

THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lindsborg, Kansas

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In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. - 1 Peter 1:3b

Over 100 years ago, Arnold van Gennep discovered that all human cultures ritualize certain events marking the passage from one life status to another. So for a baby, there may be a naming ceremony; for a child becoming an adolescent there is another ceremony; for an adolescent becoming an adult there is another ceremony; etc. The "rite of passage" becomes a way to publicly acknowledge that the person has a new status.

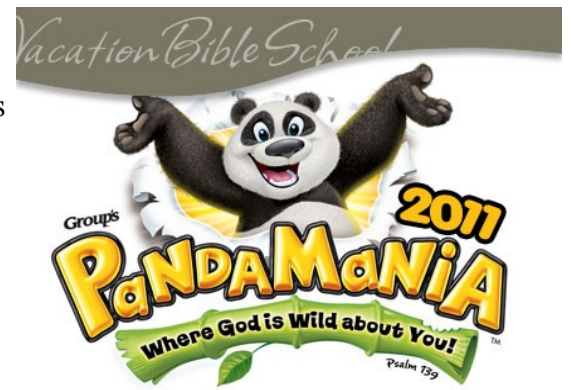
Although the ceremonies themselves are different from culture to culture, all cultures have some of these kinds of ceremonies. This was one reason why Martin Luther did not think that marriage should be a sacrament: all cultures have ways of publicly acknowledging that a man and a woman have become husband and wife. God as Creator is clearly involved in marriage. But God's blessing on this "order of creation" is valid even if the couple does not acknowledge God the Father or Jesus His Son. Why then do we do weddings in church? There are several reasons: (a) so that the Christian community can witness the passing over from one status to another; thereby the couple becomes accountable to the Christian community as well; (b) so that God's Word might encourage and instruct the couple; and (c) so that the Christian community can lift the couple up to God in prayer.

May 2011 will be full of rites of passage at Messiah. For example, we will celebrate the completion of stages of education as some graduate high school and others graduate college. On May 8, we will celebrate the education which Bethany College provides as we welcome President Leonard and the College Choir here to worship with us. On May 14, we will celebrate the union of Ashlee Blomberg and Lonny Dauer as they make vows before God and the assembled. On May 15, Jeremiah Apel will Affirm his Baptism. On Holy Saturday (April 23), we said farewell to Kenny Lutman; but those of us who remain after him will have much adjusting to do in May and for months to come. Evangelism which has been our topic in Lent is a kind of preparation for someone else's rite of passage, the "new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:3b).

As you or your loved one experience rites of passage this time of year, we hope you will let Messiah be a place to get **instruction** for the statuses of life, **prayer** as we live our ways into the different phases and stages of life and **loving accountability** as we grow into the individuals and community God is calling us to be. Welcome to this family! Welcome to Jesus' love! Welcome to the living hope He provides! - Pastor Dean

Vacation Bible School

Bethany/Messiah Vacation Bible School will be held Tuesday – Friday, May 31-June 3, 9:00 - 11:30 am, at Bethany Church. Registration forms will be available after May 1, online and in the church offices. The curriculum, Pandamania, focused on Psalm 139, will be used. The key points and stories are as follows:



Day 1 - Bible Point: God made you.

Bible Story: God creates the world (Genesis 1).

Day 2 Bible Point: God listens to you.

Bible Story: Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-39).

Day 3 - Bible Point: God watches over you.

Bible Story: Jonah tries to escape from God (Jonah 1-3).

Day 4 - Bible Point: God loves you, no matter what.

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life (Luke 23:1–24:12).

Theme Verse: “Lead me along the path of everlasting life.” (Psalm 139:24)

Many helpers are needed. (Please call Melissa Brumbaugh 227-3065, Holly Lindquist 227-8905, Joyce Peterson 227-2201, or Rebecca VanDerWege 227-4211 to volunteer.)

Sandzén Gallery to host 'Tribute to Kathleen'

The Sandzén Gallery will host 'Tribute to Kathleen' at 3 pm, May 1 to celebrate the life of Kathleen Reynolds Koons. Included in the program will be Tråblås, the Gallery Trio and a women's octet. Members of Tråblås are Paula Patterson, Flute; Ellen Neufeld, oboe; and A. Jay Steinberg, clarinet. The Gallery Trio is comprised of Ruth Ann Leaf, violin; Linda Lungstrom, cello; and Linda Newfield, piano.

Kathleen Koons and her friends sang for many years in a Lindsborg women's octet. The current women's octet for the program includes Mary Swenson, Molly Johnson, Becky Anderson, Leah Ann Anderson, Sharon Bruce, Kirsten Bruce, Carol Gusenius and Lori Nelson. Piano accompanist for the women's octet will be Kate Littich.

Kathleen's daughter, Helen Gragert, is an artist who regularly shows her blown glass at the Sandzén Gallery. Her husband, Steve, will offer a spoken tribute to Kathleen during the program.

