

More Easter Foolery

This year, just as the month of March was a complete month of Lent (and Holy Week), so April is a month of Easter, as we celebrate the seven Sundays of Easter, spilling over into May.

Those of you who heard my sermon on “Easter Fool’s Day” should remember that I took the opportunity of the Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord falling on April 1 to make some points about “holy foolishness”. But there were a few more things I wanted to share with you, without making the sermon unbearably long. So here’s a little more “Easter Foolery”.

You may not like being called a fool, especially if someone means it as a put down. Yet the court fool often played an important role, and I always wanted to play the role of the “Fool” in Shakespeare’s play, *King Lear*. So here’s a story for you.

In the royal courts of medieval Europe, there was often a character known as the fool, or jester. On one level, the fool was there to keep the noble lord and his guests entertained at their banquets. Yet, on another level, the fool possessed a type of power that could be claimed by no one else in the room. The fool could criticize the king to his face and get away with it. He could speak truth to power.

A fool figures prominently in one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, *King Lear*. After making some bad decisions that lead to the loss of all his property and power, the king goes mad and exiles himself to the moor in winter. There he would have surely died, were it not for his faithful fool and for his only loyal friend, the Duke of Gloucester, who's been blinded for his decision to side with the king.

Lacking sight, the steadfast Gloucester can do little to physically help his old friend. And the king, afflicted by madness, can no longer make sensible decisions. It falls to the fool to look after both fallen noblemen. He's the only faithful and true servant they've got left.

The brilliant thing Shakespeare does with this character of the fool is that he sees to it that every word that comes out of the fool's mouth -- as absurd as it may sound at times -- is truth. Lear's fool never lies to him. Although the message is typically delivered in a joking way, he speaks truth.

There's something else besides truth that forms the foundation of the fool's relationship to King Lear, and that is love. The reason the fool can get away with saying the things he does is that, even in his madness, the king still knows his fool loves him.

So, there you have it, the characteristics of a holy fool: truth-telling and love. Surely those are also characteristics of the One who pulled off the greatest prank of all time, our Lord Jesus Christ. He turned defeat into victory and death into eternal life. He turned the world upside-down and surprised everyone.

So let me close with a quote. “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.” --Pope John Paul II.

Your fellow fool for Christ,

Pastor Keith

Abounding Grace Council Meeting – February 12, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Keith	Karen Paye	Vickie Luthro
Jay Froehlich	Gerri Eberle	Paul Surhoff
Tim O'Leary	Mark Westlake	Jeff Williams (guest)

Meeting called to Order at 7:00pm by President Gerri.

- Motion made, 2nd and passed to approve the agenda
- Members gave their “highs & lows”
- Pastor Keith led us in bible study & prayer

Election of New Officers all motions made, 2nd and passed to elect each of the following to office:

- President – Jay Froehlich
- Vice President – Karen Paye
- Treasurer – Tim O'Leary
- Secretary – Vickie Luthro

January Minutes were corrected to add the word “event” after Christmas.

- Motion made, 2nd and passed to approve the January Minutes as corrected.

January Treasurer's Report

- Motion made, 2nd and passed to approve the January Treasurer's Report as written

Pastor's Report

Pastor Keith reports that he has been busy but it's been fun. There will be a new Lenten series for the Wednesday evening service. Each weeks sermon will be presented by a different person from the Bible beginning with a word from Issac (portrayed by Pastor Keith). There is a need for volunteers for the other parts including two parts for women.

Old Business

- **Vendor Fair Prep/Feb 24th** - will be held in the south parking lot to support our local 4H group. Abounding Grace will have representation at this fair in Pastor Keith with his guitar and Paul with his flute to bring music to the gathering. Jay w/Pastor's help will print ½ sheet flyers promoting our church. Also a large weekly calendar will be displayed to show all the diverse activities going on here at Abounding Grace.
- **Rummage Sale** – Coming up on March 17th. Extra flyers will be printed and available for anyone to distribute. Items for sale may be brought to the church Thursday 15th and Friday 16th in the mornings to the Fellowship Hall.

- **Redevelopment Meeting with Pastor Miguel Gomez-Acosta** – on March 3rd from 9am-3pm here in the church sanctuary. Just over 20 people have signed up. Karen Paye volunteered to make and serve lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Vickie Luthro to assist her in any way.
- **Bookkeeper Update** – Judy has consented to be our bookkeeper at the agreed salary of \$100 per year (\$25 each quarter). She also does the books for “Top Dog”, a dog training program that Pastor Keith and Tim are involved in.

