of your financial gifts to Calvary.

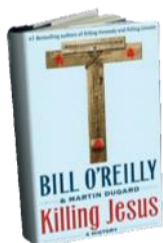
## Monday Morning Movie for May

On Monday, May 18, come to the media room at 9 am for snacks, coffee, and a screening of "Tea with Mussolini". The story is set in Florence, Italy, beginning in 1935 and extending through the end of World War II. Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, and Joan Plowright are among the group of British expatriate women determined to remain in Italy even after

Mussolini takes over. They are under the impression that Il Duce will take special care of them, even if there is war. Two American women, Lily Tomlin and Cher, are instrumental in keeping them out of harm's way without disrupting their lifestyle terribly much.



## Women's Ministry Book Group



All women of Calvary are invited to come to the media room at 1:00 on Monday, May 11 to discuss Bill O'Reilly's book Killing Jesus. This book takes readers inside Jesus's life, recounting the seismic

political and historical events that made his death inevitable – and changed the world forever. It promises to be a good discussion.

## Contact Information

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## An Easter Message from Bishop Bradosky: *The Great Exchange*



Dear Disciples of Jesus throughout the North American Lutheran Church:

Throughout this Season of Lent I have prayed for our Deans and the congregations of each of our Mission Dis-

tricts. I am well aware of the many struggles and difficulties some have faced, but I am equally aware of the many joys and celebrations as well as the transformed lives as individuals have come to faith in Jesus Christ or continued to grow and mature in Christ. All those following Jesus and leading others realize that both the joys and sorrows are so interrelated that it is impossible to separate them. Life in Christ includes a constant flow of both. I share these reflections on the Easter Gospel as a way to encourage you during this Easter Triduum.

**The Great Exchange:** I realize this sounds like a strange way to begin an Easter Message, but have you ever thought of what it would be like to be on “death row” on the last day of your life, waiting for the guards to lead you to the gallows, the electric chair or the room to receive a lethal injection? What would the emotional trauma be like waiting for someone to end your existence, your influence, your identity?

Have you ever known anyone on death row? In preparation for Holy Week and Easter, I have been preoccupied with the Passion narrative and the man on death row, awaiting execution, “Barabbas.” The Gospel writers tell us that Barabbas was a robber, a murderer, a revolutionary, an insurrectionist.

Perhaps he was a part of the Zealots trying to rid Jerusalem of the Roman occupation.

Barabbas was a notorious prisoner and we certainly share nothing in common with him, right?

We may have a few parking tickets and perhaps have an occasional arrest for speeding, but we are not violent criminals. We may have committed an occasional misdemeanor

but not robbery or insurrection. Comparatively speaking we are good people aren’t we, not like Barabbas? Perhaps we could have been guilty of a felony but never intentionally, certainly not murder, nothing deserving death row. We don’t consider ourselves to be like Barabbas at all!

Most people don’t know anyone on death row. I can’t say that. Few people know this about my family, but my first cousin, Johnny Foster, was a gang member in Pittsburgh, Pa. He had broken the law and been incarcerated for brief periods of time on several occasions. While recovering at his parents’ home following a motorcycle accident that nearly ended his life, some friends from the gang brought him a fresh supply of drugs to assist him in his healing. When he called them for more drugs, they told him he would have to pay. Without funds, he took a long screwdriver and broke into the back door of a neighbor’s home to rob her. The owner was a single mom, with one young daughter. They were both in the living room watching TV. He broke in, went upstairs and, as he was searching for her purse and wallet, the young mother heard his movements and went upstairs to confront him. Still high on the last of his drugs, startled by her presence, in a rage he stabbed her to death with the screwdriver. Moments after he left, her little daughter found the lifeless body of her mother. His trial was brief, and the verdict swift. His life would end in a prison cell.

Several decades later, I invited the brother of Scott Mink from Dayton, Ohio, to share their family’s devastating struggle and grief. On Sept. 19, 2000, Scott, then 36, was living with his parents and using alcohol and crack cocaine when, as he told police, he “snapped.” He killed his parents after they hid

his car keys. The news of their parents’ gruesome death reached their children and they gathered at the home of Scott’s sister to make funeral plans for their parents when Scott called them. He admitted to his family that he had murdered his parents and then he turned himself in to the police, offering the same confession. His trial was brief and the judgment swift. He was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death by lethal injection. His case moved quickly

through the review process because Scott asked to be executed for his crime. He told his family, “I have done something awful and I deserve to die. Only my death will bring my family’s grief to an end and give them the chance to move forward with their lives.”

