



APRIL 2019

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTORAL PONDERINGS...

God never misses an opportunity to use powerful symbols throughout Scripture. Jesus' famous ride into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey reveals much about His character and purpose. As we approach Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, here are eight things you may not understand about donkeys - and why Jesus rode one.

Prior to entering Jerusalem, (In Matthew's Gospel a donkey and a colt, two poetic Hebrew parallel phrases.) **Why did Jesus ride a donkey?**

1. As Jesus instructed his disciples to acquire for him a donkey (Matthew 21:1-5), He is about to proclaim that He is the prophesied Messiah (the Christ).

Zechariah wrote: *"Behold, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious. He is humble and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass."* (Zechariah 9:9).

Every Jew would know Zechariah's messianic prophecy. That's why the crowds hailed Jesus as their king shouting, *"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"* (Matthew 21:9). Jesus is proclaiming that He is the true Davidic Messiah and king... entering Jerusalem on a donkey, just as King David had done so many years ago.

2. Jesus rode a donkey to symbolize peace.

Why didn't Jesus ride a warhorse, as He is prophesied to do in Revelation? In the ancient Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses if they rode to war, but donkeys if they came in peace. 1 Kings 1:33 mentions Solomon riding a donkey on the day he was recognized as the new king of Israel. Other instances of leaders riding donkeys are in Judges 5:10; 10:4; 12:14; and 2 Samuel 16:2.

The mention of a donkey in Zechariah 9:9-10 fits the description of a king who would be *"righteous and having salvation, gentle."* Rather than riding to conquer, this king would enter in peace.

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."
Note the many details symbolic of peace in this prophecy.

"Take away the chariots": an end to the main vehicle of war.

"Take away... the war-horses": no need for horses used in war.

"The battle bow will be broken": no need for bows or arrows for fighting.

"He will proclaim peace to the nations": His message will be one of reconciliation.

"His rule shall be from sea to sea": the King will control extended territory with no enemies of concern.

Jesus fulfills this prediction of Zechariah.

3. Jesus' journey on a donkey takes us back to another story of a father sacrificing his own son. The story of Abraham and Isaac is a foreshadow of Jesus' sacrifice.

Isaac, a type of Christ (an anointed one - one chosen by God), rides a donkey as his father prepares to sacrifice him. But as the sacrifice is about to take place, God intervenes and provides a lamb (Genesis 22).

4. Jesus' journey on a donkey symbolized God's blessing to His people.

Jacob's divine blessing over his son Judah includes a reference to a donkey and a donkey's foal (Genesis 49:10-12):

"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk."

Jesus is a member of the tribe of Judah. Jacob's prophecy describes a king who washes with wine (His blood) and has white teeth (purity). [You might also read verses 14-16 about Isaacar, the rawboned donkey, who bows in submission!]

5. Jesus' triumphant journey teaches us that after all of the sacrifices offered for sin, we can enter the rest of faith because of His final sacrifice.

Exodus 23:12 states God's clear command:

"Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and so that the slave born in your household and the foreigner living among you may be refreshed."

Hebrews 10:12 assures us that Jesus has secured this rest - for us all:

"But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,"

6. Donkeys were pack animals, and emissaries often sent donkeys, overloaded with gifts, to appease the wrath of an enemy, thereby preventing bloodshed.

Jacob sent donkeys packed with treasures to avoid the wrath of his brother Esau (Genesis 33:8). Abigail brought donkeys packed with food to keep David from killing her family when Nabal, her husband, had angered the king-to-be (1 Samuel 25:18). Now Jesus is the offering, loaded on the donkey, meant to appease the wrath of God

7. God used a donkey to speak His judgment!

Balaam's donkey actually warns the prophet of his disobedience toward God.

"... Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, 'What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?' Balaam answered the donkey, 'You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.' The donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?' 'No,' he said. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown. The angel of the Lord asked him, 'Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me.'"

Samson defeated the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. (Judges 15:15).

God sent a lion to devour a false prophet in 1 Kings 13:27-31, while his donkey safely stood and watched. The lion did not eat the donkey, and the donkey carried the slain prophet back home at God's behest.

