



April 2018

LWEFC



Ecumenical Good Friday Service

1:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church, Lodi
(Pastor Scott Preaching)

LWEFC Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m.
Nursery Available

Resurrection Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship
Nursery Available at Both Services



It's All Greek to Me!

On Sunday April 22, one of our supported missionaries, Larry and Jill Couch will be here. They have been serving in Bosnia and will soon be moving to Athens, Greece to serve there. They will update us on what they have been doing and what their future plans are. **RESERVE THIS DATE!** A special luncheon is being planned after second service that day.

We hope to see you there.

What is so Good About Good Friday? John 19:23-27

The English language can be very strange. An example of this is how so many words and terms can mean opposite concepts. Are you aware of how many words we have that can mean two opposite things?

For example:

The word **left** can mean someone remains, or the same person no longer remains. “We were picking teams at gym class and he left.” Or “We were picking teams at gym class and he is left.” It can mean you are there, or you are not there. To **trim** is another example. If you trim a Christmas tree you are adding things. If you trim your shrubs, you are removing things. Trim can literally mean to add or to remove. Weather is another ambiguous one. To **weather** can mean that your savings weathered a poor economy and lasted. Or it can mean the opposite, as in, you need new siding on your house because the existing stuff is weathered... and hasn’t lasted well.

So this all brings us to **Good Friday**. What does Good Friday mean? Is it good because it was bad, and now is completed? Or is there a greater goodness and blessing within it, even beyond its role in pointing towards Easter?

Is Good Friday good because it was bad, and is now over with? Or is Good Friday actually good? Please allow me to share two reasons why Good Friday was, and is, good (for modern believers).

1. Jesus was abandoned by God, so you never have to be!

The Gospels paint an agonizing scene, where Jesus cried out in despair, documenting the abandonment he experienced from God the Father. The narrative hints that this was far harsher for him than the physical beatings he took. And yet, after the beatings, after the abandonment, Jesus burst forth from the grave, not only regaining fellowship with God but making this

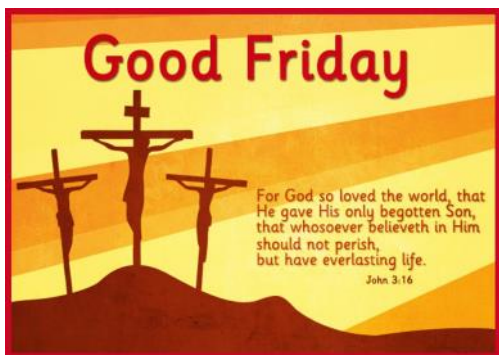
What is so Good About Good Friday? John 19:23-27, con't

Good Friday is good, because Jesus faced abandonment for God so that believers never will!

2. Jesus took on nakedness and shame, so you won't have to wear it!

An aspect of John 19:23-24 worth examining, is how that removal of Jesus' garments, left him unclothed and vulnerable. One reoccurring theme in the Bible, is that nakedness can be equated with shame. When Adam and Eve sinned, they first noticed their nakedness and felt shame. Psalm 22 details this public execution and nakedness that the Messiah would one day endure. Jesus quotes this chapter in his last words, as well as fulfills all that is within it. And yet, the New Testament has numerous verses which talk about how through Christ, we are now "clothed in righteousness!" Its almost too good to be true. For those who live in Christ, our sin and shame (past, present, and future) are atoned for and we are blameless in God's sight. In other words, Good Friday is good, because Jesus took on and wore our shame, so we can live without it.

There are many other reasons why Good Friday was, and is, good. We can celebrate Christ's suffering, because of the life and the righteousness that his obedience to God now brings to us! So go ahead, and feel free to use the term Good Friday in a non-ironical way! It was a good Friday, in all that it displays about the goodness, obedience, and life available in Jesus Christ.



Pastor Scott Larson

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:30-9:30am 1st Service Worship
10:00-11:00am 2nd Service Worship


9:30-10:00am Coffee Fellowship
10:00-11:00am Children's Sunday

Sunday

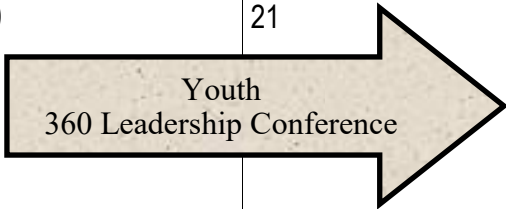

Mon

Tue

W

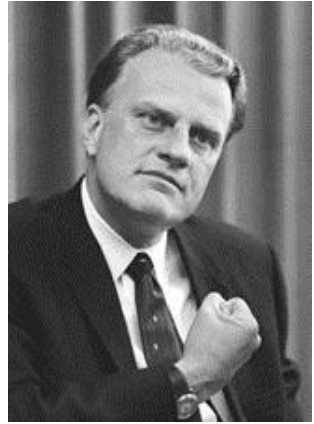
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|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Resurrection Sunday  | 2 | 3 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m. | 4 9:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 Pathfinders (Middle School) |
| 8 | 9 9:30am Prayer Team Trustee Meeting | 10 | 11 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 Pathfinders (Middle School) |
| 15 6:30p The Bridge (High School) Holy Communion | 16 9:30am Prayer Team Elder Meeting | 17 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m. | 18 9:30am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 Pathfinders (Middle School) |
| 22 6:30p The Bridge (High School) | 23 9:30am Prayer Team | 24 | 25 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 Pathfinders (Middle School) |
| 29 6:30p The Bridge (High School) | 30 9:30am Prayer Team | | |

