

Saving Us from Ourselves: The Easter Language of Psalm 23

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

Even the secular world—unchurched—knows of Psalm 23, primarily because this psalm is popular in funeral liturgy: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” Right from the start, the psalm makes a claim of faith: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. So, what does it mean when we claim the Lord to be my Shepherd?

The image of Jesus as a Shepherd is supposed to be comforting (that shepherds tend and lead the flock, and by association, we are the sheep under God’s protection and watch). But, most people are far removed from sheep in an agrarian world to understand the full breath of being a shepherd. Perhaps we need another contemporary metaphor to help us grasp what we are claiming? Maybe Jesus is like a teacher taking 45 kindergartens on a field trip to the aquarium, where there are countless opportunities for children to get enticed and distracted and leave the classroom fold. Maybe protection and comfort than look like an engaging experience, followed by the assurance that each child is accounted for on the bus ride back. I can relate to that one. But, I think there is more here to parse out in this shepherd metaphor...

So, usually when I have trouble understanding sometimes I learn best through juxtaposition. That is, taking two unlike things, in order to understand their differences a little better:

A couple of years ago, Phil and I embarked on a sunset canoe trip around the Busch River. We were halfway our trip and come to this clearing where we simply stopped. As the group of boats all held onto each other boat to huddle together in this clearing, our tour guide began pointing out all the human efforts to bring back wildlife to this part of the tour: there were specialized birdhouses with a predator shield for a specific breed of wood ducks. There was a neatly planted row of some kind of water grasses that was introduced to entice a certain kind of fish to breed in the area. Then, our tour guide told us to close our eyes and image seeing this space filled with raw sewage...a watery

landfill. Because, just a short time ago, within our own time, it was...this clearing was where sewage was pumped. It was placing this beautiful clearing juxtaposed to a landfill that I realized my own responsibility...how one person’s actions can add to the collective problem. It was through this story of destruction that I had a greater appreciation to the restoration that was happening. I probably would have ignored it otherwise.

We need protection and care from ourselves. Think of the promises made by so many in our culture—promises of wealth, love, sex, well-being, identity, community. Are not the purveyors of these promises mere hired hands, getting what they can from us for their own benefit, but becoming mighty scarce when their promises fail to deliver? What can a car, a job, a lover, or toothpaste really do to enrich our lives? Can they finally redeem our pain, or welcome us home? Ultimately, this is what we truly yearn to have. This brings us back to the comforts of the 23rd Psalm: home looks like never being in want again, waters being still, peace amidst the fear, and dwelling with the Lord forever. This is what ultimate peace and protection looks like. I want to do some juxtapositioning myself. I found an interesting piece called *The Antithesis of Psalm 23*, that is, the exact opposite, of what the Psalm 23 is meant to do (in bolded red).

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

"The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.

In this Issue



Youth News, page 5

Member Spotlight, page 6

...and so much more!

The Lord make me lie down in green pastures
It makes me lie down only when exhausted.

And leads me beside still waters
It leads me into deep depression.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right paths
for your names sake
It hounds my soul. It leads me in circles of frenzy, for activities sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil
Even though I run frantically from task to task, I will never get it all done.

For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me
For my ideal is with me; Deadlines and my need for approval, they drive me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
They demand performance from me, beyond the limits of my schedule.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup is running over.
They anoint my head with migraines, my “inbox” overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Surely, fatigue and time pressures shall follow me all the days of my life. And, I will dwell in the bonds of frustration forever.

(Anonymous “antithesis” to Psalm 23, denoted in red text, painting the picture of a person harangued and harassed by the all-powerful clock).

We need God’s protection because we have created a disillusioned world, as “where normal is getting dressed in clothes that we buy for work and driving through traffic in a car that we are still paying for—in order to get the job that we need to pay for the clothes and the car, and the house that we leave vacant all day so we can afford to live in it.” (That’s a quote from Pulitzer Prize journalist, Ellen Goodman).

Finally, Jesus as a shepherd makes us consider the tools that a shepherd uses: He does not have fancy equipment, even by antiquity’s standards...a heavy cloak to protect from the harsh elements; a staff to control the movement of the sheep; a small sack of food to entice the animals, and—a reference in the book of Judges—suggests a small flute to calm the flock. The preferred tool to call us back was simple, too...Two beams of wood, in the shape of the cross. In that moment, we realize that our chains are free...that as sheep, we are not the sacrificial animal for this life as the norm goes. It is the shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
And, all God’s people say, “Amen!”

