

Outside the big Michigan Avenue entrance to Water Tower Place where the high, glass windows of the American Girl Doll store gleam with glitzy treasures, my eye was drawn the other way, to a sizeable, white heap on the sidewalk. There sat a human being under a body-sized, white sweatshirt tent, his flesh pressed against cold concrete. Leaning against the flimsy igloo was a cardboard sign that I didn't pause to read.

In my mind, I heard myself moaning, "Will someone please come and get him?" as we sped by on foot without commenting, without stopping, in the cold. Later, on the way back, and after warm breakfast away from the cold, I saw a couple running, running across the street toward the Lurie Children's Hospital Emergency Room entrance. In the mother's arms, was a child entirely cocooned in white. They were urgent; they were racing.

Much of the stripped-down life that we fear was on display at last evening's performance of *King Lear* by the Belarus Free Theatre. This group of actors and dancers, most of whom have been arrested, have lost their university careers, or have had their jobs terminated by being associated with this acting company, are now performing in exile, but they speak Belorussian their own language that they are not allowed to speak on stage in Belarus.

That homeland of theirs is a lovely, rivery country, birthplace and home to Marc Chagall. Art lovers for a century and more have come to know it, and be enchanted by Belorussian landscapes and villages thanks to Chagall's paintings and his stained glass windows. Today this country, bordered by the Baltic States, Ukraine, Poland, and Russia, is overseen by Europe's last dictator. It is the only country in Europe where capital punishment is still allowed. It was blighted by Chernobyl.

These exiled actors work on an empty stage, their searing performance much enhanced by Slavic voices and Slavic singing. It was all words, actors, and props. (The original English of Shakespeare's text is projected above the stage.)

Last week, Marc had been called by the theater staff to be sure we didn't have peanut allergies, to see if we minded getting splashed a bit by water (There would be towels under the front row seats.). Whole and smashed eggs, scores of tin cups, buckets of dirt, and aprons full of dirt were there also--as were a piano and a gifted trombonist playing *The Fool*. This raw, brilliant performance centering around *Mad Lear* came at us like knives: those thrumming, bass Slavic voices shifting Shakespeare's words to a key darker than one thought possible. "The stage has become dangerous again," said one of the young stagehands as she handed us our programs. She was right.

On stage, the climactic storm scene came alive when a blue, stage-sized tarp was snapped, whipped, and intoned over by six or seven masked cast members. Lear, stands swaying on the piano, that storm whipping before him like the power of nature itself. He then leaps into the maelstrom, and is showered with water. Stripped bare, he hides under the heaving blue tarp.

Things only get worse. The French invade bringing war's darkness to add to confusion and betrayal. A battlefield comes alive when people struggle and stab under a whipping red tarp. This later "storm" brings chaos and destruction of the worst sort. Out of the natural storm, the blue-tarp storm, emerged a moment of understanding—"We're all just forked creatures" despite our claims to power and mastery; out of the red storm of war came only loss, pain, and more chaos.

Now here on Ash Wednesday morning, we have witnessed the white bundles--the white tarps: that desolate person sitting on pavement; the afflicted child being raced to the hospital. Our own whitening flesh. It all seems part of last night's play: the blue, the red, and the white tarps, those pieces and places of our fear, our terror, our incapacity to manage. Once more, Shakespeare has broken out into this world as he has now for 400 years; once more, Christ has broken out into this world as He has now for 2000 years.

Safe and warm for now in the pews of this glorious Gothic Revival sanctuary, we bow our heads. Dean Barrington speaks: "Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen"

Or, as the Chicago Mass Choir would say it, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord. Go on."

