



**April 12, 2019 Issue**      **Come Experience the Power of Grace**

*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

Before we even get started here, I implore you to attend the Holy Week services this Thursday and Friday. I believe that Easter is the single most important Christian celebration of the year, but without Good Friday, you cannot receive anything even close to all that Easter truly means. Please do not miss the Good Friday service!

Last week, we looked at sin, and more specifically, *our* sin! Really seeing our sin, all our sin, is a lifetime project which we can never completely accomplish. It is like any field of study: The more you know, the more you realize what you don't know. But regardless of our inability to even see/know our sin, much less eradicate it, the blood of Christ has washed us clean! This is what the combination of Good Friday and Easter are all about.



Just several weeks ago we looked at Jesus teaching us about dealing with our own sin—the priority of repentance, reconciliation, making amends, and forgiveness before seeking forgiveness from God: *"If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* (Matthew 5:23-24). Now we look at the other side of the coin, so to speak.

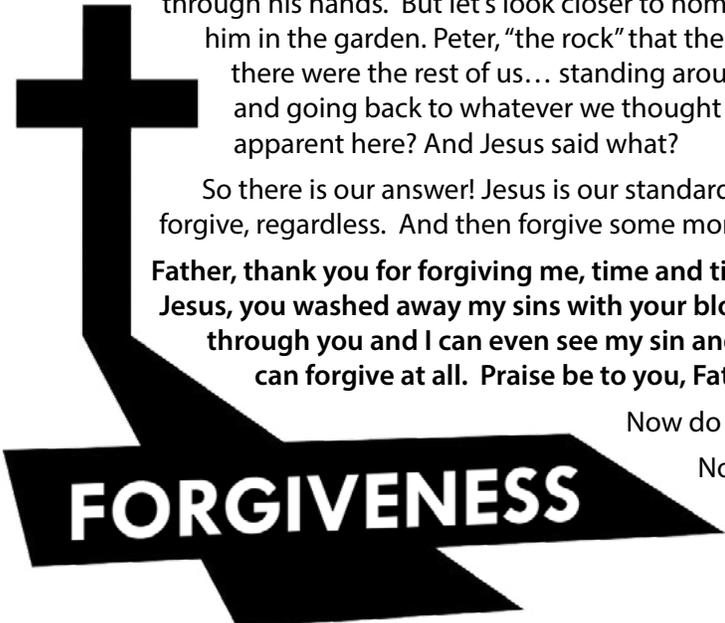
Does someone need to repent for you to forgive them? And for the answer, we listen to Jesus in Luke 23:34, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* His fellow Jews had unjustly and viciously accused him; the Roman government turned him over to be crucified simply to appease the mob and keep the peace; guards had driven metal spikes through his hands. But let's look closer to home: His disciples abandoned him when they came to arrest him in the garden. Peter, "the rock" that the church was to be built on, denied him three times. And then there were the rest of us... standing around and watching, some of us mocking, some of us shrugging and going back to whatever we thought was more important at the time. How much repentance was apparent here? And Jesus said what?

So there is our answer! Jesus is our standard! Is repentance important? Absolutely! And Jesus tells us to forgive, regardless. And then forgive some more... and just keep on forgiving.

**Father, thank you for forgiving me, time and time again, even when I had no clue I was sinning against you. Jesus, you washed away my sins with your blood! You gave up your life so I might live! Holy Spirit, it is only through you and I can even see my sin and have the possibility to repent. It is only by your power that I can forgive at all. Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

Now do NOT miss the Good Friday service, and Happy Easter!

Noel Robinson, Servant of God and Congregational President





*We Care and Pray for One Another*

**HEALTH CONCERNS:**

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Ron Ashbaugh; Kathleen Bell; Linda Bennett; John Bock; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Scott Brister; JR & Debbie Bromley; Heidi Buchholz; Arthur Buehler; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Larry Dahl; Richard Dahl; Elaine Durham; Dianne Ewald; Harriet Feree; Ed Fowler; Fred Gali; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Dale Heil; Jane Heine; Carl Heldt; Sylvia Hoover; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Wally Jakubin; Pastor Arlo Janssen; Susan Jerez; Liz Koehlinger; Donna Koelling; Keith Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Richard Lohr; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Ron Myers; Rhonda Nash; Lily Navarro; Tanner Nelson; Wayde Nelson; Beverly Osier; Bob Ott; RJ Ott; Helen Perrodin; Ben Petersen; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Steve Ratz; Esther Riesen; Kathy Riester; Oliver Shaw; Scott Spillios; Renee Terry; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Wally Wentzel; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta; Jackson;Paula

**MILITARY:**

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

**CALLED HOME:**

We give prayers of sympathy and compassion to the family and friends of Arthur Buehler, son of Joyce, who was called home on April 1.