Having a happy Lent!

by: Pastor Richard Kiesling

Just these past few days we’ve tasted something of springtime. Balmy temperatures, sunny skies, a beautiful day to be outside... The realist in each of us knows that there are still plenty of times for the snow to come, the sleet to fall, and we climb in our beds with our heating blankets on!

So it is with Lent. Lent means springtime and as we go through Lent we should never forget that at the end of Lent is Easter. Perhaps we have become so accustomed to thinking of Jesus’ birth at Christmas, his resurrection at Easter, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that we overlook this important fact: every day is to be a celebration that Jesus came to live our life as a human being just like us; that Jesus’ resurrection turns everything upside down and assures us that salvation is an accomplished fact; that every day we live by the presence of the Holy Spirit of God so that we are enabled, inspired and motivated by the Spirit’s presence with us.

As we come closer to the end of these 40 days, Holy Week intervenes with the remembrance of what our Lord endured – his arrest, conviction, crucifixion and burial. Easter would remind us that Easter could not have happened if our Lord Jesus had not been dead! Lent is important for Easter for it reminds us to look back at the way we live so we can make corrections to our life so our faith is confessed by the way we act, think, and speak every day.

So I would say to all: have a Happy Lent! Let these days of focus and discipline open us up to the working of God’s Spirit so we can reaffirm our baptismal promise, strengthen our faith, and commit ourselves to making our faith the basis for our hope, joy, and daily living.

Every day my wife and I pray this Lenten prayer:

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May I suggest you might like to make it a part of your daily Lenten prayers also.

Holy Stitchers

by Susan Hood

Gladys Merrifield gathered together a group of women together to turn donated fabric into usable quilts in 2009. In 2015, Debbie Burke renamed the group the "Holy Stitchers." To this day everything the group uses is donated. Beverly Budnick keeps us supplied with batting. People bring us old sheets for backing and leftover fabric which Donna Campbell and Mae Corbin turn into beautiful, colorful quilt tops. Joanne Cross, Pat Sadler, Diane Romain, Carol Miller, Charlotte Butler, Arlene Weber, and Barbara Barbour cut backing, tie quilts and Susan Hood finishes the edges. The quilts have gone to Lutheran World Relief, homeless in the woods, Anna's House, Harford Family House, several raffles to benefit the church and many other places.



**Palm Sunday: 8:30 & 10:15
with special dramatic reading and music**

**Maundy Thursday @ 7:30
with footwashing**

**Good Friday service @ 7:30
Fallston United Methodist**



Lenten Soup Supper Workshops

March 7	Workshop: Chair Yoga Practice a calming chair yoga routine with Bridget Strama, Owner/Operator of Child's Heart Yoga. You will learn how yoga combines body, brain and breath to reduce anxiety and stress, and strengthen your mental, physical and spiritual self. Worship Theme: Taste
March 14	Workshop: Healthy Harford Worship Theme: Hearing
March 21	Worship: Seder Meal Sign up on the bulletin board located by the front double doors. Worship Theme: Smell

Sunday School News

by: Larry Phillips

Here it is, the end of February, and Lent has begun! We have had our first taste of Spring weather. The first day of Spring is almost here (March 20th) followed by Palm Sunday on March 25th, and then Easter on April 1st.

During February, Pastor Chas had an interesting response to a question that my grandson Reed had asked of her during Wiggle Worship. "Why did Jesus die?" What an interesting question from a five year old. This goes to show that Church and family influences do have an impact on our children. What was even more interesting was the quick response Pastor Chas had to the question, a testament to her sage like qualities as a Pastor and how the Holy Spirit is constantly working within her. If I remember correctly, the response she gave was that Jesus died so that He could become the bridge in our faith walk to God. What an excellent image to explain Christ's death and keeping it simple enough for a five year old and a sixty eight year to understand. As John 14:6 states;

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

I will never forget that response. I kept pondering the bridge and walking image that Pastor Chas had portrayed to see how the Holy Spirit fits within this picture that she began to paint for me. To me, it is the Holy Spirit that is the experienced trail guide that leads us down this path we call life. As part of this image, I like to think that the Holy Spirit comes to us like we would listen to a radio station. First we have to turn the radio on, open our hearts, then find the station, accept Christ as our Savior. Then we need to set the volume so that the message is heard loud and clear, and resist the temptations of daily living.

