

Concordia News – Large Print

March 2020

Volume 15 A newsletter for members, family, and friends of
Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia
Cemetery Association Number 3



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From Pastor Bruce



One of the mysteries of Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday April 5, is the fact that one day a crowd gathered to praise Jesus entry into Jerusalem and in a very short period of time, gathered to not only evict him from the city but also to kill him. Otherwise moral people are capable of doing evil deeds when swept up into "crowd fever." For evidence of this one need only look to Nazi Germany and the demise of Jews at the hands of crowds. In our own country men in crowds lynching innocence people just because of the color of their skin. During Holy Week we can see not only the frailty/sinfulness of humanity but also our own brokenness/sinfulness. In stark contrast, however, we also see a man of deep integrity and even deeper love who knew that the only way to save humanity (including you and me) was to submit to human evil, be crucified and buried for the purpose of being raised from the dead. In this event we find our one and only true hope for this life and the life to come.

I would like to spend a little time delving into Palm Sunday. What it was and more particularly what it means for you and me today. I pass the following on to you from the website,

"GraspingGod.com" as I found it to get at the major themes of this Holy Day.

The adoring people were praising him, laying down their clothes for him. The Jews, by tradition, waved date palm branches at their king, laying them down in his pathway. Now you know the meaning of Palm Sunday's name

The Jews knew they finally had their King! Jesus was their Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and David - all in one! He would be the new glorious King of Israel, their promised Messiah! They heard about Jesus' miracles, Jesus' teachings and all the greatness of Jesus' life. Now he rides into town on a colt! They were calling him Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. He would lead them out of bondage to the Romans and rule over their beloved nation of Israel!

Unfortunately, the Jews didn't understand the true meaning of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday was to reveal the Kingship of Jesus, true, but it wasn't an earthly rule. **Jesus made himself a King, alright, but he was the King of the Kingdom of God. It's a heavenly kingdom that reigns over all the universe.** It's a spiritual kingdom without boundaries, without conquering armies and without end. God would rebuild national Israel in the distant future, but not now.

The Real Meaning Of Palm Sunday

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, signifying his gentle

humility. His kingdom was meant to be ruled by peace. Had he mounted a strong white stallion he would have signaled a fight for an earthly kingdom.

Jesus' royal court members weren't clothed in dazzling gems and shiny robes, but nearly naked and wearing sandals. They were fishermen, prostitutes, and tax collectors - NOT princes and soldiers.

The real meaning of Palm Sunday, then, is that Jesus Christ is King of the peaceful, spiritual, heavenly Kingdom of God.

Dark Undertones Of Palm Sunday

Pontius Pilate knew he had nothing to fear with this man - there would be no threat to Rome from Jesus Christ. The Sanhedrin (aka the Pharisees and Sadducees), on the other hand, had serious concerns (**John 11:45-53**). They incorrectly feared Jesus would bring the Roman's wrath upon Jerusalem. They were also envious of Jesus' adulation, thusly hating this so-called "King of the Jews." They were so enraged by this triumphant procession that they ground their jaws, clinched their fists and spit the vitriol that boiled within them. Mercy. Had the religious leaders (aka hypocrites) known the Hebrew Scriptures, they would have known that Jesus was their true Messiah, the Son of God (**Matthew 22:29**).

However, people putting their religion before God become idolators blinded to the Bible. Personal sin blinds people to God's reality and truth. The religious leaders loved the glamor of

their positions more than they loved God. Therefore, they feared that Jesus threatened their job security. They valued the successful business model they created at the Temple. The last thing on their minds was God's Son, their Messiah. They were spiritually blind to the Savior of the world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Meaning Of Palm Sunday Hidden To Some People

Jesus made a tremendous statement on this day: **the meaning of Palm Sunday is that Jesus Christ is the Chosen One of God - the King of kings. Jesus is the sovereign ruler over all the Universe!** The worshipers didn't know the extent of it, the Sanhedrin didn't believe it, and the Romans didn't really care. But, for the biblical record that was to come, for our benefit, take note that **Jesus Christ accepted the Kingship of heaven on Palm Sunday.** History reveals this day was his true triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his city and our future, eternal home (**Revelation 21:2**).

Palm Sunday history also reveals that in a few days the wickedness of the common people would be unencumbered by the Spirit (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**). Their evil hearts had free reign (**Jeremiah 17:9**). The result would be Jesus on the cross, hanging high over Calvary. The reigning King of the Kingdom of God would be utterly rejected by mankind. The King would be tortured beyond recognition and finally murdered.

