



ALC Connections

April 2017

LCMS Ascension Lutheran

The Discipleship Chat

April 2017 Newsletter

The Discipleship Chat

Who Will Roll the Stone Away?

The Gospel of Mark tells us that very early, just after sunrise, some women headed out to Jesus' tomb with spices, to finish anointing his dead body. On the way, one of them asked, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

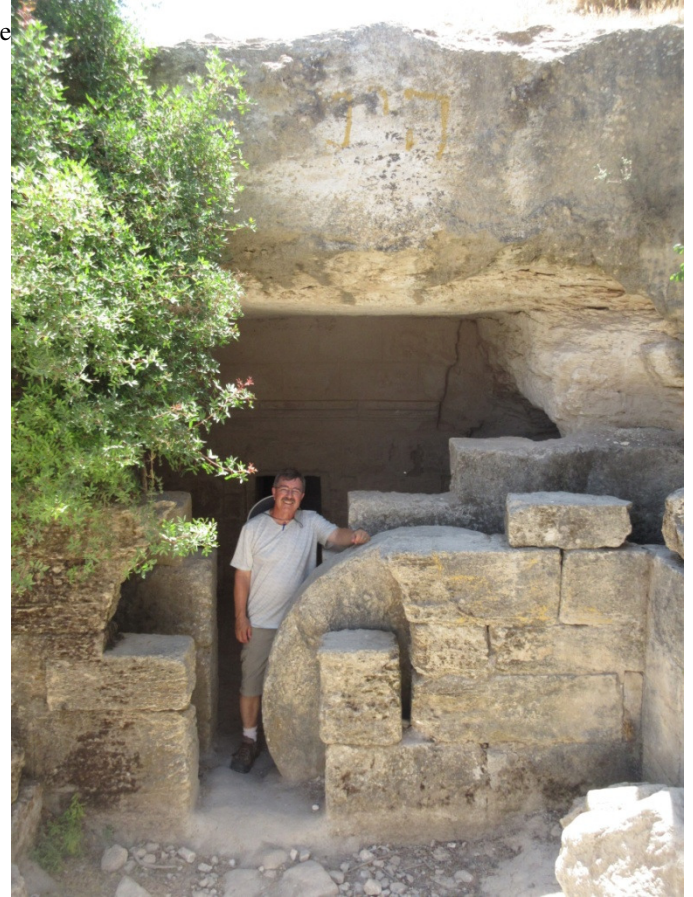
Hmm. Perhaps they should have thought of that before, after the Sabbath had ended and they had purchased the spices. Perhaps they should have stayed behind until they had that little detail worked out. Even in service, to God, we think all those details need to be in place before we can serve Him. To be sure, many circumstances do indeed call for planning. But we shouldn't need to let the lack of certainty keep us from serving.

The women had no idea how they would get the heavy stone away from the tomb, yet they set out for the tomb anyway. They wanted to do their service for Jesus so much, that they trusted that somehow God would work out that detail for them. They were walking in faith. They did some preparation; their arms were full of spices. God would have to open the grave.

Of course, we know that the grave was already open. God was way ahead of them. But the women serve as a reminder to us of our service. Don't neglect planning. Plan and organize whenever possible. But don't let a lack of certainty stop us from serving God, or helping others. We need to trust God to open doors. Pray for it. Act like He is acting on it. I would rather have a door closed on me while reaching out, than to never have made an effort. St Paul tells us to "walk in faith," to "live in the light," to be doing God's work, and expect Him to bless it. Just make sure it's God's work, and not my own. Pray over it. Consult with other Christians, or church members (especially, those elected to serve us). Prayerfully look for areas, or people to serve. And then ... serve. Try to do His will, when He wants, and He will bless it. Because it's what He wants!

Who will roll the stone away? Who will open the door for us? Who will enable us to touch hearts? Don't worry. God is way ahead of us!

A blessed Easter to you all. Pastor Dave



1st Century Jewish tomb in Israel's Abdullah Nature Preserve.

In the Word

The Thursday afternoon Bible study has just begun the Lutheran Hour Ministries DVD series on Islam (that the Sun Morn Bible Study studied). Please join us for great study and fellowship. We meet in the classroom, across from the church office on Thursdays at 2 pm.



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HELPING WOMEN Period

After picking up our donations in late February, the co-founder of this charity, Amy Stephenson, sent the following e-mail: "Thank you so much for the generous donation of personal grooming products, incredible bags, 346 pads and 234 tampons. Later this weekend I will count the bags, but they are perfect! Also, we will be sure to get the toiletries to the right place. Thank you so much for your church community for supporting our mission. We will be mentioning you and other groups Tuesday [March 7, Breakfast fundraiser] during our presentations. We simply couldn't do it without you!"

