

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

12513 SE Mill Plain Boulevard Vancouver, WA 98684 360/254/9243 -

bslc@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com www.bsclcwa.org



Pastor's Ponderings

We are aiming toward Easter, but let us not jump over the depth of meaning in these days before that celebration. While we typically put our focus upon the after story past Holy Week, without what comes before, what comes after will lack the richness and impact of the delight after the despair.

The Sunday before Easter will begin, as traditional, with palms held high and waving, before we move into the beginning of what we know as the passion narrative. "Passion" is used based on its Latin source, which means suffering. This most holy week will have begun. We typically don't have special worship services again until Thursday, although there are readings for each day between if you wish to request them.

The three day service known as the Triduum, begins on **Maundy Thursday**, when we will hear scriptures from that final night of teaching and meal sharing between Jesus and his followers, interspersed with song. Portions of the evening's worship carry over the bodily engaged prayer practices we have experienced through our Lenten Wednesday Evening Prayer services. The evening will include anointing with oil and words of individual forgiveness. It will end with the "stripping" of altar/ worship space to symbolize the next part of worship, Good Friday's descent into the tomb.

On **Good Friday** the service continues with somber contemplation. We will sit with John 19:23-42, interspersed with times for reflection, singing, and prayer. A rough wooden cross will be present, available for those who wish to linger in prayer, contemplate all Jesus went through—for us.

The last movement of this three day worship service is done through the **Easter Vigil**. At the vigil, ancient stories are heard, baptism remembered, and resurrection proclaimed. Phil and Kathe Yokers will lead this night of worship transitioning from the dark of the tomb to the light of the new dawn.

Easter morning we will enter with hope-filled expectation and go out with joyous gladness as we fully embrace the the wonder of Christ's triumph over death.

This holy time in our Christian calendar overlaps with our Muslim and Jewish siblings. May each of our traditions which have connection through Abraham experience blessing in our focus upon the way of God, who we know through Jesus Christ.

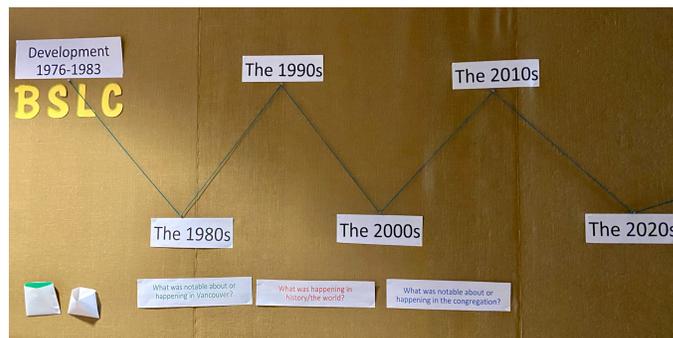
Blessings as we embrace this leg of the faith journey. *Pastor Jean*

Timeline Activity Challenge—Let’s Combine Memories!

As we come back together in more regular fashion, I thought it would be fun for all of us to share memories and happenings notable to when we first came to be a part of BSLC. Please bring to mind the circumstances of when you first came to be a part of BSLC, then write the most notable circumstances on slips of paper as follows. What of note was happening:

- in history/the world (red),
- in Vancouver and the surrounding areas (green),
- at BSLC (blue).

The timeline may be found in the hall across from the fellowship hall/meeting space. You are invited to get a slip of paper the color matching the slice of life you are recording (history, local area, congregation) to write your comment, then pin your notes within its corresponding time frame.



Further questions will be asked after a bit, to draw out more stories. If we fill up the current space, we can stretch out “the line.” If you have longer stories to share, you might choose to use your computer to write and then bring in.

For those participating in BSLC life for a long time, you will eventually be invited to “fill in the blanks” of later times. For now, please, focus on what was happening when you first came to take part in the congregation’s life. Also, while the various pastors’ names are already printed, your help in situating their names in the right time frames would be a great help.

Exploring Membership Conversations start April 27

3 Wednesdays(4/27; 5/4; 5/11) at 5:30 - 6:30 or 6:30-7:30 (let PJ know which works better)

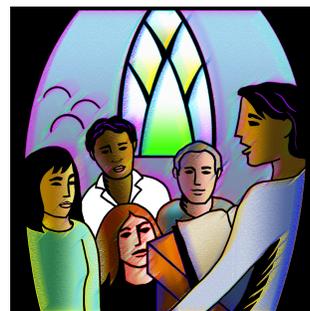
Among other points of conversation, Lutheran basics will receive some attention, and specific

Participating does not commit you to anything. These conversations are intended to provide a time for questions and general exploration around “all things” Lutheran, Beautiful Savior, and membership. Longer time participating folk are invited, also, for a bit of a refresher or to raise questions you never thought of “back in the day”. Those who decide they want to become voting members of BSLC are welcomed to do so on **June 5** (Pentecost: a festival day in the church year).

