

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, March 26, 2015



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Palms, parties, and the Cross?

As the season of Lent draws to a close, we culminate the journey in a huge, palm-waving, hosanna-shouting, coat-throwing celebration. This is the day that Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem... for the last time. Stories of his healing miracles, his raw and honest teachings, and even his scandalous run-ins with Jewish religious leaders of his day had spread across the land. Some people were excited to meet him, to hear him, to be healed by him... but others were growing wary and suspicious, and were beginning to hatch plots to squelch his ministry and reputation (and protect their status quo). It was a divisive time in the religious capital - a time of parties and angry mobs, a time of desperate prayers and harsh court trials, a time of feasting and of killing.

The contrast in the town at that time stands out to me now, perhaps more this week than ever before. This week in Lyons has been filled with hopes and dreams and plans - for many of our displaced residents longing to come home, and for many residents and officials already back in their homes working for a solution to bring home the others. But it has also been a time of defeat, of messages hard to swallow, of lost hope and the harsh realities that democracy can yield. Over 1100 local residents (of just over 1500 registered voters) cast their ballots - which means over 70% voter turn-out. That is an unbelievably high rate - and I thank God that so many people voted. It means that the results speak quite truly for what the people want - and what they don't want is affordable housing in this way at this time in this place.

It is not my goal to fire up a political debate - I believe in democracy (and find it the best of all possible alternatives). But I also knew that no matter which way this vote went, people would be heart-broken, disillusioned, disappointed and upset. Being a pastor at a time when a town is filled with so much excitement, energy and potential pain is tough - and it has truly been a tough week. So I look forward to this Sunday's party - to children singing, palms waving, and people smiling.

But this Sunday is more than just Palm Sunday

continued →

Sunday, March 29

Palm and Passion Sunday:

Moments from Parties to Funeral Wakes — Pastor Emily Flemming

Scripture: Multiple readings

All-Age Drama: Ho Ho Ho Hosanna (by Carol Pranschke, co-directed by Jani Little, music by Kitty Keim, organization by Pam Browning)

Flowers: Jay & Lia Malito, in honor of Kim Malito's birthday

Children's Time: Dana Curton & Carol Pranschke

Mark your calendars

We will celebrate **Good Friday** this week at 7pm, with special music and a brief service meditating on the cross and how Jesus poured out his life for us. All are welcome, including kids (no childcare will be provided).

Next week's **Easter Sunday** service will be an All-Age Celebration (nursery care will be provided, but children will stay in service). We will be blessed again this year by the music of the Blue Canyon Boys!

Pastor's Message (continued)

(and yes - the branches arrived this week - we are ready to celebrate). It is also Passion Sunday, the day when we walk the Road to the Cross alongside Jesus. We will join in his last supper with his friends (and share in the sacrament of Holy Communion), pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, walk through his arrest and court trials, and even follow him to the cross. At the end of the worship service, we will strip the altar of all vestments, and leave in a quiet, solemn mood, carrying the grief and loss of our Lord with us for a few days.

It won't be your typical Sunday service, but I don't think you'll want to miss it either. And speaking of "don't miss" opportunities, we will be looking at the Foot Washing Basin, Last Supper Chalice, and Thorn of Crowns on Good Friday in a special 7pm service. The choir will share music, and we will consider what it means to suffer and to be in community.

And if you haven't invited your friends and neighbors to our Easter Sunday service yet, I'd suggest you get to it! The Blue Canyon Boys will be gracing us with their bluegrass and gospel talents, we'll serve up a big meal afterwards, and we'll even hide some eggs for the kids to hunt. It will be a day of celebrating life that conquers death, hope that conquers fear, love that conquers all. It's what we need as a town right now, as a community, and as individuals in Christ.

Let the seed of hope begin in us all,

Pastor Emily

Announcements

We are delighted to welcome new church members through baptism, profession of faith or membership transfer on Sunday, April 26th. Please see Pastor Emily if you have questions or would like to join us.

We will be creating a church directory with photos this spring. Please correct your contact information with Karen Schwenn), and email your photos (not larger than 4MB) to LCCOffice@lyonscommunitychurch.org, or ask Regis to snap your photo on a Sunday morning. Many thanks - we can't wait to get the new directory in your hands!

Killing Jesus will air on Palm Sunday at 6:00 pm at 9pm, on National Geographic channel (276 Direct TV).

9Health Fair - Saturday, **April 18th**, 7am-12 noon, Middle/High School

United Methodist History and Beliefs class - Sunday **4/19 and 4/26** from 8:30-9:30am in Wesleyan Hall



Prayers...

