

**O**n our recent five-day vacation to Orange Beach, AL with our daughter's family, I was vividly reminded of the significant **Power of Water**. Where we were at on the gulf coast, the ocean surf was relatively mild. But still, any sand castle that happened to be constructed too close to the water in low tide was quickly and easily obliterated by just a couple series of waves once the tide would rise. And as I found out first hand, more than once, even when I was ready for it, and braced myself firmly against it, any moderate to larger wave could easily knock me off my feet and then try to pull me out to sea. However, the power of those same waves, with the help of a boogie board, could also provide an exhilarating ride all the way to a soft approach on the sandy beach.



This awesome power that God gave to water in His Creation is even more evident in places like the upper Pacific coast where the much larger, crashing waves can destroy entire shorelines and demolish rocks, as well as roadways and homes very quickly and with relative ease.

All of this reminds and instructs us concerning the way that God, in His perfect wisdom, has used and still continues to use the unfathomable power He has given to water as an important part of His salvation plan for all of mankind.

The many examples of miracles that God worked in and through water are too many for us to recount in this brief article, but here in the season of Lent, as we approach our Easter celebration, I'd like for you to consider the following instances in Scripture. Notice especially how God uses water both as an implement of His Law and an instrument of His Gospel.



Obviously, we have the worldwide flood in Genesis, chapters 6-8. As God's implement of Law, Genesis 6:5 & 7 says, "*Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ... So Yahweh said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land...for I am sorry that I have made them.'*" So, as Genesis 7:22 reports it, "*Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died*" in the Flood. Everything, that is, that was still on the dry land when the Flood hit. But God used this same powerful flood of water to do His Gospel work, as Genesis 7:23 says, "*Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.*"

Not only did God use that water to condemn and destroy those who rejected Him and corrupted His Creation, but He used it to cleanse, save and restore His Creation for the future. Genesis 8:19 tells us, "*Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.*" And Genesis 9:1 says, "*God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.'*"

But, as we know, this enormous sacrifice was still not enough to cleanse mankind of our sinful nature. It points us forward in God's plan to another major water event – The Exodus, where God used water again as His tool of both Law and Gospel. In one of the 10 plagues, God declared His judgement against Pharaoh for enslaving His chosen people, by turning the water of the Nile River into blood. But that was a small, first step. The decisive water event came when Moses brought the people out of slavery only to find themselves trapped at the shore of the Red Sea, with Pharaoh and his army in hot pursuit.

It's then that God implemented His Law and Gospel work when He divided the waters of the Sea both to provide an escape for His people on dry ground, saving them and declaring them to be His chosen nation and to condemn and destroy the evil, unbelieving Pharaoh and his entire army when He closed the waters back

over them. (See Exodus, chapters 13-15)

These and many other miraculous events with water were, and still are, intended by God to point the eyes of our hearts and minds to the cross of Jesus that we focus upon now in Lent and His empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter. So, how is the power of water a part of these central events in our Christian faith?



Consider Paul's words in Romans 6:3-6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified

with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin." Those selections that I have underlined above show us God's intended, powerful use of the water and Word in baptism both to condemn and destroy our sinful condition and also to cleanse and save us today and for all eternity.

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, says this of the power in the waters of baptism that bind us together with Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection back to life: "*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*" He answers, "*It indicates that the Old Adam in us (our sinful nature and actions) should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, (that's the Law) and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever (that's the Gospel)*" (Baptism IV, *Luther's Small Catechism*, © CPH 2017, pg. 302).

Wow! This is the greatest display of God's power through water that I can ever imagine. God's baptismal water both kills you and me in our sin, and purifies and brings us into eternal life. 1 Peter 3:20-21 even makes the connection between our baptism today and Noah and the Flood, saying, "*Baptism, which corresponds to this (the Flood) now saves you...*". And Titus 3:5 backs that truth up: "*[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but...by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*"

This is why we here at Mt. Calvary keep the Baptismal Font front and center during the Lent and Easter season in our Sanctuary; so that when you walk into Worship, and when you approach the altar at Holy Communion you can't help but be reminded of the life-changing power of God that He used in the water of your baptism. It is then and there that He saved you, through Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross and in the empty tomb.