We may not have committed the same crime but Barabbas reminds us that we have all sinned and broken God’s commands, avoiding His will for our lives, rebelling against God’s sovereignty, asserting our own selfish will, destroying our relationship with God and with our neighbor. The sum total of our sinful rebellion makes us just like Barabbas. We can try to justify ourselves or ask God to accept our relative righteousness by comparing our life to others, but no matter how we attempt to deny the truth, it does not change it. We are sinners deserving death. Only from that perspective will the full weight of the cross and the resurrection unleash its life-transforming power in our lives.

Perhaps Pilate was trying to gage Jesus’ lack of popularity or perhaps he was trying to lessen his own responsibility for Jesus’ death. As a sign of goodwill Pilate was willing to release a prisoner condemned to die. The people would decide. Would they choose Barabbas, the man whose name means “son of the Father?” (Some ancient texts of Matthew’s Gospel even refer to him as Jesus Barabbas.) He tried to free God’s people with political insurrection and taking the lives of others.

Or would they choose Jesus, the true Son of the Father, who was reconciling the world to the Father by giving his own life? The people shouted for the freedom of Barabbas and the death of Jesus! This was the first manifestation of the “Great Exchange” that was about to unfold. The one who deserved to die was set free and the righteous one was condemned to die in his place. Jesus was to die for the sins of Barabbas.

Both physically and spiritually we are all on death row. From the moment we are born we are headed toward death. No matter how “good” we attempt to be, our life is filled with sin and rebellion. It is an inescapable reality for every person. Death is the

*(Continued on page 10)*

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huge equalizer — rich or poor, powerful or powerless, popular or unknown, intelligent or incompetent, skilled or unskilled — the same end awaits everyone. Denial, anger, avoidance or even declaring that life is pointless and without meaning doesn't change reality. It does not alter the truth.

What is imprisoning you today? What is it in your life that is causing you to live in fear? Is it your past sin? Do you live in fear that someone may discover the truth about your past? Is it a present struggle in your relationship with family, your marriage, your finances, your health, your career? Is it your future that is causing you to feel imprisoned? Perhaps you are trying to figure out the next chapter in your life and fear making a decision. How do you know if it is the right decision about school, career, retirement?

If any of that pertains to you then you are in good company because that is where the disciples were on that first Easter morning.

After Jesus' agonizing death on the cross and His burial, the disciples were imprisoned by their fear, their grief and their overwhelming sense of loss. They were hiding in fear that they would share the same fate as the one they had spent the last three years following. They felt powerless and hopeless. That's why they went in the cover of darkness to the tomb, to finish the job of giving Jesus a proper burial. They were afraid of their past involvement with Jesus, concerned about their security in the present and feeling hopeless about their future.

The Easter story begins with Jesus in the tomb, imprisoned by death. Mary arrives at the tomb, imprisoned by her grief. Most of the disciples stay away from the tomb, imprisoned by their fear. This is the context for the Easter proclamation: "Jesus is alive! He lives!" The Resurrection unleashes the life-transforming power of His redemptive love.

The stone is rolled away and the body is gone. Jesus is alive and on the move. Mary is so imprisoned by her grief that she can't celebrate the Resurrection. She is mourning the fact that some grave robbers have carried away the body of Jesus. She doesn't even recognize Jesus when he asks, "Why are you crying?" Then He speaks her name, "Mary." The door of the prison flies open and

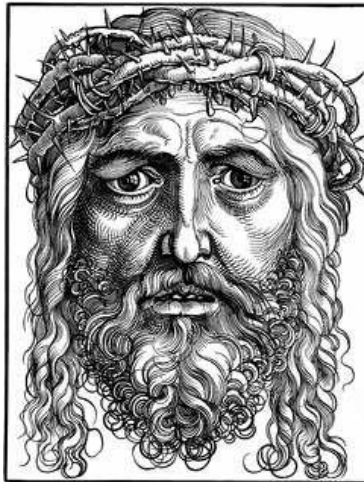
her grief is transformed to joy. She goes to the disciples and gives them the news that frees them from the prison of their fears, Jesus is alive and appeared to her and would soon appear to them!

