



THE TIDINGS

*Saron United Church of Christ
W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085*

APRIL—2016

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Pastor's Notes:

The word April comes from a Latin word meaning “to open”, giving expression to the time of budding trees and freshening bushes. We lend another description to the time. It's the month of showers. Somehow these references drain the likelihood of a frost during the month or a torrential rain that can cause more distress than we'd like to think possible. Nevertheless, we think of the April rains that bring May's flowers, of the warmth the opens the budding trees to blossom. It is the advent of spring. It is the renewal of life that's seen and felt all around us. And, for most of us, April brings a refreshment within. We return to thoughts of promise, of hope, of going on to something if not new, then – different.

I recall the story of an old man who was on his way to the “poor house” years and years past. He could no longer work, and he had no savings to stay in his room. He never thought he would come to that time in his life. He wasn't a nare-do- well. He wasn't a saint but neither was he in his own mind, a sinner. He was simply a man among men. He had a family once but there was no one now, save himself. He was packed-up and ready to walk. Then, something different came his way. A note via of the post. He could stay in his room. The church down the street would make it so. He sat on the edge of his bed and turning over the note in his hand, he lifted his eyes and nodding his head he spoke the words, “Might as well. I might as well.”

Perhaps there are those who will see this account as being anything but hopeful. That it is anything but promising. But it is both hopeful and promising. Somebody cared. And when a person receives caring thoughts and caring acts, there is an opening for newness and April comes alive.

We become so absorbed with insurance policies, with saving plans that deprive our present day to insure a future day. Those who have barely enough to scrape by are made to take on guilt for not being more thrifty, more careful with their money. But that's the tale of the haves to the have-nots. Somewhere, there is lost a caring attitude, a sharing of promise, an appeal for something different.

So, back to April. Yeh, we can get stuck in the mud. Yea, we might get drenching rain instead of showers. But instead of wringing our hands with what's the worst that can happen let's nurture the signs of budding trees and freshening bushes. And in the hopeful expressions of April's presence, let's be a little more caring of one another and a lot more hopeful about our future. Might as well. The alternative just ain't good. It just isn't.

Ernest Huntzinger

The Power of the Jesus of Nazareth Passion Play

The prophecy from Isaiah about the coming of Christ thundered through my very being as we were seated in the auditorium for the Jesus of Nazareth Passion Play on March 12th. It immediately transports you back to the days of Christ. We have all read and heard the stories of Christ and his teachings, but it is hard to imagine what it would have been like to “be there”, live through those trying and confusing times. Would we have been a follower of Christ, or would we have been scared like many of the other Jews at the time?



With the cast of 1,000 and countless horses, camels, goats, and ducks walking right next to you, Jesus' life and time comes to light. I experienced the raw emotion of Lazarus' wife as she anguishes over her dead husband because Jesus was delayed in coming, to her unimaginable joy when Jesus' raises Lazarus' from the dead. The constant battle between the Angel and Lucifer depicted the constant struggle between good and evil. It was a visual representation of how evil can keep trying to get a grip on our lives through our decisions we make. Judas' life showed the terrible consequence of allowing evil to win over in your life. Nothing was more gripping than the raw emotion and anguish of Mary at the crucifixion when her Son was killed for doing nothing wrong; the pain in her cries, the emotional torment of losing her child became real on that Saturday afternoon.

The most profound truth came from watching Christ be carried to the tomb. While reeling from the undeniable tragedy of the death of Christ, a voice came from the synagogue doors on stage that what we witnessed were actual accounts—THIS ALL HAPPENED! Even though I knew in my head what was being told to me, it now had such a powerful meaning. I felt Jesus' struggles and joys, his need to share God with all those who would listen, the need for those close to him to understand what he meant and why he was here, the struggles of the Jews, the torment of Pontius Pilate. Really, the people of Jesus' time are really not much different from us. Yes, they maybe lived more than 2,000 years ago, but they experienced some of the same problems we face today. We struggle with making the good Christian decisions every day, we have felt confused by Christ's teachings just as the disciples; they did not always understand the true meaning of what Jesus was telling them. It wasn't until after the Resurrection, that they truly understood what He meant. Some of us have felt the pain and raw emotion of watching a loved one die; leaving us to make our way without them. We however are blessed with the benefit of knowing how Jesus' story ends. We can see how all the pieces fit together, but until that Saturday, it was never alive in me like that. The Passion of Christ will never be the same for me. I look upon it with a new and humbled understanding of the true sacrifice Christ made for us. One day can truly change your perspective.

I am sure this experience has impacted everyone who went along with us that day in a slightly different way, but I do know we all had a great time in fellowship and experiencing this emotional journey together was one of great joy. I am so thankful for all the people who helped make this day possible for us all to enjoy and grow our faith no matter what our age. We have a wonderful church who supported emotionally and financially our desire to take our confirmation class as well as the congregation to experience the Passion of Christ. May Christ come alive for you in new and different ways every day.