What a joy to always be dripping with the water of Christ,

*Pastor Keith Besd*



### Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 18th, 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 19th, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th, 6:30am

& 9:00am

Easter Breakfast 8-8:45 am

Children's Egg Hunt 8:20- 8:45am



Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm.




Good Friday Service 7:30 pm.

EASTER Sunrise Service 6:30 am.



Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt 8-8:45 am.

EASTER Morning Worship 9:00 am.



## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

**It's easy for us to find things to gripe about, but God's blessings abound!**

- ✦ For new calves and baby goats.
- ✦ For those who have recently found jobs.
- ✦ For the beauty of springtime flowers.
- ✦ The opportunity to celebrate our fellowship with our sister congregations as our circuit pastors travel for the Midweek services.
- ✦ Clint and Phyllis Tweden joining our family of faith.
- ✦ Safe travel to and from spring vacation trips.
- ✦ Medical technology that helps our doctors diagnose and treat us.
- ✦ The joyful singing in our "singing congregation".
- ✦ The gift of great food at our dinners and potlucks.

*Count Your Blessings*



Donate an Easter Lily

The Altar Guild is requesting members to purchase an Easter lily (as we did the poinsettias) at a retailer of your choice and donate it to the church for use during Easter. We will have labels to put on your plant; if you would like to have it after the Easter services. You have the option to spend as little or as much as you like - it's totally in your control. The only stipulation is that it be **at the church by April 19th** when the Altar Guild cleans and decorates the sanctuary for Easter. We ask, that you leave your plants until after the Easter 9am worship service. **A sign up sheet** is posted to help you plan for making your purchase/s. We would like a minimum of 12 plants.

**On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30am**, the Altar Guild will be cleaning the sanctuary for Easter. Please come and help to clean windows and pews and various other jobs. Let's help beautify the church for Easter!



People With A Purpose

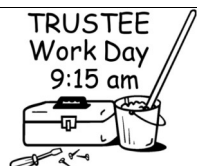
### Pledge card final totals

We now have our final totals for pledges this year, as of 3/15. Our total commitment for this year is \$157,683. This shows a \$9,352 decrease from last year. Thank you to everyone who turned in their cards!

### Save the Date!

The Trustees have a spring workday planned for Saturday, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

It will start after Men's Bible Breakfast (around 9:15am). This will involve both indoor and outdoor work. If you are interested in helping out, contact Doug Haiar.



Spring Plant  
and Bake Sale



Saturday, **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, will be our annual church Plant & Bake Sale from **9am-2pm**. Please tell all your friends and family, as well as share any of our posts on social media. We had a great turnout last year! Sign-up sheets will be available soon.



Remember –  
**Confirmants this includes YOU!**  
 Please remember that we cannot be a  
**Youth Group without YOU!**  
 All school age kids are welcome:



**Thank all of you** for supporting our fundraising Sweetheart Dinner on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We were able to host a few more people and received many compliments on the good service and the entertainment. Also, a big thank you to all for the support from the Lenten meals.

I read on Facebook that Isaiah's 4-H club raised over 700 pounds of peanut butter for Fort Lupton's Food and Clothing Bank. Thanks again for your donations toward this project.

**Upcoming events for our youth are as follows:**



✦ **Natalie Deepe** is in the play "Shrek Jr. The Musical" at Coal Ridge Middle School in Firestone, Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM and Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

✦ **All youth and church members** are encouraged by the Board of Spiritual Outreach to help fill eggs with candy Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the church fellowship hall. These eggs will go to the community egg hunt which will be held later.

✦ **Owen Deepe** is in the musical "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Frederick High School. Several dates are scheduled: Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. The last performance is Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://fhs-music.org/joseph/>. (See poster on bulletin board).

✦ **Isaiah Dux** is participating in track and field events at Fort Lupton Middle School.

✦ **Clay Gabel** is participating in junior varsity baseball at Valley High School.

Also on our calendar of events is the upcoming Plant and Bake Sale scheduled for Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.

