



LATHROP UMC NEWSLETTER



Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

APRIL 2019

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Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:25-26 KJV

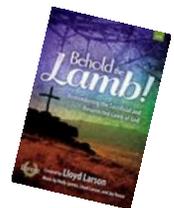
FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK\



The month of April will provide us with several different kinds of experiences. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, and we will enjoy all the joys of a mild spring. The “tax man” cometh in the middle of the month, which for many of us is our one political act in spring. As the month nears its completion, every Christian heart will focus on the spiritual part of our lives. During Holy Week Palm Sunday’s joy will give way to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday’s solemn scenes of Jesus being arrested and crucified, followed by Holy Saturday’s hustle to prepare for the main event of the month – Easter Sunday! Easter is such a joy filled day. Easter dresses and suits, Easter baskets filled with chocolate eggs and bunnies (can’t get much better than that), a big dinner, and a worship experience that once again proclaims that our loved ones live with Christ. May April’s joy dull the memories of this year’s “hard” winter; and may the risen Christ melt away any coldness that may have taken up residence in our souls. I look forward to sharing the story of Lent’s journey to the cross and the breaking of death’s bands on Easter. May God enfold you in His care this spring!

COMMUNITY EASTER CANTATA

The Combined Community Choir and Band will present the 2019 Easter Cantata *Behold the Lamb* by Lloyd Larson, Molly Ijames, and Jay Rouse. *Behold the Lamb!* is a musical and narrative journey that underscores the significant price that Jesus paid for our freedom and salvation. It recalls Israel’s release from Egyptian bondage with the Passover Lamb, a foretelling of God’s divine plan to provide the Holy Lamb as the ultimate sacrifice for our spiritual freedom. The despair of Christ’s crucifixion eventually gives way to joy in a triumphant celebration of His resurrection! Blending original melodies with timeless hymns, Molly Ijames, Lloyd Larson, and Jay Rouse combine forces to create a compelling worship experience and a dramatic reminder of God’s relentless love and grace.



The first presentation will be at the Lathrop **United Methodist Church on Friday, April 12th**. The second performance will be held at the **Plattsburg First Christian Church, Sunday, April 14th**. **Smithville First Christian Church** will host the third and final evening **on Monday, April 15th**. *All performances will begin at 7:30 pm.*

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY BECKONS YOU FROM ITS PAGES



Ruth

By Lori Copeland
Brides of the West 1872

WANTED:

Women with religious upbringing, high morals, and a strong sense of adventure, willing to marry decent, God-fearing men. Applicants may apply by mail. Must allow at least two months for an answer.

Ruth reads the poster and applies. Heading to Wyoming Territory her life becomes...an adventure to say the least.

Additions to the Youth Library this month:

Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
The Call of the Wild by Jack London

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Restoring...Restored

55 For Fairlane
24 Model T
55 Chevrolet Bel Air
57 for Fairlane

or

Restoring your spirit at "Behold the Lamb!" with Pam singing alto and Jim singing bass.

Music brought Pam and Jim Lee together. A friend invited Pam to a country dance. Jim just happened to go to the same dance although he'd never been there before. And as they say, "The rest is history." Jim and Pam now live near Converse, MO. They still love to go dancing country, jitterbug, rock and roll. Their two families became one. Pam's daughter Madeline, husband and son live in Puerto Rico. They were living there when that last terrible storm went through. Jim's family included two sons and a daughter. Terry has one child. Greg graduated from Missouri Western. He and his wife, Carrie, have two children and live near Kearney. Melissa graduated from NWMSU. She and her husband Brian have a girl and a boy. What else makes this couple special? Jim, as you might have guessed, likes to restore old cars. Pam was born in Enid, Oklahoma on the air force base. She must have liked it because she served 17 years in the United States Air Force. If you have a moment, stop and visit with Pam and Jim. Perhaps they'll show you those grandchildren. Perhaps you find a couple new friends.

