



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 April devotion
- 2 Prayer List, Youth/
Mission Report,
Confirmation project
- 3 April schedule of
events, scriptures
- 4 Council summary
- 5 April devotion (con't)
Discussion group, Notes
from Pastor, Easter Lilies
- 6 WOW information
- 7 April celebrations,
TIDBITS

**The Newsletter Deadline
is the 20th of the month.**

Please email to:
ewpressler@
suddenlink.net
or share with her on
Sunday Morning



Unforgiving Jesus on the Cross

In the midst of his crucifixion, Jesus looks down and forgives his torturers, his crucifiers, his executioners. Jesus, in the midst of the unimaginable and intolerable injustice, musters the courage to forgive the unforgivable. It is a moment, at least according to how traditional Christianity teaches it, of overwhelming mercy and unfathomable forgiveness.

Except, that's not exactly how it happens, is it?

Jesus, in fact, doesn't forgive his captors. He doesn't forgive his executioners. He doesn't forgive his killers. He can't, it seems. So, instead, he asks God to forgive them.

Perhaps he doesn't have the capacity in that all-too-human moment. Maybe the sorrow and the pain have wrenched from him his power to forgive his enemies. Perhaps he can't bring himself to personally forgive the atrocity of his execution.

Whatever the reason, the man who so brazenly and boldly proclaimed other people's sins forgiven throughout his public ministry cannot offer the same forgiveness to his executioners. The man who angered religious authorities by extending forgiveness to people outside of the Temple system of forgiveness cannot do the same on the cross.

It is a remarkable human moment in the gospels, one that shows mercy as great as the world has known and, at the same time, the limits of that mercy. That Jesus can even manage to ask God to forgive them is stunning in its compassion and understanding.

But that Jesus cannot manage to forgive them on his own is just as stunning as it reveals the conflicted beauty of Jesus' humanity and his divine calling to offer love.

Here is a man who said we would be forgiven by God only as much as we forgive others. Here is a man who commanded his followers to forgive their enemies, those that would cause them harm, those that would kill them. Those that would crucify them.

And yet, there is a limit. On the cross. With the nails. Thorns plunged into a skull. Abused. Abased. Flogged. Dying. Murdered.

There is forgiveness requested in that moment, but not offered. There is forgiveness on the cross, but it is not from Jesus.

It is from God.

There is a lesson here for a religion such as ours that, on its face, requires our blanket forgiveness to all who wrong us. There is a hard, but truthful lesson, that forgiveness in the face of such terrible abuse isn't offered with ease, while the nails still dig into the soul, in the moment of the pain. We can pray that God will forgive those who bring about our destruction, those who torture, abuse and execute. Indeed, our faith requires that.

(con't pg. 5)

Prayer List

For continuing comfort and healing-Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Sue Bernard, Cathy Bain, Judy David

If you know of someone who should be included in the monthly ongoing prayer list, or you yourself would like to be included, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-3283).

Combined Mission and Youth Report



Join us April 7 for a moving testimony from Teresa Reaume, director of Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center, one of the local missions supported by Living Word. AAPC will be our mission focus this quarter.

Sunday School -We have Sunday School for children K-5th grade from 9:00-9:45 a.m.before the worship service on Sunday morning. We sing songs, do arts & crafts, pray together, share a snack and a Bible story. **We encourage all of the church family to invite and bring children to be a part of our Sunday School.**



Lent and Easter Mission Project

As a mission project Kate Masterson lovingly decorated pill bottles as she works toward confirmation.

Kate says: *"Please remember to add coins to the mission bottle as you pray during the Lent and Easter season. Then return the bottle on Easter Sunday. These coins will share blessings. The funds will be donated to the Living Stones Mission in Puerto Penasco, Mexico for use in the children's activities or school supplies. Thank you, Kate"*

Vision/Mission of Living Word Lutheran Church

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

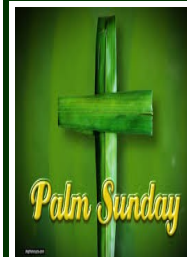
Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to
Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

APRIL EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30 KEMA Prayer Force meets at LWLC 8-9 AM All invited to begin the day with prayer
 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship
 4/3, 4/10 Lenten Mid-week Devotions, noon and 6 PM
 4/9 Council meeting 3 PM
 4/13 WOW Meeting-Grandpa's Kitchen 11:30, Annie's Art Attic visit to follow
4/14 PALM SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP AND WORSHIP HOLY WEEK BEGINS!
4/18 MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 7 PM
4/19 COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP -sponsored by KEMA 7 PM
 at Kingdom of God Baptist Church Pastor Michael participating
4/21 EASTER BREAKFAST 8:30-9:30, EASTER WORSHIP 10 AM

