



## Eight Days Set Apart

My wife and I had been planning to paint a room in our house. We'd been planning to do this for, oh, a few years. We'd just been waiting for a convenient time, a block of a couple days when nothing else was going on. Time to move furniture, spackle and prep the walls, and paint a couple of coats. However, the block of free time never appeared. Finally, we had to set aside a couple vacation days to get the project done.

You know how this can happen, right? You have a project to do, so you wait for a convenient time to do it. But one thing gets in the way, then another. So finally, you carve out time, put everything else on hold for while, and get it done.

Can't this happen in our lives with Jesus?

Sure, we can remember anytime and anywhere that Jesus died for us. No one is stopping us from taking time to ponder what he did and said the night he was betrayed. Any day we can meditate on his suffering, his lonely road to the cross, the words he spoke while hanging there. We could think of these things anytime. But do we?

Sometimes it's beneficial to set aside time to do the things that we could (or should) do anytime. Otherwise, we're at the mercy of so many things that can crowd out dedicated time with our Savior and his unique gifts to us.

One way we dedicate such time is by setting apart eight days every year.

- + On the first of these eight days, we get together in God's house and remember how our Lord came to Jerusalem, the place where his death sentence would be passed. We recall how children joined in the praise of Jesus, the great King in the line of David. We sing with the children, "Hosanna! Save us!"
- + Then, four days later, we meet again, this time in the evening, to remember when Jesus met with his students in an upstairs room to celebrate the Passover. There he spoke words both dark and bright—he predicted his betrayal and suffering but also his victory and the coming of a special Comforter. There he showed his servant's heart by washing his disciples' feet. There he started a meal that we still eat today, a meal in which we commune with our Lord.
- + We meet the next day, too. We look at the familiar cross, but we try to see it with fresh vision. As we think of how Jesus died on a cross so long ago, we are amazed to realize that the same Jesus is with us right now, and that the forgiveness and divine peace he won are coming to us in the present moment.
- + Finally, on the eighth day, we come together again. We do so in the morning, as we recall what happened one Sunday morning long ago: a dead man came to life, whole and glorious. We affirm for each other that this is no fantasy: "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" We say and sing the Hebrew word that's been on the lips of believers for millennia: "Alleluia!" And again, we recall that this risen Jesus is with us now, to forgive, to comfort. He lives—truly lives. So do we, and this life in Jesus will never end.

We can remember these things anytime. I'm sure we do think of them often. But why not set apart an extra week, a holy week, to think of them again, to meet Jesus again, to receive his grace and power again?

### *Holy Week Schedule*

**Palm Sunday, March 24** – Services at the regular times (8:00 & 10:45AM, Family Bible Hour, Confirmation, Adult & Teen Bible studies as usual), with the children singing in the 10:45 service.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28** – Service with Holy Communion at 7:00PM.

**Good Friday, March 29** – Two services will be offered:

- + Midday Meditation at Noon – In this brief and quiet service we listen to the account of Jesus' crucifixion and join in prayer.
- + Service of Darkness (Tenebrae) at 7:00PM – As the chapel lights dim and candles are extinguished, we recall how the Light of the world gave up his life for us.

*(continued on the top of page two)*



(continued from the bottom of page one)

**Easter Sunday, March 31** – Two morning services will be offered; you are welcome to either or both (the two services are different):

- + 8:00 Service with Holy Communion – We rejoice in the resurrection, and we meet our living Lord both in his Word and in his Supper.
- + Easter Breakfast will be served between services, beginning at about 9:15. Everyone is welcome, both members and guests. There is no charge for the breakfast.
- + 10:45 Festival Service – We join our hearts and voices to praise the risen Lord. We know that our Redeemer lives!

Eight days set apart. A holy week, and celebration on the eighth day. Set apart time for your Savior. You will be blessed.

## Evangelism

It's coming; are you ready?

It's that time of year at Prince of Peace when finding an empty seat in church gets much more difficult. During Holy week, and particularly Easter, our chapel becomes a crowded place. Thanks be to God; what a "problem" to have!

**Matthew 20:28** ". . . the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." What an encouragement that is for us to invite coworkers, friends, and family who have been missing out on, or who have never heard the saving message of Jesus.

Our amazing God continues to bless us with newly baptized and confirmed adults and children each year. We have new visitors attend nearly every week, many of whom start attending regularly. Let us pray, that by working through us God might bless us with a crowded chapel more than just one or two weeks a year. Like our Savior it is good to strive to serve many more hearts with the saving message. If we have to stand or sit in the gym so that new faces can hear, let us rejoice and welcome them to our campus.

Thank you for your continued efforts to invite and welcome newcomers. If you have questions about our outreach ministry, or you speak to a visitor who has questions about Prince of Peace; please contact either one of the pastors or me. God's richest blessings to you!

