

The Parish Voice

April 2016

Floyd Willis
Lutheran Parish

April Calendar

- 7-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 10-Sunday, after service, St. Mark Council
- 14-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 17-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 21-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 28-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study

From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

R. S. Thomas, a Welsh parish priest and poet, lived a spartan life and was, by most accounts, crabby and critical of all those around him. His writing is spare and unsentimental, rather like the rugged northern Wales that he loved and lived in most of his life. One could even describe his poems as dreary. I ran across one of his poems by accident and it struck me as quite different from what he usually wrote. In this season of resurrection, I think it hits a homerun.

This is an excerpt from Thomas' poem, "The Answer."

... There have been times
when, after long on my knees
in a cold chancel, a stone has rolled
from my mind, and I have looked
in and seen the old questions lie
folded and in a place
by themselves, like the piled
graveclothes of love's risen body

I wonder how it would feel to have a stone rolled away from my mind, to have my old questions put to rest so I could move forward into a resurrection life. I wonder what it would mean for our congregations to live in the new and not be held back by the past. In the fresh news that Jesus' resurrection gives you a new life and new opportunities, what do you wonder?

*In Christ,
Pastor Linda*



Happy Birthday

3-Megan Spangler
 8-Iris Poff
 10-Rain Lipson
 12-Louise Baker
 17-Breyahna Riccobono
 21-Ed White
 22-Rebecca Jackson
 22-Dick Giessler
 30-Jane White

Happy Anniversary

5-Leslie and John Webb
 8-Andrea and Jim Garland
 10-Ginny and Bill Gardner

Martin Luther Statue at College Center

- from the Virginia Lutheran

A Martin Luther statue will be sculpted for the Luther Plaza entrance of the huge Cregger Center (right) opening for the fall semester of Roanoke College in late August. Work on the \$30-million, 152,000-square-foot, brick structure is to be completed by early summer and the major task of furnishing and equipping the building will take several months, President Mike Maxey said.

The Plaza, funded by Lutherans, will emphasize the link between the college and the church, he said. "We have to work in partnership with the church...This will be a welcoming place for visitors..It will have a practical and symbolic message...We are Lutherans," Maxey said.

The Cregger Center will replace the Bast Center for such events as the Synod Assembly. The Bast Center will continue in use for college sports, Maxey said.

Contributions for the major \$200 million campaign have passed \$170 million and the drive is on schedule for completion in 21/2 years, he said. The last leg of the campaign will be for a science building and increased endowment.

From Papua, New Guinea

The Rev. Toby Eleasar, president of our companion district in Papua New Guinea writes the following:

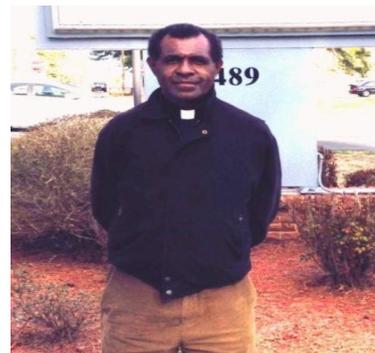
"Malaria affects nearly everyone in PNG. If someone starts to shiver or has joint and body pains and has a high fever, they basically know they have malaria. In rural areas where there are no facilities to test blood, doctors and nurses will treat the patient with those symptoms with Malaria tablets first. If the patient fails to get better, then they are referred to the hospital for blood tests. The drugs which are used to treat malaria patients are becoming less effective. New drugs are being used when they are available.

Interestingly, in the highlands area where there didn't used to be mosquitoes, people are beginning to get malaria because of the climate change.

In villages where it is hard to get mosquito nets, we make fires so the smoke can keep the mosquitoes away. In my area we use part of the tree which when dried and is lit produces smoke which is a good mosquito repellent. But you have to wake many times a night to replace it to keep producing the smoke.