APRIL SCRIPTURES

4/7 Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, John 12: 1-8
 4/14 Zechariah 9:9-10, Psalm 24, Luke 19:28-40
4/21 Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 4-24, Luke 24:1-12
 4/28 Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, John 20:19-31



April 14, 2019

10 AM

Worship with
Palm Branches



April 18, 2019

7 PM

Worship with
Holy
Communion



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

April 19, 2019 Community Worship

KEMA presents "Truth"

7 PM

Kingdom of God Baptist Church
4798 Stockton Hill Road



Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

April 24, 2019

Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30

Served by W.O.W. (Women of the Word)

Pastor Michael will lead a joyous Easter Worship at 10 AM
 And don't forget we'll be resurrecting the Alleluias--see you there!

Donate an Easter Lily to help beautify our worship area on Easter morning! See pg. 5 for details

Deadline for donations is Palm SUNDAY!

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

(SUMMARY FEBRUARY 12, 2019)

President Joel Anderson, Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Vice-President Ken Boulter, Treasurer Arlene Allison, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler. Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson
Meeting was opened with prayer. January Council minutes approved.

Eileen brought to our attention on an error in the December Council minutes.

Constitution revisions suggested for January Annual meeting should have been stated: Delete **10.7.4.** (not 10.7.3) It conflicts with **10.7.3** (not 10.7.4) The correct revision to the Constitution was presented and voted upon at the January 2019 Annual Meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum (full report attached) Pastor is currently scheduled for surgery on 3/7. Brandon Scroggins is willing to do Ash Wednesday service. Sundays off 2/10 (Pastor Steve covered) and 3/31. Days out of town: 2/15, 2/19-22 (includes LCMC meeting), 3/1, 3/4 or 3/6 thru 3/8, 3/24 thru 4/6. Dates may change he will keep Eileen informed of changes.

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler Pastors scheduled Sunday's off for 2019: 2/10 & 3/31
Pastor Steve is considering being 1st call stand-in Pastor for all Pastor Michael's Sundays off, \$250 honorarium. Brandon Scroggins has been asked to cover Ash Wednesday Service (Pastor did mention that he might be able to cover) Lenten mid-week devotions on Wednesday's starting 3/13 thru 4/10 noon and 6 PM. Palm Sunday 4/14 Holy Week worship services are in the planning stage. Easter 4/21 License renewal – for Share Faith paid on 2/7 \$240. Kema Prayer Force has requested Living Word to host Tuesdays in the month of April. Someone will need to open the church from 8 am to 9 am.

Vice President/Financial Report: Arlene Allison Reviewed this month's financial report. Report approved.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman Quarterly Mission we are supporting is Corner Stone. We will be collecting Shampoo/Conditioner. Small men's jeans 2nd Quarter we will be support Aid & Pregnancy Center. They are doing a Recovery Workshop of women (different ages) who have had abortions and need healing. We will be a sponsor and supplying gift bags for the women. These will be Thrivent Action.

Old business: Review of the proposed Growth & Development Committee. Council approved proposed Committee. Motion for Pastor and Council President to reach out to possible members approved.

New Business:

WOW has asked if they could put a box at the narthex to collect canned goods for the Food Bank. After discussion it was decided that this would not be approved at this time. WOW also asked if they made Spring Wreaths, could they sale them at the back of the church. After discussion it was decided that this would not be something that would be approved at this time. Wow would like to have a St Patty's Day corned beef & cabbage dinner plus Bingo. Proceeds will go to the Church's General Fund. Motion to approve request was approved.

There is a KEMA Church Security Training put on by KPD on 2/19 8:30 am at Canyon Community Church. Would like to see some representatives from our church to attend.

Next Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 3 pm

Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary

FULL FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE REPORTS FOR EACH MONTH AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN
OFFICE.- STOP IN AND TAKE A LOOK!



Unforgiving Jesus on the Cross (con't from pg. 1)

But there are some evils and some wrongs for which our personal forgiveness does not come so easily. There are limits to our humanity's ability to forgive. And we should not feel guilty for our inability to offer personal forgiveness while our wounds still bleed, for that would essentially drive the nails deeper and deform a faith of forgiveness and love into a faith that eviscerates victims by compelling them to kiss their captors.

Remember, it was Judas that kissed Jesus, not the other way around. Remember, it was Jesus who could not manage to offer his personal, human forgiveness to his executioners.

