



Volume 27

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A message from Pastor Quinn

Paul Gerhardt: Hymns for Lenten Meditation

Paul Gerhardt was the Lutheran church's greatest hymnwriter. Born on March 12, 1607 in a small village south of Wittenberg, Gerhardt's father died when he was very young, the first tragedy in a life full of them. His mother, the daughter and granddaughter of Lutheran pastors, made sure that young Paul attended the Christian school in his formative years. As a young man he studied theology at the University of Wittenberg under the tutelage of solid Lutheran professors. During the Thirty Years' War, Gerhardt witnessed the burning of his own home, the church, and four hundred other buildings at the hands of the Swedish army. Later that same year over three hundred townspeople died from the plague. Gerhardt, who had finished his studies at the University of Wittenberg, stood ready to receive a call into the public ministry, but none came. Instead he served as a tutor in the home of a wealthy Berlin attorney for eight years.

At the age of 45, Gerhardt finally received his first position in the ministry as head pastor of a church in a village near Berlin. At his ordination he pledged his undying support of pure scriptural doctrine as confessed in the Lutheran *Book of Concord*, a pledge which would be put to the test throughout his ministry. After six years he was called to St. Nicholas Church in Berlin where he became a very popular and influential preacher. However, nine years into his service in Berlin he was deposed because of a controversy with the Calvinist emperor for refusing to sign a document promising that he would abstain from any references in his sermons to doctrinal differences between Lutherans and Calvinists. The next three years saw additional conflicts between Gerhardt and the authorities over pure biblical doctrine. He was without employment and became destitute, depending on the charity of others to survive. He lost four children

and his dear wife after a long illness leaving him with only one six year old son. Gerhardt later wrote, "I was willing and ready to seal with my blood the evangelical truth, and, like my namesake, St. Paul, to offer my neck to the sword." Gerhardt finally was able to serve again in the public ministry. For seven years he served among a "rude, unsympathetic people" until his death in 1676.

Gerhardt began to write hymns during his time tutoring in Berlin. He wrote approximately 125 hymns, which because of his life experience and staunch defense of the faith provide much consolation and comfort to Christians still today. There are 17 Gerhardt hymns in *Christian Worship* and among the most beautiful and comforting are his Lenten hymns. As he bore the cross in life, Gerhardt found his comfort in looking to Christ and his cross. We would do well to follow the example of this *theologus in cribro Satanae versatus* (theologian strained in the sieve of Satan). Take some time this Lenten season to ponder Gerhardt's Lenten hymns. God will richly bless you through such meditation.

Here are the first stanzas of these powerful hymns. Please use your hymnals to consider the other stanzas.

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (CW 100)

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, our guilt and evil bearing, and, laden with the sins of earth, none else the burden sharing. Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, to slaughter led without complaint, that spotless life to offer, bears shame and stripes and wounds and death, anguish and mockery and says, "Willing all this I suffer."

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (CW 105)

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame

weighed down, now scornfully surrounded, with thorns your only crown, o sacred head, no glory now from your face does shine; yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call you mine.

Upon the Cross Extended (CW 113)

Upon the cross extended, see, world, your Lord suspended; your Savior yields his breath. The Prince of life from heaven himself has freely given to shame and blows and bitter death.

Coming up in April

April 4	Parent/Teacher Consultations
April 10	Examination Sunday School Play/Luncheon
April 16	LWMS Rally, St. Charles
April 19	Voters' Assembly
April 21	Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM
April 22	Good Friday 7:30 PM
April 24	Sunrise Service 7:00 AM Easter Festival Service 9:30 AM

Voters' Assembly April 19, 2011

Our Voters' Assembly is designed to take care of the business end of Good Shepherd. Expenses, budgets, new programs initiated, the elimination of some programs—all have their beginning in the Voters' Assemblies. As a voter in the congregation you have an obligation to attend such meetings. If circumstances come up and you cannot attend, please excuse your absence to either of the pastors, the president of the congregation (Mike Krueger) or the Secretary of the congregation (Steve Umphrey) The April 19th meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and we hope to see you there.

Deadlines

To clear up any misunderstandings about getting things in either the monthly newsletter or the Sunday bulletin here are the deadlines for announcements:

Sunday Bulletin: Announcements must be in by Thursday noon as the bulletin is put together Thursday afternoon and run off the first thing on Friday morning.