--Lori Knuth Gumm

Meet Saron's 2016 Confirmation Class

Brandon Allen Beeck attends school in Plymouth and is the son of Keith and Tracy Beeck. He enjoys playing basketball & football. He would like to be a teacher and plans to go to participate in ushering and volleyball. Some advice Brandon would give younger students would be "don't give up on your faith".

Cole Christopher Booth is the son Christopher and Courtney Booth. He is a student in Plymouth. He plans to help with ushering and reading in worship. Cole would like to be a chiropractor. His hobbies are playing basketball and football; along with hunting and showing pigs and cows. Cole says: "don't be afraid to ask questions. Go out of your comfort zone to make new friends".

Abigail Josephine Charbonneau is the daughter of Brian and Rebecca Charbonneau. She attends Sheboygan Falls Middle School. Abi enjoys drawing and painting, reading, crafts, playing sports and games, and hanging out with friends. Abi tells younger students "sometimes we think we can run and hide from our past and mistakes—but God always loves us and forgives us for our offenses. God is great, and always with us". As a Saron member Abi may help with Sunday school and play volleyball. She'll attend youth events, go on mission trips, and help in the nursery, usher, and sing. Abi wants to be an actress.

Morgan Ann Johanning is the daughter of David & Michelle Johanning. She attends school in Howards Grove and enjoys reading, drawing, cooking and baking. She would like to be a teacher (reading or science). Morgan will usher, and help in the nursery, and help with Sunday School, Little Disciples, and VBS. Her advice to incoming students: always ask questions and do your homework.

Seth David Morse is the son of David & Janice Morse. He attends Howards Grove Middle School and enjoys sports, swimming, raising chickens, and the outdoors. Seth is not sure what he wants to be when he grows up – maybe education related. He will help with ushering and nursery and will be a reader and play softball. His advice to the younger students about Confirmation is "follow your heart and do what is right".

Mitchell James Nelson is the son of Dennis & Amy Nelson and attends school at Riverview Middle School in Plymouth. Mitch enjoys playing catcher for his baseball team and also loves watching the Chicago Cubs. He would like to either be a pro baseball player or a construction engineer and plans to be involved in different sport clubs in church. His advice for younger students: "Just keep going to Sunday School, listen to your teachers, and parents. Don't be afraid to read a Bible, and follow God".

Kaedin Jay Roethel is the son of Jason & Kirstin Roethel. He is a student at Howards Grove Middle School and enjoys sports, hunting, fishing, and hanging out with friends. Kaedin plans to go help with ushering and reading in worship. He tells incoming confirmands "to ask questions when you don't know something or if you want to know something."

Emily Joan Schnicke is the daughter of Jason & Sara. She is a student at Howards Grove Middle School. Emily enjoys reading, basketball, and volleyball. She plans to be an usher, help in the nursery, and play volleyball. When she grows up, she would like to be a lawyer or something in the criminal field. The advice Emily would give younger students about Confirmation is "Don't be afraid to ask questions. It is the best way for you to understand".



The Confirmation Class would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to Ralph Knuth who made the wonderful wood crosses and to Dawn Williams who made the prayer bead necklaces that we received at our Confirmation Service at Saron.

Also special thanks to Lori Knuth Gumm, John Zittel, and Chris and Courtney Booth for their help and inspiration in our lives and faith journey. THANK YOU!



SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 16th

8:00 A.M.—Until Finished!



We need your help to get the inside and outside of the church into shape

for the spring and summer. A list of what needs to be done will be posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. If you can't make it on April 16th, but could complete one or more of the tasks ahead of that time, PLEASE sign off by the task(s) you have completed. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided. Bring your work gloves and enjoy some fellowship while we work together! **(The Rain Date is April 23rd.)**

National Youth Event Fund Raiser

The members attending the NYE this year will be hosting a Bedding Plant, Planter and Hanging Basket Sale. Please look for the order forms in the Narthex or contact Hannah Morse with any questions. The sale will run until Sunday, April 25th with delivery on May 6th just in time for your Mother's Day gift giving.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Those who are homebound or in care centers: Janice Hartmann (Pine Haven), Eleanore Herzog (Pine Haven Assisted Living), Norb Meyer (at home), Ilene Struve (Kindred Hearts, Plymouth), Marilyn Perronne (at home), Mae Schmidt (at home), Beverly Kleinhans (at home)...

Saron members as well as friends and family of Saron who have been hospitalized or receiving on-going medical care for challenging health problems or are battling cancer.....

Those in military service: Jordan Rick (U.S. Marine Corps); Christopher Kletzien (U.S. Army); Jake Meinnert (U.S. Army)....

Elaine, the student we sponsor in Haiti....

To those who grieve: We extend our sympathy to the family of Elvera Dassow who died on March 14, 2016 and whose funeral was held at Saron on March 19, 2016; to the family of Donnie Fritz (Jim Fritz's brother) who died on March 16, 2016; to the family of Bob Wienberger (Cindy Knopp's father) who died on March 1, 2016; to the family of Dorothy Verhage (Dale Verhage's mother), who died on February 8, 2016.....