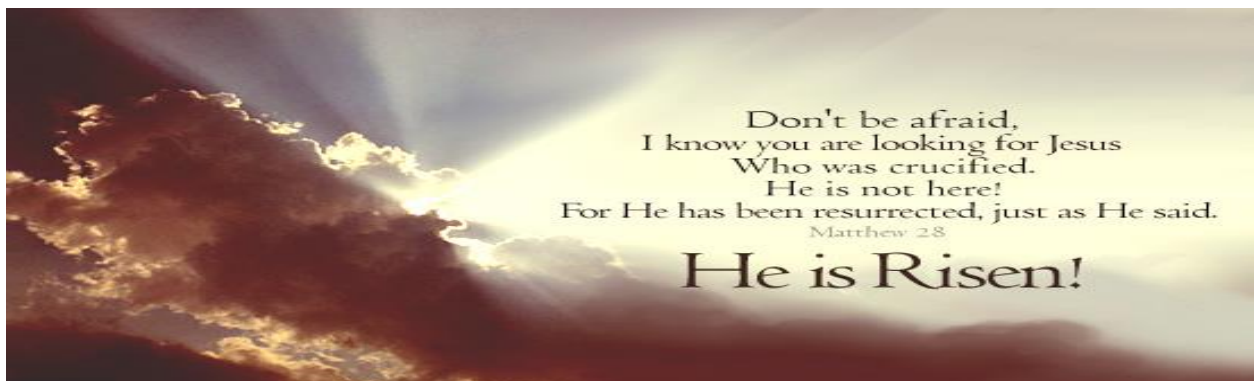


Wednesday, March 23rd – Sung Evensong @ 7p @ St. John's

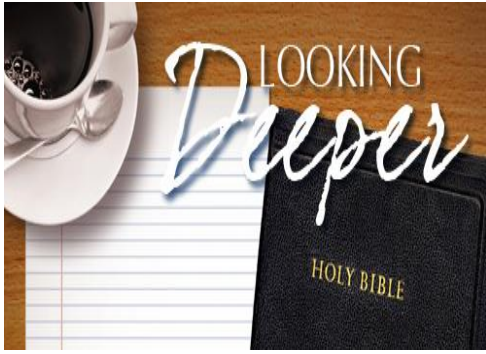
Thursday, March 24th - Maundy Thursday @ 7p @ Christ Lutheran (Rev. Kelly Nelson presiding; Rev. Jan Oller, preaching)

Friday, March 25th – Good Friday
Noon @ St. John's

7p @ First Christian (Rev. Brian Nelson presiding; Rev. Jan Oller, preaching)



Easter Sunday we will have our regular worship services at 8a and 10:30a. We will hold our traditional brunch between services. Please join us as we celebrate the Resurrection which means new life for all of us.



March Offerings for Adults are:

March 6 and 13: "Enough" DVD and discussion

March 20th: Palm Sunday, Intergenerational Event


March 27th: Easter Brunch

Tuesday, March 15th @ 8p- "Dante and the Frescos at the Sancta Sanctorum" Ronald B. Herzman, Distinguished Teaching Professor of English, SUNY Geneseo, in **Baxter 101**. Dr. Herzman is a collaborator of Dr. Bill Cook. Dr. Herzman's lecture will combine his expertise in Art History and Medieval Literature to examine the frescos in the Pope's private chapel at the Church of St. John Lateran in Rome and their connections to Dante's Divine Comedy.



Wed., March 16th @ Noon in Center Hall: Lunch - "Confessions of a Dante Addict" by Dr. Herzman.

For more information, please contact Jill Lamberton.

Reminder! Our Policies, Vestry Minutes, Customaries (that is, policies and procedures) and other important information can be found on our website: www.stjohnscville.org or on our bulletin boards 

Rev. Jan is available by cell phone (765-225-8554) or email (janet.oller@gmail.com). Office hours are by appointment. Days off are generally Thursdays and Fridays but please call if you have a pastoral emergency regardless of what day of the week it is! Check the calendar posted on the office door for the most current schedule.

