



2019

Sunday Worship
10:00a.m.

Sunday School during
Worship

Fellowship Coffee
Following Worship

-Joint Board Meeting
April 9 at 7pm

-Seniors Social
April 12 at 1:00pm

-Shepherds meeting
April 24 at 1:00

-GSC Garage Sale
May 25th

Pastor:

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Joint Board Chair:

Anita Jones

Building: John Dyck

Congregational Care:

Shirley Klockow

Treasurer:

Steve Clarke

Good Shepherd Church

Mission Statement

Good Shepherd Community Church:
Where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.

The Challenge for Easter People

Easter is an amazing focal point in the Christian calendar. Like Christmas, Easter is one of the most highly attended church celebrations of the year. But to truly appreciate the significance of this day, it is important to consider what accompanies resurrection. First there is the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) where Jesus proclaims the hope-filled nature of suffering expressed in something as simple as bread and wine. Then we see the profound truth of this message on Good Friday with Jesus' violent death. The challenge for us is finding the courage to hold this painful reality without moving too quickly to the realized promise of new and eternal life on Easter.

If we truly want to celebrate Easter and claim to be Easter people, we must be willing to hold and respond to the brokenness and suffering of our world. The most blatant example of this is the recent violence against our Muslim brothers and sisters in New Zealand. How might we hold the pain of our neighbors in a way that will expand the love of Christ in the world?

The President of the Moravian Church, Northern Province of North America, The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, offers these words of encouragement.

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Last night, along with other Moravian clergy, I attended a prayer vigil in Allentown, PA to stand with our interfaith brothers and sisters as we grieved the terrorist attack on worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand and pledged to work together toward peace. I am aware that many of you have or will take time to join in your communities to keep vigil and love your neighbors. Thank you for your witness and hope.

As moral leaders in our culture, we have the opportunity – and responsibility – to help educate our parishioners and neighbors about the common humanity we all share with people of all faiths and no faith. Last night, I stood with Rabbis, Imams, Priests, Pastors, Sikhs, and others to remember that we all are made in the image of God. Sadly, I had seen many of the same people at a vigil last fall after the terrorist attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Last week, I ordered 1,000 copies of a resource Discover Islam that comes to us free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our Muslim friends. Each congregation received one copy last year; now more may access this resource; it will also be distributed to every Moravian seminary and region around the Unity. This time around, the resource will be on a USB drive the size of a credit card, making it much easier to distribute. For those who already have this resource, please use it; for others – we will let you know when we receive the shipment (I believe a few months from now) and we will work on distribution.

Another resource, Loving Our Neighbor, comes highly recommended by Bishop Paul Graf and is available from the Wisconsin Conference of Churches through this link: https://www.wichurches.org/sitecontent/pdf_files/programs/WCC-Interfaith-Study-Guide.pdf I'm sure many of you have found other resources as well.

Thank you for the many ways you bear witness to our common humanity and the good news of Jesus Christ.

With ongoing prayers for peace and hope,

The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller

False information grows like fire. To overcome misinformation and prejudice we need to educate ourselves. Any religious organization can be plagued with radicalized pockets of followers. But at the foundation of all religious groups is the intent to hold truth until people are ready to receive it. This tragedy is only one example of our Good Friday experience. How might this brokenness empower you to bring the new life of Easter to your part of the world?

In Christ's Service
Pastor Rick Beck