King Jehu rode a donkey into Samaria, a kind of false Jerusalem, in order to destroy the temple of the false god Baal (2 Kings 9:11-10:28).

8. Jesus demonstrated that he was the burden-bearer who came to save us.

Baby Jesus was born in humility - in a barn among the animals (which may have included a donkey. He most likely came into this world shortly after riding on a donkey, while still in the womb as Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to register for the census. And he departed this world shortly after riding a donkey into Jerusalem. This gentle beast of burden carried on his back the Savior of the World - who in turn carried on His back the sins of the world.

Jesus, in His teaching, also used the image of a donkey to convey the idea of carrying us and our burdens. In the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33-34) the lowly donkey is a perfect symbol of His love and compassion for the beaten and broken people whom Jesus himself carries:

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The Bible is rich in symbolism - and the lowly donkey is one of those symbols. This year, as you celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, may you have an even deeper appreciation for all that this story means for us today.

Pastor Mark

Services for the Season of Lent

The series for Lent has been taking us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and relates them to the events surrounding Christ's life, death and resurrection.

The services for **Holy Week** are as follows:

Palm Sunday – April 14 – 10:00 a.m.

Ask, Seek, Knock • Matthew 7:7-11 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, "Who is this King of Glory?" They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, "Hosanna!" They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was opening the door to new life through the cross.

Maundy Thursday – April 18 – 7:00 p.m.

The Golden Rule • Matthew 7:12 Jesus lived out the Golden Rule the night he was betrayed, but with a twist. He taught his disciples to do to others as he had done to them: washing their feet, forgiving their sins and loving them unconditionally.

Good Friday – April 19 – 7:00 p.m.

The Tree and Its Fruit • Matthew 7:15-20 Jesus preached that good trees can be recognized by their fruits. Despite its appearance, the tree of the cross on Good Friday proved to be the best tree of all, because by Christ's death upon it came the fruit of everlasting life.

Easter Sunday – April 21 – 10:00 a.m.

Treasures in Heaven • Matthew 6:19-21 Easter reminds us that Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NBCI Kairos #6 will be taking place from 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 25 through 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 28. Please remember to lift up the prayers for the Leaders, the Facilitators, the Participants, the Corrections Officers, and the entire prison during this time.

After the worship service on April 14, the children will have Sunday School Classes, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt. Peggy Young is in charge of this Easter egg hunt. Every one is welcome to help Peggy.

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIS
<p>APRIL</p> <p>12 - Scott Liller</p> <p>15 - Gregory Chaney</p> <p>15 - Richard Keller</p> <p>17 - Ann Burkey</p> <p>20 - Kim Jackson</p> <p>24 - Shirley Nolan</p> <p>27 - Andi Liller</p> <p>MAY</p> <p>6 - Gracie Rosenberger</p> <p>4 - Carl (Rosie) Rosenberger</p> <p>6 - Michael Snyder</p> <p>6 - Sondra Cave</p> <p>6 - Robert McIntyre</p> <p>11 - Joe McIntosh</p> <p>12 - Marsha Squires</p> <p>12 - Mason Hot</p> <p>14 - Mary Kay Fanelli</p> <p>17 - Terry Robb</p> <p>25 - Don Squires</p> <p>29 - Gerald Arthur</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>10 - Becky McIntyre</p> <p>14 - Kim Henson</p> <p>25 - Peggy Young</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>3 - Susan & Greg Lewis</p> <p>10 - Pat & Richar Keller</p> <p>17 - Vickie & Dae Larrick</p> <p>29 - Peggy & Moon Young</p> <p>MAY</p> <p>9- Andi & Scott Liller</p> <p>14 - Lori & Paul Eriksson</p> <p>18 - Carol & Tim Martin</p> <p>20 - Becky & Bob McIntyre</p> <p>27 - Sondra & Gene Cave</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>3 - Lora & Kim Henson</p> <p>6 - Susans & Adrian Weems</p> <p>23 - Tanya & Bryan Palmer</p>

NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION

(FROM: 12/3/18 TO 04/01/19)