A reception for the Gragerts, musicians and audience will follow the program. There is no charge for admission; however, there is limited seating. For more information, call the Gallery at (785-227-2220).

*You are
cordially invited
to attend a
retirement-farewell
reception in honor of*

Gretchen Norland



**Monday, May 2, 2011
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Lindsborg Middle
School Library
401 N. Cedar
Lindsborg, Kansas**

*Gretchen will retire at the end
of the 2010-11 school year after
teaching 32 years for USD 400.*

PERSPECTIVE

Copenhagen's Church of Our Lady, Denmark's national cathedral, features life-sized marble statues of Jesus and His twelve apostles, sculpted by famous Danish artist Bertel Thorvaldsen.

Although the face3s of t3he apostles are easily visible, you can't look into the face of the Christ-figure unless you kneel at His feet. This indeed, is where our faith grows and our hope endures: at the feet of our Savior.

Thank yous

Thanks to all who contributed to the free-will offering for Prairie Land Foods. We received a total of \$125.00 which will be used to purchase food for families in need.

To: Coupon Clipping Lady

I just wanted to thank you for using your gift and donating all those cut coupons. You have blessed me and my family. We have been able to try new food and have cut our grocery bill in half. We have a family of 7 and they help so much! If I knew who you were I would give you a big hug.

		First Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel	Gospel Theme	Special
2nd Easter	May 1	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31	Doubting Thomas	
3rd Easter	May 8	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35	On the road to Emmaus	Bethany College
4th Easter	May 15	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10	The Good Shepherd	Affirmation of Baptism
5th Easter	May 22	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14	The Way, the Truth, the Life	
6th Easter	May 29	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit	
Ascension	June 2	Acts 1:1-11	47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53	Jesus ascends to His Father	
7th Easter	June 5	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11	High Priestly Prayer	VBS Service
Pentecost	June 12	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23	The Arrival of the Holy Spirit	World Cafe
Trinity	June 19	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	8	1 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20	The 1-in-3; 3-in-1	

May 2011 Youth Events

Thanks, thanks, thanks... Thanks to everyone for their generous donations for the NYG fundraisers on March 27 and April 13. Thanks also for all the donations for the Easter Brunch. We appreciate your support.

Congratulations to our Seniors! Stephen DeWitt, Rachel Loder, Haley Martin, Daniel Norland, Elias Peterson, Taylor Whittaker, and Tiffany Youngquist. These youth will be honored on May 8 at Bethany and Messiah. Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Confirmands! Josh Allbright, Yeremiah Apel, Courtney Bryan, Clayton Couchman, Justin Kelling, Nils Peterson, Tim Ruble, & Benton VanDerWege. These youth will be confirmed on May 15.

Jr. and Sr. High - All youth are asked to help with Vacation Bible School, May 31- June 3. Please call Joyce to sign up to help.

Sr. High (Grades 9-12) - Open Lunches, May 23 and 24.
Join us for lunch in North Park. Bring your friends and an appetite.

Next month - The youth will lead the VBS closing worship service on Sunday, June 5, in North Park at 10:00 am. There will be a potluck after the service.

LeAnna DeWitt 227-3735 ldsewwhat@sbcglobal.net
Joyce Peterson 227-2201 joycepeterson@sbcglobal.net



Thanks to all who contributed money to Buck- A-Chick. We raised \$330.00!

Adult Studies in May

Adult Sunday School (11-11:45 am)

1. **Adult Forum** - May 1 - Unleashing the Gospel (Acts), part 3/3; May 8 - "Who are the Evangelicals?" - a discussion on *the Lutheran's* cover article for April 2011; May 15 - TBA

2. **Under-the-Hill Group** - Finished for spring. Will resume in the fall.

3. **Social Statements** - We discuss ELCA social statements. Coordinated by Kirsten Bruce. Meets in the basement pole room.

A Bible study on **Colossians** is held every other Sunday afternoon at 5 pm (see weekly schedule). You are welcome to join us! Venues change from week to week, so watch the bulletin for more information.

A Bible study on **Genesis** meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:15 pm for **GenXer's**, *i.e.* those born 1960-1985 (and others born thereabouts). In May, we will meet on the 8th and 22nd at the Apels' (231 N. Main). For more information or to register your interest, communicate with Pastor Dean.

Men meet every **Saturday morning** at 8:00 am for a Bible study. We are presently discussing the Gospel of **Luke**.



World Cafe - After Worship on Sunday, June 12

Put Sunday, June 12th, on your calendar! Last Fall the Church Council requested that the entire congregation take a six-month break from officially sponsored conversations about the decisions made at the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly of August 2009. We are grateful to you all for respecting this break as we have continued to focus on other matters of crucial importance to the congregation.