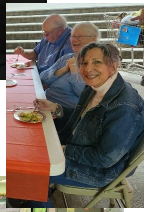
We wish God's blessings on all these events.

Count your blessings and say your prayers.  
 Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

Yours In Christ's Service,  
 Nona Schaefer, Chairperson Board of Youth



Our next Meeting is:  
**April 6th**  
**After Sunday School**



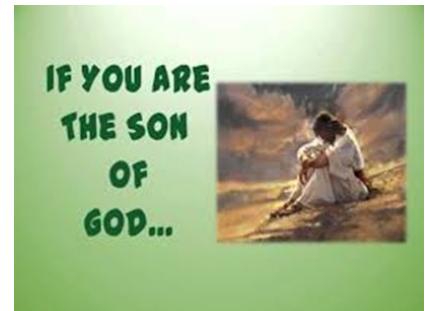


Greetings People Loved by God,

**As I have since becoming an elder here at Mt Calvary** and writing my first newsletter article, I struggled with finding a topic. Not since high school had I been asked to put my thoughts down on paper. But with Easter being in April, I thought it would be easy, or would it?

At our worship service on the first Sunday in Lent, Pastor Besel read the Gospel lesson from Luke 4:1-13 that told us about the temptation of Christ by Satan. Twice Satan says to Jesus “if you are the Son of God”. That phrase makes me angry. Of course Satan knew Jesus is the Son of God but I believe Satan uses this phrase to belittle Jesus.

As I write this, it is the day after our second Wednesday evening Lenten service and when Pastor Langness read our Gospel lesson from Luke 22:63- 23:1 I heard those words again. The elders, chief priests and scribes were there and they say to Jesus “if you are the Christ”, again belittling Jesus. I was angry again.



I thought about these and other hateful words that were said to, and about, Jesus and although I don't like them, I must admit that it might as well have been me saying them to Him. “Crucify Him, crucify Him”, for it was my sin, our sin, that He died for. It was for us that He was obedient to God and went willingly to the cross. So, as much as I wanted to write about this coming Easter holiday, I think it is better to be reminded in Lent of our need for a Savior and our need to repent of our sins.

But let us also remember Easter Sunday is coming, a glorious day when our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed victory over death and the devil. And because He did, our sins are washed away, we are made holy and will be with Him in Paradise.

-Doug Haiar



**Spiritual  
OUTREACH**

Our board is helping with the City of Ft. Lupton Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be providing 10 Easter Baskets for the 0-3 age group. On **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am** we will be helping to fill 1,728 eggs for the Egg Hunt! We would love any help we can get.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the box we sent to our college member, Trinity Kirschenman. It has been mailed and will surely be well received.

If you are interested in becoming a greeter before and after the church service, please talk to a member of the Board of Spiritual Outreach (listed in the front of your church directory). We are also gathering materials to put into a Welcome Folder to give to guests and visitors.

We continue collecting medicine bottle caps to be used by Miracle House. They will take caps that have Dales Pharmacy on them or just generic/plain caps. There is a container on the table by the restrooms to put the caps in.

We also collect milk bottle caps from the Longmont Dairy for Butler Elementary. There is a box on the table by the restroom to place the caps in. A big thank you to all those who are donating the milk bottle caps for school!

- Judy Kimball





## Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #4 is the Board of Human Care



Our Target: **Mount Calvary's members care for each other.**

**Goal #1: To create a plan by the end of 2024 to continually determine the needs of our members.**

**Task #1** We have a Blessings Box on the table to your left just as you leave the worship service for people to put their needs or someone they know who has need in the box on a card.

**Task #2** We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to the right as you are leaving the worship service. This sign-up sheet is for those who have the opportunity to give rides or help with shopping or to just visit someone.

**Task #3** We have a small freezer where we put portions of meals. These are available for those who need help with dinners etc.

- ✦ We are so thankful for those who have signed up to help and have been helping give rides and visiting. Becky Pilson has really stepped up in helping Sharon R. with various needs and just being her friend. Cathy Newell has been giving rides and taking Helen Miskimen to church. We've noticed many people pitching in to help Ann P. get to church.
- ✦ A new Task we have is coming up with a community board so those who live nearby can help one another. We are also considering having a list of needs and a list of those who have a skill who wouldn't mind giving of their time to help someone.



