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[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranChurch-Davey)

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Bethlehem Star



April 2021

The Cross, Healing, and Resurrection

How does real healing happen? We know that doctors and other health care providers, nurses, CNAs, therapists, and technicians work together to deliver appropriate treatments to people who are sick and injured. But without the body's own healing mechanisms working, those treatments typically won't work either. And if denial keeps someone from seeking help, healing is less likely to happen. There's also a powerful mind-body-soul connection that often gets ignored in the healing process.

In addition, people who have been cured of something still often have a long way to go towards healing the emotional and spiritual effects. Healing is at least as much of an inside job as what happens externally. Healing of psychological and spiritual trauma is even more complex. And when we speak of healing relationships and communities, all the different layers of healing need to be addressed.

Christ's work in his ministry and in his death and resurrection was to bring healing and wholeness. We often use the word forgiveness, but forgiveness is too often misunderstood. A common belief is that we deserved to die for our sins, but Jesus died in our place so we could be forgiven.

That's pretty cheap grace. It relies too much on us feeling the weight of our guilt and imagining it being lifted. In my experience, people mostly either end up wallowing in guilt endlessly or minimizing their sin altogether. We make it too much about our individual list of wrongdoings and leave unexamined our complicity in the sin of the world.

Healing is what's really needed...transformation. The pain we inflict on others often arises from a deep wound within ourselves...sometimes wounds we're not even aware of. We have all experienced hurts and disappointments from birth on, often unintentional ones that arise out of the soul wounds of the people closest to us.

Sometimes entire societies have a deep soul wound or sickness. Racism would be one such example.

These deep wounds can be healed. In fact the chief work of Christ's death and resurrection is to bring us to that deep healing.

It begins with the recognition that it was not God who put Jesus on the cross, but humans...humans who were guilty of all the sins we are...arrogance, violence, power hunger, greed, idolatry, desire for revenge, scapegoating. It is our collective sin that put Jesus on the cross.

The cross becomes a diagnostic tool as we are forced to honestly confront our own evil and the wounds from which it arises...and the people who are victimized by it. We begin to see how life's wounds have too often distorted our creation in God's image and made us fail to see God's image in others. That diagnosis is often the most painful part. It's also what's too often missing from the Jesus as substitute belief.

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Our deep wounds are healed by being joined to Christ. That begins at baptism. It happens when we receive communion. It happens when the Word comes to us in worship, in silent contemplation, in service to others. That healing can also be painful. It truly is the death of a way of being we thought was helping us, but which was not. It's a little like taking chemotherapy for cancer.

Real healing and wholeness is resurrection. For Jesus it happened all at once. And one day, it will happen that way for us, too. But in the meantime, it plays out more than once. As our relationship with Christ deepens, we get closer and closer to the deepest of wounds. Sometimes we back off because it's too hard. Other times we're willing to let that healing happen.

And each time we do, we are raised to a new life...one that's more whole and fruitful than the one before.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Easter

Easter Sunday Worship – 10:00 am at Ceresco Park

Please bring a **lawn chair and if you're able, your own copy of the bulletin.**

The restroom facilities at the park appear to be limited to a port-a-potty that probably isn't regularly sanitized. I'll make sure we have some hand sanitizer there.

We also hope to do Zoom and broadcast to YouTube Live with a Wifi hotspot, but I've so far not got that to work. At a minimum, we should be able to broadcast to Facebook Live.

If you don't plan to attend in person, try Zoom or YouTube Live first.

Log in:

Link – [Zoom Worship](#)

Meeting ID: 810 4110 5173

Passcode: 349445

If it's not happening, you can go to my Facebook page (Kristie Johnson Bohac.) I will send a link to watch later as well.

Calendar

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|-----------------|--|
| April 4 | 10:00 am— Easter Worship at Ceresco Park. Bring a lawn chair and if you can, your own copy of the bulletin. |
| April 11 | 10:30am—Worship in person and on Zoom |
| April 18 | 10:30 am—Worship with Communion—in person and on Zoom |
| April 25 | 10:30 am—Worship in person and on Zoom |

Share your experience

I have all but one of my vacation Sundays scheduled. I'm hoping to get people from the congregation to share some of your experience from this year...how it impacted your faith, how your faith helped, what you learned about yourself or the world, what you see for the church coming out of this year...things like that. It wouldn't have to be more than a few minutes. We can always have more than one person share in a service. I'll have a sign-up at church and on sign-up Genius starting the week after Easter.

Here are the dates I know:

July 18

August 29

October 24

There will also be one probably in May but that is yet to be determined.

April Helpers

Lector—Patty Carlson

Cleaners—Weeks 1/2—Rhonda Madsen

Weeks 3/4—Randy Giebenrath

We'll need new ushers and a new altar person. I'll be in touch before worship on April 11th. For now we won't use communion assistants.