As some members desire continued conversation concerning these issues, your Church Council has agreed to enlist the services of the Kansas Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR, www.kipcor.org) to lead us in a conversational process. To structure our dialogue on June 12, KIPCOR will facilitate a *Congregational Café*, based upon the World Café model (www.theworldcafe.com).

Here's how the *Congregational Café* will work. After worship on June 12, we'll enjoy a brunch together (more details on that later). Dessert and coffee will not be served until the Café starts, to provide an inviting atmosphere for informal table conversations. Gary Flory and Kirsten Zerger from KIPCOR will provide questions to guide our sharing with one another. Use of a talking piece will assure that no one voice dominates the conversation. Large sheets of paper will be placed on tables, and participants will be encouraged to write or draw with markers to capture the essence of table conversations in ways that are both creative and useful to the congregation. The Café format focuses on small groups, with individuals moving from table to table so that many voices can be heard.

We plan that we'll be done with brunch and the conversations by no later than 1:00 pm.

It is our hope that all members will want to be part of this important process. Having all members involved in this conversation can strengthen our congregation and allow us to grow in Christian love and understanding of each other. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

- Marc Anderson, *President*; Dean Apel, *Pastor*

REVELATION - Are you interested in participating in an eleven-session Beth Moore Bible study on Revelation this summer? If so, please let the office or Pastor Dean know. We'll establish details (time, day and venue) when we know who is interested.

"Dost thou understand me, sinful soul? He wrestled with justice, that thou mightest have rest; He wept and mourned, that thou mightest laugh and rejoice; He was betrayed, that thou mightest go free; He was apprehended, that thou mightest escape; He was condemned, that thou mightest be justified; and He was killed, that thou mightest live; He wore a crown of thorns, that thou mightest wear a crown of glory; and He was nailed to the cross, with His arms wide open, to show with what freeness all His merits shall be bestowed on the coming soul; and how heartily He will receive you into His bosom." - John Bunyan

Message from Mary....

The Empty Egg -- An Easter Story

I am touched anew each time I read this story. I hope it touches your heart during this Easter season:

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy just irritated his teacher.

One day she called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Forresters entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family, she thought. Lord, please help me to be more patient with Jeremy. From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him.

"I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My daddy helped me," he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up." The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty. -- Author Unknown

May you experience God's gift of Grace through our Risen Lord and Savior during this Easter season.

ME



Women's News

May 25, 2011 Circle Meetings

Martha Circle - 10:00 am at Doris Carlson's

Hannah Circle - 7:00 pm at Joyce Englund's, Mary Evans leader

Mary-Ruth Circle - 7:00 pm at Mary Lindgren's

Hannah-Martha



Mary-Ruth Circles

Prayer Shawl Ministry

You are invited to join our prayer shawl ministry. We have a variety of patterns both crocheted and knitted. Joyce Englund is available to help beginners or anyone who might need assistance. We even have yarn you can use. We will be meeting the first and third Mondays of the month from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Swedish Country Inn. If you have questions, please contact Mary at 227.5747 or marybridges@mlc.kscoxmail.com. Open to all.



SCRAPBOOKING AND CRAFT NIGHT

FRIDAY—May 13—6:00 pm to midnight



Scrapbooking

Do you have projects that need to be finished? Bring them and join us for an evening of scrapbooking, fellowship, food and fun. At 6:30 we'll have a light supper, soup and drinks will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a snack to share. Scrapbooking tools of all sorts, including a Cricut, are available for your use. Bring your scrapbook, pictures, papers, and embellishments and create a one-of-a-kind scrapbook.

Not a scrapbooker but want an evening of fellowship and relaxation? Bring your sewing, knitting, crocheting, painting, mending, or just yourself and join us for fellowship and fun.

WICK NOW ON FACEBOOK

Attention Women: WICK (Women In Christ's Kingdom) now has a group on Facebook. Won't you become one of our groupies and connect to women in the Smoky Valley?

Camp Tomah Shinga Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 9, 2011 10:00 am

Information about donating a quilt for the auction or attending is available in the office or at www.tomahshinga.com.

An Easter Prayer

"Almighty God, by the death of Your Son You have destroyed sin and death, and by His resurrection You have restored innocence and everlasting life, in order that, delivered from the power of the devil, we may live in Your kingdom. Grant that we may believe this with our whole heart, and, steadfast in this faith, may praise and thank You evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

(Martin Luther, *Klugsches Gesangbuch*, 1553; text in *Allgemeines Evangelisches Gebetbuch*, 1955, p.430)

Children's Choirs

May 1 - Cherub Choir

May 15 - Seraph Choir

We are also planning an end of school party.

Stay tuned for details!



Bethany College

Sunday - Join us on

Sunday May 8 as we

celebrate Bethany

College. President Ed

Leonard will give us a

report on the state of the

College. The Bethany Choir will sing with

and for us. Someone from the Admissions

office will also be available to meet with

parents and youth considering college

opportunities.

