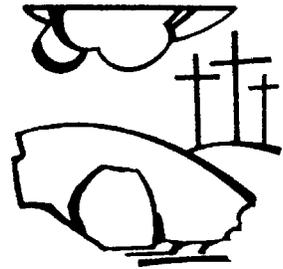


FAITH NEWSLETTER

April 2008 / May 2008

Why is Jesus Christ so special?



The traditional Christian answer has always been that His resurrection from the dead proves that He is God, and thus establishes His unique status and identity which distinguishes Him from all other human beings.

Others - like Socrates of the ancient world, or Gandhi in more recent history - were rightly respected as fellow human beings because of their personality or conduct, but not as God. Jesus' uniqueness is, for the Christian, ultimately grounded in who He was, rather than what He said and did. In other words, Christians have always tended to regard Jesus' teaching and lifestyle as of importance only because of who they knew Him to be, rather than because of what His teaching and lifestyle were in themselves. Christians do not regard Him as a distant teacher from the past, a long-dead rabbi or guru - they know Him as their risen Lord, one whom they worship and through whom they know the living God.

The last century, i.e., the twentieth century, has witnessed human cruelty and ferocity rarely paralleled in the history of the world. The horrors of the First World War in Europe, of the Stalinist purges in the old Soviet Union, of the Nazi extermination camps, the programs of genocide in Southeast Asia, and the ethnic cleansing of Bosnia and Rwanda - all have raised the question in the minds of many people concerning how God is involved in this world of suffering. The birth of God in a crib and the death of God on a cross preserves the crucial Christian insight that God in Christ subjected Himself to the cruelty and evil of the world. A playlet entitled *The Long Silence* brings out this insight with remarkable force.

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly - not with cringing shame, but with belligerence.

'Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?' snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. 'We endured terror, beatings, torture and death!' In another group, a Negro boy lowered his collar. 'What about this?' he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. 'Lynched - for no crime but being black!' In another crowd, there was a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. 'Why should I suffer?' she murmured. 'It wasn't my fault.'

Far out across the plain there were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He had permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred. What did God know of all that man had been forced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said.

So each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because he has suffered the most. A Jew, a Negro, a person from Hiroshima, a horribly deformed arthritic, a thalidomide child. In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever.

Before God could be qualified to be their judge, He must endure what they had endured. The decision was that God should be sentenced to live upon earth - as a man!

'Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted. Give Him a work so difficult that even His family will think Him out of His mind when He tries to do it. Let Him be betrayed by His closet friends. Let Him face false charges, be tried by a prejudiced jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let Him be tortured. At the last, let Him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let Him die. Let Him die so that there can be no doubt that He died. Let there be a host of witnesses to verify it.'

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled. And when the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already served His sentence.

It is quite possible that we can express sorrow or regret through someone else. Yet, sending someone else to apologize for something, to send your condolences, is hardly anything like actually entering into the situation of suffering yourself. In the cross we see that God knows what it is like to suffer first-hand; God took human suffering upon Himself, lending it meaning and dignity through His presence in order to redeem the world. The militant feminist, the promiscuous liberal, the skeptic - all are impotent in their attempts to conceive a god against this God - the God who revealed Himself to us through the man Jesus Christ, the real God of the Christian faith.

PASTOR SIMPSON

In and Around Faith Church

Faith Ladies Aid

Our Ladies have sprung into Spring with enthusiasm and good will. We are ready for the hard work it takes to continue God's work here at Faith.

Our *Annual Rummage Sale* will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. As in past years we will also have a bake sale. Therefore, we are in need of your rummage and your baking talents. Please start cleaning out closets and basements. Remember you might not think of your used things as treasures, but someone else will. Also your bakery items will help the bake sale.

The money made from this sale enables us to purchase things for the church and to support various Mission projects.

Besides attending please advertise this event to your neighbors and friends.

The April church bulletins will give further information on when to bring your used items to the basement. The ladies will be setting up the week before the sale. Bake goods can be brought the Friday before or the day of the sale.

Remember you are always welcome at our meetings. So consider joining us in the Lord's work.

Kathleen Nowak
Membership Chairman

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is very busy. We are meeting the needs of many people in our community. On average we see 22 to 26 people per month. This is why we need you to keep us in your prayers and also in your hearts and minds. When you are shopping think about adding a few items to your grocery cart. A few items a month donated to the food pantry will help support our endeavors.

God Bless Your Help.

Al and Louise DeVries
Rosemary and Lloyd Peterson

LWML

We have two activities scheduled for April. "Saturday Jog" is on April 12th at 8:30 A.M. at holy Trinity Church in Burbank. If you plan to attend bring a salad dish to be shared at the common table. This will be a pleasant day visiting with the ladies of Circuit 20 and enjoying the guest speaker Sherri Smith who will talk about Katie Luther.

The Spring Rally will be at St. Peter's Church on 85th and Kedvale in Chicago. This event starts at 8:30 .M. All ladies are invited.

Grace Scott

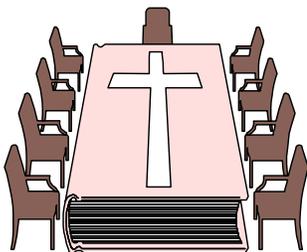
Schedule of April / May 2008 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Girl Scouts	Tu - 3:30 PM F - 6:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM



Thought of the Day

Our Father loves His children too much to allow us to remain undisciplined weaklings. God doesn't promise us ease, but He does promise to provide the strength to endure.

Romans 5:1-5



April / May Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 6 Frank Oslakovic
 Bill Weems
 Nick Trojanowski
 Glenn Werth

Apr. 13 Alden Ketchum
 Howard Johnson
 Bob Stegman

Apr. 20 Ed Neaves
 Gene Osmanski
 Christina Trojanowski
 Elise Trojanowski

Apr. 27 Richard Clark
 Dory Moeller
 A.J. Bray

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 6 Bill Weems

Apr. 13 Debbie Hochgesang

Apr. 20 Gene Osmanski

Apr. 27 Ed Neaves

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

May 4 Bill Weems
 Frank Oslakovic
 Al Skopec
 Andrea Skopec

May 11 Alden Ketchum
 Mark Trojanowski
 Dory Moeller

May 18 Ed Neaves
 Gene Osmanski
 Gail Henson
 Mary Slepki

May 25 Richard Clark
 Nick Trojanowski
 A.J. Bray

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

May 4 Nick Trojanowski

May 11 Frank Oslakovic

May 18 Elise Trojanowski

May 25 Christina Trojanowski

