

From the Pastor

March 2019

A Message from Rev. Kurt Landerholm



In 1985, I traveled to Israel. For me, it was a holy experience in the Holy Land. The breath of history alone makes the journey fascinating. As we walked over ancient ruins, I was struck by the centuries and millennia of civilization I stood upon. At times the views were breath-taking; other times, I was mystified why this barren wasteland has been fought over through the centuries.

One of the disappointments was the endless church buildings built over the sites. Obviously, I don't dislike church architecture. However, I came to Israel to see where Jesus was born, where he grew up, and the place where the cross stood. Instead, there were churches built to commemorate the place, to honor that location with a consecrated structure. It took away an edge from my experience.

But there were many highlights. Some being the panoramic view of the walled city of Jerusalem that exploded before us as we approached the city; walking through the streets of the old city of Jerusalem, and gazing at the hills outside Bethlehem. I was able to take an unplanned and spontaneous tour into the excavations taking place under the temple compound where my dilating pupils allowed me to make out the shadowy outline of the ancient ruins, hidden from your typical pilgrim to the land.

The Jordan River was special, the Dead Sea interesting, the excavations of Masada fascinating, as well as the ruins of the ancient city of Jericho.

As exciting and invigorating as all of this was, what most impressed me was traveling to the rather pristine and quiet regions of the Sea of Galilee. The church buildings were few and the tourist stops less commercial. It was mostly undeveloped land surrounding this important body of water. It was there that I could picture Jesus walking along the shore, calling out to his disciples. I could imagine the storms at sea and Jesus walking out on the water. On the hillside, I could picture Jesus with five loaves of bread and two fish feeding a large gathering. I could picture Jesus sitting on the hillside with a farmer sowing seed in the background, while he shared the parable of the sower. It was there that I experienced the words of the song, "I walked today where Jesus walked." Some of the most precious and meaningful events of Jesus took place by that Sea. Jesus chose his disciples, calling them from their boats and nets to follow him. Jesus crossed the Sea from one side to the other for retreat. The Sea of Galilee was where I felt the closest to Jesus.

During the weeks of Lent, we'll be traveling with Jesus around and upon the Sea of Galilee. We'll walk together where Jesus walked. We'll share about his miracles and teaching. As we do so, we'll have the opportunity to draw closer to Jesus.

It starts with Ash Wednesday on March 6, where you can drop in for ashes and communion during the hours of 7:00 – 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. The evening services of ashes and meditation will be at 7:30 PM.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kurt

Lent and Holy Week

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends 40 days and 6 Sundays later on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is April 21. Here's our schedule for the weeks of Lent and Holy Week.

Wednesday, March 6 Drop by for imposition of Ashes and communion from
7:00 – 8:00 am and 11:30 – 1:30, 7:30 Service of Ashes

Sundays we will be looking at scriptures around the life and teaching of Jesus, especially as they relate to the Sea of Galilee.

Holy Week

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday with our typical services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 PM Holy Thursday service in the Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 19 – 7:30 PM Good Friday Choir Cantata Tenebrae Service
Saturday, April 20 – 10:00 AM Community Easter Egg Hunt at Garfield Park
Sunday, April 21 – Easter services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM