



See You in Galilee

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” (Mark 16:6b-7)

I make no apologies for my skepticism, even when reading scripture, but if you are squeamish about such things, maybe you should just scroll on by.

I must admit that when I encountered this angelic pronouncement that Jesus would appear to his disciples in Galilee, I always suspected that maybe Mark was shading the story a bit. Now, let me be clear, I didn't doubt that Jesus was raised or that he appeared to his disciples post-resurrection. I didn't even doubt he appeared to them in Galilee.

What I doubted was that he told them to go to Galilee and hang around until he appeared.

You see, the way I figured it is this: after Jesus' death and the disappointment of the disciples, they drifted on back towards home, making up excuses for why they had ruined the family business to follow a dead rabbi and risked getting it in the neck themselves. After encountering the Risen Lord, they perked right up and

started acting like apostles, but there was that shameful episode of going back to Galilee, tail tucked firmly between legs, that had to be explained. The solution: let's just remember it not as a retreat, but in obedience to Jesus' instructions.

I hope my skepticism doesn't shock you too badly, because even though I think my initial skeptical opinion could be correct, I am more inclined these days to believe the story as written: Jesus told them that they would encounter him in Galilee.

The deep truth of that story doesn't depend on what the motives of Peter and the rest of the apostles were as they left Jerusalem for their hometowns up in Galilee. I think the deep truth is this: Jesus told them that they would encounter him in his risen power in the very places where they lived and worked. For the first disciples of Jesus, this was Galilee.

For us, not so much. For us, Jesus promises to reveal himself in life-giving power in Hamburg and Orchard Park, in Buffalo, and even Langford. Where do you encounter the one whom death could not hold? Wherever you live your life, with the people you love, in labor and leisure, today and each day forever more.

-Pastor Lynn

Prayer: Tomb-busting God, you know where I'll be. Meet me there with the life I need for this day. Amen.

Potluck Lunch

Sunday, May 15
following worship

A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex *or* call the church office; Michelle will sign you up (649-1532).



Saturday, May 14 (rain date: May 21)
9 AM - 12 Noon
Bring your work gloves and favorite yard tools to help spruce up the church property after a long winter.

Thank you coffee hour hosts!

March 6: LaDonna Painter
March 20: Zdrojewski's
April 3: Beth Stormer
April 24: Sandy Morgan
May 1: Chrissy Mellerski & Kerry Shearer
June 5: Pat McDonald
June 12: Dawn & Chris Goetz



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Dawn Goetz (5/5), Anne Kanaley (5/7), Debbie Zdrojewski (5/7), Bob Velazquez (5/11), Betty Pitcher (5/19), Denise Woodruff (5/29), Stan Kaznica (5/31)

Happy Anniversary!

Bill & Mary Hamm (5/12/1973) Jeff & Robynn Rich (5/18/2002)
Carl & Joann Ertel (5/22/1992)



Family of Vern Burdick, Gary's brother; Jeff Cotton; Jane Duewiger; Paul Hayes; John & Karen Kaitanowski; Jewell McFarland; Helen Mellerski; Molly N.; Jean Roth, Peggy Scales; Kelly Thien; Helen Wilson; Denise Woodruff; Family of Raymond Yox, including Keith & Anne Kanaley and grandchildren Christian and Chelsea Kanaley.

Master's

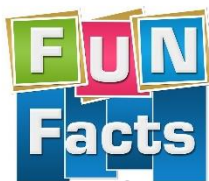
Chicken BBQ



Saturday, June 4
12:00-5:00pm (until sold out)
Drive Thru Only

Includes: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, coleslaw, roll & butter

We will be selling tickets before and after church on May 1st, 8th, and the 15th. Pre-sale tickets will be \$12.00; after May 15th, tickets will be \$13.00. We hope you will again help us make this another successful fundraiser (we have to order a minimum of 200 dinners).



Tomato juice won't fix getting skunked. Instead of dousing yourself in V9, make a mixture of dish soap, peroxide, and baking soda. The skunk spray is an oil, which your grease-fighting dish soap will take care of. Peroxide and baking soda add plenty of oxygen to the mix to help get rid of the smell.

The May-June issue of The Upper Room devotional can be found in the magazine rack.

Help yourself...and take one for a friend!



Grand Canyon mail is delivered by mule. For the small community of Havasupai Indians that are living there, the only way to receive their mail is via mule. That's right: Hooved carriers bring packages and letters into the canyon 6 days a week, following a 9 mile trek that takes hours each time. This recognized as the only mail-by-mule route still standing in the U.S.

Wax can be applied to hockey pucks to improve puck control. Plus, the wax helps prevent a buildup of ice and snow on the puck.

Trespass

One of the many things that mark the divisions in the Christian church is the way we say the Lord's Prayer. The UCC, and most of the so-called 'free church' traditions say, "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

I grew up as a Methodist. Methodists come from the Anglican tradition, which hews pretty closely to its liturgical roots in the Catholic church. When I grew up, therefore, I learned to say, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

As a boy, whenever I heard the word "trespass," I thought of walking through the woods with my dad, nailing up "No Trespassing" signs along the boundaries of our property in Hinsdale. So, when I prayed, "forgive us our trespasses," I meant "forgive me for the ways I cross the line and go where I shouldn't."

This last week our congregation has been challenged to hear that prayer in a new and personal way. We experienced a trespass. It was not a careless wandering across a boundary along a wooded path,

or hopping a barbed wire fence to pick a neighbor's ripe blackberries. This trespass used a baseball bat to cross the line, and once across the boundary the trespasser just kept on crossing lines of decency and sanctity. We learned once again that every trespass is a violation.

Our trespasses break things too. Our trespasses are an offence to what is holy. Our trespasses destroy trust. Our trespasses violate relationships, not just with God, but with other people and with our own sense of self – violating our integrity.

We cannot escape the requirement to forgive this trespass which has broken our hearts along with our beloved stained glass. We will seek justice and accountability, but we must release the offender from all bitterness in our hearts. We must seek his good. We must will as God wills: that he flourish and grow more fully into the image of God.

Nobody said it would be easy. But don't kid yourself; it's not optional for those of us who follow Jesus, the friend of trespassers.

Prayer: *From now on, every time I hear glass break, remind me of your mercy towards those who trespass. Amen.*



Craft Day & Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 2, was fun and a little messy Craft Day ...thank goodness for plastic tablecloths! Thank you to Vanessa and Devon for another enjoyable Craft Day, this time they included an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!



Gary Burdick would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards, notes, hugs, prayers, and other expressions of sympathy given following his brother's death. He is co-officiating at a Memorial Service at their Church in Alfred on April 23rd.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the day-to-day operations and ministries of St. Matthew's. Your financial support for St. Matthew's is still needed. The disruption of the pandemic has been hard on our budget and so, if you can, please make a gift to support the ministry of St. Matthew's.

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