The Great Exchange began with the cross. Jesus died the death we deserved to die. It was our sin that was nailed to the cross. Jesus took our place.

Paul writes, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 *Corinthians* 5:21).

Peter writes, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 *Peter* 2:24). A few verses later we read, "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." (1 *Peter* 3:18).

During Holy Week we remember the prophetic words of Isaiah regarding the crucifixion: "He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (*Isaiah* 53:5).



**Head of Christ, attributed to Albrecht Durer (1471-1528) or Hans Sebald Beham (1500-1550).**

The Cross of Christ assures us that the price for our sin has been paid in full. We are freed from the prison of sin and its devastating power over us. Our forgiveness is complete; our redemption and salvation is secure. This grace through faith in Jesus Christ justifies us.

He is the key that unlocks the door to all imprisoned by past sin.

The Cross brings us forgiveness and Easter brings us new life! That is the second part of the "Great Exchange." Through faith in Jesus He brings us into the kingdom of heaven, a world without fear. Jesus taught his disciples not to fear death. He didn't! "Have no fear of those who can kill the body. They cannot destroy the soul" (*Matthew* 10:28). "Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 *Timothy* 1:10).

Dallas Willard writes, "All who enter into His life through faith in Him have entered into a life that is eternal. He proclaimed that we were so loved by God that He would not allow us to cease to exist. God treasures us and delights in us." Jesus told His disciples that He had gone to prepare a place for them. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that they would never see or taste death (*John* 8:51-52). On another occasion, Jesus simply said, "Everyone living and believing in me will never die" (*John* 11:26).

Jesus came to show us how to begin now to live that eternal life. The process of discipleship is learning from Jesus how to live a life that is eternal, to learn to live the kind of life He lived. Our future in that kingdom is one of being more at home there than we are here. It is one of ruling and reigning with Jesus, being in His presence, experiencing the fullness of His love, truth and His intended order of life that brings peace.

Even the hymn, "Amazing Grace," reminds us of eternal life, "when we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

We are going to be around a long time! Learning to live that eternal life now means not having to rush through this life as though we have to cram in as much as possible for fear we will miss the best that life can offer. The best that life can offer is Jesus, and Easter proclaims that life in Jesus is eternal. Life in Christ helps us to experience life without overwhelming fear, a life that is abundant in meaning, purpose and direction.

Take time to value your relationship with Jesus and the people he has given you to love and care for. The good news of Easter is

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the best news we can ever hear. It is the greatest news we could ever proclaim. We are forgiven, freed from our past and alive in Christ. Paul writes in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave His life for me."

I have often wondered what happened to Barabbas. The Scriptures don't give us the rest of the story.

But I do know what happened to my cousin, Johnny Foster, and the family of Scott Mink.

Johnny Foster came to faith in Jesus Christ through a prison ministry. He wrote letters of apology to every family member. He began his own ministry of leading others to Jesus and discipling them. He did not file an appeal or ever seek to have his conviction overturned. He had forgiveness in Christ, new life in Christ, and peace in Christ. His ministry was in the prison. He even created several videos to help convince youth of the dangers of using drugs and the results that destroyed his life. Johnny Foster died in a federal penitentiary. The chaplain told the family that in the last moments of his life he reached out with his arms to embrace Jesus and his last words were, "I am free at last." Then the chaplain added, "Truth is, he has been free since he came to Jesus years ago, and his ministry in the prison has set many others free as he led them to Jesus."

Because of this Great Exchange that is ours in Christ Jesus, Scott Mink's family was able to forgive him and spend time with him in prison during those final years leading up to his execution. All the other family members were reconciled except his brother Bill. He refused to forgive him for killing their parents and depriving Bill's children of their grandparents. Scott was in prison, but Bill was imprisoned by his own anger, frustration and hurt.

