

sonlight

SAINT ALBAN'S
SINKING SPRING

VOLUME THIRTY-TWO
ISSUE FOUR
APRIL 2019



Reflection
Repentance
Preparation

in this month's issue

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from the rector's desk

THE REV. DENNIS J. REID

Dear friends in Christ,

As we were invited into a solemn and holy season of Lent several weeks ago, I offer another invitation to you this month: the invitation to journey with Christ even to the cross in this upcoming Holy Week.

These upcoming days are some of the most important moments in the whole church year, a time in which we tell once more the story of Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem and the pain and suffering of his Passion. It is a sacred time to draw closer to Christ, to remember his gracious self-giving acts at the Last Supper and in the crucifixion, and then to meet him in faith and joy in his risen body on Easter Day.

We will have services almost every day of Holy Week, culminating with a combined Easter Vigil with our friends from St. Thomas Morgantown, Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Mohnton. I hope you'll join us for these unique services as we follow Christ through his final days, his death, and his resurrection.

Grace to you and peace,



the lenten altar

Now that the season of Lent is upon us, I'm sure many of you have noticed the changes made to the altar. This is the season that we attempt to put aside all the distractions and "extra" things and get to the core of what we believe and who we are. It is a time for reflection, repentance, and for preparation. The Lenten altar also reflects those beliefs. The changes in the altar, from the color to the chalice, reflects the mood of lent. The symbolism reflected in the changes to the altar serve as a reminder to us each week that lent is a time to reflect on our spiritual life, repent for our wrong doings and prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter - Christ is Risen!



In looking at the picture, the most noticeable change is the color of the altar linens to purple. Along with the purple color, the veiling of the crosses takes place only during the Lenten season. This is a centuries old tradition that varies among Christian churches. I have found different explanations for our custom. This tradition can be traced back to the 9th century England as part of removing signs of joy and happiness from the church which included covering the altar and other sacred objects.

One explanation for the origin of veiling is that the thin material used as the veil gives a distorted, incomplete view to provide a reminder that our sins prevent us from seeing the fullness of the joy and gladness that God desires for us. Another account states that the veil over the cross invites us who follow Christ to open ourselves to those areas in which

Lent, deriving from a medieval Germanic word for "spring," is a time for renewal, preparation for the rebirth of the church at Easter baptisms. It offers us an opportunity each year to consider how we are living out our baptismal calling.

St Bart's Blog

Purple is the color of humility, penance, and wisdom that comes from inward discernment. It is also the color of royalty. The extreme differences between the two (humility and royalty) express one of the great lessons of Lent: Christ as the servant-king and our endurance to be as such to the world as well. In penitential theology, purple is the color of inward reflection, which is one of the important things we are called to do each Lent in preparation for Easter.

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we fail to trust our God. This idea is rooted in Gospel reading of John 8: 46-59 in which Jesus explains true discipleship to a group. In verse 59 it states that "At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds." Both of these views on the reason for the veiling tradition remind us of the need for self examination to truly devote ourselves to God. The cross over the side altar is draped rather than veiled due to the cross being bolted directly to the wall and securing a veil would be impractical.

Another change to the alter during Lent is the removal of flowers and fewer candles. The season of Lent is a solemn time as we remember Jesus' suffering alone in the wilderness. The removal of decorations from the alter reflect the austerity and simple time of reflection of the season.

In keeping with the austerity of Lent, the offertory simple collection baskets replace the usual collection plates. The use of earthenware for the paten and chalice keeps with the unadorned, organic nature of lent. I always feel that the earthenware feels more authentic and would be more in keeping with what Jesus and his disciples would have used during their meals and especially during the Last Supper.



As we move through the six weeks of Lent, the symbolism displayed on the alter serve as a reminder each week that this is the time to reflect on our relationship with God, repent and prepare for our Risen Lord.



the learning center

This month we will be learning about the season of spring, the changing weather, and Easter. The color is yellow, the shape is diamond, the numbers 14 & 15, and the letters Ee, Nn, Qq, and Uu. Math activities should revolve around the color yellow, the shape of the diamond, identifying objects that are same/different, and identifying long and short.

In Science, we will discuss Earth Day and things we can do to save our planet, what causes rain, and the water cycle. The children should have some opportunities to observe and discuss the changes happening outside.

The sight words for April are fourteen, fifteen, yellow and diamond.



Open House

We are having our second "Open House" on Saturday, April 13th, from 10am-12pm. We had one in February and we had 6 families sign their child up for our 2019 Summer program and/or upcoming 2019-2020 school year. We are beginning to fill up quickly and we anticipate a full enrollment (or close to it) by the beginning of our school year. Because we have such a small enrollment for our summer programs, we have decided to extend our current school year by 2 weeks and start our new school year 2 weeks earlier than in years past. Our current program will end on Friday, June 14, 2019 and our upcoming 2019-2020 school year will begin on Monday, August 12, 2019.