"Father forgive them" is not the same as "I forgive them."

There are limits to our ability to forgive, and that is the compelling, conflicted, aching and tragic beauty of Jesus words on the cross. That he wants his executioners forgiven even when he cannot forgive them himself, when he cannot even directly address them himself. Sometimes this is the most we can offer as humans. "Father forgive them (because I cannot), for they know not what they do (and I know all too well).

Written by David R. Henson 4/6/12

Unforgiving Jesus??

Join us at **9 AM on Palm Sunday** for a group discussion of the thought provoking April Devotion article. Pastor Michael will lead the discussion. Jesus—unable to forgive? This will be a great conclusion to our Lenten devotions as we head into Holy Week.



And so it continues--our Lenten journey to the cross. But now we get ready for the "last leg" of the journey- Holy Week. Our Baptist brothers and sisters have revival weeks. This is their time to totally devote themselves to spiritual growth. For Lutherans, Catholics, and other liturgical churches, OUR revival week is Holy Week! This is when we set aside special time to devote ourselves to an annual pilgrimage of the heart and soul. We set aside the week to grow in our faith and commitment. We begin with **Palm Sunday**, share **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday** together before we join together for the great celebration of **Easter Resurrection!** And don't forget we'll be resurrecting the Alleluias--see you there!

Pastor Michael



Donate an Easter Lily!

You are invited to give thanks for your blessings or honor loved ones by donating an EASTER LILY help us beautify our worship area on Easter morning. Donations will be recognized with a special Worship Guide insert on Easter Morning. Donated lilies may be taken home following worship.

Donation forms are available in the narthex
or at the sound booth.

DONATION DEADLINE IS PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14!



W.O.W. (Women of the Word) met on Saturday, March 9th, to discuss several upcoming events. W.O.W. will hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner and bingo after the worship service on Sunday, March 17th. Food items will be donated by W.O.W. members, the cost of the corn beef will be paid out of W.O.W. funds and all proceeds from both the dinner and bingo to be donated to the church general account. \$195.50 was raised at the dinner and bingo event. Plans to make chocolate eggs at the April meeting have not worked out so the group will meet for lunch and an outing in April. The group agreed to serve Easter breakfast before the worship service on Easter morning. Alice Jensen will plan and organize the breakfast. Donations will be accepted for the breakfast and directed to the church general account. The women agreed to support a Sanctity of Life event on June 1st which will be coordinated with the Kingman Evangelical Ministry Association (KEMA) members and the Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center. Funding of a Thrivent Action Team will be requested for this event. The April meeting will be **Saturday, April 13th, 11:30 a.m., at Grandpa's Kitchen, 3065 Northern.** It's a **CASH ONLY** place, no plastic or personal checks so come prepared with good old bills and coins. There will be a little outing to Annie's afterwards for those interested in seeing what the Art Attic is all about. All women who attend church at Living Word are members of W.O.W. and encouraged to attend the meetings and be involved in the support of the church.



From the first heartbeat to the last

Sanctity of Life Event & Walk Saturday, June 1st at Metcalfe Park
Sign-in: 8:30 a.m. Event: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sanctity of life is actively supporting the life of the unborn from the first heartbeat and protecting, defending, caring for, and loving the vulnerable to the last heartbeat. Living and loving like Christ.

We invite you to join us in Worship, Prayer, Ministry, Music and a short walk in unity to celebrate life and be refreshed in spirit and works for the sanctity of life.

Sponsored by:

Women of the Word (W.O.W) Living Word Lutheran Church
and
Kingman Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center (AAPC)
A Thrivent Action Team Project



"UNPLANNED" - What She Saw Changed Everything.

The movie **"Unplanned"** brings us to an eye-opening look inside the abortion industry from a woman who was once its most passionate advocate. Opening April 19th, it will be showing at the Brenden Theatres, 4055 N Stockton Hill Rd,

Kingman. Movie Line: (928) 692-7469.

Tickets may be bought in advance.

<https://www.unplannedfilm.com>

A church group may be formed to go to the movie and perhaps a meal afterwards.
Details to follow.

TIDBITS

	Barbara McCord	April 13		No April Anniversaries
	Don Bingham	April 18		
	Anni Graff	April 21		
	Ken Bourlier	April 25		
	Cherie Bourlier	April 28		

FUN PICTURES!



3/31 Pastor Bill and Judy- Quick Clean Up before worship!

Then ready to begin worship!



Pastor Michael and grandson Henry



Burning brush while watching grandson Fritz do road work with his truck!
Check out that view!