**GOD’S BLESSINGS:**

We ask for God’s blessings on the blankets going to Hands of Hope. We ask that the mothers and babies receiving them are blessed and that they may know the love of Jesus. We give thanks with Dustin on the acceptance of his job at St. John’s Lutheran Church in West Bend Wisconsin.



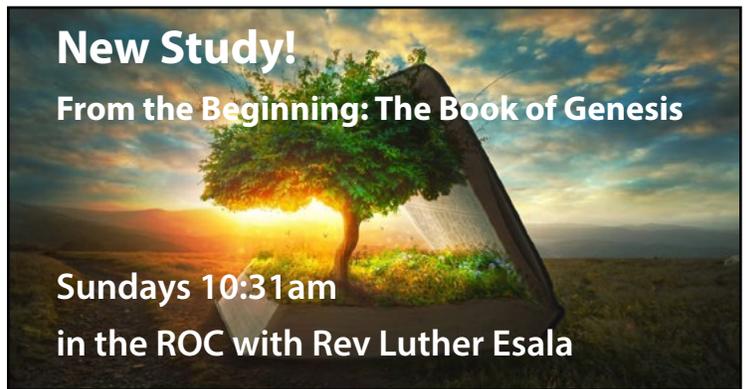
**The five Ws about Life Teams**

- ✦ **Who:** Lutherans
- ✦ **What:** Create awareness, then do something
- ✦ **Where:** In your congregation and community
- ✦ **When:** Now
- ✦ **Why:** Because God loves life, and every life is precious to God

We are created by God, redeemed through the blood of Christ, and called through the waters of Baptism to live a new life in the Spirit, working together as brothers and sisters in Christ to share the Good News and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in order to praise and worship God and give Him glory.

Our Life Team here at Ascension is named BEAUTIFUL FEET. Keep watch for ourthe announcement of our next meeting. We we would love for you to join us.

Connect with Joan or Warren Braun, 544-0313.



# Keller Update

Harvest time is coming soon to Zambia. The storms are fewer and the ground is beginning to dry. This is a difficult time for a lot of people as food supplies await replenishment, placing a heavy economic strain on most families.

During this season, we see an increase in crime in our neighborhood, as people become increasingly more desperate. These crimes could be anything from petty theft to ritual killings. You read that right. There are still people without the Gospel who believe that sacrificing human life is the best way to satisfy the ancestral spirits and bring about a good harvest. It is because of these false beliefs that we are here to bring the truth. With that, however, comes the risk of our own security. That is why we make every effort to protect our family during this time.

Our dogs provide some of the best security for our family. Of all the dogs we've owned over the years, my favorite was Tank. Tank stands out not only because of his enormous size, but he was highly intelligent and had the biggest heart. The kids loved him, and he was always watching out for their attention and protection. When I had to leave for a long trip into the bush, I always knew that Tank was there to keep my family safe. When I got back, he was always happy to see me.

Tragically, a few weeks ago, I came outside the house and found Tank's body on our back porch. The first thing I did was call the vet so I could find out how this had happened. When she came, she performed an autopsy on Tank right there on my porch. After taking some samples and examining everything, she concluded that Tank had been poisoned. The boys and I dug a hole in the garden and we laid his body to rest as we mourned our friend who loyally cared for our family for so long.

The fact that he had been poisoned raises a lot of questions and concerns. Who would do such a horrible thing? Is someone wanting to rob our home and this is their first step? Was it an angry kid in the neighborhood that didn't like the barking? Maybe he ate one of many of the frogs that come out in the rain. We don't know. But not knowing makes sleeping at night a lot less comforting. Every time there is a noise outside, I wake, wondering if whoever poisoned Tank has returned.