On the Sunday before Scott's execution the family gathered to decide if they were going to be present to witness his death. Bill was still unsure if he ever wanted to see his brother again. He had been reading the Bible and praying for direction when the words to a song cut through his emotions and the

Lord spoke a word he needed to hear. That song was Untitled Hymn by Chris Rice:

*Weak and wounded sinner,  
Lost and left to die,  
O, raise your head for love is passing by;  
Come to Jesus! Come to Jesus!  
Come to Jesus and live!*

*Now your burden's lifted  
And carried far away;  
And precious blood has washed away the stain;  
So sing to Jesus! Sing to Jesus!  
Sing to Jesus and live!*

*And like a new born baby,  
Don't be afraid to crawl;  
And remember when you walk sometimes we fall;  
So fall on Jesus! Fall on Jesus!  
Fall on Jesus and live!*

*Sometimes the way is lonely  
And steep and filled with pain,  
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain;  
Then cry to Jesus! Cry to Jesus!  
Cry to Jesus and live!*

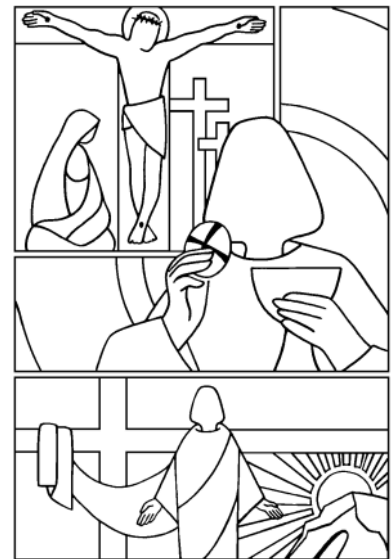
*Oh, and when the love spills over  
And music fills the night,  
And when you can't contain your joy in-side;  
Then dance for Jesus! Dance for Jesus!  
Dance for Jesus and live!*

*And with your final heartbeat  
Kiss the world goodbye,  
Then go in peace, and laugh on glory's side  
And fly to Jesus! Fly to Jesus! Fly to Jesus  
and live!  
Fly to Jesus! Fly to Jesus! Fly to Jesus and live!*

In the midst of this song, Bill realized that the grace of Jesus Christ was bigger than Scott's sin — even the sin of murder. He realized that the sin of his lack of forgiveness was just as great as his brother's sin and that in God's economy they were both on death row in need of the Great Exchange, forgiveness and new life in Jesus. Bill knew what he had to do.

On the eve of his brother's death he was reconciled with his brother and shared Communion with him as a family of faith. They talked openly about his baptism and Christ's promise of His grace, His forgiveness and the assurance of His constant presence. Scott assured his family of his repentance and the

peace that was his in Christ now and for eternity. He told his family that they would walk down the hallway and that on the other side of the room where they would give him the lethal injection, Christ was waiting and so were his parents. Bill decided to stay and witness his brother's final breath. He said that Scott walked in and was very calm. "He was assisted up on the table, and he looked out at us, gave us a thumbs up and mouthed the words, 'I love you, Bro.' I looked back and said out loud, 'I love you too. Go with Jesus.' He laid his head back, went to sleep and after a few more breaths his breathing stopped."



The power of the Great Exchange changes everything — the cross of Jesus Christ, the empty tomb and the assurance of Easter, forgiveness and new life in Christ.

The Scriptures do not give us any word about Barabbas' response. The question we are invited to answer is what difference are we willing to let this Easter reality make in our lives?

Easter is not just a word of hope at the end of your life. It is a word of direction for how to live your eternal life in Jesus right now. It is a word that sets you free to begin that journey today! He greets us today with the same message through Word and Sacrament. He is just as present today in this place as He was on that first Easter morning.

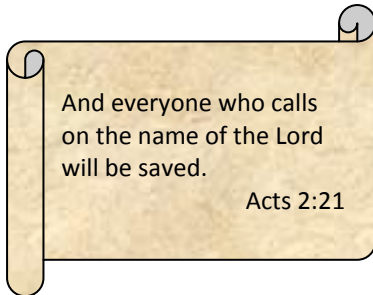
Christ is Risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
Amen.