*Ali Salem, Chairman*

[ansalem922@yahoo.com](mailto:ansalem922@yahoo.com)



## President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A quick update from Leadership as we patch together the administration of our organization while Robyn Smith recovers. It is eye opening to see all the things we sadly took for granted that Robyn did without anyone else knowing how it got done. There have been several people, especially within the staff, who have stepped up to assist in the day-to-day administration of what is becoming a large organization. Thank you to all those who have helped--we thank God for you and your service to our ministry!

I ask that all involved at PoP please be patient as we work to get things running closer to normal. You may have noticed that we missed last month's Newsletter among other items. We are getting a handle on those tasks and hopefully with each passing day, less items will slip through the cracks. If something is not getting done that you have become accustomed to or that you find beneficial, please let me or one of the staff members know so it can be addressed.

While we are currently substituting Robyn's time with volunteer help, Leadership is looking into possibly finding someone to fill in with the administrative duties on a more permanent basis for the foreseeable future. We will certainly keep you posted on the likelihood of that and any further details that come up. In the meantime, please continue to keep Robyn in your prayers as well as the rest of our ministry. The Lord continues to bless our efforts, as He always promises to do.

In His service,

*Eric Myers – Chairman*

801-821-0355 [eric.myers@tabbank.com](mailto:eric.myers@tabbank.com)

## Financial Secretary

God has blessed us richly as a congregation. If you have not had a chance to look over the Planned Giving packet in your mailbox, I would encourage you to take advantage of the materials. One of the forms is for a program called "Simply Giving." It's an easy way to give your offerings through direct deposit.

If you have any financial paperwork you need to get to me, you can put it either in my church mailbox or the Financial Secretary mailbox in the church office. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the church's finances.

*Keith Rigby, Financial Secretary*

## Board of Spiritual Welfare

### So I'm getting Older

When you are 10 you feel like it is great when you get to 16 or 18 because you will be "Older" and be able to drive or stay out later without your parents so concerned about what you are doing. But, when you're 10 that seems like a really long way off. Ask a 10 year old and see what their perspective is. Since they have only lived 10 years it is like relating to how long they already have lived and that seems like a really long time. So 6 or 8 years longer in relative terms is a long time.

Now ask one who is 70 and they will tell you how fast the last 70 years have gone by. They look back just a few short years ago and long for those days when they were younger, like 40 or 45. That is when their children were 10 or 16 or 18 years old. Interesting how our perspective on time changes as we get Older.

Genesis 5:32 notes that: "After Noah was 500 years old, he became father to Shem, Ham and Japheth." Did he long for when he was 40 or 45 years old? Maybe not quite, since we are told later in Genesis that Noah lived to be 950. He might have felt like us at 40 or 45 when he was a mere 500 years old. Proverbs 22:6 has something to say about faith and age: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is Old he will not turn from it." Wait a minute, maybe we've touched on something here. So I'm getting older, but maybe that isn't such a bad thing. That is if we recognize the real meaning of age and the reason we grow older from the day of our birth. Psalms 51:5 notes "Surely I was sinful from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

We long to get older when we are young and long to be younger when we get Old. The reason is that in our perspective as sinful human beings this life is limited. We want to get to that time when we think life will be, or is, or was the best. But it doesn't last. Wouldn't it be better, whether we are young, middle aged, or Old, that we realize that our lives do go through the natural sinful aging process and we cannot retain those good years that we may long for. Maybe all our years are good and pleasing to God when we live every day in the knowledge and admonition of Christ. Our Lenten season is a great time to gain that perspective on our lives.

The Bible is full of examples of youth and people advanced in age that have the same thing in common. They followed God's promise of a Savior in the Old Testament and followed their Savior in the New Testament. *(continued on top of page 4)*

## Christian Education

I have recently been sharing information about PoP's WELS Scholarship Fund and the annual upcoming Men's Retreat in the weekly bulletins, so if you haven't yet read about both items, please check your bulletin. *(continued)*

*(continued from bottom of last column)*

I also wanted you to know, but did you know that our national church body (WELS) has an app for Android and iOS devices? WELS Mobile gathers much of the devotional and educational audio, video and text content from [WELS.net](http://wels.net) in an easy to use application. Two of the popular devotional feeds are available in audio and text format -- the WELS Today's Devotion and Through the Bible in 3 Years series. Making both a part of your routine will provide daily encouragement and inspiration. The latest WELS videos, including the WELS Connection can also be viewed. To get the app either look in your app store or visit <http://m.wels.net> from your device.

*Matt Rohrer, Chairman*

## WISH

I'm excited to be writing this as February comes to an end, and March arrives bringing signs of spring-- it has been a busy winter! Thank you to all the women who offered their time and cooking skills to our first Lent supper last month. The Lent season is always a busy one as we anticipate our Lord's triumphant resurrection from the tomb! We would love your assistance in setting up for our Easter Celebration on Saturday, March 30 from 10 -11 AM. We need help arranging the gym for the meal and beautifying the chapel for worship. Please let Chantel Johnson or me know if you will be able to make it! Thank you.