Preparation for baptism may also be added to the mix—meaning a bit more meeting time with PJ. Just let her know you want to explore that path!

Seeking Worship Assistants—both those who sing and those who don’t!

Assisting in worship doesn’t have to include singing! Please step up if you are interested in being “a voice” to share in leadership. There are Assisting Minister and Reader (often more than one) opportunities to serve. Worship is *much* more engaging when there are multiple people providing leadership—when it’s not just PJ’s voice and presence up front! Please consider adding yours!





Calling for Cantors Many people express appreciation for the return of sung liturgy. If you prefer singing to speaking, or are fine doing both—please step into the breach so that we can support sung liturgy. We want to use the *Tree of Life* liturgy in the Easter Season, so we are eagerly looking for you who want to be cantors! P.s., you can choose to just lead the musical parts and do any readings, if you prefer.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays-- 9 & 11 **Worship**

10:10 **Faith Formation**--children, except for 1st Sundays, when it's time for *All Congregation*

Faith Formation! 3:00 **Antiracism Study Group** 5:00 **Confirmation Class**

Wednesdays--10:30 AM **Bible study** via zoom

4:30 **Children's Choir** 5:30 **Bell Choir** 6:30 last Lenten Worship 4/6 7:15 4/6 & 4/20 ff 6:30 **Adult Choir**

Thursdays--10:00 **Bible study** in person; 10:00-2:00 **LWR** (quilting & more)

Monthly Meetings: 1st Sundays **All Congregation Faith Formation Event** 10:10ish AM

2nd Sundays **Council Meeting** 12:30 PM

3rd Thursdays **Peace & Justice Meetings** 6:00 PM

BIBLE & BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Jean meets via Zoom at **10:30 AM**. Current focus: traveling through Exodus. Receive a Zoom link from Pastor Jean pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

Thursday Gather Bible Study meets in person at BSLC, **10:00 AM**. For more information contact Nancy K. (contact information available through the church office).

The Anti Racism Zoom Study Group: Sundays from 3 - 4pm. Nearing the end of *Jesus and John Wayne*. It's time for recommendations of "what next"! For the Zoom link, contact Pastor Jean.

Next All Congregation Faith Formation Event

"Conversations on Community" will be our topic of discussion on April 3. What makes community community? What makes it "work"? What gets in the way? There will also be a surprised activity to do while conversations are happening. Come and see!

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday Worship - 4/14, 7 PM

Good Friday Worship - 4/15, 7 PM

Saturday Easter Eve - 4/16, 7:15 PM (sunset)

Easter Festive Worship - 4/17, 9 and 11 AM

Please Note: If you want to participate in shared creation of festive space for Easter worship, you are invited to bring in: lilies, other flowering "bulb" plants, or azaleas) to help beautify



the worship space for Easter Sunday, please bring it/them to the building by April 14 if during the day, or to worship either 4/14 or 4/15 @7:00 PM.

We will also have the **wire covered cross** outside, for those of you with cut flowers to add so that we may provide a public witness of Easter's joy and celebration (not to mention, providing a colorful backdrop for Easter selfies and family photos!). The cross will be placed outside Saturday afternoon.

Sharing Easter Treats: We're going to have a **special coffee hour** on Easter Sunday morning between services! Please bring your favorite cookies or pastry to share. Steven will be here to make coffee and set out the buffet of treats.



Opportunity!! Do you have a gift for creating narrative or interest in finding out more about people? Maybe interviewing folx for their generosity impact stories? Is there intrigue brewing in you to explore how stewardship is actually an essential faith practice/spiritual discipline? Care about stewardship of relationships—including our relationship with the earth? You are exactly the person who can help BSLC expand how

stewardship is engaged here! So don't let the term **Stewardship Committee** scare you off. This group has critical work to do, including—yes—putting together an annual financial giving education and sharing emphasis.

If you are ready to take a risk of growing your understanding of stewardship and want to step up, please contact the Church Council liaison to this committee, Bill Oman at bill.oman2@yahoo.com or call 360-241-6455.