| | Lector | LEM | Crucifer | Acolyte | Greeters | Altar Guild | Counters | Flowers | LEVs | Coffee Host |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mar 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8a | A Ashbaugh | A Ashbaugh | | R Pickering | | | | | | |
| 10:30a Scout Sunday | B Turner | D Booher & K Roberts | J Burd | J Burd | E Ball & T Twarek | C Meyer & J Tussey | S. Albrecht & J Gary | Lent | Booher & Hudson | Turners |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar 13 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8a | J Suren | J Suren | | T Titus | | | | | | |
| 10:30a | S Fain | A Ashbaugh & M Hudson | S Charles | CJ Charles | C Meyer & B Easterling | B Culley & M Reidy | A White & C Smith | Lent | Booher & Hudson | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8a | S Vaught | S Vaught | | C Fields | | | | | | |
| 10:30a Palm Sunday | J Hartnett | B & J Culley | W Turner | B Turner | S & S Hildebrand | S Evans & J Gallagher | E Fain & T Twarek | Lent | Fain & Oller | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar 25 Good Friday @ Noon | H Hudson | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar 27 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8a | P Swanson | P Swanson | | K Haffner | | | | | | |
| 10:30a Easter Sunday | R Pickering | S Vaught & Meribeth Kussmaul | S Hildebrand | P Lohorn | B & J Snook | J Yerkes & T Lawrence | N Bennett & J Roberts | Easter | Fain & Oller | Brunch between services |



~ March 2016 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | 1 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 9:25a-Chapel/Tuttle 5:30p-Lenten Program 7p-Comm. Chorus (Choir) | 2 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 11:30a-Flower Lovers (WH) 2p-Oller meeting @ Trinity, Indianapolis | 3 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 7p-Choir 6p-Girl Scouts (SS) 6p-YSB (WH) Oller Day Off | 4 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) Oller Day Off | 5 9a-4p-Vestry Retreat @ Wellbrooke |
| 6 8 & 10:30a – HE (Girl Scout Sunday)(Children Sing) 9:15 Formation 3p-EFM | 7 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 11:30 League of Women Voters (WH) | 8 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 9:25a-Chapel/Tuttle Noon-Website Review (WH) 5:30p-Lenten Program 7p-Comm Chorus (Choir) | 9 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) | 10 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 7p-Choir 6p-Girl Scouts (WH) Oller Day Off | 11 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) Oller Day Off | 12 Oller @ COM meeting |
| 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8 & 10:30a – HE 9:15 Formation 3p-EFM | 14 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 12:30 Oller-outside meeting 4p – Outreach Meeting (WH) | 15 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 9:25a-Chapel/Tuttle 5:30p-Lenten Program 7p-Comm Chorus (Choir) | 16 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 7:30p-Vestry | 17 Saint Patrick's Day 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 6p-YSB (WH) 7p-Choir Oller Day Off | 18 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) Oller Day Off | 19 8:30a-Divorce Recovery Workshop |
| 20 Palm Sunday 8 & 10:30a – HE 9:15 Formation 3p-EFM | 21 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) | 22 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 9:25a-Chapel/Tuttle 7p-Comm Chorus (WH) | 23 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 7p-Evensong (Church) | 24 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 6p-Girl Scouts (WH) 7p-Maundy Thursday @ Christ Lutheran | 25 Good Friday 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) Noon-Good Friday Service @ St. John's 7p-Good Friday @ First Christian | 26 |
| 27 Easter 8 & 10:30a – HE 9a- Brunch/WH | 28 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) Oller Day Off (Transferred from 3/24) | 29 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 9:25a-Chapel/Tuttle 7p-Comm Chorus (WH) Oller Day Off (Transferred from 3/25) | 30 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) | 31 8a Morning Prayer (Tuttle) 6p-Girl Scouts (SS) 6p-YSB (WH) 7p-Choir Oller Day Off | Note: Rev. Jan is available by cell phone at 765-225-8554 or email: janet.oller@gmail.com. Office hours are by appointment. | |

Nourish: Marc & Helen Hudson; Meals on Wheels: 3/3: Cindy & Jerry Smith; 3/10: Sam & Susie Hildebrand; 3/17: Carole Meyer & Betty Culley; 3/24: Chris Short & Tom Twarek; 3/31: Susie & Sam Hildebrand