

Happenings at Hope

March - April ~ Vol. 5, No. 2



Dear members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church,

In only a few weeks, we will have come to Holy Week. Holy Week runs from Palm Sunday (March 25th this year) through Easter (April 1st), and is the most significant time in the Christian Church year. One especially unique thing about Holy Week is that it contains a church service that lasts for three days. This *Paschal Triduum* (Easter Three) begins on Maundy Thursday and goes through Easter Sunday. Even though we will not be staying at our church building for that entire period of time, in a certain sense our worship will not stop over these days; it will only take a break. This is why there is not the usual benediction at the end of worship on Maundy Thursday, nor is there an invocation or benediction on Good Friday.

The events that we will remember over these three days are the culmination of the whole of human history. On the cross, Jesus Christ kept the promise God had made to our first parents after the fall; that he would send a descendant of theirs into the world who would crush the devil's head. From the empty tomb, the triune God announced for all time that Christ had conquered death. And already on Maundy Thursday Christ had established for his New Testament Church the holy meal of his body and blood.

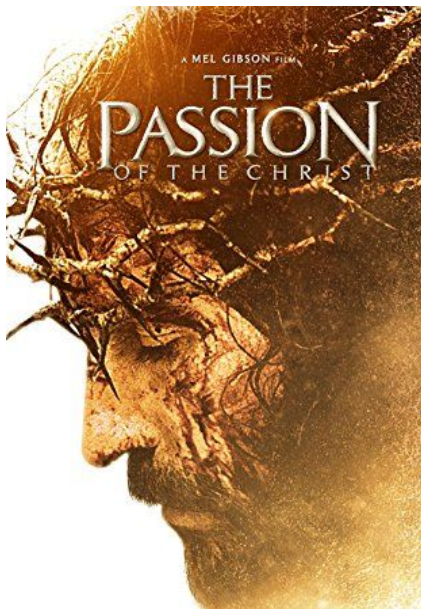
Even if it has not been your habit in the past, I would encourage you to attend all three "parts" of this great service this year. The events on which each

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service is focused are the last three chapters, if you will, in God's story of salvation. This is a story which never gets old for us; both because we need to keep hearing this story, and because we know that God has woven us into this story through faith in Baptism.

Come receive the meal Christ has prepared for you. Come and see Jesus going to the cross in your place. And come and see Jesus coming out of his tomb in victory - for him and for you!

May God bless and keep always
-Pastor Webber



At 7pm on the evening of March 25th, Palm Sunday, we will be showing *The Passion of the Christ*. In the opinion of many (including Pastor Webber) this is the most biblically and historically accurate thematic presentation of Christ's suffering and death.

This is certainly not a movie that any of us would consider "fun" to watch. And it is also not a film that is appropriate for all ages (it is rated R). But the benefit of watching this film is that it shows us the price tag for Easter. Before Christ rose to life for our justification, he first had to give himself into death for our sins. This is not to say that watching this movie is better than, or even the equivalent of, remembering these events in worship as we will later in Holy Week. But, due to this film's content and quality of presentation, watching it together the evening of Palm Sunday can be a spiritually edifying activity.

Easter Potluck

After our Easter Sunday service, everyone is welcome to stay for a potluck. There will be a signup sheet for the meal on the sanctuary door in the weeks before Easter.



This year's Lutheran Youth Association (LYA) convention will be held on the campus of the University of Puget Sound the last week of July. This convention is a wonderful chance for young people from ELS congregations all over the country to come together for worship, learning, and fellowship.

Both Pastor Webber and Chris Hoffman will be attending the convention this year, along with hopefully a good number of the teens from our congregation. The cost for attending is \$250, and this year there will not be substantial travel costs, because the convention is close enough that we can drive.

For regular updates, check out <https://www.facebook.com/ELS.Youth/>

Parish News

Online Content

Our congregation has both a website (<http://westjordanlutherans.org/>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WestJordanLutherans/>). This is where a lot of new content can be found from both our congregation and from our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. For example, if you missed a service, the website's video page always has the most recent Sunday Service, and also bulletins from the past few weeks. And if you want to see an older service, there's a link on that page to our church's Youtube page (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWnR1mY_2MVhh7dATznglYg) where you can find years worth of sermons and services.

If you are on Facebook, and you want to regularly see posts made on our church's page, along with "liking" our page, make sure to "like" or comment on those posts once in a while. This will signal to Facebook that more of this content should be included in your news feed (if you aren't on Facebook, and this all sounds like nonsense...well maybe you're right).

Giving

Month	Needed	Given	Difference
January	\$6,000	\$4,622	\$1,378
February	\$6,000	\$5,334	\$666

Upcoming Events

In addition to regularly scheduled services and Bible Studies, here are some planned events for the coming months:

March

- 7 - BLC Band Concert, 7:30pm
- 25 - Movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, 7pm
- 29 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- 30 - Good Friday Service, 7pm

April

- 1 - Easter Service & Meal
- 8 - Youth Group, 12pm
- 10-14 - West Coast & Emmaus Conferences, Tacoma WA