

WPC NEWSLETTER – THURSDAY, April 1, 2021

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: “The Stone Was Rolled Away”

Easter Sunrise service 6:30am in Fairview Park

Traditional Easter service 10:00am

Communion Sunday

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Join us Friday, April 2 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary for our Good Friday Worship service.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has been tasked with providing a slate of five to ten candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The election will be at the Congregational Meeting on May 2nd. We are asking for volunteers to call the office this week to get us off to a good start.

The PNC will meet often, normally weekly, until we, through the Holy Spirit, determine who God is calling to be our next Pastor. The Committee on Ministry (COM) will provide guidance and resources as needed. It is important to note that many of the committee meetings, and even meetings with candidates, can be Zoom Meetings so participation doesn't require as much traveling as in the past.

The PNC normally conducts a congregational survey in order to write a Mission Statement and a Church Information Form (CIF). Once the CIF is approved by the Session and COM, it is published on the internet and matched with qualified ministerial candidates who have submitted their Personal Information Form (PIF). Reviewing PIF's and listening to sermons on YouTube and Facebook requires a lot of time. There's no way around it. The PNC selects and interviews candidates until one candidate is selected for a candidating sermon at a neutral pulpit. The final phase is calling the candidate, approval by COM, and approval by the Congregation.

This is a long process that requires a huge commitment of personal time, effort and prayer. The Nominating Committee will be making calls over the next few weeks. Please consider consecrating yourself for this essential service to our Church.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

Easter is approaching and not ever has this experience been as existential as at this particular time. Easter is always, at least in our hemisphere, around the beginning of spring, when nature comes alive again. Every year we have to worry about daylight savings time, about cleaning up the yard, about getting rid of the weight that was gained during the less active winter months.

But this year, this particular year Easter goes way beyond the revival that comes with spring; this year Easter becomes the time when we can look forward to the end of COVID. Vaccinations are on everybody's mind, for better for worse. We start feeling again like we are in control of our lives, and once you have had your shots the realization hits: we were scared, for a whole year.

Not since the Second World War has our society gone through an experience like this. Yes, there were wars, too many wars, but they are far away, and only those with loved ones on the battle field know of fear. Yes, there was 9/11, and it did change our society, the way we travel, the way we think of peoples of other nations. But concrete fear abated quickly when we felt our government responding to the attack.

But COVID, there was no walking away from COVID, and there was no quick fix. Only people who remember the year after Pearl Harbor remember our society being under this kind of stress for such a long time. And Pearl Harbor changed our society like nothing else since the Civil War.

This is the Easter to remember when you want to understand what Easter really means. The cataclysm of loosing the beloved teacher, the leader chosen by God, the bottomless fear and grief. Good Friday is the culmination of a fear that exists among the disciples from early on, since the death of John the Baptist. Whenever Jesus prophesies His end, the apostles hasten to say, no, no, this cannot be, this shall not be. And everything comes crashing down anyway, in the most horrible, most cruel, most public way imaginable. There is no beautifying the death of Jesus Christ. A year of fear of contagion, of fear of socializing, of fear for family and friends at risk is as nothing compared to the public trial, public humiliation, and public death of Jesus Christ. And I am well aware how many people have died, how many lives have been twisted forever, how many families thrown into grief. But because of this our suffering, as individuals, as families, as a society, we suddenly understand the power of Good Friday. And as a society we experience Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the end of fear and sadness, as our fear and sadness is coming to an end.

Remember this time when future generations shall come to you and ask what Easter means. Remember the fear, remember when it ended. Remember the darkness before, remember the light after. And our descendants shall thank us for kindling the light of hope in the midst of the dark night of the soul for them.

Indeed, the stone is rolled away, and Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen. He is risen! He is risen!!

Happy Easter
Pastor Hans

ON THE CALENDAR

4/2 Good Friday Service 7:00pm

4/4 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am

4/4 Traditional Easter Service 10:00am
4/5 Nominating Committee 7:30pm
4/7 Faith Study 3:30pm
4/7 LOGOS 4:30pm
4/7 Choir Practice 7:15pm