**Easter  
Breakfast  
& Egg Hunt  
8-8:45 am.**

**There are lots of ways for you to help everyone have an enjoyable Easter Breakfast.** First we need several volunteers. We will need people to help set-up on **April 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning, at 10am**. This will involve moving tables and chairs and kitchen prep. We also need people who plan to attend the 9am

Easter service to help in the kitchen from **6:30am – 8:30am**. We need people to warm up food, cook eggs, and make coffee among other things under the advisement of Dede Haiar. For those who are attending the 6:30 am service, we would love for you to sign-up to help after breakfast at **8:30am** to clean-up, both in the kitchen and to reset the tables and chairs. With everyone's help we can take the burden off of others and still be able to enjoy an Easter service.

A "**Helper Sign-up**" sheet is on the Bulletin Board.

Also, we need people to donate food. The list of needs will be available on the bulletin board, as well.

As a reminder, the Easter Egg Hunt will be at 8:20am-8:45am.

Thank you! Tracy Tiscareño & Dede Haiar



## Happy Spring from the Board of Education!



We have a few announcements to make.

We invite Children, younger than confirmation age, to participate in an **egg hunt on Easter Sunday starting at 8:20 AM during the Easter Breakfast**. Our wonderful confirmands will be helping to tell the story of the Resurrection! We also ask any confirmation age youth to help hide the eggs. If you will be bringing guests for the egg hunt, **please** let Tracy T. or Corinne Gabel know so we have an idea of how many we should plan for. We want to make sure we have enough eggs!

Mark your calendars for VBS! We will be having evening **VBS on June 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>** with a wrap up on Sunday **June 29<sup>th</sup>** in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck.

I also wanted to share, again, the Resurrection Roll recipe. This is a great visual activity to teach/ remind all ages of Jesus death and resurrection... (and they taste amazing!) - Corinne Gabel

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### Easter Resurrection Rolls

Prep Time: 5 mins    Cook Time: 10 mins    Total Time: 15 mins    Servings: 8 rolls

#### Ingredients

- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- water  
cinnamon & sugar mixed together in a bowl

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Read **John 19** in the New Testament while the oven is pre-heating. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
2. Unroll the crescent rolls, separating each section. Explain that this is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in.
3. Give your child a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus. It's white and pure because He was without sin.
4. Roll the marshmallow in a small bowl of water. This symbolizes the embalming oils.
5. Now, roll the marshmallow in the cinnamon & sugar mixture. This is like the spices used to prepare his body for burial.
6. Next up, wrap the marshmallow in the crescent roll dough, making sure to pinch the dough together securely on the sides. Don't worry about what they look like because they'll taste great no matter what! This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body.
7. Repeat with each marshmallow and place the rolls in the oven (symbolizing the tomb) and bake for the amount of time specified on the package – 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside.
8. While the rolls are baking, read **John 20:1-18**.
9. When the cook time is up, open the tomb and remove the rolls. When they're cool enough to handle, let your child(ren) open one and discover what happened to the marshmallow. It's disappeared! This signifies how Jesus has been resurrected!



## **March for Life is Coming to Colorado!**

Friday, **April 11** at the Colorado State Capitol

**A bus is available and will pick up participants at Faith Lutheran in Johnstown and Mt. Zion in Denver.**

- 8:30** Bus pickup in Johnstown
- 9:30 to 10:00** Prayer Service at Mt. Zion Denver, then Bus to the Capitol
- 11:00** Rally begins at the steps of the Capitol
- 12:00** March begins, which consists of 4 blocks in front of the Capitol

It is important to reserve your seat at [DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com) or call or text Deaconess Sara Smith at 513-509-8108.

There are 45 seats available.

***Please help make this a success and show Colorado that, as Lutherans, we support life!***

Any questions, please contact Elizabeth at 720-480-0735 or call Carol Thompson at 720-556-6920.