Two months before my travel to Virginia, I had malaria. I got bitten by mosquitoes while at our National Synod on Karka and could not travel home. Fortunately, I was treated in our clinic at Ampo in Lae (church headquarters) for 3 days before I traveled back to Biella. My son got malaria last year while in school in Kimbe and was treated in the hospital but we had to go down and bring him home. Just last week one of our pastors who went to Lae contacted me and said he could not make it back because he had malaria. He is being treated and is expected to return this week.

Everyone here in Papua New Guinea has a story to tell about malaria because everyone has had it sometime in his/her life or knows of a family member who has. Having treated mosquito nets will help us a lot to prevent malaria."



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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this Lenten Season I want to remind you of **World Malaria Sunday which will be April 24, 2016**. World Malaria Day is April 25, 2016. As a synod we gave over \$250,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign which focused its attention upon the plight of children in Sub-Saharan Africa. The ELCA together gave over \$15 million for the control of malaria to this very vulnerable population.

The Global Missions Committee of the Virginia Synod was in touch with President Tobias Eleasar of our Lutheran World Federation partner synod, the Islands District of Papua New Guinea. Malaria is a very dangerous part of the lives of their children as well. President Eleasar made a request for 5,000 nets for the children of his islands district or \$50,000. Lynda and I have bought another 50 nets for this need among our partner synod.

We are working with the ELCA Global Mission Unit and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea churchwide office in this pilot project of beginning a new initiative in combatting malaria in a new part of the globe. If you would like to celebrate our partnership with Papua New Guinea on World Malaria Sunday, you may pray for our brothers and sisters and if you choose to support them financially, checks may be made to the Virginia Synod marked "Mosquito nets for PNG." These funds will be sent quarterly to the ELCA Global Missions who will send it to the ELC-PNG who will distribute it for its purpose in the Islands District. We have received \$3000 thus far in this initiative.

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson



Many Thanks

- *To all who provided the lovely Easter lilies*
- *To the many hands that prepared food and served it during our Lenten meals together*
- *To Marty for once again organizing a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the children...and stuffing all those eggs!*
- *To all the folks who cook the wonderful dishes for Easter morning breakfast and brunch*

It is time to think about summer camp...

REGISTER NOW

Register now for your week at Caroline Furnace this summer! Full details on our programs and schedule are available at www.CarolineFurnace.org.

Council Members

St. Mark

Jean Harmon
Laura LeRoy
Billy Motley, President
Beth Smith
Vickie Sowers

Zion

BJ Bauermeister
Michael Daiber
Bill Gardner, President
Marty Holliday
Jack Wall
Tom King
Marjorie Wells

Joint Council

Vickie Sowers,
President

Floyd Willis Lutheran Parish

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Email: zionstmk@swva.net

St. Mark Lutheran Church
5655 Floyd Hwy South, Willis—Service at 11:15 am

Zion Lutheran Church
135 Needmore Lane, Floyd—Service at 9:30 am

Pastor's Office hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays
10:00 am—1:00 pm

ALIVE IN CHRIST, CHRIST ALIVE IN US

Check us out on the web at
floyd Lutherans.weebly.com

Sunday Servers

Lectors at St. Mark, Zion:

3-Laura, **NEED VOLUNTEER**

10-Tyson, Billy

17-Doris, Virgil

24-Billy, Tom

Hosts at Zion:

3-Daibers, Gardner, Quesinberry

10-Bday—Holidays

17-Sealeys

24-NEED VOLUNTEER

B-Day/Anniv at St. Mark: Laura LeRoy
Sanctuary, Altar, Flowers: Jean, David

Zion Altar Guild: Marty Holliday

Zion Flowers: Women of Zion

Zion Greeter: BJ Bauermeister

Zion Candle: Diane Giessler



*Grateful for warming
soil and hope*

Funny Bone

COMMANDMENTS

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy father and thy mother,” she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything including human beings. Little Billy seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, “Billy, what is the matter?” Little Billy responded, “I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.”

Newsletter submissions would be welcome! Email by 20th of each month.