BY: SADIE KOSEK

<p>The congregational meeting was held Sunday, December 9th with approximately 45 attending. It didn't take long for the 2019 budget, presented by the finance committee, to be approved by the congregation. Our appreciation to those on the committee for diligently working hard on a budget that was approved. This is not an easy task!</p>	<p>Did you notice the manger scene was missing...that was because it was 7 p.m.and baby Jesus wasn't born until sometime after 12 midnight on the 25th! The church also lacked the decorations that the churches have!</p> <p>However, on Sunday the 30th, the front was ablaze with jar candles lit on the steps, wreaths were on the doors (inside and out), wreaths adorned the windows, the Nativity scene was in back of the altar with a light that cast the shadow of Mary, Joseph and the manger on the wall. The church was alive in all its splendor! This was the idea of our decorator, Andi Liller, and we appreciate her being so creative and original in her decorating!</p>
<p>The youth presented their Christmas program on Sunday, December 16th, under the direction of Lori Eriksson, with Kathy Rosenberger, chairman of the Sunday School and Children's Church, in charge of costumes and props. The musical was entitled 'The Best Gift of All' and very well performed by the children. Those participating were Hannah/KarlEriksson,Annabeth/Carolyn/William/Patrick Hughes,Caitie,GracieRosenberger,Liam/Handley,Beckett Robb, Bryson/Branson Troutman, Reese Tabb, Adaline LaRue, Mason Birtinger and Dante Dill. At the close of the worship service, Handley Robb, performed on the keyboard with the rendition of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' to the enjoyment of everyone! After the service our talented Becky McIntyre made Christmas bags for all the cast which contained a mandarin orange, krispie treat and holiday chocolates!</p>	<p>The tree in the narthex containing gloves, scarfs, etc., for the needy children of South Penn Elementary School, was stripped by Kay Chaney, assisted by her granddaughter, Morgan. Kay, the originator of this worthwhile project, delivered them to the school prior to closing for the holidays. The staff was very excited to receive them as they were greatly needed.</p> <p>The breakdown for the donated items were: 30 (boys/girls) hat/glove sets, 18 (boys/girls) hats, 31 (boys/girls) pairs of gloves and 5 girls gloves/hat/scarf sets for a total of 84 items!! Once again, our appreciation to our generous congregation!</p>
<p>Sunday, December 23rd, the congregation enjoyed 'Carol of the Bells' performed on the keyboard by Annabeth Hughes during the offering collection. Then as the candles were being extinguished, Carolyn Hughes played 'Angels We Have Heard on High' on the keyboard. We have youth talent to enjoy in the future with Handley, Carolyn and Annabeth!!</p> <p>We had an impressive Christmas eve service. Eleanor Stotler, council president presented Pastor Mark with a Christmas card and monetary appreciation gift on behalf of the congregation and friends at the beginning of the service.</p>	<p>Sincere sympathy to the family of Anna (Danahy) Burkey who passed away January 23rd at Goodwill Retirement Community (Grantsville) at the age of 96. Ann, as she was better known to us that went on the bus trips, is survived by 3 children, including Mike, the husband of our Ann Burkey. Anna is also survived by 5 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Friends and family were received at Scarpelli Funeral Home with the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church and interment in St. Mary's cemetery.</p>

Do you remember church being canceled for 2 Sundays in a row due to winter weather??? I don't ... but it happened in January...the 13th with a 5" snow... and the 20th with a 4" snow topped with an ice covering due to zero temperatures. The wind chill factor was -9!! Our appreciation to Scott Liller who took care of the snow removal on the parking lots. Jim/Lori Squires arrived with their shovels and removed the snow from the sidewalks. Thanks to Scott, Jim and Lori!

LWLC council members were installed at the January 27th service. The new members are Pat Counihan, Greg Lewis, Tanya Palmer and Terry Robb with Mike McIntosh staying on his 2nd and 3th year term. Other council members are Dick Keller, Dave Larrick, Joe McIntosh, Don Squires, Lori Squires and Eleanor Stotler.

Those desiring to be replaced or had served 2 terms are Ann Burkey, Kim Henson, Gene Cave, Sadie Koser and Becky McIntyre. Our congratulations to the new members agreeing to serve for the next 3 years and our gratitude to those being replaced.