New Business

- **Council Contacts/ Responsibilities**
 - Social Ministry - Karen Paye
 - Worship – Mark Westlake
 - Stewardship – Gerri Eberle
 - Fellowship – Vickie Luthro
 - Property – (Don Foreman will be asked to continue in this ministry)
 - Education – Tim O’Leary
 - Evangelism – Paul Shurhoff (Walter Brewer will be asked to assist Paul)
- Motion was made by Jay Froehlich and 2nd by Mark Westlake to increase Pastor’s salary to \$18,880.08 and the housing allowance to \$23,200.08. Motion passed.
- **Brainstorming?** – Jeff Williams expressed his willingness to do what he could to come up with ideas to help with the financial needs of this church. Is there a way to generate revenue without breaking rules as a non-profit? He suggested the Amazon Smile program as a possibility. The church currently encourages members of congregation to join in the Fry’s program and through Thrivent Choice.

Motion to adjourn was made, 2nd and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:49

The Lord’s prayer was recited

Next Meeting scheduled March 12th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Luthro

Due to the changes in Financial personnel there will be no February Treasurer’s report- Jay Froehlich

APRIL 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 1ST WE SING HIS PRAISES! We celebrate the rising of our Lord with prayer, praise and song at our 9:30 service. We hope that you will join us in sharing the phrase of the day “He Has Risen Indeed!”

APRIL 6TH AND 7TH IS THE SOUTHWEST VOYAGER FLUTE FESTIVAL- held at the Voyager RV Resort this festival of Native American Flutes will feature many of the performers that held workshops and concerts here at Abounding Grace. For more information please contact Paul Surhoff at psurhoff@gmail.com.

APRIL 9TH OUR COUNCIL WILL GATHER- to discuss the happenings around our church. We hope that you will join us at 7pm in the Conference Rm. If you have something you would like to mention or have discussed, please contact Jay Froehlich or Pastor Keith to have it put on the agenda.

APRIL 13TH THE LUNCH BUNCH is meeting in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Bring a dish to share along with an appetite for some great conversation and company. If enough people want to play perhaps we have a game of bingo to follow. Want to be part of the happenings but need more information? Please contact Sheryl Felde at 885-5325.

APRIL 14TH IS THE LAST DAY FOR VITA- The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program ends at Abounding Grace for the year on this Saturday. The program has been having its most successful season so far and if you haven't gotten your taxes done yet there is still time!

APRIL 21ST WE SAY GOODBYE TO GLENN HELGESON- Our farewell to Glenn will begin with a service at 1 and a reception in Fellowship Hall to follow. All are welcome to attend.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA WILL NOT BE MEETING IN APRIL.

CASA de la LUZ HOSPICE IS OFFERING an 8 week course in dealing with grieving for adults. The purpose of this free of cost course, offered April 3- June 5 for 3pm to 4:30pm is to learn tools for self-care, optimal health, healing and transformation following the loss of a loved one. Required pre-registration is completed by calling Sally at 520-544-9890 or emailing her at SallyS@casahospice.com. The workshop is held at 7740 N. Oracle Rd. Bldg.#7760. For more information regarding this program please see Karen Paye.

ON-GOING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY to

4/7 Dave Lybarger
4/12 Lynn Hardy
4/19 Jan Foreman
4/20 Bill Burkel
4/30 Madge Brewer, Kathie Josephs

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARY to

4/8/78 Bill and Jay Froehlich
4/11 Vern and Kay Victorson
4/22/78 Mike and Maybelle Armier

DO YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READINGS? The Thursday Bible Study at 11:30 led by Pastor Keith, are a deeper study of the following Sunday's readings and usually last 60- 90 minutes. It an excellent way to learn the history and context of the readings as well gaining a more meaningful look into what it is that our Lord is trying to teach us. For more information, please call the church office.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE FOR ANY SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU!

CHECK THE SIGN UP BOARD PLEASE! You are needed! Sunday mornings are a busy time around here and you are just what we need! Jobs range from Sunday School teachers/ helpers to communion assistants and everything in between. We will be more than happy to show you how easy some of these tasks are! Just ask any member of council or Pastor Keith.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TABLE – Who doesn't like to have a chance to sit down with a cup of hot coffee (or tea), a sweet treat, and for a little while, just chat? It could be with a friend you've known for a long time or someone you just met. It's a nice feeling, isn't it? Well that's what we try to provide right after each Sunday service. Here's a place to talk about the sermon or the music. Here's a time to discuss an event that just occurred or will be coming up soon. You may think that you're just giving yourself a little refreshment time, but don't forget the person you greet with conversation. Could it be that person needed somebody to share their thoughts with as well? Could it be you're a blessing to someone and you never knew it? By the way, that's alright, God knew, and it's called... loving your neighbor.

