



Our Vision Statement

We see ourselves as a loving, joy-filled family of believers gathered in celebration and praise around our Lord Jesus Christ. As Bible-based Christians, we seek to share God's word of salvation and to live daily in His healing, hope and guidance. We are committed to reaching out to the whole community, as we embrace and nurture new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.



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Behold the Lamb!

Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

I don't know about you, but my eyes begin to well up every single time we sing Pastor Gerald Coleman's beautiful hymn, "The Lamb." If it isn't the Lenten verse that gets to me: "He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness," then it's the Easter verse: "He rose, He rose, my heart with thanks now overflows," or the refrain itself: "Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!"

With these words resounding in my mind as we enter Holy Week, I'd like to take you back into our Savior's earlier days to develop this theme of Christ as the Lamb. Consider for a few moments His birth, His ministry, and His death from this perspective. Why did His birth occur as it did? Was it mere coincidence that an imperial decree took Joseph and a very-pregnant Mary away from their home to a little village south of Jerusalem where many of the lambs used in Temple sacrifices were born and raised? And was it just happenstance that "no-room-in-the-inn" meant a stable-birth for Mary and Joseph's son? Who else would normally greet a newborn lamb than fellow animals and some shepherds? "Behold the Lamb!"

What about Jesus' life? His cousin, John the Baptist, greets the beginning of His ministry with the statement, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Jesus then describes Himself as the Good Shepherd and the Door of the Sheepfold, tells stories and makes comments about sheep, and finally, likens the Last Judgment to a shepherd's nightly separation of sheep and goats. Finally, He allows Himself to be led by the perfect will of His Father, submitting meekly and never crying out to have His own way. "Behold the Lamb!"

In regard to His death, consider the requirements laid down by Mosaic law: a first-born male, examined for three days, and then declared to be without spot or blemish. Is it just by accident that after three years of public ministry, Jesus remained spotlessly perfect...twice acknowledged to be "well-pleasing" by His Father; given no answer even by His enemies when He asked in John 8:46: "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?"; and lastly, declared innocent both by Pilate and by the thief on the cross? Even John in His Gospel in Chapter 19 verse 14 seems to be underscoring Christ as the Paschal Lamb by having Him placed on the cross at noon on the day of preparation—the precise time according to Jewish law when the Passover lambs were being sacrificed throughout the nation. Surely you get the message by now. "Behold the Lamb!"

This Lamb, our Savior, Jesus, willingly went to the cross for you and me, because that was the only way to "take away the sin of the world." Yes, the Lamb of God has died for you and me—what's more, He was raised to life on Easter morning and now that same Lamb sits at His Father's right hand ruling all things, with the throngs of heaven falling down in worship before Him as described in Revelation 5. Now may our lips and our lives resound to the heavens with the words of St. John's vision: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and praise!"

From the Vicar

Vicar Jake Allstaedt

During my last quarter of Seminary classes last year, one of my requirements was to teach a religion course at a Lutheran middle school in the area. I was assigned to teach a combined 7th and 8th grade religion class for 3 weeks. It just so happened that the class was covering the death and resurrection of Jesus in their Bible history curriculum.

One of the exercises the Pastor had asked me to do was to take a hymn pertaining to the lesson and explain some of the text of that hymn. When we covered the crucifixion, I chose to look at the hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” Have you ever thought about the words of that hymn before? It’s beautiful. Even the title shows the beauty of the cross—and beautiful it is.

I directed the class to look at the third verse of the hymn. It reads, “See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e’er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?” As soon as I finished reading the text out loud, one of the girls in the class raised her hand and asked, “Mr. Allstaedt, where do love and sorrow meet?” I had to take a step back before I asked in return, “Where do you think love and sorrow meet?” “The cross?” “YES.”

Love and sorrow meet at the cross! What a beautiful meeting place. The love that is “so amazing, so divine” that even the “whole realm of nature” is “an offering far too small” in comparison. God is love and He demonstrated His love for YOU in that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be nailed to cross, suffer and die. The cross is the power of God—a place of beauty and wonder, the place where our sins are forgiven. It is also a place of great sorrow. The Father watched His only Son beaten, whipped and nailed to a tree to suffer an agonizing death. When Jesus prayed in the garden before He was arrested, He asked His Father if there was any way that this terrible death could be taken from Him. The Father had to say “no.” God felt the sorrow of watching His own Son die.

Although sorrow is certainly present in the cross, the sorrow does not last long. Three days later, the tomb is empty! The cross would mean nothing to us if the tomb were not empty – because Christ had to be raised from the dead! “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost” (1 Corinthians 15:17-18). You are not lost! You are NOT still in your sins. Your sin is forgiven. Christ DID rise from the dead—and that is the beauty of Easter morning! You were not only baptized into Christ’s death but you were baptized also into His resurrection and you will rise with Christ on the Last Day.