Carolyn Boger and Ellen Eschler attended that Breakfast Fund Raiser for Helping Women Period. We learned how meaningful these items are to those who are on food stamps—which do not cover soap, toilet paper, nor personal hygiene products. The products we donate are distributed to various agencies, including Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry, and local schools: DeWitt, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Holt, Lansing, Okemos, Maple Valley, Mason, Waverly, and Williamston. Ascension was included in the slide show of supporters of this unique charity. Ascension was recognized in Amy's talk for its generous support.

On the bulletin board above the donation box is a flyer with information on giving a monetary donation. For \$35.00, one woman is supported for one year. If you are interested in a monetary donation, the organization is a 501(c)3 charity. Your check can be sent to HWP, 333 E. Albert Ave., Suite 500, East Lansing, MI 48823. More information on this charity can be found at www.helpingwomenperiod.org

Women of Ascension thanks all who contribute to Helping Women Period. The collection bin remains by the hall coat racks. Please invite your friends and neighbors to contribute.

Flower Chart for 2017 is up. Please sign up for your special dates.

Ride to Ascension (RTA): We are in need of volunteers to pick up persons (mostly elderly) and bring them to church, either on a regular basis, or even just occasionally. Let's work together to help those who want to come to church but need a ride! There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk for those willing to help others get to church. Please provide your name, phone number, and e-mail and Parish Activities will compile a list of drivers to distribute so no one is ever in need. Thank you! . Contact Pastor Dave. Join the RTA!

The Mission Statement of Ascension is: Growing Disciples of Jesus. How may we help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

Women's Venue will be meeting on Thursday, April 20. Jimmy's Pub at 6pm.

Women of Ascension meeting on Saturday , May 6 at 10am.

Properties Update

March brought high winds March 8 which caused the power to go out. The Lenten service was by candlelight in the classroom. Pastor provided the music with his guitar. Power was restored by mid-day Thursday.



However, on Thursday, March 22, power went out for 1.5 hours, starting during Bible Study. This prompted the Properties Chair, Carolyn Boger, to investigate a backup generator. Bids are coming in, but it looks like the cost will be considerable.

The roof on the bell tower was also damaged in the high winds March 8. The southwest corner of the metal roof peeled back. The roof now has a temporary rubber cover on it but that will not last the winter. The estimate for properly replacing the roof is \$5,000. The insurance company was contacted; the church has \$1,000 deductible, so they are sending a check for \$4,000.

On a brighter note, the walls of the fellowship hall have been brightened by a fresh coat of paint. (thank you, John Haubentricker and Paul Halbig) The garbage bins now sit on tiles—no more standing in mud to put garbage bags away! (thank you, Paul Halbig) The coat rack by the chapel has a new set of hangers—no more hassle hanging coats. (thank you, Paul Halbig) The beams in the chapel are now lined up against the ceiling—no sagging hollow beams. (thank you, John Hospodar) The last set of windows on the east side of the building are replaced so the entire side looks uniform. (thank you, anonymous donor)

The Church Extension Fund offers \$2,000 reimbursement for landscaping, so the bushes around the sign will be replaced with boxwood and the chewed yews around the southwest entrance will be replaced with Little Princess Spirea deer do not like to eat. To keep the cost down to around \$2,000, Jake Wamhoff will loan us his equipment





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SPRING CLEAN-UP DATE

Mark your calendar for **May 6**,
rain or shine.

Spring seems to be coming

earlier this year so we want to be ready!

Drop by anytime between 8:30 AM and noon for fellowship and fun polishing up the church and grounds. Continental breakfast 8:30-9:00; Jet's Pizza for lunch. Those who enjoy riding the lawn mower during the grassy season will be given a refresher course, Lawn Mower Clinic 101.

[If you cannot make this date, be assured there still will be something you can do at a better time for you. Contact Carolyn Boger after May 6. "Leftovers" will be available!]

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm

Good Friday 1pm and 7pm

Easter Breakfast and Children's Egg Hunt at 9am

Service at 10am.



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The University Chorale

The University Chorale, conducted by Dr. Kent Walters, is a select choral ensemble that performs a variety of choral literature from Renaissance to contemporary genres, including gospel and spirituals. The Chorale focuses on the expression of beauty in choral artistry, combining musicianship and servant hearts for the glory of God and the consequent joy of both singer and audience.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 ■ 7 P.M.
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2780 HASLETT ROAD ■ EAST LANSING, MI



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