

CALENDAR

Mar 3 - Worship - Pastor Ann Koopmann 8:30 a.m.

Mar 3 - Social Statement meeting - 6:00 p.m. - see Pastor's article on page 2.

Mar 5 - Pastor Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Mar 7 - Lenten Lunch - First Baptist Church 11:50 a.m.

Mar 7 - Pastor Office Hours 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mar 8 - Lunches of Love 11:30

Mar 10 - Worship - Pastor Ann Koopmann 8:30 a.m.

Mar 12 - Deanery - Bethany-Fredericksburg 9:00 a.m.

Mar 14 - Lenten Lunch - Methodist Church 11:50 a.m.

Mar 14 - Pastor Office hours 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Mar 14 - Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mar 17 - Worship - Pastor Ann Koopmann 8:30 a.m.

Mar 19 - Pastor Office Hours 8:00 to 12 noon

Mar 21 - Lenten Lunch - Trinity Lutheran 11:50

Mar 21 - Pastor Office Hours 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Mar 24 - Worship - Pastor Ann Koopmann 8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday

Mar 24 - Passion Sunday Evening meal 6:00 p.m. and Worship 7:00 p.m.

Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday Worship Service - 5:30 p.m.

Mar 29 - Good Friday Worship Service 7:30 p.m.

Mar 31 - Easter Sunday Worship - Pastor Ann Koopmann 8:30 a.m.

New Hope Lutheran

9th & Elm

Rev. Ann Koopmann 830-330-0017

Worship Times

8:00 - 8:30 Food & Fellowship

8:30 a.m. Worship

VOLUME IV - ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013

Why did Palm Sunday Change?

I have been asked this many times as a pastor. I often wondered it myself, because I remember the Palm Sunday service from my childhood being one of my favorites. I remember thinking, "Jesus must be a special guy if we throw a parade for him."

It was a child's perception of Jesus.

Now I realize that the specialness of Jesus comes from his willingness to go to the cross for my sake and for our sake. Still I wonder, why are we reading the passion story on Palm Sunday, especially when I am going to hear that story again the rest of the week.

The liturgical problem was that many people could not attend or skipped Holy Week services. Going from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the glory of the Resurrection morning, without going to the cross is a theological problem. The solution was to read the passion story on Palm Sunday, so now we have a hybrid service of Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday.

New Hope this year will separate Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday into two services. Palm Sunday will be celebrated on March 24th in the morning service, where we will focus on "having a parade for Jesus" and sing Hosannas to our King.

The evening of the 24th, we will celebrate Jesus' passion with a "Stations of the Cross" service. This type of service invites the worshiper to journey with Jesus in his last hours by using prayer, scripture, and art. We will start with a simple meal at 6:00. Worship will be at 7:00.

The Sunday night service is not a substitute for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Those services have yet different purposes. On Maundy Thursday we explore the last actions of Jesus with his disciples. On Good Friday we celebrate the glory of the cross through the lens of John, the author of the 4th gospel.

The Holy week services are an invitation to be open to the Holy Spirit deepening our faith by revisiting the reasons that compelled Jesus to die on the cross for our salvation and the glory of his Father in heaven.

Peace,
Pastor Ann

Refreshment Corner

Each Sunday Morning one of several talented cooks provides a variety of delicious breakfast treats served between 8:00 and 8:30. Everyone is welcome to come early and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Schedule

Mar 3 - Tomlinson

Mar 10 - Knoll/Villarreal

Mar 17 - Foegelle

Mar 24 - Greathouse

Mar 31 - Granberg

Apr 7 - Johnson

Apr 14 - Tomlinson

Birthday's/Anniversaries

Birthday's

Mar 5 - Melanie Tomlinson
Honeysett

Mar 11 - Pete Foegelle

Mar 13 - Susan Villarreal

Mar 22 - Ashleigh Greathouse
Abadie

Anniversaries - none

Sunday School

Students will begin in the sanctuary for the start of our worship service then leave for the Sunday School room. After the lesson the students will return to the Sanctuary for Holy Communion with their parents.

