

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

MARCH 2024



Ask the Pastor



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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At a Family Catechism Supper, I asked those gathered to give me some questions related to the resurrection, either of Jesus or of us on the Last Day. I have space to answer one of them this month.

Where did Jesus go when He died?
In other words, where, after Jesus' death but before Jesus' resurrection, did He go?

First of all, it must be made clear that Jesus' sufferings of the wrath of God (hell) for our sins happened while He was on the cross and was completed there. Upon the cross Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46) That is, the Father had turned His back on His Son (temporarily, because of His love for us) and allowed Jesus to suffer hell for our sake. Abandonment of God is hell, properly speaking, as it says in 2 Thessalonians 1:9, "They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might." And when Jesus had completed His sufferings for our sake He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

When Jesus died, because He is true man, He died as all men do. When His redemption work was completed, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). That is, His soul went to be with the Father, while His body went into the ground.

But, what about that little phrase we say in the Nicene Creed, "He descended into hell"? This was not a

part of His punishment, but His exaltation. We derive this doctrine from 1 Peter 3:18, which says, "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison...." This section of 1 Peter is about living under persecution. He teaches that we are to boldly confess our faith in Jesus and do good to those who hurt us, not fearing what they can do to us. We will have the final victory. Peter compares the persecuted Christians to Jesus Himself, who suffered, died, but was brought to life again and boldly preached His victory before the spirits in prison who in the days of Noah did not obey. This wasn't giving them a second chance, just declaring victory over hell. Then Peter compares the account of Noah to our baptism, which is our confidence in the face of suffering.

Because this is the only verse in the Bible to mention Jesus' descent into hell, many questions are left unanswered. All we can say is that Jesus, after His death and burial but before His resurrection appearances, was made alive again and went into hell and preached. There He asserted His power over hell and devil and by this event, Jesus assures us that they can have no power over us.

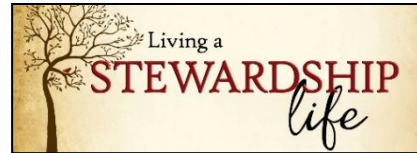
That's all for now! Look to next month's article for more answers to questions.

Pastor



**JOIN US FOR
MIDWEEK
WORSHIP SERVICES
DURING
THE LENTEN SEASON.**

**WEDNESDAYS at 11:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Come early for supper at 5:30**



Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

"You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other" (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church, and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved, and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

**--LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article
March 2024**

Please join Lori and Anita in making Easter cards for our shut-ins and residents of Simeon Square. We will meet on March 10th in Fellowship Hall after the worship service.



**Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Tuesday, March 12th
at 7:00 p.m.
All members of the congregation
are encouraged to attend.**

**SCHEDULE FOR
HOLY WEEK
AND EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICES**



PALM/PASSION WEEKEND

Saturday, March 23, Worship at 6:00 PM
Sunday, March 24, Worship at 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28, Worship at 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29, Worship at 12:00 PM &
7:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, March 30, Vigil of Easter Service
at 6:00 PM

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
- EASTER DAY**

Sunday, March 31,
Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM
Easter Breakfast at 8:00 AM
Easter Festival Service at 10:00 AM



**Our annual EASTER
BREAKFAST** will be served
immediately following the
Sunrise Service on Easter
Sunday, March 31.

All the food for this meal, the set-up, and the
clean-up are provided by you, the congregation. So,
please let us know how you can help this year.

Items needed: egg casseroles (*already baked*), fruit
platters (*washed, cut, and ready to serve*), sweet
breads and muffins (*sliced and ready to serve*),
colored hard-boiled eggs, cash donations, juice/milk,
kitchen help, set-up before, and clean-up after.
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
If you have any questions, contact the church office,
or Lori Dobkins.

Thank you for your help again this year in making
our Easter Breakfast possible.



**2024 HIGHER THINGS
CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 25-28
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN**

**“BEHOLD, I HAVE ENGRAVED YOU ON THE PALMS
OF MY HANDS.” (ISAIAH 49:16A)**

Identity.