The officers are Eleanor Stotler, president; Terry Robb, vice president; Tanya Palmer, secretary and Lori Squires continues as our efficient treasurer. Ministering team officers are Pat Counihan, nurturing; Gregg Lewis, sharing; Dick Keller, stewarding and Don Squires, celebrating.

Home Paramount Pest Control where Mike McIntosh has been employed for 10 years and is now manager, recently held the company's dinner and awards presentation in Baltimore. Mike and his office received a total of 7 awards with 3 being best in company awards. At the time of the meeting, Mike received the Service Branch of the Year Plaque for his district. Mike is dedicated to his job and enjoys getting rid of the variety

Sometime during the last week in January the side door was badly damaged at the latch although it remained in the locked position. The next week it was repaired by one of our handymen...Jim Squires who did an excellent job, saving us an outside repair bill!

Following worship service on Sunday, February 10th, a very surprised 90 year old lady was called forward by Pastor Mark. He then read an email sent to the congregation on January 25th. It read "'Sadie's family would like to surprise her by inviting the congregation to stay after worship on Sunday, February 10th in order to share fellowship and cake in celebration of Sadie's 90th birthday."

This was a great congregation to tell a secret, as it was a complete surprise! The luncheon consisted of sandwiches and candy made by Becky McIntyre, fruit platter, mints, chips, nuts, and balloons provided by Paula/Joe McIntosh. Andi Liller arranged the buffet and cake tables with the cake inscribed "Happy 90th Birthday, Sadie". The cake was served by Andi and Phyllis Alban. Thank you LWLC, Paula/Joe, Andi, Becky and our fantastic congregation for making my 90th the 2nd surprise. The first shocker happened the previous evening when my niece Julie Hare Perrey and my nephew Steve Hare, held a surprise buffet dinner at Oscar's with 29 (out of 30) immediate family members attending. Included were Julie's husband, 2 daughters and the fiance of 1 daughter flying from Nashville for just 1 1/2 days! They were in church on the 10th and attended the luncheon. I'm sure my heart is in good condition to go through 2 big surprises in less than 24 hours. My thanks and appreciation to you all!

Those who volunteered to help construct the momento for LWLC's 9th anniversary enjoyed a covered dish dinner prior to the craft making. Scott/Andi Liller were the instructors of the project. Craftmakers were Kay Chaney, Carol Lantz, Paul/Lori Eriksson, Kim/Lori Henson, Dick/Pat Keller and Pastor Mark/Susan. The craft is a secret until LWLC's March anniversary!

The Dapper Dan Club of Allegany County held their 71st Sports Award Banquet Sunday, February 24th at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club. One of the honorees was Mike Carter, son of Kathy Rosenberger, a 1995 graduate of Allegany High School, a graduate of Fairmont State University and received a master's degree in athletic coaching education from West Virginia University. Mike, baseball head coach at CCBC Essex, guided the 2018 Knights to their first appearance in the NJCC Division 2 World Series in 26 years! Essex won its second Region XX Division 2 title in 2 years and the NJCAA Northeast District championship to earn the trip to Enid, Oklahoma. At the end of the season, Mike was selected as the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches' Maryland College Coach of the Year, the American Baseball Coaches Association/Diamond NJCAA Division 2 Northeast Regional Coach of the Year and the Maryland JUCO Coach of the year for the 2018 season. Mike played for coach Steve Bazarnic at Allegany College of Maryland, hitting .367/.346 to help the Trojans to the Division 1 World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. Mike batted .440 at Fairmont State University! Mike was a member of 6 PennMar-WV Baseball League championship teams, was a member of Allegany College coaching staff in

2002-06 as the Trojans went to the Division 2 World Series in Millington, Tennessee. In the Cal Ripken Collegiate League, Mike spent 2 years (2013-14) as head coach of the Baltimore Red Birds, winning league championships both years! At Essex Mike was pitching coach in 2010, head coach in 2011, guiding the Knights to 5 straight Region XX final fours and the 2016 championships, the school's first since 1992!! Mike teaches physical education at Digital Harbor High School in Baltimore. He and his wife, Kristen, are the parents of 2 daughters, Eliza (7) Maris (3) and a son, Finley 6 months.

