This Holy Week we will look at John 13:1 from three vantage points: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

“Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

We will look at it through the lens of John 15:13, “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Jesus began laying down his life by becoming a human being and kept laying down his life all the way to the cross: he laid down his power, glory, riches of heaven, omnipresence, omniscience, will to the Father, hope of getting married, right to own property, time to God… all the way to the cross where he laid his life down literally.

Three days are not enough to mine the depths of this verse. But with the Holy Spirit’s help we will uncover enough to feed our faith and life.

Come Holy Spirit. Make things happen for good. Amen
Lent, 2017
Holy Week

This year’s theme for Lent has been Highlights from the Book of Acts. Each Wednesday we gathered for supper at 6:00 pm, then gathered for the service at 7:00 pm, each week contemplating highlights from the four chapters of the week.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Passage References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Texts from chapters 21-24</td>
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<td>April 09</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>“Having Loved his own, he loved them to the end.”</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Good Friday 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Sepulcher Saturday Prayer Vigil 8:00 am – 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Easter Celebration</td>
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<td>“Having Loved the World, he Will Love us to the End.”</td>
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April 5 Texts from chapters 21-24
April 09 Palm Sunday
April 13 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm “Having Loved his own, he loved them to the end.”
April 14 Good Friday 7:00 pm “Having Loved his own, he loved them to the end.”
April 15 Sepulcher Saturday Prayer Vigil 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
April 16 Easter Celebration “Having Loved the World, he Will Love us to the End.”

Easter Breakfast 9:00 am
Easter Service 10:00 am

We will continue to studying the Book of Acts for adult Sunday School.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 02</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>chapter 10</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>chapter 11</td>
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INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM:
From February, 2017:
Hope has taken in $ 20,276
Hope has spent $ 20,853
Net Income $ < 577>
Available for operations $5,712
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:5-6

Remember … we the people of God … our name is “HOPE” Lutheran Church. With the living God and through His Son Jesus, we always have living HOPE no matter what comes our direction.

In the Psalm 42 (above), over and over the writer is telling the Lord about the discouraging circumstances of his life. However, he always finds his way back to the only real HOPE, the living God and what God can do for him. I know a lot of you have very discouraging circumstances happening in your life right now as well. I can relate a small bit as I’ve experienced a lot of discouragement, particularly over the last few years.

I had a seminary professor who used to say that the Hebrew people (Israel … the people of God… His chosen ones) “backed into the future.” This approach is very unlike Americans who think you should always be guessing and planning the future and looking ahead. What the professor meant by this was that the Hebrew people constantly looked “back” at their history, particularly their history with God and all that God had done for them. Looking back and seeing all the amazing things that the living God had done in their past, in turn gave them HOPE, propelling them into the “future.” We see this in many of the prayers found in the Psalms.

So, try this: “back into the future.” Today, think about how God has been active in your life in the past. What has God done for you? How has God provided for you? What people has God placed in your life to build your faith?

As we contemplate Holy Week, in particular, what has Jesus done for you? Some weeks back, I was able to worship with you at HOPE for one Sunday (out of the many when I am gone). Pastor Joel preached a powerful sermon through which the Lord lifted me up. The sermon was also about HOPE. Pastor Joel was preaching about difficult circumstances, suffering, particularly the Isra- elites complaining in the wilderness about not having water (Exodus 17). At the end of the sermon, he went to another of the assigned lessons for that week from Romans 5:

...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces HOPE, and HOPE does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:3-8

In spite of all that might be happening all around, we have reason to HOPE, because “God's love has been poured into our hearts” through Jesus dying and rising on our behalf in spite of all our/my sinful ways. As a church, nothing can bring real HOPE except Jesus and this Good News. Ultimately, one’s career, wealth, house, success, family, friends, activities, circumstances or even attitude do not bring real HOPE.

Lord Jesus Christ, let us not put our HOPE in anyone or anything, but you. In your powerful name, AMEN

Pastor Wendy
How will YOU intentionally invite Jesus to “transform and train” you as His disciple?

DEVOTIONALS are available on the Narthex (lobby) table! ALL NEWCOMERS are WELCOME!

SUNDAYS:
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 AM Continuing … The “ACTS of the Apostles!”
Come and be inspired by this powerful book in God’s Word!