*Jamie Schultz, Chairman*

## Trustees

Spring is coming and outdoor maintenance will soon begin. Lawn crews are forming and we can use additional help. The more hands, the less work for all. A rough estimate is a 5-6 day commitment for the entire spring, summer and fall (a few hours each of those days). If you can push a lawn mower or run a weed whacker, you're qualified. If you are able, please sign up to get involved (sign up sheet coming).

Watch for a date for our annual all facility Spring Cleaning. With an early Easter and a very cold, wet winter in the valley, the outdoor portion may have to wait until early April. Be on the lookout for more information to participate—it could pop up quickly. Thanks to all who help maintain our Lord's house. We look forward to continuing to keep our facility something we all can be pleased to call a second home and are always open to input if you have ideas on how we can further improve.

*Kent Carbon, Chairman*

(continued from page 3)

If you are young and you follow Christ, and when you get Older into middle age and you still follow Christ, then when you get Older yet and you still are following Christ, can there be anything better for you. Do you still long to be older when you are young and younger when you are Old? Remember that God is with you all the days of your life no matter what stage in life you are or what challenges you face.

Psalms 71:18 gives us the clear hope that "Even when I am Old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." This is the destiny of a Christian. Live your lives in Christ and this "So I'm getting Older" will mean you are still in Christ and you are here as an example for the next generation. May God hold us firmly with His Grace until we reach the end of our age to join Him for life everlasting. May God's richest blessings this Lenten Season be to all you who are young, and want to "set the world on fire", and to all who are Old and long for those younger years. Remain in Christ always.

*Larry Steimbach, Elder*

## Call Letter from Principal Sell

Dear members of Prince of Peace,

On Sunday, February 24, the voters at Apostles Lutheran Church in San Jose, CA, extended me a divine call to serve as their principal. I will receive more information in the days ahead. In many ways, the divine call that I received is similar to a job offer. The offer to be the principal in CA was not something that I was pursuing. In fact, after three years at a location, any teacher is able to be considered for a call. I'm into year four and my abilities fit their needs, so my name was added to the list of possible candidates.

Usually, when someone receives a job offer from another company, it is not announced to the current company. However, our national church body operates a little differently. The writer to the Hebrews--speaking about priests in the Bible--notes that "no one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God" (5:4). We apply this passage to the public ministers of the gospel (pastors and teachers) in our church body as well. Therefore, though the members of Apostles Lutheran have extended me the call, it is ultimately a call from God and thus a divine call. That being said, it does not nullify the divine call that I currently hold to serve Prince of Peace, and it can be turned down. In reality, I now hold two divine calls—one to serve at Prince of Peace and one to serve at Apostles in San Jose.

I am looking forward to evaluating my ministry at Prince of Peace; your comments will assist me in doing that. As I talk with you, I will get a good handle on my strengths and weaknesses. Please feel free to (continued on top of next column)

share your thoughts with me in the coming weeks. I ask that you pray the decision I reach will truly serve in the best interest of God's kingdom. It is a great comfort knowing that ultimately whatever the choice, God is going to use it to further His kingdom.

I also ask for your prayers for Prince of Peace, Apostles, the staff and our family during this time of deliberation.

In His service with you,

*Principal Jeff Sell*

## School Update

**Open House**—Our school's open house was held on February 20. We had a number of families visit from the community and 83 tuition credits were handed out compared to about 55 last year. All enrollment forms are now available for next year and are due by March 8 to take advantage of the tuition credit. A huge "Thank You!" to the faculty and volunteers for the various ways they made the open house possible.

**Best Teacher Award**—I recently received a letter from a company asking for nominations for a best teacher award. I stopped to think, but was unable to think of a single one—single being the key. Without fanfare, glitz or pomp, our female teachers go about serving on a daily basis with commitment equal to, and very frequently surpassing, that of anyone I have had the pleasure of working alongside. Their work ethic often causes them to burn the oil that was added after the midnight oil ran out. How blessed we are to have them among us serving the Lord diligently, using their gifts and furthering God's kingdom in the Valley! If you have a moment, please join me in saying a prayer of thanksgiving for them and their faithful, humble, selfless work.

**Tuition Assistance**—Our school is able to make use of The Solid Education Foundation for tuition assistance. The foundation, based in Colorado, provides financial assistance to many WELS schools throughout Colorado as well as a school in New Mexico and the only WELS school in Utah, ours! If you are thinking about sending your child to our school next year and you are contemplating applying for tuition assistance, you will need to do so **BEFORE** April 15, 2013. The form is available here:

[www.thesolideducationfoundation.org](http://www.thesolideducationfoundation.org)

**Can Collecting**—Last week, the CPA (Christian Parent Association) had a can collection trailer in the parking lot and \$145 worth of cans was recycled. Funds brought in from recycling go toward improving our school's ministry. At the last CPA meeting, money was allocated for parking lot safety as well as future improvements to our facility's security system. Please, keep saving your cans for the next collection date (TBA).