

Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

April 12, 2015

Hard to Believe

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” (John 20:24-25)

Thomas will always go down through history branded with the title “doubting.” He couldn’t accept the report the other disciples gave him. His words were simple, clear, and demanded evidence. Thomas didn’t want to have his hopes built up only to have them shattered. So he was going to be cautious. “I will not believe Jesus is alive until I see and touch him for myself!”

It is easy to relate to Thomas. Too many times people have reneged on their word. Too many times people have broken their promises. Too many times I have been disappointed by what didn’t happen.

Consequently, I want proof.

It is unfortunate how disappointment has shaped my life. It is even more unfortunate how disappointment has shaped my faith. Although I try to put my trust in God, I don’t want to be disappointed either. I try praying, but God seems distant. I look to him for answers, but he seems disinterested. I want to feel his presence, but he seems detached. The end result is a lack of trust, and I become like Thomas. I want proof. I want evidence that I can touch and see. How can I simply depend on my God’s words, “trust me?”

When Jesus says, “trust me,” I can do just that. Even though I may not be able to see or touch him, he has given me every reason to believe him. I have his promise, “I am with you always (Matthew 28:20).” I also have his work as my Savior. His life lived as my perfect substitute. His death offered as my ransom. His triumph over the grave provided as my certainty.



Each testifies to his undeserved love for me. Each provides undeniable proof that I can trust.

I can believe my Savior. I can also believe he will continue to provide me with the reassurance I need. That is his promise, and that promise is sealed with his death and resurrection.

Thomas was eventually convinced, and freely confessed that he believed (John 20:28). As I look at the same evidence, I too am convinced. Jesus is alive. Jesus is my Savior. Jesus is always there for me.

Prayer: Dear risen Savior, forgive me for my doubts and my failures to trust you. I do believe! Help me overcome my unbelief. Amen.

Devotion adapted from www.WhatAboutJesus.com

Contact Information

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This Week at Lamb of God (April 6-12)

Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Franks Family
- Bulletins: Priscilla Ehrick
- Accompanist: Elisabeth Wagner
- Ushers—Jeff Rader, Brian Burrows

Events

- **Wednesday, April 15**
6:15 pm—Choir Rehearsal
7:15 pm—Bible Study
- **Thursday, April 16**
7:00 pm—Bible Basics: Faith Builders
- **Saturday, April 18**
9:00 am—LWMS Mission Day, Greenwood, IN
10:00 am—Bible & Brunch
10:00 am—Creek Ridge Civic Association Meeting
- **Sunday, April 12**
9:15 am—Sunday School and Bible Study
10:30 am—Worship with Communion
12:00 pm—Sunday School Teachers Mtg.

Mission Prayer: Africa

Almighty God, you bring about your good and gracious purposes even in the wake of tragedy. We marvel at how, despite the civil unrest in South Sudan, you have given us an opportunity to minister to numerous refugees who had fled to Ethiopia. You have allowed us to see your powerful gospel working in their hearts. We also thank you for the Lutheran Church of



Ethiopia—a group of 300 souls that holds faithfully to your Word and desires membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference so that they may be encouraged by other like-minded Lutherans of the Reformation heritage. We thank you for the blessings of your gospel all around our world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Spring Mission Day

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Heartland Circuit Spring Mission Day is this Saturday, April 18, at Light of Life Lutheran Church in Greenwood, IN. The speaker will be Missionary John Stelljes, pastor at the five-year-old mission in Greenwood. Find more information and register online at tinyurl.com/LWMSHeartland. Sign up in the fellowship hall to contribute to the Silent Auction gift basket for the event. Contact Diane Jensen or Elisabeth Wagner with questions.

I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD
WHOEVER
FOLLOWS
ME
WILL NEVER
WALK IN
DARKNESS
BUT
WILL HAVE
THE LIGHT
OF LIFE
IN HIMSELF

LORD, YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE!
Psalm 27:1

Spring Mission Day
Saturday, April 18
9 am – 3 pm

Guest presenter – Pastor John Stelljes
WELS home missionary

Light of Life Lutheran Church*
2234 Sheek Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
lolgreenwood.org

Continental breakfast & lunch provided

1st Annual Alpha Pregnancy Center Life Walk

Please put **Saturday, June 20**, on your calendars & be part of our first LIFE WALK to benefit the Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center. More information along with a registration/pledge form will be coming out in April. Questions? Please contact Cindy Greiner, member of St. Paul's,

at 614-804-4773 or at cindy@justasking.org.

Would you or your company like to be a LIFE WALK Sponsor? All sponsors will be listed on the registration/pledge form as well as on the back side of the t-shirts. Please contact Cindy Greiner for information. Thank you!

Committal Service

A committal service for Bob Woehrle will be held Tuesday, April 21, at 3:30 pm at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, 5600 E. Broad St.

Summer Dates

- Vacation Bible School: June 15-18
- Westerville 4th Fridays: June 26, July 24, August 28
- Westerville Parade: July 4
- Fine Arts Camp: July 27-31

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, please contact Katie Chen (katiesl@hotmail.com).

Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Shut-ins: Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Dick, Mike
- College students: Jason, Ian, Janet, Jessica
- Serving in the military (or reserves): Ross, Garrett, Dane

Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers

Give Thanks to the Lord!

Attendance:

Worship Maundy Thursday (4/2): 27
Worship Good Friday (4/3): 33
Worship Easter Sunday (4/5): 56

Offerings:

General Fund (4/2): \$175.00
General Fund (4/3): \$347.00
General Fund (4/5): \$2357.16
Year-to-Date Average: \$1998.35
Weekly Budgeted Ministry: \$2274.33