



The Messenger of Peace

2011



Peace Lutheran Church
Established in 1962
Cincinnati, Ohio

From the Pastor:

"Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

Mark 15:33-34 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

That is something you and I cannot really understand, because it is something that has never happened to us—NEVER! We have never been absolutely forsaken by our God. Oh, it may feel like it at times. We may use a term like "God-forsaken"—perhaps to describe a bleak landscape, or a seemingly helpless situation— but *it isn't really true*, is it? Not really, absolutely, utterly forsaken by God. "It hurts like hell," a person may complain ... but no, it doesn't. Not really.

But for Jesus IT WAS TRUE! For us and for our salvation, Jesus was enduring the torment of the damned; and damnation, by definition, is to be utterly separated from God. It is the payment and the consequence of our sins. It is a pain that we have never felt. God is so gracious toward us that he did forsake no less than his only-begotten Son ... so that you and I might never be forsaken!

Robert Strand, in his book, *Especially for the Hurting Heart*, has a wonderful discussion of Hebrews 13:5 in which we

read these encouraging words: "God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you!"

Strand asks, "What ever does never mean?" And he notes that in the original language "never" is really a compounding of five negatives. Not that each negative is added to another. Rather, each negative is multiplied by the other. According to Strand, it really should read, "I will never, no, not ever, no never leave you or forsake you!" It's a forever never which has no exceptions!

Then he asks, "What does 'leave' mean?" He says that in the original Greek it means "to leave behind, to abandon, to give up on, to send back." Well then, so far our verse will read: "I will never, no not ever, no never leave you behind, abandon you, give up on you, or send you back!"

Finally he asks, "What does 'forsake' mean?" In the Greek it means, "to leave one in a helpless state, to disregard." It also can be further expanded to include "not relaxing my watchfulness over you." To this point, then, says Strand, our verse, in the full, amplified version reads: "I will never, no not ever, no never give up on you, abandon you, leave you behind, cause you not to survive, leave you helpless, nor shall I ever relax concerning keeping my presence with you!" In other words, we can relax. God will always be there for us because of what Jesus Christ did for you and me.

Pastor Larry

From Your President:

Garry Laaker

Welcome to the April issue of the Peace Messenger. This year we celebrate Easter in April! Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Please don't forget our Lenten and Holy Week services. We have Lenten services each Wednesday starting with dinner at 6:00 pm. The holy week schedule includes Maundy Thursday on April 21, Good Friday on April 22 and Easter is on April 24.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 23 starting at 1:00 pm. The hunt is sponsored by Community Relations with help from the Youth Group. Bring your kids or grandkids for this fun activity.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the voters meeting and thanks to Scott Somers for leading the meeting. As reported at the meeting, a committee has been formed to plan our 50th anniversary celebration next year. Please watch for announcements.

As always, please keep Peace and its members in your prayers.

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www.peacechurchlink.com
Pastor Larry J. Rodencal

Sunday Morning Schedule
Christian Education Hour
9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

Rummage & Bake Sale



Saturday
April 2nd
9am - 1pm

Donations may be brought to church beginning NOW. Items will be set up beginning Wednesday March 30th and priced on Friday. If you can help to sort and price just show up. A sign up sheet to help on Saturday will be on the bulletin board. Don't forget to bake for the sale also. Monies from this event help to fund the PLW's various projects.

Easter Anticipation

Easter seems like it will never get here this year. It's not until April 24th. But for the past month I've been preparing, anticipating a great and joyous day! The longer I'm waiting, the higher the anticipation. The excitement, ideas just keep coming.



- This year I am planning on having something unique and colorful awaiting your arrival on Easter Morning. Pray that the weather is favorable. I hope that you will enjoy it.
- The Easter Worship Service is written and I look forward to singing the joyous Easter hymns of celebration and victory with you.
- The sermon – it too, is already written and rewritten. A late night television browsing brought me to an old *Alfred Hitchcock Hour* show entitled "Final Escape" that was written and aired in 1964. It was later rewritten and reproduced in 1985 for the *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* show. These shows can be watched via the internet on *HULU* if you are interested and have access. The show prompted the Easter message for this year which is title, "Buried".



EASTER
EGG HUNT!



Saturday
April 23rd
1:00 p.m.
Peace
Fellowship Hall