TUESDAYS:
TIMOTHY PROJECT BIBLE Study: Tuesday mornings, 10AM
• Reading and Studying the entire Bible over three years: This year, we will be studying the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. No Bible experience needed. Taught by Pastor Wendy.
• Recognize the personal practical voice of Jesus in His word.
• Learn a simple thorough study method to fully understand Scripture.
• Listen and Get to Know Jesus! Practice Praying! NEWCOMERS are always welcome.
  “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
  2 Timothy 3:16-17 (hence, the name: “Timothy Project” Bible Study)

THURSDAYS:
The APPRENTICE SERIES: Growing with Jesus in the Good and Beautiful Community
• Thursdays, 7PM
• Using Scripture, soul training exercises, comfortable conversation, we will continue on with our studies and the third book in the series: “The Good and Beautiful Community” by James Bryan Smith (available on Amazon). This is an awesome opportunity to be equipped and become a more effective “kingdom” person, deepen your prayer life, hear personally from Jesus in His word and allow Him to transform our relationships into His image, will and ways. NEWCOMERS are always welcome!

TIME OF QUIET: Recognizing Jesus Speaking to You! Stay tuned for date and time! Do you know how to recognize the personal practical voice of Jesus? In John 10:4, Jesus taught: “the sheep follow the good shepherd, for they know his voice.” Jesus speaks His word to us in four ways: written word (Scriptures), spoken word, (e.g., preaching), revealed word (“still small voice”), and the “Word made flesh.” Sometime soon, we will spend a day, listening for Jesus’ personal practical voice and using time-tested practices that have been used throughout history for recognizing Jesus’ personal voice.

If needed, contact Pastor Wendy (pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net) or Pastor Joel!
FAITH CIRCLE
APRIL
4/11th
7:30 PM
THE NEXT
FAITH
CIRCLE
APRIL
11TH
HOPE WOMEN'S NEWS

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries
Lynn & Pat Foster 4/16
Richard & Kathy Grace 4/17

Birthdays
Pam Armistead 4/09
Nathan Gilbert 4/13
Peter Gaultney 4/26
Debra Emmons 4/27

Faith Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

My favorite verses is:
Philippians 4:6

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Contributor: Brenda Kenyon
### Sunday Schedule:

- **Sunday School** ~ 9:00 AM
- **No Sunday School April 16th**
- **Worship** ~ 10:00 AM
- **Children’s Sunday School** ~ 11:15 AM

### Holy April 9–April 15:

**Holy Week**

- **Passion Sunday Worship** 10:00 AM
- **No Wednesday Night Activities**
- **Maundy Thursday Service** 7:00 PM
- **Good Friday Service** 7:00 PM
- **Prayer Vigil** 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
- **Easter Sunday**
- **No Sunday School**
- **Breakfast** 9:00 AM
- **Worship** 10:00 AM
- **No Timothy Project on April 11th**
- **No Apprentice Series on April 6th & 13th**
- **No Hope Prayer Time on April 14th**

**Easter Sunday**

- **Breakfast** 9:00 AM
- **Worship** 10:00 AM

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**Sunday Schedule:**

- **Sunday School** ~ 9:00 AM
- **No Sunday School April 16th**
- **Worship** ~ 10:00 AM
- **Children’s Sunday School** ~ 11:15 AM
- **First Sunday of each month**

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**Holy Week**

- **Tuesday Morning: Timothy Project** 10:00AM
- **Thursday: The Apprentice Series** 7:00 PM
- **Friday: Hope Prayer Time at Church** 10:00 PM
Prayers and Words of Encouragement

Recovering at home ~
Gail Riggins
1217 Reeves Lane
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104-7307
214.546.6119
gail.riggins@yahoo.com

In the hospital
Midlothian Health Care
Carol Newman
401 Shadowwood Trail
Red Oak, Texas 75154-1425
972.217.1463
swissmiss1927@att.net

These members appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement.

Dwayne Juergens
206 Silverwood Drive
Ovilla, Texas 75154-1428
972-617-7301
dwaynejergens@sbcglobal.net

John Moltz
2431 Clearview Drive
Midlothian, Texas 76065-5459
972.723.2932
jmoltz@aol.com

Marian Black

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Our homebound members and friends enjoy visits, calls and cards. Please take a few minutes out of your day for those who can no longer get out and about.
Return Service Requested