## Calvary Lutheran Church

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### Prayer Corner

While the meteorological spring equinox was back on March 20, Wisconsinites know real spring when we see it. And one of the first sure signs is the burst of yellow that brightens every field, lawn and boulevard.

Consider the following nomination of the dandelion as the "flower" most like a Christian. And when you see them, wherever you see them, you may want to ask God to give you some of these attributes!

If a Christian would take the form of a flower, what would it be?

Some would say a rose, some might say a tulip, and yet others would say a daffodil. I on the other hand, say that a Christian is called to be a dandelion, because a dandelion has all the attributes of a Christian witness.

- A dandelion is the first sign of hope in the spring
- A dandelion is the first expression of love, for it is the first "flower" usually given to a mother by a small child.
- A dandelion makes itself known in the neighborhood quickly
- A dandelion is not conscious of class and equally casts itself on the rich and the poor.
- A dandelion provides beauty and color where nothing else will grow.
- A dandelion can be cut, trampled, dug up, or pulled up and still bounces back with its witness as though nothing happened.
- A dandelion is a victim of slander, for some people call it a weed, but it pushes on undaunted to conquer the world.
- A dandelion is very neighborly.

*Wouldn't it be great if we would all act and witness like dandelions?*

*Author: Unknown*



**Calvary Worship Schedule:** Saturday at 5 pm ■ Sunday at 9 am ■ Christian Education for All Ages at 10 :15 am

Serving at Worship	May 2/3	May 9/10	May 16/17	May 23/24	May 30/31
	Sat. 5p; Sun. 9a Name Tag Weekend	Sat. 5p; Sun. 9a Mother's Day	Sat. 5p; Sun. 9a Food Sunday	Sat. 5p; Sun. 9a Memorial Week-end	Sat. 5p; Sun. 9a
ACOLYTES	Jared, Gwen	Emily, Laura	Gwen, Conner	Natalie, Kitty	Jared, Emily
ALTAR GUILD	Altmin, Young	Giuliani	Roush, Holler	Chesner, Altmin	Giuliani
ASST MINISTER	Tyne	Bonier			
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor	Larry	Angie	Anna & Elise	Angie
DEACONS (HOSP)	[Sat] Ernie [Sun] Keith, Sue, Grace (Donna)	[Sat] Lydia [Sun] Ron, Karen, Carol (Ruby)	[Sat] Ron [Sun] Mary, Carol, Terry (Ruby)	[Sat] Ernie [Sun] Ron, Grace, Sue (Donna)	[Sat] Lydia [Sun] Karen, Keith, Mary (Ruby)
FLOWERS		Hauch		Jordan	Steiner
GREETERS	[Sat] Trudell [9:00] DeBruine, Roush, Weisbrodt	[Sat] Anderson, Cox, Ketelsen [Sun] Gunnlaugsson, Hermann	[Sat] Foster, Chesner [Sun] Johnson, Lau	[Sat] Langelin [Sun] Becker, Long	[Sat] Trudell, Marshall [Sun] Lau, Rooney
HOSPITALITY	Holler, Roush	Bonier	Spangenberg	Youngquist	
LECTORS	Grace Gunnlaugsson	Lee Tyne	Jim Marsho	Chuck Lukasik	Reg Becker
MUG-A-NEWCOMER	Mary Smith	Jonni Roush	Sue Sadowsky	Peggy Langelin	Marianne Citraro
NURSERY	Alecia	Erica	Melissa	Tina	Kim
POWERPOINT	[Sat] Lydia [Sun] Ron	[Sat] Mark [Sun] Grace	[Sat] OPEN [Sun] Lydia	[Sat] Sue [Sun] Grace	[Sat] Mark [Sun] Sue
USHERS	Bill & Jane Krause, Rich & Jean Bloomberg	George & Carol Rooney, Karen & Keith Pierce	Erik Zipp, Martha Altmin, Chet Elliott, Herb Grosnitz	Larry Bonier, Jay Citraro, Mary Smith, Mary Ellen Thiede	Jon Sayas, Andy Schatz, Mark Nyka, Brad Meyer