As we take this journey of faith, it is important to listen to our trail guide the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that constantly moves us and keeps us on the path to God through Christ. It is also important to teach our children the importance of faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us through life and our faith walk, to eventually be with God. Remember as Christian adults we are constantly being looked to as examples of faith by our children. It is very gratifying to see our children grow in faith as they learn the lessons of love, faith and salvation as they progress through our Sunday School program. It is also gratifying to see these lessons being re-enforced at home.

In closing, I will leave you with John 14:26;

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

We just need to keep the radio turned on, tuned in, and the volume set loud enough to drown out temptation in order to receive the message that the Holy Spirit brings.

Thrivent Benefit Members

by: Bea Sherrill

Do you have 2017 Choice Dollars to direct? If so, they will expire after March 31, 2018. You may direct the money to Holy Communion by logging in to your account at Thrivent.com, scrolling down to "Thrivent Choice" and designating HCLC to receive the money. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and, when prompted, say "Choice Dollars" to talk with a representative. (Have your member number or contract number handy.) Contact Fred Hildebrandt, 410-838-1936, if you want to direct the money to a specific fund at church. Questions? Contact Bea Sherrill, 410-557-7243, or Joanne Cross, 443-981-3185.



THRIVENT
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Virtual Bible Study

by Pastor Chas

Virtual bible study will resume after Lent! Luther was a visionary in using new media that was available to him, so in the spirit of the reformation, let's use this new media that is available to us to study the word of God! We can connect through "virtual meeting" spaces that bridge the miles that separate us without leaving the comforts of our homes!



Worship in Lent

by Pastor Bob Ridenour

Even though Lent is not mentioned in the bible, it has been observed for at least the last 1,600 years. Lent is an approximately six week time of penance and reflection upon our lives in light of the suffering and death of Jesus. Lent is observed from Ash Wednesday until the night before Easter.

As Lent is a season of penance, worship is more subdued then in any other season of the Christian year. The alter color is royal purple, which is also the color of repentance. Both meanings are appropriate for Lent. Jesus suffers in his earthly life, just as we do. Yet, he moves always toward the resurrection, which for him, and for us, lifts him up as the Lord of Life and the Sovereign of Glory.

We begin Lent by wearing ashes, a sign of repentance for our sin, and of the sufferings of life. In Lent we remember that we are all failing to be the people Christ has called us to be and also remember that God's grace opens the way to a resurrected life for everyone. It is important that we do this because, as prideful humans, we are always tempted and tending toward a less than Christ-like life, and so in danger of missing the resurrection. Lent is a time to turn this around and begin to walk again with the Lord.

Though subdued and penitential, Lent is still a time of hope and joy. It is because we already know of God's love and grace toward us and all God's creatures, and so, even in penitential Lent we rejoice in the good news of Easter

Traveling? Not Feeling Well? Can't Come to Church? Holy Communion Comes to YOU!

People get sick. People travel. We understand that and try to find new ways that you can still remain connected with our community. While you are away, join any service by watching our webcam at webcam.HolyCommunionFallston.org

This is an innovative way to connect the gifts of technology to practical faith. However, this gift of technology comes with its own limitations, in that, this webcam can never fully create the sense of community that one is part by actually being in the pews. The webcam is on for all services and only shows the front portion of the sanctuary. The webcam works on most devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs, iPhones®, and iPads®). It does not work on Amazon Kindle Fire® tablets.

Let us know if you are watching our services.

Please send comments or issues relating to the broadcast to webcam@HolyCommunionFallston.org

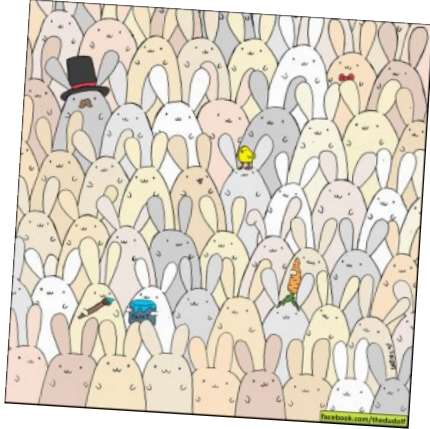


Youth News

by Penny Sadler-Vocke, Youth Leader

Easter Eggstravaganza

Come to Holy Communion to break bread in our Palm Sunday tradition, the Annual HCLC Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon Eggstravaganza on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Festivities will include our Easter Egg Hunt, games and what Lutherans do best, a pot luck luncheon. We will provide the main course; you bring the sides and desserts. Hope to see you there and please bring a friend.



