



Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

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April 2011

Father of Mercies and God of All Comfort

by Pastor Boehne

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

My wife Valerie and I had planned in the next few weeks to share some good news with the congregation, that we were expecting a fourth child. While the Lord had taken us by surprise a little bit, we were very excited about this blessing He had given us. However, this last week that news changed. We found out on Thursday afternoon that the little baby's heart had stopped beating and God had taken this little life to Himself.

Some of the lab work they had taken for the pregnancy had given them cause for concern and this last Monday (March 21st) they had done an ultrasound to check on the baby. That day the baby's heart was beating well and things looked alright. However, more lab work was done and they were concerned that the baby might be at risk for a miscarriage. On Thursday then we went in again for an ultrasound and discovered that the heart was no longer beating. The baby stopped growing at about 7 weeks old.

Many parents have dealt with such a loss. Our doctor informed us that 10% of all pregnancies end in miscarriage and many estimate that percentage to be even higher. Many of you have probably either dealt with such a loss or known family and friends who have been through a miscarriage or other problems during pregnancy.

We thought it would be wise then to share this news that we might also share the comfort that is ours in Christ Jesus. It was a hard thing to watch them search for a heartbeat on the ultrasound and find none. Especially when we had just heard it days before. But our sorrow quickly gave way to questions. "Where did God take this child?" "Will we see this child in heaven?"

It didn't take too long, however, and we began to remember what God's Word clearly teaches us about such things. God is the author of every human life. His Son Jesus Christ died for the sins of every human life. It doesn't matter what that life looks like—whether it's a tiny little fetus or a mature, grown adult. It doesn't matter how long the life lives—whether 7 weeks or 70 years. Every individual life is important to Him.

Even at 7 weeks old, each child is unique. Born with unique DNA and a particular chromosomal pattern. Each child is God's creation. We trust that He is the "Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort." In 1542, Luther wrote a short treatise called "Comfort for Women who have had a Miscarriage." He writes, *"these mothers should calm themselves and have faith that God's will is always better than ours, though it may seem otherwise to us from our human point of view. They should be confident that God is not angry with them or with others who are involved....do not be*

dismayed or grieved about your child or yourself, and know that your prayer is pleasing to God and that God will do everything much better than you can comprehend or desire. "Call upon me," he says in Psalm 50:15, "in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (LW 43:247-250)

Why do such things happen in this world? After the fall into sin, God said to Eve in Genesis 3:16, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children." Because of sin, sometimes that pain in childbearing is even the pain of losing a child. This is a pain that many mothers have known.

But this is also a pain which our Savior Jesus Christ suffered on our behalf. This Lent we remember that Christ our Savior was "wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Christ brings peace and healing by His death and resurrection. In the face of every sin and death, we have the joy and hope of Easter morning.

So we thank God for this life He gave us—if even for a very short time. And we look forward to a joyful reunion in heaven—even with those we hardly knew here. We will know them fully in the joys of paradise even as we are fully known by our God and Father—the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. May Easter joy and hope be yours this month of April as we celebrate together our Savior's victory over sin and death.

(We also want to thank those who helped us this last week watching the kids as we made our many trips down to Bloomington. We're grateful for your generosity.)

UPCOMING

Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 17th 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 21st 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 22nd 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 24th

Easter Sunrise 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday School Egg Hunt/Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Service 10:00 a.m.

Trivia Night

Friday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m.



April Mission Project – Easter Invitations

Easter season is a great time to invite friends, family, or neighbors who haven't been in Church for a while or who don't attend Church anywhere. During April we will have Easter invitations available in the narthex for you to pick up and use for the purpose of inviting folks to our Easter celebration. Please use them and make known the Easter victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Dean Weber	Apr. 1
David Roth	Apr. 3
Phyllis Remmert	Apr. 4
Todd Johnson	Apr. 6
Carla Skare	Apr. 9
Jeff Barhum	Apr. 11
Rose Scott	Apr. 12
Faith Barhum	Apr. 19
Randy Hartman	Apr. 20
Makenna Parkhouse	Apr. 20
Meghan Wilkey	Apr. 21
Larry Finck	Apr. 25
Kevin Skare	Apr. 27
Alice Schramm	Apr. 29
Justin Skare	Apr. 30
Kevin Parkhouse	Apr. 30

Happy Birthday

(If there is a birthday we have missed, please let us know.)

Japan's needs 'clearly going to be there for years'

By Kim Plummer Krull (lcms.org)

As the most powerful aftershock yet rattled the coast off northeastern Japan on March 22, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC) continues to work with Lutheran partners and prepares to assist with long-term recovery in a country where reports indicate several hundred thousand evacuees still live in shelters. "The needs are clearly going to be there for years," said Darin Storkson, WR-HC regional director in Asia...

LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison says that continued prayers and financial support are needed by Japanese Lutheran partners -- small churches sharing the Gospel in a country where Christians account for only a tiny percentage of the population. "Luther commented on St. Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians, 'When one member suffers, all suffer.' He said the church is a body. When the toe is stubbed, the whole body writhes in pain, bends over and attends to the little toe. So it is with our Japanese brothers and sisters in Christ," Harrison said. "These are small churches in a small Christian population that is only 1 percent in Japan. They are our brothers and sisters, and we must -- we will -- stand with them as they care for their own and others outside the church."

To contribute to the Synod's response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami:

- mail checks (noting "Japan Disaster Relief" in the memo line) to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.
- call toll-free 888-930-4438.
- give online at [Disaster Relief Fund for Japan](http://DisasterReliefFundforJapan.org).

For more information and resources, visit www.lcms.org/help.

Monthly Reading from the Book of Concord



FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION

ARTICLE III: RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH

The Scriptures teach that the righteousness of faith before on contrition nor on love or other virtues. Faith relies on Christ alone and on His complete obedience by which He has fulfilled the Law for us. This obedience is credited to believers for righteousness.

Furthermore, neither contrition nor love nor any other virtue, but faith alone is the only means and instrument by which, and through which, we can receive and accept God's grace, Christ's merit, and the forgiveness of sins, which are brought to us in the Gospel promise.

Believers who have been justified through faith in Christ have the righteousness of faith credited to them in this life. They also have the righteousness of good works. But these two types of righteousness must not be mixed with each other. For the righteousness [of our good works] is incomplete and impure in this life because of the flesh... Only for the sake of Christ's obedience, suffering, and death is the person pleasing and acceptable to God and received into adoption and made an heir of eternal life. (pars. 30-32)

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April Voters' Meeting – April 27th 7:00 pm

Please make plans to attend our April quarterly Voters' meeting on Wednesday, April 27th. We specifically want to mention two items that will be on the agenda. It has been brought before the Council that we should reconsider the summer time schedule again. We will discuss whether to keep the current summer schedule or keep the times the same throughout the year. Also on the agenda will be a discussion regarding a Lutheran Preschool at Trinity. St. John's Lutheran Preschool in Secor will no longer be open after this school year. We are looking for input from the Voters' assembly as to whether Trinity should pursue the possibility of starting a Lutheran Preschool. We will simply be deciding if further research and inquiry should be done. Please pray about both of these matters and come prepared to the Voters' meeting to give your input.