Mar 3 - *Jesus tells about a fig tree*

Mar 10 - *A father forgives his son*

Mar 17 - *Mary shows her love of Jesus*

Mar 24 - *Palm/Passion Sunday*

Mar 31 - *Easter Sunday*

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Called to Deliberation

In its first social statement, "The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective"(1991), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in all its expressions—committed itself to foster moral deliberation on social questions, seeking to:

- be a community where open, passionate, and respectful deliberation on challenging and controversial issues of contemporary society is expected and encouraged;
- engage those of diverse perspectives, classes, genders, ages, races, and cultures in the deliberation process so that each of our limited horizons might be expanded and the witness of the Body of Christ in the world enhanced;
- address through deliberative processes the issues faced by the people of God, in order to equip them in their discipleship and citizenship in the world;
- arrive at positions to guide its corporate witness through participatory processes of moral deliberation; and
- contribute toward the up-building of the common good and the revitalizing of public life through open and inclusive processes of deliberation.

Talking through tough issues as the Church may be new to some Christians' experience today, but it is not really new in the history of the Church. It began with Jesus' earthly ministry which was a public ministry in which he repeatedly addressed difficult issues among crowds, with religious authorities, at dinner parties, or in the Temple in Jerusalem, and did so from the tradition of Moses and the prophets, the Psalms, and the Hebrew sages. For example, he argued with the Pharisees when they complained about his disciples picking grain to eat on the Sabbath, and later continued this controversy about what was appropriate on the Sabbath when he healed a man's hand in their synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6; Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 6:1-11). He had a controversy with the Scribes over his eating with sinners and tax collectors (Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32). Jesus also argued with the Pharisees about divorce (Mark 10:1-12; Matthew 19:1-19), and with Pharisees and the supporters of King Herod about paying taxes (Mark 12:13-17; Matthew 22:15-22; Luke 20:20-26).

After Pentecost, the Church continued a pattern of talking about tough issues in public. For example, Greek-speaking Christians complained that the widows in their group were neglected in the daily distribution of food by Hebrew-speaking Christians. This led to a public meeting in which this situation was discussed and peacefully resolved (Acts 6:1-6). This not only addressed the needs of the women, but it was also a public witness about how widows ought to be treated. When Peter was called before the church in Jerusalem to explain why he was eating with Gentiles, he explained how God was leading them to faith in Jesus and giving them the Holy Spirit. This public conversation in the council led to the acceptance of these non-Jews in the Church (Acts 11:1-18).

his article was adapted by Pastor Ann. The bulk of it came from *Talking Together As Christians about Tough Social Issues*. **Our first deliberation takes place on March 3rd at 6:00 at New Hope.**

**SUNDAY - MARCH 3rd - 6:00 P.M. - NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP HALL
Called to Deliberation**

<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Peace.aspx>

The discussion will be lead by Pastor Ann Koopmann with the assistance of Rebecca Guengerich, who has a Masters of Arts in Spiritual Formation from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Rebecca has just returned from living in China for a year and brings that experience to this conversation about the Peace social statement. (See page 2 for further information on this important meeting) Please join us, because all voices are needed.

LUNCHES OF LOVE - New Hope Lutheran, once a month, sponsors the meal for Lunches of Love. Friday February 15th, Tanja Tomlinson, Connie Granberg and Cyndy Hounsell prepared and delivered the meal for the Lunches of Love recipients. If you are able to help cook or help deliver the food please contact Tanja or Connie Granberg. 833-4423

Friday March 8th is the next opportunity for you to help with Lunches of Love. If you know of anyone that would like to participate in receiving the meals please contact New Hope Lutheran and they can direct you to the community leaders that run the Lunches of Love program. newhopelutheranblanco@yahoo.com

ALL FAITHS MEDICAL MINISTRY



Medical Equipment Ministry: During the more than 20 years that All Faiths Chapel occupied the location where New Hope meets today, its members created and maintained a ministry that provides equipment to local residents who have special medical needs. The storage building on the property houses wheelchairs, walkers, powered hospital beds, braces of many different types, crutches, breathing assistance equipment, and assorted other items. These are available on a no-charge basis with a checkout list. New Hope has committed itself to continuing this ministry in conjunction with the people who founded All Faiths. If you have a need, call either **Connie Granberg: 833-4423**, or **Alan Cooper: 833-4301**.



