

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

February 2015

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The Rev. Dr. David N. Mielke, STS, Pastor
The congregation of Holy Communion, Ministers
Mrs. Edna Russell, Organist
Mr. Ralph Daughtry, Council President

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Pastor’s Letter

Dear Friends in Christ, our Church family,

What a marvelous and overwhelming spiritual experience Sue and I had walking where our Lord and Savior walked! We thank you for enabling us to take this pilgrimage, and you will be hearing about our trip, and the places we visited, over the next few weeks.

We were a part of a very small group of six; three pastors, a retired ASU professor, Sue, and our Bible teacher and guide, Dr. Lamontte Luker. We got from point to point in a VW mini-van driven by a wonderful Armenian/Palestinian Christian named who went by the American name of “Jack.”

On Sunday January 18, we were privileged to worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. There are five Lutheran Churches in the Holy Land due to the fact that the German presence there 100 years ago laid the Lutheran foundations for Palestinians. Redeemer was built by German Kaiser Wilhelm in 1898 and has three pastors who conduct worship in their native tongues; Arabic, English, and German. Worship on January 18 was a joint service between the Arabic speaking and English speaking Christians. The liturgist was Bishop Younan of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Land, and the preacher was our own Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. It felt like the Day of

Pentecost as the two pastors and two bishops prayed, sang, preached and distributed Holy Communion using both English then Arabic. Following worship the church had a “tea reception” for those in attendance.

We left the Church and followed the “Via Dolorosa” (Way of the Cross) and entered the holiest site in Christendom: The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which contains the place where Jesus was crucified and the tomb from which He rose. Each experience we had was a great blessing to us. During the next few weeks I will be preparing a book of pictures with notes to share with you.

Sue and I have been invited to attend a reception at the Postal History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington on February 12. We will drive up on February 11 and return on the 13th. We look forward to our time together in worship on February 15 and our St. Valentine’s day dinner, and our Ash Wednesday observance at 7pm on February 18, when we enter the Season of Lent.

Lent is a forty day period of preparation for Easter, the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The number forty has many Biblical references. God sent forty days of rain in the Great Flood of Noah. The Hebrew People spent forty years wandering in the wilderness. Moses spent forty days on Mount Sinai with God and received the Ten Commandments. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, and Jesus lay forty hours in the tomb prior to His Resurrection.

Traditionally, the observance of Lent in the Church has been marked by prayer, fasting and alms giving to remind us of the sacrifice our Lord made. It is a Season of Grief which ends with the great celebration of Easter. Each act of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (gifts to the needy) jolts the Christian memory of what our Lord and His Passion has done for us.

Yours in Christ’s service,

Pastor David Mielke

Ask Ms. Townsend

(Each month Ms. Townsend will answer questions which have been asked by members of our congregation or respond to issues which come up in general conversation.)

Dear Ms. Townsend,
I’ve noticed that Jesus often referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” rather than the “Son of God.” Why is this so?
Wondering

Dear Wondering,

In the New Testament Jesus referred to Himself by many names, and others gave Him names as well. Among these are Servant of God, Son of David, Lord, Savior, the New Adam, Lamb of God, High Priest, Christ, Messiah, etc. “Son of Man” is used in reference to Christ some eighty-one times in the New Testament. Jesus used this phrase to emphasize His humanity. The name also reflects the religious longing of His time – that a Savior (Son of Man) would be sent to humanity to lead people to their destiny which God has given them. The term is mainly connected to the Old Testament prophecy in Daniel in which the Son of Man is the most important messianic figure. When Jesus used this term about Himself He was saying that He is the Messiah who came into the world to suffer, as a real human being, to save people from sin and lead them in love and service to others. He was, though, more than an ordinary man. The term “Son of God” as applied to Jesus appears exactly one hundred times in the New Testament. Both names for our Lord and Savior have equal validity.

Ms. Townsend

Other News and Celebrations

At the January 11 Congregational Council meeting the following congregational officers were elected or confirmed:

Council President – Ralph Daughtry
Council Vice-President – Pat Townsend
Congregation Secretary – Rick Townsend
Congregation Treasurer – J.B. Townsend
Financial Secretary – Denise Danner

The next Council meeting will be held following worship on February 8.

We will begin the Season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on February 18.

Prayer Concerns and Lists

Those in need of prayer for healing: Elaine Church, Randall Coffey, Arnold Keener, Clarisa Lane and, Mary Parrish. **Those confined to their homes:** Earl Johnson and Nancy Townsend. Kenny Hodges and his family in the death of his mother, Katherine Hodges.

Our world has some special prayer needs:

We need to pray for the Middle East, for the situations in Syria and Iraq – for peace between warring parties and especially for all those Christians, especially children, who are being killed by ISIS. We pray also for Mexico and Central America, where parents are being forced to send their children, at great cost, to our border hoping for a better life for them. We must pray for a solution to the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine, where Christians are caught in the middle Ukrainian and Russian loyalties as well as between Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Catholic) Churches.

Birthdays in February

Feb 5 – Ray Townsend	Feb 20 – Phyllis Chester & Kenzie Eller
Feb 6 – Michael Miller	Feb 22 – Michelle Daughtry
Feb 8 – Jackie Mitchell	Feb 23 – Joshua Townsend
Feb 12 – Sharon Townsend	Feb 25 – Faith Townsend
Feb 18 – Lisa Lail	Feb 26 – Rick Townsend
Feb 19 – Nora Chapman, Ruby Church, & Braden Greene	Feb 28 – Hannah Presnell

Anniversaries in February

None

Schedule

February 1	Sunday School 10am / Holy Communion (11am)
February	Sunday School 10am / Word and Prayer (11am) Congregational Council meeting following worship
February 15	Sunday School 10am / Word and Prayer (11am) The Transfiguration of Our Lord St. Valentine’s Day Dinner in Morgan Building following worship
February 18	Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion (7pm)
February 22	Sunday School 10am / Holy Communion 11am First Sunday in Lent

Pastor’s Humor for February

A Baptist pastor friend of mine in Wilkesboro once told me of his experience baptizing a woman during a Sunday service. He carefully explained the Baptist understanding of baptism to the woman’s three year old daughter and why it was a special day for her mother. Later at a restaurant the little girl exclaimed to all, “This man threw my mommy into a big pot and washed her skins away.”

Since February 14 is St. Valentine’s Day, here are some questions kids have about love and marriage.

Q – What do most people do on a date?

A – On the first date they just tell each other lies. That usually gets them interested enough for a second date.

Q – How do you decide who to marry?

A – No one really decides before they grow up. God decides it in the beginning and you find out later who you are stuck with.

Q – What do you think your mom and dad have in common?

A – Well, both of them don’t want any more kids.