## May Birthdays

	Date		Date		Date		Date
Holler, RoJean	1	Vasatko, Lawrence	7	Anderson, Jean	17	Zipp, Gunnar	25
Morris, Ava	2	Houston, Carole	9	Bloomberg, Jean	17	Altmin, Dale	26
Heyen, Donald	3	Berger, Daniel	10	Fillhower, Chelsea	18	Griese, Xavier	26
Kalupa, John	3	Nowicki, Bristol	11	Hermann, Leland	19	Jenke, Thomas	26
Nowicki, Piper	3	Roser, Dawn	11	Ozburn, Matthew	20	Sadowsky, Thomas	29
Runnoe, Barbara	3	Smith, Hayley	11	Duch, Kurt	21	Vasatko, Bonnie	29
Holman, Jean	4	Hermann, Marilyn	12	Ziegler, Donna	22	Kurtz, Patricia	30
Giuliani, Norene	5	Andrus, Regan	13	Zastrow, Janet	23	Piper, Christine	31
Lau, John	5	Kalupa, Jeanette	14	Schatz, Andrew	24		
Sayas, Samuel	5	Bentley, Nicole	15	Youngquist, Theodore	24		

## May Anniversaries

	Date	# of Years		Date	# of Years
Schmelzer, Dean and Diane	2	34	Griese, Jeffrey and Melissa	19	11
Vasatko, Lawrence and Bonnie	3	46	Jordan, William and Shirley	21	60
Wahlgren, Kevin and Cathy	9	28	Lindner, Brad and Jennifer	24	7
Dentice, Anthony and Krista	10	1	Berger, Linda and Dale	26	19
Haggadone, Lisa and Matt	10	1	Kestly, Judith and Tom	30	34
Clayton, William and Betty	15	50	Morris, Christopher and Leah	30	17

## MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:30 AM Cherub Choir 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM SS Teacher meeting 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM BRIDGE 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM CONNECT	<b>27</b> Out: Pastor Roser 4:00 PM Meal Program	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Long Term Planning 12:30 PM Women's Ministry Bible Study 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>29</b> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Alleuia Choir	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Christian Ed Committee	<b>1</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon 6:30 PM - 9:00 AM REVOLVE Lock-In	<b>2</b> Name Tag Weekend 5:00 PM Worship
<b>3</b> Name Tag Weekend Sunset Theatre Outing 8:30 AM Cherub Choir 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Sunday School	<b>4</b> Out: Pastor Roser	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 6:30 PM Amazing Grace Adult Study 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>6</b> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Alleuia Choir	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Quilters	<b>8</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>10</b> MOTHERS DAY 8:30 AM Cherub Choir 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Sunday School	<b>11</b> Out: Pastor Roser Serenity Inn Meal Program 1:00 PM Women's Book Group 7:00 PM Christian Clowns	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Women's Ministry Bible Study 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM Exec Meeting 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>13</b> COUNCIL REPORTS DUE 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study 2:15 PM Visitation Ministry 7:00 PM Alleuia Choir	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Calvary Knitting Group 2:00 PM Foster Small Group 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry Team	<b>15</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon	<b>16</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>17</b> FOOD SUNDAY 8:30 AM Cherub Choir 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Sunday School Celebration 2:00 PM Endowment Fund Spring Event	<b>18</b> Out: Pastor Roser 9:00 AM Monday Morning Movie	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Heritage Place 12:00 PM CROSSROADS DEADLINE 1:00 PM Rebekah Circle 7:00 PM Congregation Council 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>20</b> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Alleuia Choir	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Quilters	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon	<b>23</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>24</b> PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed	<b>25</b> MEMORIAL DAY- Office Closed Out: Pastor Roser 4:00 PM Meal Program	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Women's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>27</b> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Crossroads Assembly 9:00 AM Ruth Circle 9:30 AM Foxbrook Chapel Svc 10:30 AM Care-Age Chapel Svc 6:30 PM Men's Ministry Gathering	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon	<b>30</b> 1:00 PM Wedding: Kellie Kolb & Pyae 5:00 PM Worship
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Adult Ed	<b>1</b> Out: Pastor Roser	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Amazing Grace Adult Study 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	<b>3</b> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Quilters	<b>5</b> 12:00 PM AI Anon	<b>6</b> Name Tag Weekend 5:00 PM Worship