DATES TO REMEMBER



April

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 April Fool's Day | |
| 3 Lenten Study w/Light meal | 6:30-8:00 p.m. |
| 7 April Birthday Breakfast | 10:00 a.m. |
| 14 Combined Community Choir & Band will present BEHOLD THE LAMB
at Lathrop UMC | 7:30 p.m. |
| 14 Palm Sunday | |
| 14 Fellowship Dinner following Worship Service | 12:00 Noon |
| 8 Trustee's Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 8 Administration Board Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 18 Maundy Thursday Service | 7:00 p.m. |
| 19 Good Friday | |
| 21 EASTER SUNDAY | |
| 21 Easter Sunrise Service | 7:00 a.m. |

Hosted by Lathrop UMC Message by Rev. Scott Archdekin
Breakfast follows in the Fellowship Hall

USHERS FOR APRIL

DONNA JELINEK AND JESSICA ALDRICH

APRIL



Birthdays

6	Rev Ted Hepner
12	Kathy Mydland
19	Lisa Wilson
19	Terri Stark
23	Callie Justus
24	Candy Fugett
25	Norella Beane
27	Shannin Mydland



Anniversaries

17	Lisa And Delayne Wilson
22	Lary And Kathy Mydland
29	Steve And Donna Jelinek



CARES AND CONCERNS

Wilma Tippet	Tim Jelinek
Heather Carter	Gary Wilson
Jon Carter	Don Lee
Mike Dickerson	Friederun Boone
Carmen Stone	Brenda Bonar
Wilma Griffin	Our Military
Ted and Mae Hepner	Our Community
Dylan Gowin	Our Pastor
Marguerite Pulliam	Our Church
Burla Lillie	Children and Youth of our
Jim Lawley	church

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by his disciple, Judas Iscariot.

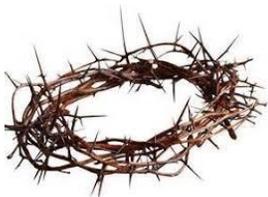
A Special Maundy Thursday will take place on April 18th at 7:00 pm and is open to all who would like to attend.

WHERE EASTER EGGS COME FROM

Easter is a religious holiday but some of the customs such as Easter eggs are linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life and, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. The Easter hare, or Osterhase, as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. . By 1680, the first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published. German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country, transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare with them in the 1700's. according to the Center for Children's Literature and Culture. Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROWN OF THORNS



After Jesus' sham trials and subsequent flogging, and before He was crucified, the Roman soldiers "twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They made fun of him. They put a stick in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said"). While a crown of thorns would be exceedingly painful, the crown of thorns was more about mockery than it was about pain. Here was the "King of the Jews" being beaten, spit upon, and insulted by presumably low-level Roman soldiers. The crown of thorns was the finalizing of their mockery, taking a symbol of royalty and majesty, a crown, and turning it into something painful and degrading.

For Christians, the crown of thorns is a reminder of two things: (1) Jesus was, and is, indeed a king. One day, the entire universe will bow to Jesus as the "King of kings and Lord of lords". What the Roman soldiers meant as a mockery, was in fact a picture of Christ's two roles, first of suffering servant, and second of conquering Messiah-King. (2) Jesus was willing to endure the pain, the insults, and the shame, all on our account. The crown of thorns, and the suffering that went with it, are long gone, and Jesus has now received the crown of which He is worthy. "But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, *crowned with glory and honor* because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone".

There is further symbolism embodied in the crown of thorns. When Adam and Eve sinned, bringing evil and a curse upon the world, part of the curse upon humanity was "...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...". The Roman soldiers unknowingly took an object of the curse and fashioned it into a crown for the one who would deliver us from that curse. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'". Christ, in His perfect atoning sacrifice, has delivered us from the curse of sin, of which a thorn is a symbol. While intended to be a mockery, the crown of thorns was, in fact, an excellent symbol of who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish.

WHERE IS THE CROWN OF THORNS?

As we enter Holy Week and contemplate the Lord's Passion, one central image of Jesus' suffering — other than the Cross — is the crown of thorns. A crown of thorns on March 1, at St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, N.J.

