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Corner of 3rd Ave. & Pontaluna Rd.
865-3226 Fruitport, MI 49415

EDGEWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

2525 E. Pontaluna Rd. • Fruitport, MI

9:00 a.m. Children & Adult S.S.
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Pastor Paul Kehney
Phone • (231) 865-3300

Communion every Sunday
Barrier Free

First Congregational Church of Fruitport

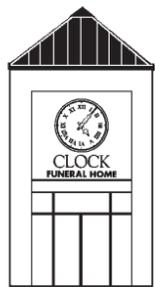
3212 E. Pontaluna Rd. (across from Edgewood Elementary)

Pastor Mike Scott 616-780-9763

Communion first Sunday each month

Coffee & Fellowship at 10:00
Sunday School & Church at 10:30

Drop kids off at 10:15-10:30
& Pick up angels at 12:00



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2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Answers.

Community Access Line of the Lakeshore

- A single dad wants to join a parent support group
- A nineteen year old college student seeks HIV testing
- A runaway teen needs a safe place to stay
- A working woman seeks adult day care for her elderly father and a caregiver support group for herself
- A senior citizen wants to volunteer
- A young family in financial crisis searches for budget counseling

The
Brenda Davis
Benefit



Sunday, April 1, 2012 - 2:00pm
Whitlow's Banquet Hall
Spaghetti Dinner tickets: \$10 per person
Kids under 12: \$5
Kids 5 and under: Free

• AUCTION • 50/50 DRAWINGS
• MUSIC • GAMES

For questions or contributions, please contact:

Doreen Scanlon 616-502-3806
Rebecca Bletsch 231-730-0290
Lindsay Schohl 231-730-4431
Holly Whalen 231-730-4410

Lent — Guilt, grace, and forgiveness

By Pastor John Koedyker (Word of Hope Church)

As I write these words, it is Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. It is usually thought of as a time of penitential preparation for Easter. In my devotions today I read Psalm 51. This psalm gives voice to what psychologists call "life's most debilitating emotion" — guilt — and what theologians call "God's most liberating gift" — grace.

Anyone who is haunted by past mistakes and "screwups" can understand the psalm writer's lament of past sins. We all have regrets. We all mess up. And, if we are honest, we feel bad about those things. And as we all know, life can be very unforgiving. Unlike golf, you cannot just "take a mulligan."

So what are we supposed to do? The Bible's answer is that we are to do nothing. Rather, we are to receive everything. Forgiveness of sin and the resolution of guilt are things that God, through Christ, does for us. That, in a nutshell, is the theme of Lent. "Have mercy on me, O God," says the psalmist, "according to your steadfast love." Faith tells us that God loves us, not "because of," but "in spite of." We call that grace. All we have to do to receive forgiveness is to simply request it and trust in a God who loves us. It really is that easy!

So, whatever you have done or failed to do, be assured that God offers forgiveness and new beginnings that will bring you peace of mind and an unbridled joy you will want to pass on to others.

Will God bless America?

By Rev. William Randall

Have you noticed in your review of history how nations have risen and fallen? Hopefully our nation is not in a downward death spiral. Economically we are on the brink, and morally things are desperate. America as a nation is rapidly losing the family as its core institution. This is seen in efforts to make homosexuality and same sex marriage acceptable. The Supreme Court will rule on laws that limit marriages. It is being given approval by educators and is portrayed as normal by the media. Corruption, deceit and lies abound in governmental circles. This has brought discouragement and despair to our citizens. Violence is another indicator of a dying culture. Law enforcement can not enforce laws due to lack of jail space. Enlarged facilities would immediately be filled. Another sign of the sickness of our culture is self indulgence. We hear about financial woes, but one can't help noticing commercials and the extravagances that people feel are deserved and expected, even by those who are classified as poor.

This list of negatives could be almost never ending but must include the fact that our culture is seeking to suppress Christ and Christianity while humanism, Islam and cultic beliefs are given full sway.

We need to pray that America will truly be "One Nation Under God". This is the theme for the 2012 observance of National Day of Prayer. We need to pray and work to interject truth into areas of culture that most concern us. Our concerns should influence how we vote in 2012.

Perhaps some quotes from the past would help motivate action and our speech. To highlight the importance of virtue we need to hear Samuel Adam's words, "While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal Invader."