Our security and our hope is always in the Lord. Even though this mystery may never be solved, we know that we are always under the loving care of our Savior, who gave Himself for us. Please pray He continues to provide for our protection and pray that He helps us find a new furry friend for our family.



## New ChristCare Studies

ChrisCare  
Group Ministry

### Learn the Bible in 24 Hours

Sunday Evenings  
Contact the Bourgs  
832.515.5232

### Life Together: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thursday Evenings 6pm  
Contact J Riester 742-2882

### New Eastside ChristCare Group Forming

Contact 742-2882 for more information. Be part of establishing the group and selecting the first study.



We often hear from Thrivent members who want to reach out to those in need when tragedy strikes—like the devastating flooding across the Midwest and the tornadoes in the South. Thrivent is offering ways for you to help.

Donate online; Thrivent will boost it! Let's band together to raise \$750,000. For every \$2 you donate through [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com), Thrivent will add \$1. Thrivent will also pay all processing fees, so 100 percent of your donation will go directly to support victims in need.

Help bring comfort to those in need!

Get Started Now!



## Sunday, April 14 | 6PM

Ascension Lutheran Church. 1220 W Magee Rd.

Tickets \$20 at the door; children 10 and under FREE

available online at [www.southernarizonawomenschorus.org](http://www.southernarizonawomenschorus.org)



Saturday, April 20 | 9am-11am | Grace Hall

Join us for Easter crafts and an egg hunt

(This event is for children younger than 6th grade.)

Junior high youth, high school youth, and adults are encouraged to help with the event.

Please RSVP to Callie at [c.baker@alcs-az.org](mailto:c.baker@alcs-az.org) by April 17.

Please note that on Sunday, April 21 there will only be an egg hunt during the sermon of the 10:31am service in place of children's church.

## SUMMER CAMP

Ascension Lutheran Church and School are holding camps for ages 3-4 through the preschool and children 5 years-old (by June 1, 2019) through children going into 6th grade in the fall of 2019. Information and registration can be found at the following links:

**Preschool (3-4 yo):**

<http://ascensiontucson.org/school.html>

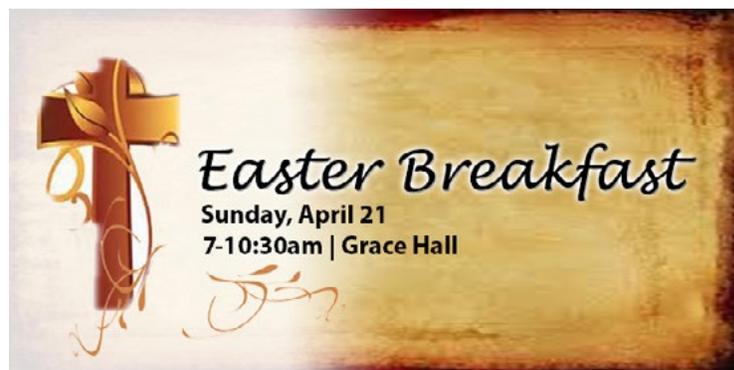
**Older children:**

<http://ascensiontucson.org/summer-camp.html>

**Employment opportunities** for those that qualify, can be found at:

<http://ascensiontucson.org/camp-employment.html>

**Volunteer opportunities** are also available at the link shown above.



Please join us Sunday, April 21 from 7am-10:30am for a delicious Easter Breakfast and support our youth. We will be serving egg bakes, sausages, fruit, muffins, pancakes, and yogurt parfaits. Tickets will be available in the Narthex following the 8:45am service and before the 10:31am service on April 7 and 14. Tickets have a suggested donation of \$5 for individuals or \$20 suggested donation per family. Funds raised will be credited to the specific youth working the event to be used for various camps, youth activities, mission trips, national youth gathering, etc. as determined by the participant. You've got to eat, why not support our youth while you do!



Due to the incredible generosity of Ascension members, we have **NO MORE ROOM** to store donations for the Yard Sale to help Rev. Palmer's Campus Church Plant. Please hold ALL donations until the week of the event which is tentatively scheduled the last week of May or the first week of June. **REMEMBER** donated items should be sellable and in good condition. The event is intended to raise money to reach campus kids for Christ. Before donating an item, consider whether or not you would purchase it. If not, there may be better places to dispose of the item.

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