Earth Day - April 22

This year's Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. Let's find a way to participate, either individually or in a group, to acknowledge the importance of our planet Earth.

The first Earth Day was also on April 22 -- in 1970. Here's how the organizer (and Camas native), Denis Hayes, described that first Earth Day:

"Earth Day organizers in different cities variously protested against air pollution, oil spills, vanishing wilderness, eight-lane freeways cutting through their neighborhoods, DDT and lead poisoning in America's ghettos, and dozens of other specific blights."

"Earth Day was in effect a huge town meeting, asserting that there is more to the American Dream than ever-increasing consumption."

"Aided by stunning NASA photographs of the Earth from space, Earth Day's organizers argued that we needed to pay more attention to the web of life and our role in it. Human well-being, we said, is linked more closely than most people realize to the great marine and terrestrial ecosystems."

-- Denis Hayes, quoted from his 2000 book, *The Official Earth Day Guide to Planet Repair*



Adopt an Earth Day Practice: LITTER PICK UP CHALLENGE!

In honor of Earth Day and of the occasion, we encourage everyone who can to pick up trash at any time during April (& beyond!) Choose a park, a street, neighborhood, trail, business area; anywhere you see a need & help to beautify one or more. Get together with friends and family for extra fun with maybe a treat afterward! Of course, sensible safety precautions need to be followed concerning needles and other bio hazards, as well as traffic, etc. Use gloves, pick up tools & sturdy bags as needed. Deposit bags into household garbage bins or take them to a commercial collection location. A simple, effective and much needed way to make our community sparkle and help keep garbage out of waterways. Thanks for doing your part!



Lutheran World Relief -- Gifts of Hope!

As we near the end of the journey through Lent, Hope is very much on our minds with the renewal that Easter brings each spring. With Covid 19 waning, life for us is returning to a more normal status. We see flowers, trees and shrubs bursting forth with new leaves and beautiful flowers and we see Hope surrounding us.

Lutheran World Relief sends *Hope and Love* abroad, wrapped in kits and quilts each spring and fall. Many lives are touched with these gifts. Many futures are made brighter just as spring flowers

brighten our lives. You are invited to support those flowers of *Hope and Love* by sharing in the LWR teamwork as you have done in the past.

Note: If you specifically want to support a Lutheran based response to the war in Ukraine, right now the very best way is with a CASH donation to Lutheran Disaster Response or the ELC fund designated specifically for Ukraine/Europe.

That said, it's THAT time again! Lutheran World Relief's gathering of new / reusable items serves many whose lives have been disrupted by disasters or just plain poverty. Your past responses to the LWR appeal have been tremendous! Let's repeat them! Spring collection in Portland is May 6 & 7. All items must be delivered to the church by Thursday, April 21 for packing.

Personal Care items needed per kit:

- Three 4 oz Bath size bar of soap (any brand)
- Bath towel (28"x54" minimum)
- Baby Care Kit needs:
- New or gently used items can be used for kit items. (Sizes 6 to 24 months) Please wash and mend used items
- 14 t-shirts
- Two or 3 bath size bars of gentle soap

Lutheran World Relief work days continue on Thursdays, 10 – 2. All are welcome!

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL QUILT-TYING DAYS

We have been gifted 65 quilt tops, backs and some batting from Immanuel Lutheran. In order to complete the quilts in a timely fashion, we are inviting YOU to help. The schedule is planned as follows:

11 AM – 2:00 PM Monday, April 4, Tuesday, April 12, Wednesday, April 20, & Friday, April 29

Your on-going support for this ministry is greatly appreciated! Sharron



MEXICO 2022

Fundraising Activity for the Annual Mexico Mission Trip

BSLC's next Shred Day is Saturday, April 16th, 10 AM - 1 PM or until the shred truck is full. \$5 is the suggested donation per banker size box (two box limit).

New Opportunity! A Silent and Live Online Auction will be another way that Mexico Mission 2022 will raise funds. There will be various items available for bid online (more about that soon). *If you would like to donate new items for bidding that would be much appreciated!* Please contact Rebecca Bafus at rebecca.bafus@gmail.com or call Kathy at 503-329-8075 with questions.

The mission is scheduled for July 30 - August 5, 2022. We feel hopeful and pray we will be able to raise enough to build three more homes in Tijuana, Mexico. We need your help and support to make this happen. (Due to the pandemic lumber prices have gone up tremendously.) Also: you are welcome to join the team and attend planning meetings preparing for the summer trip. As always, thank you for your support. Kathy Esparza