(Continued)



“THE CROSS WOULD MEAN NOTHING TO US IF THE TOMB WERE NOT EMPTY...”

(From the Vicar, continued)

The wondrous cross—the place where love and sorrow meet—is the place where our sin was put to death. The empty tomb is the assurance that we will rise with Christ. May the peace and the freedom that comes from our new life in Christ strengthen our daily walk not only in this Easter season but everyday as we serve our neighbors. After all, it is this overwhelming love from that “demands my soul, my life, my all.”

Holy Week & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Passover Seder, 6:00 pm

Good Friday, April 2

Kar Freitag (German), 6:00 pm

Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service, 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast, 7:30 am

Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, 8:30 am

Easter Breakfast, 9:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, 11:00 am

Soups on Challenge!

Regena Kressenberg, (423)903-2231

Date: April 18, 2010

Time: 1-3 pm

Where: Cross of Christ Fellowship Hall

Fountain of Life is inviting ladies groups from the churches around town to bring their best soup to Cross of Christ fellowship hall and let the people of Chattanooga vote on the best. In order to taste it will cost \$5.00 at the door for anyone. To vote on your favorite, you place \$1-\$5 in the box by the soup of your choice. While you eat, we invite you to listen to the changes Fountain of Life has brought to people's lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Regena.

"Truths turn into dogmas the instant that they are disputed. Thus every man who utters a doubt defines a religion. And the scepticism of our time does not really destroy the beliefs, rather it creates them; gives them their limits and their plain and defiant shape. We who are Liberals once held Liberalism lightly as a truism. Now it has been disputed, and we hold it fiercely as a faith. We who believe in patriotism once thought patriotism to be reasonable, and thought little more about it. Now we know it to be unreasonable, and know it to be right. We who are Christians never knew the great philosophic common sense which inheres in that mystery until the anti-Christian writers pointed it out to us. The great march of mental destruction will go on. Everything will be denied. Everything will become a creed. It is a reasonable position to deny the stones in the street; it will be a religious dogma to assert them. It is a rational thesis that we are all in a dream; it will be a mystical sanity to say that we are all awake. Fires will be kindled to testify that two and two make four. Swords will be drawn to prove that leaves are green in summer. We shall be left defending, not only the incredible virtues and sanities of human life, but something more incredible still, this huge impossible universe which stares us in the face. We shall fight for visible prodigies as if they were invisible. We shall look on the impossible grass and the skies with a strange courage. We shall be of those who have seen and yet have believed."

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)



Youth News

Jake Allstaedt, Christina Sedrick

The high school youth would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Trivia Night and Silent Auction in March. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to raise \$1,200 for our trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Along with other donations and fundraisers, we are still about \$5,000 away from our goal.

Due to the success of the Trivia Night, we hope to host another one in the summer. Please start planning on having a team! However, our next big fundraiser will be a Rummage Sale on April 17th. For this we are asking members to donate any unwanted items that would otherwise be donated to Goodwill or put in another yard sale. *If you have any items you would like to donate to the sale, please contact Christina or Jake to arrange a time for pick up, or leave the items in the youth building.* The sale will begin early Saturday morning, and we hope to see you there!

A reminder to all high school youth and youth parents that Wednesday Night Live will be starting again on Wednesday, April 7th at 6:00 pm. Feel free to bring friends, if you need a ride contact Christina or Jake.

Lastly, we'd like to welcome Philip McCall as a new member of the Youth Ministry team. Thanks Philip for your interest in working with the youth! We are looking forward to developing some consistent youth programming with the help of our awesome volunteers!

Crossties

A P R I L 2 0 1 0

Those Who Serve in April

	4	11	18	25
Elders	8:30 Greg Sedrick & Bob Timm 11:00 Tom Butler & Jamie Holloway			
Acolytes	Jacob & Sarah Clemmons	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt	KC Welsh & Jenny Holloway	Jacob & Sarah Clemmons
Readers 8:30 am	Carmen Autry	Larry Zehnder	Nancy & Richard MacLean	Dennis & Karen Savor
Greeters 8:30 am	Richard & Lanette Bagley	Richard & Nancy MacLean	Jo Parham	Don Burrow
Readers 11:00 am	Ann Hunt	Jim Walpert	Dave & Cara Welsh	Ken Maury
Greeters 11:00 am	Ron & Elsie Schmidt	Jim & Sandi Reisenbuechler	Ray & Pat Veldman	Scott & Allison Brewster
Altar Guild	Bernice Lagoo & Monica Witherby			



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