Calling all Youth from 3rd grade through high school!

Youth Groups are back in full swing for 3rd grade, 4-6th grade, and our high school youth. These groups will meet as one group for a meal and opening prayer, then they will split up into age appropriate groups for a bible study and crafts. The monthly gatherings will be held one Sunday per month from 12:00-1:30 pm per the following schedule:

March 25th

April 22nd

May 18th – End of Year Picnic

Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to VBS

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for **VBS 2018**, “Maker Fun Factory...Created by God, Built for a Purpose!” Registration is now open for participants and volunteers. You can access the sign-up page either via HCLC website, or this link: vbspro.events/p/c8f90a. This year’s program will be free of charge, and will include a dinner option. Please visit the webpage for full details!



Think Tank

The Think tank will gather for our March meeting on Tuesday, March 13th at 7pm. If you have any ideas or suggestions to share, please plan to join us!



Houston Bound

The Houston Youth are still working on their fundraising efforts to get to their goal for the national Youth Gathering in Houston Texas in June. As part of the preparation for the gathering, the youth are meeting each month for fellowship and a preparation bible study. Please feel free to approach them to ask them about this process.



Influenza Prevention

by Barb Huber

Influenza (the Flu) is a contagious respiratory disease that infects the nose, throat and lungs. The illness may be mild or severe and can lead to death. Flu season occurs between November and March. Each year 20 percent of the population gets the seasonal flu and approximately 36,000 people die.

Signs and symptoms of the flu include fever, chills, headache, body aches, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and feeling fatigued. The flu virus is believed to be spread by droplets when people cough, sneeze and talk. You may also get the flu by touching a surface that is contaminated with the flu virus. Healthy individuals are able to infect others one day prior to onset of symptoms and for a period of seven days.



The flu may be different each year; there are many strains of the virus. The degree of severity and symptoms will vary from year to year. Complications of the flu may include pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration and worsening of chronic underlying diseases (ie diabetes).

The best way to prevent the flu is by receiving a flu vaccine. The vaccine needs to be given each year. Protection from the virus takes approximately two weeks after receiving the vaccine. The Center for Disease Control recommends that all individuals over the age of 6 months get a vaccine each year. Individuals who are allergic to eggs, had previous reaction to a flu vaccine, which have an active illness, or history of Guillian- Barre Syndrome should consult their physician before having the vaccine.

To prevent the flu get your vaccine, avoid contact with others when you are sick or they are sick, wash your hands often (hand gel works too), and practice healthy living with diet, rest and physical activity.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov .

With blessings, Barb Huber RN CSRN, FCHN

Member Spotlight

by Arlene Weber

What brought you to HCLC?

"We moved to Fallston in 1993 and found HCLC to be a small and welcoming place of worship."

What do you see as your gifts to serve God, God's people, and the church?

"I enjoy paying it forward to help people with anything that I have the skill sets to assist them with that promotes hope and well being through the love of God."

Favorite ice cream flavor?

"B&J's Cherry Garcia"

What is something people may be surprised to know about you?

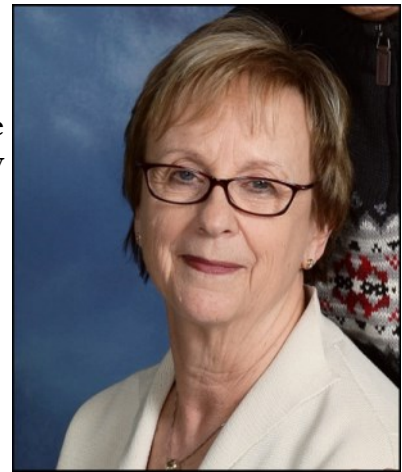
"I enjoy riding in the sidecar of my husband's Harley Davidson's motorcycle."

What bible verse is meaningful to you?

"Psalm 23 "Lord is my Shepherd"."

How do you serve at HCLC?

"Choir, Altar Guild, Assisting Minister, Witness committee member"



Easter Flowers

Don't forget to order your Easter flowers! Order forms will be available beginning Sunday, March 4th in the bulletins and in the Narthex.

Orders are due no later than March 25th .



