



MARK TIMES

March 25, 2018 + Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion



From Your Pastor...

More than a decade ago, I read a book called, “**Three Cups of Tea.**” In it and its sequel, author Greg Mortensen (an ELCA Lutheran) described becoming lost while climbing in the Himalayas, stumbling into a mountain village, and being inspired to build schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It’s an incredibly inspirational and entertaining story that affected me and millions of other people. Melanie and I even got to meet Mr. Mortensen and hear him speak in Columbia, MO about 10 years ago. It was an amazing moment for me.



But in 2011, it all came crashing down. Mortensen was exposed as supposedly fabricating large portions of his narratives, and not far behind were allegations of fraud related to the foundation he started to fund the building of the schools. It was disappointing, frustrating, and heartbreaking to me and his readers and supporters.

I wonder if this might be anything like what was felt on Palm Sunday by Jesus’ followers and supporters—the ones who greeted him so enthusiastically with shouts of “Hosanna,” (*hoshi’ah-nah*) which means in Hebrew, “please save.” Based on his previous challenges to the Jewish authorities and bolstered by his causing a ruckus among the money changers in the Temple, the people had good cause to believe that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for to liberate them from their Roman oppressors. Perhaps it was when things didn’t happen as dramatically or in the way they hoped that so many of them turned, shouting “crucify him!”

Of course, God (and history) has vindicated Jesus, and history may yet vindicate Greg Mortensen—despite the misdoings, several hundred schools for girls *have* been built in those remote areas. We shouldn’t be afraid to keep watching and change our minds if necessary – after all, that is what “**repenting**” is all about.

Pastor Brian

Holy Week 2018

Today begins the holiest week of the year for Christians. Take this opportunity to be immersed in the story of Jesus’ Passion, death and resurrection – the most influential events in human history.



On **Maundy Thursday**, we will hear the **Words of Institution in Aramaic** – the language of Christ – and will have the ritual **washing of hands**. Bring your tired, dusty, worn-out hands to worship and experience the healing power of water poured and cross marked.

On **Good Friday**, we will again participate in an ecumenical **walking Way of the Cross** with St. George’s Episcopal and St. Luke’s Catholic churches. We **meet at St. Mark at 12:10PM** and walk the stations of the cross to St. Luke’s where we will join in a soup lunch.

At **7:00PM**, St. Mark hosts the joint **liturgy with adoration of the cross**.

Then join us at **9:00AM on Easter Sunday** for the **grandest celebration** of all!

Church Decorating

Please set aside some time **THIS Saturday, March 31 at 9:00AM** to **decorate the church** for Easter. We hope to see many of you!

Easter Flower Donations are **appreciated** for decorating the altar area with lovely flowers on Easter Sunday. Today is the last day to get donations in. Donation envelopes are in the hymnal racks. **Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship.** Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for its biggest day of the year.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Thursday, 3/29		<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
	7:00P	Divine Liturgy with Ritual Washing of Hands – Chapel
Friday		<i>Good Friday</i>
	12:10P	Walking Way of the Cross (begin at St. Mark)
	7:00P	Joint Good Friday Liturgy w/ St. George – Church
Saturday	9:00A	Church & Chapel Decorating
Sunday, 4/1	9:00A	Easter Sunday Festival Liturgy
		Easter Egg Hunt after Liturgy

Offerings for March 18, 2018

Sunday worship attendance:	88
General Fund Donations	\$3,119
Easter Flowers	\$30
Food Pantry	\$5

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
3/4-3/10	\$3,881	\$383.66	\$3,497.34
3/11-3/17	\$2,587	\$181.61	\$2,405.39
3/18-3/24	\$3,119	\$617.67	\$2,501.33
YTD	\$33,107.71	\$30,604.77	\$2,502.94

First Communion Classes

If you have a child in Kindergarten or higher and think they may be ready to receive Holy Communion, please talk to Pastor Brian. He will lead First Communion classes after Sunday School on **April 15, 22, and 29**, with **First Communion on May 6**. **Parent participation is strongly encouraged!**



LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, April 1, 2018

LESSONS:

Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Assisting Minister: Greg Martens
Acolyte: Braden Valerius
Crucifer: Frank Dressel
Chalice Bearer: Braden Valerius & Barb Wurdinger
Lector: Andrea Moeller
Ushers: Rick Crosby & Nancy Guenther

Food Pantry Spotlight item for March is **canned meats**. SPAM, ravioli, canned chicken – any type of canned meat product is useful! Bring items to the Welcome Area on Sundays or to the church office during the day.



Franklin School Lunch-Makers are in need of **protein items, chips, and fruit** in quantities of 12. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is on the counter in the coffee area in the Parish Hall and is for all of the holidays until the end of the school year.



About that New Year's Promise

If you had a resolution to lose weight in 2018, how is that going for you? If you need some support and accountability, along with some nutritional guidance and encouragement, consider joining TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly). TOPS meets at Trinity United Church of Christ, 47 N Douglas in Belleville on Monday nights. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 and the meeting begins at 6:30. Come visit for free and see what it's all about! What have you got to lose?



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