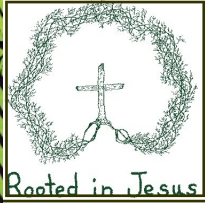


St. Thomas' Anglican Church



WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

March 31st and April 1st, 2012

**PALM
SUNDAY**

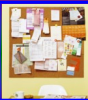
Come and worship with us on:

Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion

Saturday—5:00 p.m.—SERVICE CANCELLED this week

Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion & Sunday School



W e e k l y N o t i c e s



Mission to Seafarers' Fundraising Dinner will be April 30th. Tickets are available from our reps, Margaret Irwin and Garry Barker. Further details are on the poster in the entry.

Our new **HOUR OF PRAYER** sessions have begun. Tuesdays from 11:30—12:30 in the Chapel. Prayer is offered for our city & nation, family & friends, our church, and much more. Everyone is welcome to join in this important work of our church.

Come worship with our **Lutheran** brothers and sisters in Christ at a **joint Anglican/Lutheran service** on Holy Tuesday, April 3rd @ 7:00 p.m. at Hilldale Lutheran Church. Archdeacon Kraft will preach.

Save Your Fleas & Elephants—Mothers' Union is having a Flea Market/White Elephant Sale in late April / early May (date T.B.A.). So when you are Spring cleaning, save your fleas and elephants! (No clothes please). For more information, call Georgine @ 475-0139. Proceeds to go to M.U. and Camp Gitchigomee.

There will be **Sunday School for the Senior Kindergarten** Children (5 years) and under on Easter Sunday. Older children may stay in church to participate in the Easter Service.

The **church office will be closed** on Good Friday, April 6th.

There will be a **Mothers' Union Meeting** in Haddon Hall Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:00 pm; all welcome.

The **2012 Women of Faith Event**, "Celebrate What Matters", will be in St. Paul, MN Oct 19-20! **Janis Barker** is our contact for further details. Registration is requested by April 30th so that transportation arrangements can be confirmed.

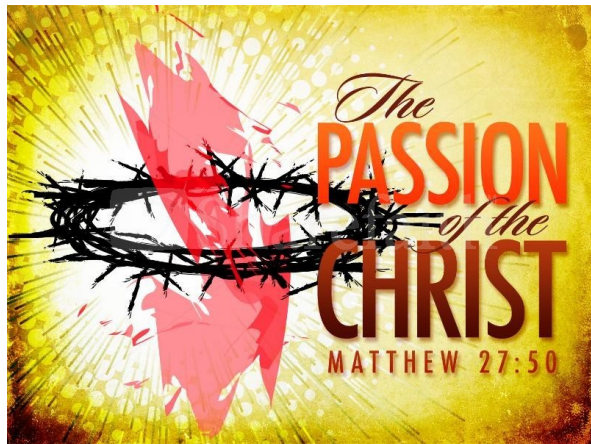
Weekly Notices continued...



Special Holy Week Services at St. Thomas'

Palm Sunday—April 1st—8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday—April 5th—7:00 p.m.
Good Friday—April 6th—10:30 a.m.
Holy Saturday—April 7th—5:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday—April 8th—8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Those who wish to help beautify the church for Easter with **Easter lilies** may drop them off at the church **before** 10:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday, April 7th.



Quotes on Compassion for PASSION SUNDAY

"The value of compassion cannot be over-emphasized. Anyone can criticize. It takes a true believer to be compassionate. No greater burden can be borne by an individual than to know no one cares or understands."

~ Arthur H. Stainback

"The dew of compassion is a tear."

~ Lord Byron

"Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too." ~ Frederick Buechner

"Each of us in our own way can try to spread compassion into people's hearts. Western civilization these days place great importance on filling the human 'brain' with knowledge, but no one seems to care about filling the human 'heart' with compassion. This is what the real role of religion is."

~ Dalai Lama

"A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair." ~ Abraham J. Heschel

"I came upon a doctor who appeared in quite poor health. I said, 'There's nothing that I can do for you that you can't do for yourself.' He said, 'Oh yes you can. Just hold my hand. I think that would help.' So I sat with him awhile then I asked him how he felt. He said, 'I think I'm cured.'"

As Christians, we are called to discipleship—yes. We are called to initiatives of evangelism—yes. But the most important thing we are called to do in a world that is watching our every move is—to show compassion. Compassion to those in our church, in our community, and in our world, can never be optional.

And what better time to think about 'compassion' than on this 'Passion Sunday'? Compassion needs to be genuine. Heartfelt compassion for someone who is struggling means reaching out to them and feeling their pain. A flippant pat on the back with superficial words like, 'don't worry, be happy' is not compassion. This is not helpful to the hurting person, in fact, it makes them feel as though they have no right to feel the way they do. Regardless of whether we understand the person's difficulty, the Christian response is to take the time to listen to them, to put our arms around them, and to say, "this must be really hard for you right now."

Christian author, Max Lucado was asked this question one day: "When your great-grandchildren learn that you lived in a day in which a billion people were hungry and 27,000 people die every day of preventable diseases, how would they gauge your response?" This question is what led him to write his book—*Outlive Your Life: You Were Made to Make a Difference*. The theme of his book is the hope to inspire Christians to seize the opportunity to "rock the world with hope" and "take a stand for Christ in the area of compassion."

St. Thomas, in its recent visioning retreat, has recognized the need for compassion because one of the main visions that came out of this day was to "feed the poor." We have come to realize that, as Max Lucado says, "nothing convinces people of our Lord better than to live like He lived. We cannot live like He lived, without being compassionate." But before we step out into our communities and beyond and express our passion to help the poor and the forgotten, we need to deal with any hurt or discouragement within the walls of our own congregation. Because with healing comes strength. Strength to carry out the mission of the church.