Lovin' Life Seniors

by Nancy Campbell

Our goal is to offer friendship and support to one another through social events. Please join us! Invite your friends! Our 2018 schedule and sign-up sheets for upcoming events are posted on the senior's bulletin board in the hallway. Please read the Sunday bulletins and Bread and Wine for any changes to the schedule below. All activities take place on 2nd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

2018 CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 13 at noon

5-10 Johnny's—Bel Air

Tuesday, April 10 at noon

Olive Tree—Aberdeen

Tuesday, May 8 at noon

Fisherman's Catch—Forest Hill Bowling Lanes

Tuesday, June 12 at noon

Steel Fish Restaurant—Bel Air

Tuesday, July 10 at noon

Madonna Seafood—Rte. 23

Tuesday, August 14 at noon

Friendly Farm—Upperco

Tuesday, September 11 at noon

Crab Feast at church

Tuesday, October 9 at noon

Wargo's Restaurant—Jarrettsville, Rte. 23

Tuesday, November 13 at noon

Silver Spring Mining Restaurant-Bel Air, Rte. 1

Tuesday, December 11 at noon

Union Hotel—Port Deposit or Manor Tavern--

Monkton

We welcome new ideas as well as new members. If interested contact: Nancy Campbell 410-836-7688; Frances Gosnell 410-893-4622; Jeanette Hastings 410-893-7590; Pat Kellermann 410-679-4624; Ellen Priebe 410-679-8655.

“Good Grief” Group

The “Good Grief” group will hold their next meet Monday, March 19 at 6:00 at the church.



March Birthdays



03-02- Kelly Bark

03-02- Bea Sherrill

03-03- Diana Appel

03-03- Vanessa Perkins

03-04- Craig Bark

03-04- Arlene Hildebrandt

03-04- Evan Snyder

03-05- Aidan Bowling

03-05- Liam Thanner

03-09- Jerry Ey

03-10- Janet Wirtanen

03-11- Heather Billings

03-12- Fred Hildebrandt

03-12- Christine Krieger

03-13- Rebecca Gaines

03-13- Chris Phillips

03-14- Justin Plott

03-15- Paul Airey

03-15- Kim Ey

03-15- Eric Thompson

03-16- Debbie Mueller

03-17- Diane Ogle-Sullivan

03-19- Paige Eyler

03-19- Bob Kruelle

03-19- Scott Taylor

03-24- Neil Huber

03-24- Eleanor Schissler

03-24- Aubrey Shaver

03-26- Candiss Dominick

03-26- Kathi Parris

03-26- Larry Phillips

03-27- Nancy Campbell

03-27- Adrienne Smith

03-28- Jimmy Plantholt

03-28- Robert Reed

03-28- Ethan Smith

03-29- Abigail Reed

03-30- Noah Bark

03-30- Ken Horn

03-31- Kimberly Deems

Happy Birthday

Do you have a **March** birthday but do not see your name printed here? That means we do not have your complete information on file. Please contact Hailea in the church office to update your information.

Men's group

The new Men's Group will hold their second meeting Friday, March 14 at 5:00 at the Bel Air Cracker Barrel. Please let Ron Mickley know if you plan to attend. His phone number is 301-498-1451.



HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor —The Reverend Chasity L. Wiener



Council Member—Dave Frieman



Council Member - Arlene Hildebrandt - **President**



Council Member - Kelly Clavell - **Secretary**



Fred Hildebrandt - **Treasurer** (appointed)



Council Member - Jon Perkins



Council Member - Marcia Mickley

Council Member - Ron Mickley - **Vice-President**

Be sure to check out our calendar for important dates, including the start of Sunday School and new opportunities to grow in faith.



Council Member - Debbie Mueller -



Council Member - Bruce Amrein



Council Member - Bertha Deck



Council Member - Doug Mueller



Council Member - Eric Thompson



NEWS from

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

March 2018

“REACHING OUT TO SHARE CHRIST’S LOVE”

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Is a growing community
of faith that exists to provide
the Fallston Community with
a variety of opportunities
for special development in:

WORSHIP

REACHING OUT

LEARNING

WITNESS

Come and be part of our Christian worship!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 55
621 Old Fallston Road
Fallston, Maryland 21047-0055
443-299-6134
HolyCommunionLC@comcast.net
HolyCommunionFallston.org

Sign up to receive the synod e-letter.

Go to demdsynod.org and follow the links to the e-letter.

You learn about free concerts, trips, activities and job possibilities.

Worship Services

8:30am - Traditional Service

10:15am - Contemporary Service

10:15am - Sunday School

“REACHING OUT TO SHARE CHRIST’S LOVE!”