Congratulations...Mike...for the coveted Special Recognition Award by the Dapper Dan Club! Also, congrats to his mother, Kathy and all the family, who are quite proud of Mike and his accomplishments!

Sunday, March 3rd the secret was out about the craft that was made for the 9th anniversary of Living Word Lutheran Church...the symbol is POTTERY! Displayed on the anniversary tree at the side of the altar were miniature pottery flower pots, brightly painted and/or glittered by our group of crafters. The attractive pots were upside down with a colorful string through the hole in the bottom that contained a clapper which made a musical tingling sound when jingled. The attached tag to the string said...LWLC 9th Anniversary-March 3, 2019...on the reverse side our motto...Taking a Living Christ To a Dying World. Pastor Mark had a prayer in observance of the occasion and remarked how far we've come in just 9 years when we had many doubters...started out with nothing, meeting in the Woodmen of the World

building for 5 of those years. Nothing is impossible with Jesus Christ being in control for all the right reasons... We sincerely thank Andi and Scott for creating out 9th anniversary souvenir and crafters who put it all together !

Sincere sympathy to the family of Mildred 'Millie' Deter who went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 2nd, at Western Maryland Regional Medical Center, at the age of 94.

Millie was on our shut-in list for several years being taken care of in her home. Among the survivors is her devoted husband, Charlie, 2 daughters, 1 son, 9 children, and 16 great grandchildren and 3 great grand-children
The funeral was held at Scarpelli Funeral Home on March 6th by Pastor Mark officiating with interment in Sunset Memorial Park. A luncheon was served in the church fellowship hall for the family and friends.

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER: Happiness is found when you stop comparing yourself to other people.
(Unknown)

NEWS CONCERNING OUR YOUNGER GENERATION

(FROM 12/3/18 TO 4/1/19)

Congratulations to Caitie Rosenberger for being on the A/B honor roll, second marking period at Allegany High School. Caitie is the granddaughter of Carl and Kathy Rossenberger.

Mount Savage School announced its honor roll listing for the second marking period and again Annabeth Hughes made the straight A honor roll! She is a member of the 7th grade.

Hannah Eriksson, a member of the 6th grade made the honor roll list again! Her brother, r Karl, is in the 3rd grade and he made the Principal's Choice honor!

Meanwhile, at Frost Eementary (Frostburg) Carolyn Hughes, 5 th grade member and her brother, William, who is in the 3rd grade, both made the Principal's Choice award honor roll.

The Eriksson children's parents are Paul and Lori. The Hughes children's parents are Kristie and Ray. Congratulations to Caitie, Hannah and Karl, Annabeth, Carolyn and William...keep up the good work!

At a recent swim meet held in Laurel, MD, Hannah Eriksson received 3 Personnel Best Times while her brother, Karl, also raced and received a third place! Hannah and Karl are members of the YMCA Sea Otters teams. Great swimming... Hannah and Karl!

Congratulations to Liam Robb who made the South Penn Elementary School scholars list for the

2nd marking period! Liam, a member of the 5th grade, is the grandson of Terry and Peggy and the gret grandson of Pat Robb.

The 2019 coloring contest winners were announced recently by the Cumberland Times-News. Two of the winners were frm LWLC. Patrick Hughes won 2nd place (kindergarten & 1st grade), while his sister, Carolyn, won 2nd place (4th/5th) grade. Patrick and Carolyn are students at Frost Elementary School. Congratulations to our artists!

Bishop Walsh Spartan Theatre presented the Stephan Sondheim musicl "Into The Woods" in early April. Senior Ben Koch, grandson of Wayne/Joyce Smith, was one of the cast stars. Ben doubled his talents by portraying Cinderella's Prince and was also the wolf!