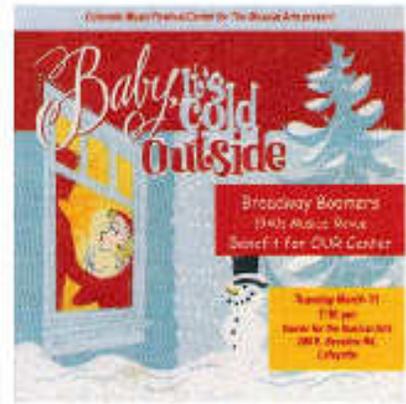
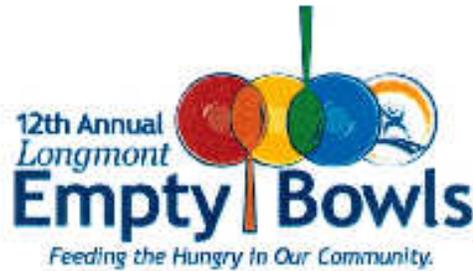
JOYS for the springtime Easter season of healing and new beginnings, for birthdays: Kim Malito (3/30), Marie Baker (3/30), Debbie Tabor (3/31), for Brian's successful mitral valve repair open-heart surgery and ongoing prayers for his recovery, for our church and town community.

CONCERNS Jerry's sister Cheryl's biopsy, Rick's ongoing recovery (and fundraising this Saturday evening), Dawn's mother Lorraine, Sandy and Jerry Fikes, Donna Lee, Alice, Steve M., Mark Boys' brother Russell, Terry Ross, Laurel's friend Kendra, Debbie's brother-in-law Richard, Kathy R., Mary C's dad, Nancy's uncle.

You may make prayer requests or join the Prayer Team anytime by contacting Pastor Emily or Chair Kitty Keim (kathkeim@earthlink.net).

ANNOUNCING...

Benefits for



Dear Faith Community Partners:

Would you please share the enclosed information with your congregation?

As one of our long-standing supporters, we invite your congregation to take part in two fun events in March to benefit OUR Center:

- Our 12th Annual Empty Bowls event is on Saturday, March 28 at Longmont High School. Doors open at 10:30 for bowl selection and auction bidding. The meal is served 11:00 to 1:00. It is a great deal of fun for the whole community and raises money specifically for our food program, the largest service we provide. Sponsorships are available, which include tickets and recognition. Individual tickets are \$20 pre-event (\$25 at the door if available).
 - *See enclosed flyer for more ways to participate!*
- The first ever "Broadway Boomers Benefit" for OUR Center is on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, CO. Join us for a Broadway-style musical extravaganza! Tickets are \$20.

Tickets for both events can be purchased as follows:

- Visit www.ourcenter.org "Events" to order via VISA or MasterCard.
- Come to the OUR Center Intake Office, 303 Atwood St., Longmont, weekdays 8 am – 4 pm.
- Call 303-772-5529 to place your debit or credit card order.
- In addition, Empty Bowls tickets can be purchased at Crackpots, 505 Main St., Longmont. Call 303-776-2211 or visit www.ecrackpots.com for hours and information.

Please let us know if you have questions, would like more information, or would like the flyers via email (and please provide the appropriate email address). Details on both events are included on the enclosed flyers. We hope to see you there!

Elaine Klotz, OUR Center Development Director

#303-772-5529 x224 / Elaine@ourcenter.org

Spring Lay Servant Classes

April 11th & 12th 2015

Berthoud United Methodist Church

820 9th Street

Berthoud, CO



"Basic Course" – Led by Judy Stout

The basic course for Lay Servant Ministries guides you to discover & employ your gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

"Opening Ourselves to Grace" – Led by Forrest Barclay

This course explores the basic practices of Christian faith and life from a Wesleyan perspective, including a presentation of Wesley's understanding of spiritual practice, Bible study and other helpful resources.

"Planning Worship" – Led by Pastor Dave Lillie

This course builds on the course *Leading Worship*, and is grounded in the principles and practices of worship planning.

"Bible Study Skills for Leaders" – Written & Led by Bob Dexter

This course will offer tools and concepts to assist leaders of Bible Studies. Bob is a retired Elder from the Indiana Conference who now resides in Colorado.

** Additional courses for Certified Lay Speaker can be found on line at BeADisciple.com.*

Spring Lay Servant Classes - April 11th 8 am - 5pm, April 12th 2-4 pm

Enrollment Form – Please fill out ALL information

Indicate Course Choice "Basic Course" "Opening Ourselves to Grace"
 "Planning Worship" "Bible Study Skills for Leaders"

Early Bird Tuition (March 28st) for all courses is \$35, which includes course materials and lunch on Saturday. After March 28st, tuition will be \$40. [Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions before the class](#)

Name: _____ Telephone/Email: _____

Local Church _____ District/Subdistrict _____

Amount Enclosed \$ ____ .00

Note: For Basic Course only – Pastor's recommendation required: [] Attached [] Will follow

Pre-register by email and/or mail this enrollment form and tuition fee by March 28th 2015

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