Newsletter: Announcements and/or articles must be in by the last Thursday of the month as the newsletter is run off on the last Friday of the month and put in the mailboxes for pick up on Sunday.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Easter

Easter Sunday will be on April 24th this year. The latest that Easter comes on the Christian calendar is April 25th and that won't be until the year 2038 Good Shepherd will have a Sunrise Service beginning at 7:00 AM followed by our traditional Easter Brunch.. Our Easter Festival Service will begin at 9:30 AM.

Easter Baskets

A free will offering will be taken today, April 3rd and next Sunday, April 10th for making up baskets of food for some in our congregation who may need a little extra during this Easter season. The food will be delivered before Easter. Norma Lewis has graciously volunteered to do the shopping and packing of the boxes for delivery by the church elders but she could use someone to help her. If you can spare the time for one day, please call Norma.

**As we have therefore opportunity,
let us do good unto all men.
Galatians 6:10**

Easter Sign-up Sheets

On the bulletin board in the hallway you will find three sign-up sheets about our Easter brunch. One sheet is for those who can set up on April 23rd, those who are willing to serve the drinks and food and those who are willing to put the fellowship hall back in order after the brunch is over.

The second sheet is for the food that is needed for the brunch. Please scan the sheet and see what you would be willing to bring.

The third sheet is for those who plan on attending the Easter brunch. This helps the people who will be setting the tables and chairs up on Saturday, April 23rd.

The Easter brunch is a wonderful time for fellowship. We hope to see you there.

Reminder

Midweek Lenten offerings at Good Shepherd are designated for the Christian Relief Fund.

Palm Sunday special offerings will go to Crown of Life in Cadillac, Michigan (a sister mission congregation).

Maundy Thursday special offerings will go to St. Martin in Roscommon (a sister congregation).

Good Friday offerings will go to Michigan Lutheran Seminary (one of our Synod's preparatory schools).

Easter offerings will go to Good Shepherd's Scholarship Fund (supporting and encouraging the sons and daughters of our congregation enrolled in our Synod's ministerial education school).

Confirmation Coming Up!

April 10th will be Examination Sunday for the 2011 Confirmands. May 1 will be Confirmation Day for the following young people in our congregation:

Hannah Daniel
David Delu
Kayla Fournier
Rebecca Klement
Tommy Leppien
J. B. Pitt
Tommy Ross

If you have a child who will be confirmed on May 1st, please remember to make out a check to Good Shepherd for \$8 for flowers and give it to the church office.

Our Shut-Ins

Please see your paper copy of the newsletter, or call the church office, for information on our shut-ins.

Scripture Readings for April 2011

April 3 Lent 4 Laetare

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 42-43
Galatians 4:21-31
John 6:1-15

April 10 Lent 5 Judica

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 116
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 8:46-59

April 17 Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:8-12
Psalm 24
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-9

April 21 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
John 13:1-15

April 22 Good Friday

Isaiah 53:1-17
Psalm 22
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
John 18:1-19:42

April 24 Easter

Isaiah 25:1-8
Psalm 118
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
Mark 16:1-8

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here are the birthdays and anniversaries for April. If you would like to be included in Good Shepherd's roster, please let the church office know and we will add you in the proper month.

Birthdays in April are:

April 10	Brian Marquardt
April 10	Nathan Lehman
April 10	Michael Pifher
April 12	Mike Krueger
April 12	Erica Lindesmith
April 13	Gale Krueger
April 15	Laura Cummings
April 15	Daniel Pifher
April 18	Nick Ross
April 19	Jill Butler
April 19	Sarah Pretzer
April 20	Alyssa Murray
April 23	Matt Beyersdorf
April 26	Tommy Ross
April 30	Richard Arbury

April anniversaries:

April 13	Steve & Leanne Hocquard
April 14	Mike & Pam Krueger
April 27	Don & Dana Schwab
April 29	Tom & Lisa Ross

Volunteers

Could you volunteer to help with some of the many things that need to be done at Good Shepherd? No organization can function without a certain amount of volunteer time and churches, in particular, rely heavily on volunteers to fill in the corners for various projects. Folding church bulletins, listening to children read, being Picture Lady or Picture Dad, doing the Crusader Connection, and doing copy work for the teachers are just some of the things that volunteers are doing currently at Good Shepherd. If you are available for a couple of hours each week, or even once a month, please call the office at 835-4181 and see if there's something that you can help out with.