April 2018

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|
| Mom's Group Part 2 WANA Inway School) | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| WANA Inway School) | 12 | 13 | 14 7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Lodi Area Women's Connection @ Reach Out Lodi (Contact Audrey Kvam with questions.) |
| Mom's Group WANA Inway School) | 19 | 20 <div data-bbox="460 898 969 1105">  Youth 360 Leadership Conference </div> | 21 |
| WANA Inway School) | 26 High School Church Lock In | 27 | 28 |
| | <div data-bbox="200 1328 874 1554">  Annual Summer Picnic Devil's Lake State Park Sunday, August 19 </div> | | |

Reflections on the Life & Death of Billy Graham

About a month ago we lost a truly great man who I have the greatest amount of respect for as well as admiration. Billy Graham was a Christian that was respected by people throughout our country for his faith and humility. He is often described as “America’s Pastor” and I believe the reason for this is that Billy Graham spoke to and served numerous administrations in Washington regardless of political party. As I was reflecting on Billy Graham’s life and preparing to preach on 2 Samuel, I came across this quote from Henri Nouwen,



“When I ask myself the main reason for so many people having left the Church during the past decades in France, Germany, Holland, and also in Canada and America, the word “power” easily comes to mind. One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave into the temptation of power—political power, military power, economic power, or moral and spiritual power—even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to his divine power but emptied himself and became as we are.... Every time we see a major crisis in the history of the Church, such as the Great Schism of the eleventh century, the Reformation of the sixteenth century, or the immense secularization of the twentieth century, we always see that a major cause of rupture is the power exercised by those who claim to be followers of the poor and powerless Jesus.”

This is a brutal yet accurate portrayal of where we often struggle as Christians. The emperor Constantine is famous for changing the relationship between Christians and the Roman Empire and Emperor. The numerous attempts to reconquer the Holy Land during the Crusades and the Inquisitions are other well-known examples of misuse of military and political power. A desire for political power let to the rise of the Moral Majority

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Reflections on the Life & Death of Billy Graham, con't

Movement in the 1980's which argued Christians should harness our voting power to bring the country back to God and make this a Christian nation. And Nouwen is correct when he points out that none of this fits with the poor and powerless (at least from a purely human perspective) Jesus we see in Scripture.

Palm Sunday serves as a wonderful reminder of this reality. Jesus didn't come to establish an earthly kingdom but came humbly as a human being, making himself nothing (Philippians 2:7). Might does not make right. Jesus called his followers to be servants to all and Billy Graham modeled what that looks like well.

Billy Graham wasn't perfect either and he admitted as much when he said, *"Evangelists cannot be closely identified with any particular party or person. We have to stand in the middle in order to preach to all people, right and left. I haven't been faithful to my own advice in the past. I will be in the future."* This wise approach gave Billy Graham the ability to reach millions of people across the political spectrum, to be one of the most respected and admired people and to take stands against racial segregation and social injustice.

Our country is more divided then ever politically, but if we can take a page from Billy Graham, Christians can point people to Christ no matter their political affiliations. Our power doesn't come through military, political, or economic means; our power comes from Jesus who overcame sin and death through the crucifixion and resurrection. That is power that far exceeds any power found on this earth. My hope for our nation doesn't rest in a political party; it rests in evangelical Christians seeking to emulate the model of humility and love exemplified by Billy Graham while still holding true to the Gospel. The world may think us poor and powerless, but then it thought the same thing about Jesus.

Pastor Daniel Sjogren

[Upcoming Youth Events](#)

[Camp Barnabas Registration Deadline - April 11](#)

[TIV 360 Leadership Conference - April 20-21](#)

[High School Church Lock-In - April 26](#)

[Middle School Laser Tag & Pizza Party - May 4](#)

April Celebrations

Birthday

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Emily Dennison | 1 |
| Matt McKearn | 3 |
| Kelly Jo Duprey | 4 |
| Jade Homewood | 5 |
| Jessica Keller | 6 |
| Judy Stewart | 8 |
| Sydney Larson | 9 |
| Linda Rand | 10 |
| Sue Martin | 14 |
| Jerome Keller | 15 |
| Bruce Gebhard | 18 |
| Laura Cummings | 18 |
| Cody Frehner | 19 |
| SkyAnne Tompkins | 20 |
| Bill Boeger | 21 |
| Sam Keller | 22 |
| Lizzi Anthon | 26 |
| Dale Ness | 26 |
| Gloria Locke | 26 |
| Ben Newcomb | 27 |

Anniversary

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Neil & Kathy Bishop | 13 |
| Dave & Kathy Moxon | 28 |



April 4

Best Friends Night

April 11

Baby Night

April 18

Trident Night

April 25

Hand Night

May 2

TIMBER LEE NIGHT



Don't forget to
pick up extra food
pantry items the
next time you go
grocery shopping!!

*Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows,
but only empties today of its strength.*

Charles Spurgeon

Trustee Report

| | | <u>YTD</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Feb 2018 Giving: | \$22,781.00 | \$41,298.00 |
| Feb 2018 Expenses: | \$24,189.12 | \$41,534.59 |
| Monthly Budgeted: | \$23,583.34 | \$47,166.68 |
| Mortgage Balance 2/28/2018: | | \$115,917.57 |