The Apostle Peter admonishes us to "Add to your faith virtue; to virtue knowledge...knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:5,8)

Our society needs the guiding light of the Bible. We are bombarded with the call for the separation of church and state. Here is an interesting statement by Robert Winthrop, descendent of the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, "It may do for other countries and other governments to talk about the state support of religion. Here, under our free institutions, it is religion which must support the state." We might ask how are and how can the churches and individuals of our areas support and influence government.

A quote of worth was made by John Winthrop, Puritan Governor, who wrote in his "Model of Christian Charity", "For we must consider that if we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us, so that if we shall deal falsely with God in this work we have undertaken and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world."

The phrase "Being a City on a Hill" is often made. America needs to be that city but can not if we deal falsely with God. We should fear the loss of God's blessing. If this becomes a concern of a few it can spread to many. Many feel hopeless, helpless and incapable to influence our world but if one's faith and confidence is in Christ he can say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". (Philippians 4:13)•

Prolife supporter cares about women

By FAN staff

Dr. Gus Barkett, an OBGYN physician, arrived in Muskegon in 1984. His first question was the location of Muskegon's crisis pregnancy center. Since there was no such center in Muskegon, he started a steering committee that met for a year, which led to the formation of the Muskegon Pregnancy Services center. He served for many years as chairman of the board for the center.

In 2010, he was awarded the "Voice For Life" award in honor of his service to unborn children and the women who carry them, but his services do not end in Muskegon County.

Dr. Barkett has also helped women in other countries. He has volunteered his time in the Dominical Republic, in Papua New Guinea, and volunteers a month each year at a mission hospital in Togo, West Africa. He has shared this experience over the years with residents in OBGYN training, taking them with him to Togo to help the women of West Africa. •



Events of Easter

By Clifford Lones

This time of the year our thoughts are about spring and also thinking about the events of Easter. There were many events that happened just within the last week of the life of Christ, but I would like to direct our thoughts to three of these events for consideration.

Consider the Crown of Mockery. "And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: And they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!" Matthew 27:29

The soldiers who mocked Jesus were quite typical of the crowd of people who gathered in Jerusalem at that time, many who heard Jesus' profound messages, and saw Him heal the sick, the lame and the blind. Yet even today, people still mock Jesus, but it is directed toward those who are Christians.

I well remember when I was in high school, one of the students was a Christian and we mocked him. We said to him, "Here comes the goodie boy." or "Hello, deacon man." or "Here is the Sunday school guy." and other mocking remarks. Yet it was by his life and witness of his faith that brought me to Christ as my Savior. When I entered the work force after graduation, I remember a time when a co-worker stood up at his desk with an open book in his hands and said to everyone in the office, "Look, everyone, this is Cliff singing in church every Sunday."

Yes, Jesus and His followers are often mocked, but I still see people who respect Christians and confide in them when needs arise.

Consider the Cross of Mercy. "Who His own self bear our sins in His own body on the Cross, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we are healed." I Peter 2:24.

Think of that! Jesus bore our sins on the cross. Jesus was God who came into the world by a human body, never sinned, offered the Kingdom of Heaven to come upon the earth, yet allowed Himself to be crucified because of our sins. What great mercy!

It is our human, sinful nature that rejects Christ, but when we believe in Him and receive Him into our life, He pays the penalty for our sins and we receive His gift of eternal life. The Bible says, "But as many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12.

Even those who actually crucified Christ could have still believed on Him and received Him as Savior. As the Centurion (commander of 100 soldiers) said, "Truly this was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54. Yes, Easter shows the Cross of Mercy.

Consider the Conquest of Mankind. "But now is Christ risen from the dead...for since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Corinthians 15:20-22.

Everyone eventually dies. No matter how great a person may become in this world, that person will sometime die. As was the first man, Adam, we all die. But God made another man, the body of Jesus in which was the life of God. And this God-man, Christ, rose from the dead. This is the resurrection we celebrate on Easter Sunday. This Christ as a human being (a man) conquered death, which was the conquest of death for all mankind. Those who receive Christ as Savior receive resurrection life. We will die in the flesh, but we will be resurrected unto eternal life. The greatest enemy of mankind is eternal death, but Christ has conquered this enemy and given eternal life to all mankind who personally believe and receive Him into their life. May this Easter season be the time you receive eternal resurrected life in Christ!•