THE PEACE CANDLE – Our church carries on a tradition that began in Russia, of lighting a candle each week on our altar as a symbol of our prayer for peace in our world. We invite visitors from other congregations to take a Peace Candle along with the literature of its history to your home church to continue the tradition. If you would like to take the Peace Candle to your home church please mention it to the Pastor or an Usher and we will be happy to “pass it on.”

PRAYER CHAIN- Our church has a Prayer Chain. Anyone with a prayer request, please call **Shirley Berner at 885-4892**. Also, anyone that is interested in helping on the Prayer Chain please contact Shirley to lighten the load. **If you have someone on the list that should be taken off or someone to add, please contact Shirley Berner and Jay Froehlich in the office.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

John Stum (son of Paul & Martha Stum), Audrey Neymeyer (granddaughter of Cheryl Emtman), Clay Hardwick (grandson of Jane Dunfee), Jessica & Tom Lauwers, James Simpson (from Aspire), Levi Thompson (grandson of Dave Kitner), Jonathon Batchler (nephew of Bill and Jay Froehlich).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Bob Williamson, Cheryl Emtman, Sarah Williams (niece of Cheryl Emtman), Sara Seagrove, Tiffany (granddaughter of Virginia Reymer), Christopher Lawson (grandson of Maggie Cook), the Robnett Family, Jeannie Van Sickle (daughter Mark Westlake), Virginia Reymer, Robert Lloyd, Ron Briggs (friend of Cheryl Emtman), Eric Leland, Peter Leveratt (brother of Carol Leveratt), Ryan Judd, Alice Yaskanich, Kathie Josephs, Betty Hetler, Mark Westlake, Susan Martinez, Gretchen Surhoff (niece of Paul & Sharon Surhoff), Walter Brewer, David Glarborg (son of Estelle Glarborg), Police Officer Mike Duffrin, Don and Nancy (brother-in-law and sister of Kathy Peters), Will Trembley (son of Artesia Runge), Linda Pederson-Montoya.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CORRECTIONS TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION- please let Jay in the office know as soon as possible.

April 2018 Sign Up Sheet

	April 1 Easter	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Altar	Deb Kutina	Deb Kutina			Jay Froehlich
Greeter	Penelope Vasquez	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman	Jan Foreman
Reader	Sheryl Felde	Jay Froehlich	Sharon Surhoff	Vern Victorson	Vickie Luthro
Prayers	Sheryl Felde	Jay Froehlich	Artesia Runge		Vickie Luthro
Communion Assistant	Vern Victorson	Bill Froehlich			Ken Luthro
Acolyte	Robyn Lauwers	Destiny Vasquez	Penelope Vasquez	Destiny Vasquez	Penelope Vasquez
Sunday School Teacher	No Sunday School	Ashley Judd	Jay Froehlich	Jay Froehlich	Ashley Judd

USHERS- Karen Paye and Kathy Peters

COUNTERS- Jack Garner and Vickie Luthro

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NO Sunday School Worship 9:30am <i>-Food Share</i> <i>-Home Commun</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-Ask Pastor</i>	9 7pm Council	10	11	12	13 Noon Lunch Bunch	14
15 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-10:30 Healing Service</i>	16	17 NO Women of the ELCA	18	19	20	21 Glenn Helgeson Memorial
22 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 8:30am Worship 9:30am <i>-Celebration</i>	30					

Monday

Office closed
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00
CAP 7:00

Tuesday

Office closed
Scouts Girl 4pm; Daisy & Cub 6:45
Flute Circle 7:00

Wednesday

Food Pantry 9-11:30
Boy Scouts 6:45
VITA (thru 4/14) 9-1pm
Boy Scouts 6:45pm

Thursday

Quilters 9-11:30
Bible Study 11:30-12:30
Food Pantry 9-11:30
VITA (thru 4/14) 9-1pm
Overeaters Anonymous 7:00
Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00

Friday

Food Pantry 9-11:30

Saturday

Tucson Strings 7-12pm
Siloam Compassion 3-6pm
VITA (thru 4/14) 9-1pm

Sunday

Siloam Compassion 2-8pm