Upcoming events

On Wednesday, April 17th, we will be having an Easter Egg hunt and party.

We will be having our spring fundraiser on Thursday, April 11th at 10:00am. We will be having "Animaland" coming to the center. The children will have the opportunity to make their own stuffed animal. This is very much like "Build-A-Bear".

Some of you may have noticed some physical changes in our learning center. Because our enrollment is almost at capacity, we have had to divide the center into 2 groups and we have rearranged our furniture to accommodate our increased enrollment. So far, the teachers are very happy with the division of the center and the new arrangement of the classroom.

Come check it out!

God Bless,
Rindy Foltz

Christian Education

April Bible Verse: Do this in remembrance of Me

Luke 22:19

Week 1: The Last Supper

Week 2: The Easter Story

Week 3: The Resurrection

Week 4: The Road to Emmaus



Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Should not we thy sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), alt.



**Join us for our
20th annual
season of St.
Alban's Flea
Market and
Flower Sale!**

While this is a fundraising event, it is also a great time of fellowship! Lets all pull together, have some fun and make this 20th anniversary of St. Alban's Flea Market the best one yet. Volunteers are always needed especially for the combined flea markets in May, August and October. There are a variety of ways to help out. See Carol Anderson to see how you can help us make this year's event the best ever.

**First Saturday of
Each Month
May to October 2019
7 am to 1 pm**

**May, August,
October - St. Alban's
& Vendors**

**June, July, September
- Vendor Only**



Back to when it all began...



Recognize anyone?



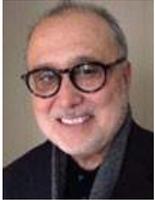
20 years later



EASTER

New life in full bloom

BY THE REV. ED GOMEZ



Long before Lent culminates in the high holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally Easter, we are bombarded with marshmallow chicks, jelly beans and a wide array of Easter chocolate bunnies, not barring those decadent crèmes-filled, multicolored wrapped Cadbury chocolates. Yum!

All this is part of the Sunday afternoon Easter brunch traditions that must include the deviled eggs, asparagus, and some rendition of a baked ham (purchased last minute and already cooked at some mega box store), which is preceded by chilled mimosas as the children forage for plastic eggs in the Easter egg hunt after church. And parents pray that it has not rained and the children's lovely Easter wear of cute spring-colored dresses and boy's new shoes and pastel shirts won't get muddied.

Similar to other church celebrations, Easter costs money. While not like Christmas, Easter does however call for an investment that all are willing to make to celebrate this springtime festivity of new life. Parents, church members young and old all donate their time, talent and treasure to make this day special for the entire congregation! I love this day at my church of St. Paul's / San Pablo because both the English- and Spanish-speaking congregations come together for a beautiful brunch where scrambled eggs come with jalapenos and tortillas next to the Honey Baked ham! The themes of new life and generosity come together in full bloom.

I have found that I get "new life" when I am most generous with my time and money. As well, my parish community seems to become more alive when they are generous in giving of themselves, their time, and their financial means.

Our faith teaches that there is no greater love than one who lays down his/her life for their friends (John 15:13), and again Luke tells us, "Forgive and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:37-38). Somehow the ancient's wisdom teaches us that when we give, we receive.

But I have found that what you get back is the joy of Easter — the joy of new life where you release the baggage of scarcity and insecurity, and embrace the generosity of a God who does nothing but constantly give.

Edward Gomez is Vicar of St. Paul's / San Pablo Episcopal Church in Houston and a member of the TENS Board of Directors.

SHINING
OUR LIGHT

For reflection...

- Recall a time when you felt you were generous and received the joy of Easter.
- What do you feel you need to give in order to receive? What do you feel you need to receive?

photo journal

Bowling



Pancake Breakfast



Dr. Perez speaking on Parkinson's Disease

Friends at the Peace

He has the whole world in His hands



Paper Bag Sermon



Location: Great Sand Dunes National Park Looking Southwest towards Alamosa, CO
Date/Time: 9/9/2018 at 11:03 PM 8200ft Elevation 16mm - ISO 5000 15 seconds - f/4.5



↑ Sunday School: David and Golath

Luke announcing Eagle Scout Project at St Alban's →



coming events

SATURDAY
APRIL

6

**Jubilate Service
4pm**

THURSDAY
APRIL

11

**Chrism Mass
in Bethlehem
11am**

SATURDAY
APRIL

20

**The Great Vigil
of Easter
8pm**



praying the seasons

The Collect of the Day for Good Friday:



Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