More than what you want to be when you grow up. More
than what’s expected of you. What do you see when you
look in the mirror? What gives you value? What makes you
... “you”? Dealing with insecurity, anxiety, and self-hate is
hard enough before the pressures of the world, the pressures
of your family, your own hopes and wants and dreams, and
even the pressures of the church make this question
debilitating.

So Jesus baptizes you. Your identity is here. A child of God.
It gives shape to the rest. It gives shape to your role as a
man, a woman. It gives promise to your vocation. It even
gives answer to your sin. You don’t identify by that
anymore. Not by what you’ve done, but by what’s been done
for you.

Who am I? A Christian. You’re found in the wounds of the
savior. Your identity starts there.

*Several of Immanuel's youth will be attending this
conference in June. To help cover expenses, they will
host several fundraising activities in the coming months:*

- April 13 & 14 - Bake Sale & Cappuccino Bar*
- May 17 - Spaghetti Dinner*
- June 8 - Car Wash*

*Please support their efforts while enjoying good
fellowship!*





Shepherds & Lambs The Sunday School Newsletter March 2024

Here is a continuation of last month's parenting guidance helps.

CHRISTIAN PARENTING WITH SUCCESS



Communicate spiritual values to your children. Moses charged Israelite parents: "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons (and daughters) and shall talk of them

when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Have you used the time with your children to share the way God would have us live our lives today? Perhaps it was a ride in the car, perhaps it was pointing out a part of a TV show that does not follow our Christian principles, or maybe it was calling attention to our Christian beliefs in a situation! Use those chances to reinforce your beliefs to your children. These Godly values shall be a part of our children's lives every day.

Seek to discipline your children consistently. Loving parents discipline their children. We find 3 principles for Godly discipline in the book of Proverbs:

Begin discipline early (Proverbs 13:24).

Tailor discipline for your specific child

(Proverbs 23:13-14 and Proverbs 29:17).

Ground your discipline in love (Proverbs 3:11-12).

All of these parenting principles require time. Spend time each day with each one of your children. Inwardly they don't want your gifts, but your time with them!!

Talk with your children about JESUS' passion throughout the month.



The children decorated Valentines and a gift box and we delivered these to 17 homebound or those in need of us sharing God's love with them!

Each Sunday School family received a Lenten calendar that has a suggestion for a daily activity. I hope that your family is actively working on them!



The children are learning Luther's Morning Prayer set to music.



A BLESSED EASTER TO YOU!

Lynette Johnston-Martin
SUPERINTENDENT



Our Annual

Easter Egg Hunt

is

Saturday, March 30th
at 9:30 a.m.

at Creek Ridge County Park
on County Road 400 North
(if it's raining, come to the church)

For ages 0 – 4th Grade
Bring your friends!

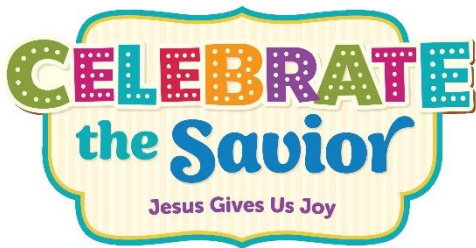
***Come out and enjoy the
fellowship and fun!***



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10.

So, mark the date and remember to change your clocks on the right day.

You won't want to miss out on a minute of the worship services, Sunday School, and Bible classes.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 JUNE 17-21 8:30-11:30 AM

This year's VBS program is *Celebrate the Savior: Jesus Gives Us Joy*. There will be more information in next month's *Gabriel's Gazette*, but mark your calendar now and make plans to attend!

2024

Men's Gathering

A Martyr's Death, the Hero's Life

Join other men in Christian fellowship on **April 4-7** at Lakeview Villages in Seymour, IN as Pastor Bryan Wolfmuller teaches us about what Martin Luther called the "pattern of the true Christian life." The martyrs of the early church still preach to us with their lives, their lips, and their blood – encouraging us to live a life of witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Get away and enjoy God's great creation, eat like a king at our hog roast, join in good-natured brotherly competition and much more. Visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration.

Also, a special extended retreat is available this year as the full solar eclipse will be passing right over Camp Lakeview on Monday, April 8th. Sign up to stay Sunday and Monday to view this once-in-a-lifetime event!



PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submitting items for the April *Gazette* is **Monday, March 4.**