Eighth Grade Graduation

We have five young people who will be graduating this year from the eighth grade at Good Shepherd:

Hannah Daniel
David Delu
Kayla Fournier
J. B. Pitt
Tommy Ross

Congratulations graduates! And may much success and many blessings follow you as you enter the Ninth Grade.

News from MLS

“Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God.”

Nearly 600 students and adults came to Michigan Lutheran Seminary on March 122 for the annual Saginaw Valley Science and Fine Arts Fair. Those in attendance witnessed an amazing display of talent. Some displayed their talents to act and speak in the forensics division. Others showed their creative artistic talents by creating one of a kind paintings, sculptures and displays. Others entered the music division, playing the piano or other musical instruments for the judges. Others tested their spelling knowledge and competed in the spelling bee. The day ended with students showing their homemade science labs where they tested, explored and proved various laws of science.

Hats off to all the students who participated in the fair. Those present enjoyed seeing the students' abilities on display. Thank you to the students, parents and teachers for the countless hours spent preparing for this event. Also, MLS wants to thank Professor James Wooster and his group of student helpers for once again organizing the event.

Practice Makes Perfect

Do you dream about being #1 in basketball or football? Are you #1 and want to stay #1? MLS wants to help and has just the answer. Every summer MLS coaches help over a hundred grade school athletes, boys and girls, sharpen their skills in basketball and football.

For boys entering grades 5 through 9, MLS offers basketball and football camps. For girls entering grades 5 through 9, MLS offers basketball camp. The

camps are run by MLS coaches who are assisted by numerous current and past MLS student athletes.

Those interested in applying or needing more information, please email info@mlsem or follow this link: <http://www.mlsem.org/news/summer-sports-camps/> and download MLS' summer sports camp brochure.

The Seminary Family

The expression "Seminary Family" is often heard on campus. It is used by students and faculty to describe the close and friendly bonds that exists at MLS. Our common Christian faith ties people together in love and concern for one another. Students worship, study, practice, compete and eat meals together. Friendships can grow so strong that classmates consider each other brothers and sisters for life.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Choir Sings at MLS!

On Monday, March 28, the WLS Chorus led the student body in a concert of worship and praise. They sang selected songs from their 2011 mini-tour. Their concert presented a variety of styles. The styles ranged from familiar Lutheran chorales to contemporary hymns and psalms. The variety of styles also included various instruments. Mandolins, guitars, drums, brass, piano and the organ accompanied many of the songs, helping lead the student body during its worship time.

MLS graciously thanks the WLS Chorus for stopping on the MLS campus. God bless their proclamation of the Word as they "sing to the Lord a new song." May God continue to bless these young men as they study and prepare for serving in the pastoral ministry in the near future.

Accounting Position Open at MLS: Michigan Lutheran Seminary has an accounting position open in the Business Office. Please send resumes to pws@mlsem.org, fax (989) 793-0017, call (989) 793-1393, or mail to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 2777 Hardin Street, Saginaw, MI 48602-3710. Please respond to Paul W. Shonts no later than April 15. a complete job description is available at mlsem.org/accounting-position.

Camp Killarney

Are you looking for a great summer program for your children or family? Registration is NOW OPEN for summer camp 2011 at Killarney. Five sessions are

available in June and July to meet all ages and interests.

These include:

Teen Retreat (9th-12th grade)

Family Camp (all)

Genesis Mini Camp (2-6th grades)

Two Adventure Camps (2-8th grades)

Camp Killarney is a WELS camp located in the Irish Hills of Michigan near the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan.

If you register by April 15th you will get the Early Bird SPECIAL of 15% off the regular rate. Brochures and registration forms are available online.

For more information, forms, and coupons visit their webpage at www.killarneycamp.org or call 517-467-7603.

The WELS Connection

There is a WELS Connection DVD available for you to borrow and watch in the convenience of your home. Please check with the church office if you would like to take the DVD home to watch. The WELS Connection can also be viewed by following a link from our website.

Choir

The choir at Good Shepherd needs more members. It is always a pleasure to hear the choir sing and if you have been blessed with a good singing voice and the time, why not volunteer and share your talent? If committing to an every week schedule at the present time isn't feasible, would you be able to make practices for special events such as the Easter and Christmas seasons? If you think you might be interested, please contact Amy Lindesmith, our choir director.