

THE LINK

Lauvers Mennonite Church Newsletter

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Come Join Us!

Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.

Church Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Web Site: lauverschurch.org

March 2017

New Life

It is hard to imagine but we are moving out of winter toward spring. A lot of people anticipate warmer temperatures and more daylight time. But some love the coziness of the winter months, and long for the slower, quieter times the winter months bring.

Recently as I pondered how I was looking forward toward spring and the new life that would present itself by the changing of trees, flowers and greening of the grass, I was reminded that Jesus told his disciples. *"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."* Jesus was talking about Himself. This is a beautiful picture of the necessary sacrifice of Jesus. Unless a kernel of wheat is buried in the ground, it will not become a blade of wheat producing many more seeds.

But what about us? Don't we have to die to our old nature and become new? Paul words it this way in Romans, *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* There is that 'newness of life' thought. Think of spring, NEW LIFE.

The question that I ask myself is: Have I died to self? Has the old self turned brown or does it show signs of life? My hope for myself and for all of us is that our old self has died and has stayed dead. And my prayer is that the new life that is sprouting forth is the new life that Christ has given me. It's a life that will produce seed for Him.

If you are struggling with the question of not knowing if you are sprouting new life, think if your life has shown these qualities? *Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* The Bible tells us that if these things are present in our lives then we **know** that we have life, new life in our Heavenly Father.

We can do none of this by our own strength. Thankfully, Jesus is more than willing to come along side of us and help us to new life, all we need to do is ask. As winter changes to spring and as you see things coming to life again make sure that you are experiencing the new life that comes only through a relationship with Christ. Ask him to produce that changed life in you.

If you are struggling with disappointment in life or if you have not been experiencing this new life we, at Lauvers church, would welcome praying with you, encouraging you and helping you to experience a new life in Christ.

~Pastor Glenn Lauver



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See the land, her Easter keeping,
 Rises as her Maker rose.
 Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
 Burst at last from winter snows.
 Earth with heaven above rejoices.
 Field and gardens rejoice the spring;
 Sloughs and woodlands ring with voices,
 While the wild birds build and sing.
 -Charles Kingsley



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Easter Prayer

Lord,
 the resurrection of Your Son
 has given us new life and
 renewed hope.
 Help us to live as new people
 in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
 Grant us wisdom to know what we
 must do,
 the will to want to do it,
 the courage to undertake it,
 the perseverance to continue to do
 it,
 and the strength to complete it.
 -New Saint Joseph

God expects from men something more than at such
 times, and that it were much to be wished for the
 credit of their religion as well as the satisfaction of
 their conscience that their Easter devotions would
 in some measure come up to their Easter dress.

-Robert South

Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible. Bishop TD Jakes



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When Christ died, He left a will in which He gave His soul to His Father, His body to Joseph of Arimathea, His clothes to the soldiers and His mother to John. But to His disciples, who had left all to follow Him, He left not silver or gold, but something far better – His PEACE!
 -Matthew Henry

You are invited!!

Friday, March 17, 7 p.m. The Salt & Light Co., a music ensemble from Rosedale Bible College, will present their concert entitled 'Think on These Things' here at Lauvers. The program features vocals accompanied with acoustic instruments in a blend of folk and light contemporary sounds that the entire family will enjoy.

On Sunday morning, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. the Gospel Express Mercy Road team will be at Lauvers to present a program of gospel music.