Mark your calendars!
Saron Family Night
Wednesday May 18th
at 6:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.

Come and see
FOX and BRANCH



Everyone will have fun at the
Fox and Branch show!



The Northeast Association
Of the
Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ
Invite
All members, friends and clergy of the Wisconsin Conference to
The Ordination and Installation of
Nathan Athorp

You are INVITED to Pilgrim Center, W1010 Spring Grove Rd., Green Lake, WI, as we partner with United Church Camps, Inc. and Ebenezer UCC of Sheboygan, to celebrate the ordination and installation of Nathan Athorp on Sunday, April 24th, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

Nathan has accepted a call as the ordained chaplain of UCCI, serving at Pilgrim Center. Just as Pilgrim Center is ushering in a new spring, we will be celebrating and honoring a new ministry in the ordination and installation of Nathan as our chaplain. Come help us rejoice in this momentous occasion as our camps rejoice in this new beginning.

Clergy are invited to wear a red stole.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

Happy Anniversary We hope you keep the following couples in your prayers as they celebrate their Anniversary this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (467-6202 or e-mail barb@saronucc.org).

April 7 Brian & Debbie Feider

April 11 Ron & Diane Matzdorf

April 12 Ryan & Kathy Herzog

April 16 David & Rachel Zeinemann—50 yrs.

April 19 Jeff & Peggy Lubach

April 25 Merlin & Shirley Schmidt



April 25 Brian & Emily Wagner

April 26 Paul & Dawn Williams—30 yrs.

April 28 Tim & Julie Chisholm
David & Shelly Oostdyk

April 29 Terry & Karen Boeldt

Happy Birthday We hope you keep the following people in your prayers as they celebrate their Birthday this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (467-6202 or e-mail barb@saronucc.org).

April 1 Ricky Decker
Diane Matzdorf
Hazel Schmidt
Alice Thomas

April 2 Carl Laack
Andy Nyhof
Melanie Roehrborn

April 3 Serena Christy
Janise Dederling

April 4 Kara Jankus
Luke Kwekkeboom
Nicole Margenau

April 5 Cindy Beittler
Gladys Bitter
Janet Klemme
Penny Nicolous

April 6 Jacob Doeber
Bryan Mauk
Chris Reichert

April 7 Don Ryan
Richard Schueffner

April 9 Hudson Schmidt

April 10 Stephanie Ford
Audrey Laack
Amy Nelson

April 11 Tanner Gumm
Ben Lenz

April 12 Levi Albright

April 12 Laura Belding
Lilly Charbonneau

April 13 Jacob Barthels
Kaden Beltran
Sue Blasel
Kim Hanke
Brandon Stauber

April 14 Geri Clouston
Jeff Meinnert
Therese Schmidt

April 15 Zach Rick
Scott Wilke

April 16 Nichole Bartzen
Melissa Fleck

April 17 Matt Steiger

April 18 Carson Anhalt
Rich Bohlman
Kamryn Kaminski
Janice Morse

April 19 Matt Dulmes
Vicki Imig
Lucas Williams

April 20 Chase Anhalt
Kevin Leu
Allen Nohl
Olivia Rabe
Kelly Rabe

April 21 Evertii Abston
Makayla Van Helden

April 21 Jordan Williams

April 22 Scott Curtiss
Olivia Heinen

April 23 Owen Post
Louis Prange
Ralph Sebald

April 24 Lois Herzog
Jack Jarvis
Carter Schreiber
Cameron Schreiber
Maria Travis

April 25 Ginny Feldmann
Eric Rabe
Rylee Reichwald

April 26 Joshua Albright
Jackson Picard
David Zeinemann

April 27 Kurt Kuzulka

April 28 Tammy Anhalt
Jonathan Doeber
Taylor Doeber

April 29 Sara Christy
Michael Rick
Henry Zimbal

April 30 Anthony Adamavich
Mylee Nickel





April 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8 Worship – Holy Communion 9:05 Sunday School, Sr. High Group, & Adult Ed 10:15 Worship – Holy Communion	4	5	6 1:05-2 – Bookmobile	7 7:30 Senior Choir	8	9 8 Pizza Making 1:30-3 Pizza Pickup
10 8 Worship 9:05 Sunday School, Sr. High Group, & Adult Ed 10:15 Worship	11	12	13	14 7:30 Senior Choir	15	16 8 Spring Cleanup Day 9:00 NEA UCC Annual Meeting @ Bethlehem UCC, Kiel
17 8 Worship 9:05 Sunday School, Sr. High Group, & Adult Ed 10:15 Worship – Lakeland College Singers	18	19	20 1:05-2 Bookmobile 6:00 Women's Guild Dinner @ Roadside, Plymouth 6:30 Shawl Ministry	21 7:30 Senior Choir	22 Wedding Rehearsal	23 (raindate for Spring Cleanup Day)
24 8 Worship 9:05 Sunday School, Sr. High Group, & Adult Ed 10:15 Worship	25 5:30 Consistory	26	27	28 7:30 Senior Choir	29	30

A.M. Activities are
noted in Bold Italic