Compassion is inseparable from genuine love. True love always results in loving action. (1 Cor. 13). This is why we often see the phrase 'moved with compassion' in Scripture. (Matthew 9:36; Matthew 4:14; Matthew 18:27). Compassion begins in the heart but it doesn't stay there. It overflows into loving action. The characteristics of compassion are: love, sympathy, sacrifice, empathy, sorrow, and forgiveness. To be compassionate is to share in the emotions of others. To be moved by their troubled condition, and to seek ways to help. Compassion drives us to offer ourselves and our resources to alleviate the suffering of others. No where in the definition of compassion does it say...be silent, ignore the pain, pretend this isn't happening, use upbeat clichés, walk away, stick to the process and ignore the needs.

Jesus was our perfect example of compassion. He didn't follow protocol when He healed on the Sabbath, but His inward affection and pity took over. He did what He knew was right. His level of compassion was very basic—it was simply an expression of love. Compassion is love rising to the surface when we perceive the needs or hurts of others. The word itself simply means to "suffer (passion) together (com)."

A sign of spiritual growth and maturity as a Christian is to show compassion towards others and thus become more and more like Christ. A compassionate Christian will look for opportunities to come to the aid of those who are hurting and in need. He or she is moved emotionally and shares in the pain that others are feeling. Our compassion must motivate us to act in some way that will alleviate our brother's and sister's pain. Regardless of who they are.

Compassion feels. It means we are to be tender-hearted and sensitive toward others. If we are calloused, detached, and self-focused, then we are unloving and consequently uncompassionate. Compassion requires a purposeful effort to consider the needs and hurts of others and then to come alongside with help, comfort, and the encouragement that they need.

When Jesus came to usher in the kingdom of God on earth, He turned the world's value system upside down. He modeled servant-hood and love. As Christians, we are called to do the same. "When the world asks, 'What is God like?' we should be able to say, 'Look at the church.'" ~ William R.L. Haley

The belief that everything happens for a reason and that God's plan is at work every moment of the day, is key to the Christian faith. But the strength for any of us to carry on in the midst of not understanding that plan comes from someone holding our hand in the hard times. May we all reach out and find someone's hand to hold this Passion Sunday.

Lesley Joy McClure

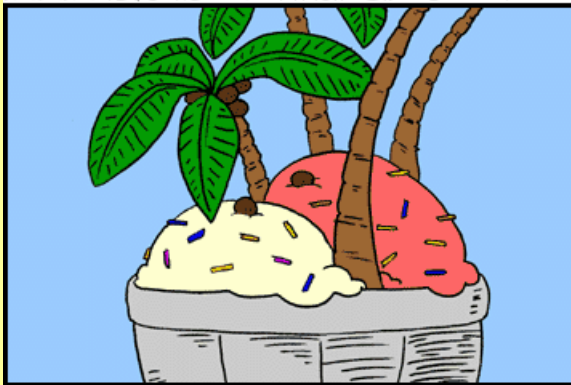


The pastor and his wife had just retired from full-time ministry. He asked his wife if there was anything she really wanted to do now that they had more time on their hands. "Well," she said, "I've always wanted to learn how to fly a helicopter." So at her husband's insistence she enrolled in classes. After several months, the instructor felt that she was ready to fly solo. While the instructor and her husband looked on, she began climbing higher and higher into the clouds. The pastor said to the instructor, "there she goes, closer to heaven than she's ever been." "Well, not too close I hope," said the instructor. At 1,000 feet, the instructor radioed the pastor's wife and said she was doing great. At 2,000 feet, he radioed her again and said she was still doing well. At 3,000 feet, the helicopter suddenly plummeted to the ground. When the instructor and pastor ran to the crash sight, the pastor leaned over to his wife and said, "What went wrong?" "Well, I'm not really sure," she said, "but you know how we really feel the cold at our age? When I hit 2,500 feet it suddenly got very cold so I turned off the big fan."



Jesus and Satan have a discussion as to who is the better programmer. This goes on for a few hours until they come to an agreement to hold a contest, with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously, lines of code steaming up the screen, for several hours straight. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, "I have nothing. I lost it all when the power went out!" "Very well, then," says God, "let us see if Jesus fared any better." Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. "B-b-but how?! I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact? How did he do it?" God chuckles, "Everybody knows...Jesus saves!"

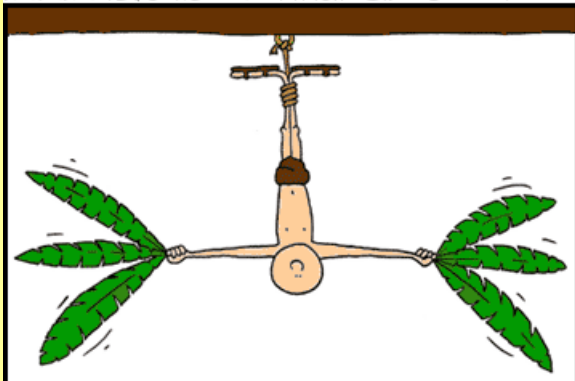
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PALM SUNDAE

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EARLY CEILING FANS

02-01-2000

B.Z. Toons

by Brian Zaikowski



Jesus Saves

The vicar took his German Shepherd dog to the vet. "My dog won't stop howling and pouncing on me every time I kneel down to pray. Is there anything you can do?" "Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him." So the vet picks the dog up and examines his eyes, his teeth, and his ears. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put your dog down." "What? Just because he misbehaves?" "No," says the vet, "he's really heavy."