Today's adoring crowds, who waved date palm branches at their

long-awaited King, being displaced by a sinful mob thrusting their fists in hate. "Crucify him!" (**Matthew 27:23b**). It should sadden all of us who love Jesus, knowing and understanding how he suffered during this week of his life.

Grasp This!

Now you know what happened on Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a colt donkey, coming in the name of a peaceful, sovereign God. People were adoring Jesus Christ with excited, grateful hearts. Palm Sunday was a glorious day, but with temporal, dark undertones. Complete human rejection was forthcoming. Jesus' crucifixion was beckoning. Suffering awaited.

Finally, even God the Father would forsake his Son five days hence. Jesus rode into Jerusalem peacefully on a colt. Jesus, with you and me in mind, rode through human praises on a donkey. He accepted the anointing of Kingship over God's eternal, heavenly Kingdom. He withstood the most grueling of human torture. Love for his Father and for you and me, drove him to the cross (**John 3:16**). He rose from death - first to earth, and then to heaven. He reigns from his throne now - waiting for you and me to join him. This amazing King will also anoint each of us, so we can reign with him over the Kingdom (**2 Timothy 2:12a; Revelation 20:6**).

What is the ultimate meaning of Palm Sunday? From God's perspective, Palm Sunday was the necessary anointing of

From Pastor Bruce

Jesus Christ to his rightful throne. The Kingdom of God was awaiting its Ruler. Jesus Christ the King would finally come and rule from the right hand of God.

May you and yours be richly blessed this season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter,

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bruce



Supper at 5 p.m.

Services follow

Wednesdays March 5, 12, 19, 26

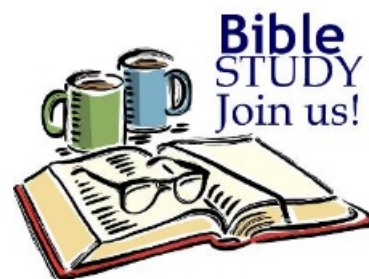
Coffee and Cookie Servers

March 1	Kathy Krogstad	April 5	Carolyn Edwards
March 8	Irene Olson	April 12	Germaine Gress
March 15	Becky Jegtvig	April 19	Lloyd Gunderson
March 22	Polly Hanson	April 26	Orpha Hoelstad
March 29	Linda Koester		



Bible Study

Bible Study times & locations will be announced at each Sunday's worship.



Concordia Ladies

Tuesday, March 10
1:30 p.m.
Fryn' Pan



Join The Romeos!

Retired Old Men Eating Out
7:30 a.m., March 27
Fryn' Pan

Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a home visit, contact Pastor

Bruce at 218-329-2245.



Veteran's Coffee Hour

Join your fellow veterans at the Fargo Air Museum from 10-noon Wednesday, March 11.



Sunday, March 8

Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 7

**First Day
of Spring
Friday
March 20**

**HELLO
SPRING**

Concordia Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday Ham Dinner



Sunday, April 12, 2020
Serving from 11:00 am- 1:00pm

Free Will Offering

6637 80th Avenue North
Glyndon, MN

Take Highway 10 east of Dilworth
approximately 2 miles.

Take the MN 336/I-94 exit and
turn left onto 336/County Road 11

Go North 6 miles. Turn left on 80th
Avenue North.



With Our Thanks
Donations

Concordia Cemetery Association

In Memory of Sally Horpedahl

Ruth & Bill Farabee

Concordia News

Donation

Bev Edenborg



THANK YOU to all outgoing and serving church council and cemetery board members. We depend on your leadership to keep our faith community going strong!

Dates to Remember

Worship Services every Sunday

Coffee Hour: 9 a.m.

Worship: 10 a.m.

Communion first Sunday of the Month

Bible Study

Announced during Sunday Worship

Concordia Ladies

1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10

Veteran Coffee Hour

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 11

ROMEOS

7:30 a.m., Friday, March 27

Ham Dinner

11a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunday, Apr 12

Birthdays

March 1 Peggy Kragnes

March 7 Kathy Grover

March 13 Wescott Tommerdahl

March 20 Karolynn Decker

March 30 David Kragnes

Anniversaries

March 22 Jim & Linda Koester

March 23 Ralph & Barb Grover

March 31 David & Peggy Kragnes

March 2020

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To submit an item for the newsletter:

E-mail news@concordianews.org

Write: Alene Sladky
6938 State Hwy 200 NW
Laporte MN 56461



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Concordia Newsletter Staff

Editors: Karolynn Decker & Sylvia Teigen

Treasurer/Distribution: Walter Teigen

Web Edition: Alene Sladky