The crown of thorns is depicted in various ways in art: from a band with rose plant-like thorns to a full cap with spikes of several inches in length.

But what was it really and where did it end up?

After the crown appears in the Gospels (Mt 27:29; Mk 15:17; Jn 19:2), it is not mentioned again in any writings for more than 400 years.

The 1918 "Catholic Encyclopedia" notes that the crown of thorns was not spoken of as a relic — even by St. Helen (who journeyed to Jerusalem to find Christ's true cross in the early fourth century) or St. Jerome, who lived in Jerusalem in the early fifth century. The earliest mention seems to have been by St. Paulinus of Nola (d. 431) who mentioned veneration of the crown of thorns in Jerusalem in 409 A.D.

However, what we today know as the Christ's crown of thorns can be unbrokenly traced back only to Constantinople, where many of the church's treasures originally in Jerusalem were transferred to the Byzantine Empire between the fourth and the tenth centuries.

In 1238, the crown of thorns appears as part of a deal proposed by Baldwin II, the Latin Emperor of Byzantium, who was in desperate need of cash at the time. King Louis IX of France arranged to purchase the crown of thorns from Baldwin — but he actually received it from bankers in Venice, who had already advanced funds to Baldwin.

On Aug. 19, 1239, the relic of the crown of thorns arrived in Paris. Louis, a devout man who would later be canonized as St. Louis of France, took off his own crown and royal robes to walk barefoot behind the relic as it was carried to the unfinished Sainte-Chapelle, the chapel of the French kings. That chapel was completed in 1248 and then housed Louis' collection of Passion relics, of which the crown was premier. There is even a "relics of the Passion" stained glass window in the chapel.

During its stay in the Sainte-Chapelle, several of the crown's thorns were removed and presented as gifts from the kings of France to important figures of their times. This included Mary, Queen of Scots, who had been queen-consort of France in 1559-60. (She had married Francis II, who reigned for about a year).

When Francis died, Mary returned to Scotland, taking the holy thorn with her. After her execution, the thorn was given to Thomas Percy, her servant and his daughter, Elizabeth Woodruff. Elizabeth later gave the thorn to a Jesuit priest, who presented it to the Jesuit's Stoneyhurst College, where it has been ever since. It is placed in the college chapel during Holy Week. (The thorn is housed in a reliquary with a string of Mary's pearls surrounding it.)

When the French Revolution occurred in the late 18th century, many relics and treasures of the church were lost. However, Napoleon saved the crown of thorns and it was kept at the National Library until 1804. At that time, Christ's crown was returned to the Archbishops of Paris and, in Aug. 10, 1806, was placed in the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris.

By this time, the crown had lost all its original thorns. It now consists of a bundle of reeds, bound together by gold wire to symbolize the lost thorns. (There is speculation that the original band of reeds of Christ's crown was held together by a thorny vine.)

According to the website of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, in 1896, a goldsmith — using an architect's design — fashioned a circular container made of crystal and gold to place over the relic. There is also an entwining branch of a shrub, similar to that which most scholars believe to have been used for the crown of thorns by the Roman soldiers, around the relic. Known botanically as *Zizyphus spina Christi*, the plant is more popularly called the jujube-tree.

Today, the relic of the crown of thorns is publicly displayed in the Notre Dame cathedral every Friday of Lent, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and all day on Good Friday.

During the rest of the year, the crown of thorns is placed out for veneration at 3 p.m. on the first Fridays of each month. At other times, it is kept in the cathedral's treasury. The Knights of the Holy Sepulcher have been entrusted as its guardians.



One Easter afternoon Jasper, a little boy, was playing outdoors. He used his mother's broom as a horse and had a wonderful time until it was getting dark. He left the broom on the back porch. His mother was cleaning up the kitchen when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked Jasper about the broom and he told her where it was. She then asked him to please go get it. Jasper informed his mother that he was afraid of the dark and didn't want to go out to get the broom. His mother smiled and said, 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.' Jasper then opened the back door a little and said, 'Lord, since you're out there, please pass me the broom.'



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