THANK YOU & APPRECIATION NOTES

To The Sunday School Classes - Dear Boys and Girls, (& and Phyllis:

Thank you so much for the beautiful comfort quilt you gave to me on Sunday. I know it will give me a lot of comfort and warmth during my recovery. Please continue to draw and color the quilt squares, they will bring others lots of comfort and joy too. Thanks again and always remember that Jesus loves each of you.

Love & Blessings, Psegy Young

When Kathy and Rosie unfolded the beautiful quilt you all made and I realized it was being given to me, I was overwhelmed with emotion. What a very generous

gift to someone you don't know! I want to thank each and everyone of you who took part in making the quilt and all who prayed for me in my time of need. God has been good to me. I am feeling much better...on a lot of medicine. I pray that God will richly bless each and every one of you and your church.

Sincerely, Barbara Terrill

Note: I felt this following appreciation letter should be put in our newsletter for those who were unable to attend church (2/3/19) when Pastor Mark read it...

Dear Pastor: The Interfaith Community Pantry would like to thank you and its members for your support.

During 2018 your Church members gave the following donations: MONIES: \$200.00 FOOD : 413 items NON-FOOD 123 items. Through your donations of food and money, the pantry was able to serve individuals and families that were referred to us who were in need of emergency food. During 2018 we received 1,630 referrals, representing 4,364 people.

Those served received 30,023 items of food and 8,085 miscellaneous food items They also received vouchers for perishable food that amounted to \$25,185.00.

We also distributed 9,057 commodity food items.

The pantry has been in operation since 1960 with help from churches, organizations and individuals. The pantry has no paid employees, yet we operate the pantry 5 days a week from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. with the help of many volunteers. Again, thank you and your members for their continued support.

Sincerely, Executive Board of the Interfaith

Community Pantry

Dear Members, Thank you so much for your donation to our activity fund. It is really appreciated.

God's Blessings, Egle Nursing & Rehab Center

The following letter is from CORE (Lutheran Coalition for Renewal), A Voice and Network for Confessing Lutherans) and was read by Pastor Mark on Sunday, February 19th. Previously knowing about this alarming act by ELCA, I felt it necessary to have it in our newsletter for those who were not at this worship service... Dear Friends: This past year...as Lutheran CORE has been working to alert people to what is occurring within the ELCA...we have been saying, "Something very alarming is happening here." Traditional views were called a LIE in front of 31,000 young people by a leading spokesperson for the ELCA. The ELCA is further displaying its dishonesty and lack of integrity by promoting things way beyond what was actually approved by its own churchwide assembly. The ELCA is preparing to vote on a special statement on "WOMEN AND JUSTICE" which comes perilously close to calling much of the Bible sinful. The LGBTQIA+community is becoming even more powerful as it was able to force the firing of a seminary president. Yes, something very alarming is happening here.

Thank you for your continued, faithful and generous support of Lutheran CORE, because of friends like you we are able to keep doing our work of being a voice for Biblical Truth and a Network for confessing Lutherans. During the year 2018 our friends gave over \$79,500 to enable our work. For 2019 we are looking at a budget of \$83,000, as we prepare for two major, new undertakings.

As so many forces are working against a traditional view of the authority of the Bible and a Biblical view of Lutheran theology, the mission of the church and human sexuality, we are so grateful that you are partners with us in the work of Christ. Blessing in Christ, Dennis Nelson, Executive Director of Lutheran CORE. Note: the above is excerpts from his letter.

To My Congregational Family, You all certainly can keep a secret as I was truly surprised when Pastor Mark read a copy of the email invitation last Sunday. I sincerely thank Becky for making the sandwiches and candy, LWIC for the cake and Paula/Joe for providing the rest of the delicious buffet refreshments. Thank you to Andi and Paula for putting my surprise luncheon together. I especially appreciated the beautiful cards with kind remembrances written thereon from you...my congregational family!
Love and God Bless, Sadie

Friends of Living Word: I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and especially for the comfort quilt. I use it daily and it does give me comfort while I'm sitting watching TV.

Thanks to all, Pat Counihan

To the Congregation of Living Word Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for remembering our Dad at the worship service. Our Dad was truly a wonderful man and we have been touched by the outpouring of love we've received. Thank you so much.

Cindy Caporale, Theresa Divico & Families