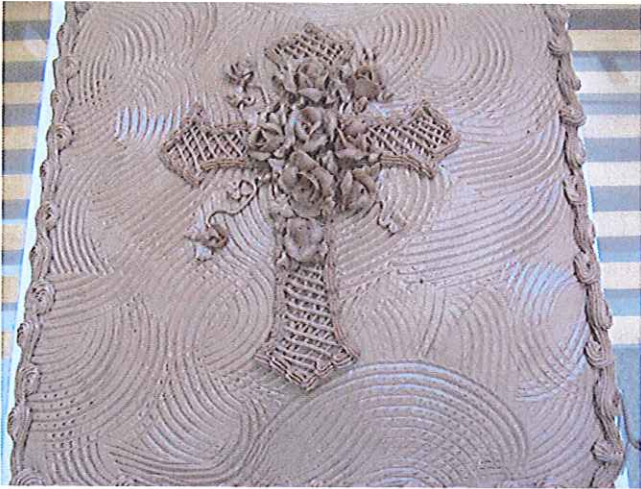
Community Lenten Lunches - 11:50 a.m.

March 7th - First Baptist Church
March 14th - Blanco United Methodist
March 21st - Trinity Lutheran

Pastor Ann in addition to serving as interim pastor to New Hope Lutheran in Blanco she is also serving Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Wimberley. She conducts worship service in Blanco every Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. She then travels to Wimberley to conduct LCR's worship service that begins at 10:30.

Office hours for New Hope Lutheran are:
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Office Hours for Resurrection are:
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Monday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ann will be available for special events on Saturdays like weddings, graduation parties, wedding anniversary parties, school events. When that happens office hours will be adjusted on Tuesday or Wednesday. The more advance notice she has, the more likely she will make the event.



New Hope Lutheran and St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church hosted the Community Lenten Luncheon at GEM of the Hills on February 21st. New Hope served "make your own salad" and St. Michaels brought delicious homemade desserts including the beautifully decorated cake.

Council News

Council decided to try a different date and time for council meetings. Council has been meeting on Saturdays but that has proven to be difficult for some members to attend. In March, Council will meet on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Those members living out of town will join the meeting via conference call. All members are welcome to attend council meetings.

According to our New Hope Lutheran Chapel constitution and By-laws, we are to have an annual Congregational Meeting to report to the congregation the past year and to vote on new members to the council. A date for this congregational meeting will be set by the council at their March meeting. The two positions that are up for election are: President and Treasurer. The term is for two years.

Nominating committee (Connie Granberg, Becky Greathouse and Pete Foegelle) will be asking for volunteers to serve on the council. Please contact one or all of them if you have questions about what the position will require. Please prayerfully consider serving on the council.

JOIN US DURING HOLY WEEK STARTING WITH PASSION SUNDAY

The evening of the 24th, we will celebrate Jesus' passion with a "Stations of the Cross" service. This type of service invites the worshiper to journey with Jesus in his last hours by using prayer, scripture, and art. We will be inviting the community to join us via an article in the Blanco County News. We will start with a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. Worship will be at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - 5:30 p.m. We explore the last actions of Jesus with his disciples.

Good Friday - 7:30 p.m. We celebrate the glory of the cross through the lens of John, the author of the 4th gospel.

The Holy week services are an invitation to be open to the Holy Spirit deepening our faith by revisiting the reasons that compelled Jesus to die on the cross for our salvation and the glory of his Father in heaven.