

# Shepherd's Staff

April 2014

*We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

*"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"*

*Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church*

*Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.*

## Hidden or Visible

Sitting home with an outbreak of Shingles on my face gave me time to think. While I am not the first to have this malady, the location did bring some interesting thoughts. A swollen face, nearly closed eye and the tell tale blisters in a very visible place brought awareness that this is one illness I will not be able to hide, even if I wanted to. The only good thing, if we can look for a benefit of an outbreak in this location, is that being free of the irritation caused by friction that an outbreak in other parts of the body would bring, did lessen the pain somewhat.

The visible nature gave me reason to wonder if we deal with sin in the same way. Many of us get very good at hiding the failures in our lives, thinking that if others do not know what is going on we are not so vulnerable to the condemnation or even the pity of those around us. Personal pride may be a factor in our hiding our faults but I also began to wonder if it is our way of suppressing our conscience? Denial of how serious the situation is can be the glaze we apply to the ugliness of sin when we can keep it under wraps. Yet the irritation continues as we do have times when the "rub" of our sin happens.

Some individuals are not given the luxury of hiding what is amiss in life. The sins that are "out there" cannot so easily be covered. While they may not be any more serious, the exposure forces recognition of whom we are in the eyes of our neighbors but even more importantly, God. The effects of shingles can not only be visible during the outbreak but can also remain in the form of scarring long after the outbreak subsides. Sin can follow the same path. We can be burdened with the guilt and shame of the action (or inaction) long after the offense.

The good news we have in regard to sin though is that there is forgiveness. The best way to point this out is to turn to the song, *Rock of Ages*. In the very first verse we are given the picture of the completeness of forgiveness. The phrase "*Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure*" is often considered as indicative of being freed from the guilt (wrath) of sin but also the shame of sin. The two fluids flowing from the Savior's side again point to the relief coming from God through Jesus and not something we earn ourselves.

As we are in the Lenten time of the season, it makes for a wonderful time to stop and consider the complete forgiveness that is ours because of what Jesus did for us at Calvary. The double cure not only applies to the visible sins that we cannot deny but also to those we can hide from others around us although not from God who knows us better than we know ourselves. A custom for many people of faith is to "give something up for Lent" but we often choose something superficial for such a self-indulgent activity. Why not give up the burden that was paid for and learn to live in the joy and glory of what the cross stands for? Claim the "double cure" which is ours through Jesus. Be free to love and serve not only our God but also others, sharing the Good News that we are free from the hidden sin as well as the exposed sin that clouds our spirits, darkening the joy we have in the knowledge of Jesus. Then we can go in the peace that is ours through the mystery of grace.

Pastor Rus

## Colors of Easter:

Red ~ the blood of Jesus that He shed.

Black ~ Our sin, His death, the final hour.

White ~ Pure and holy. The Blood's cleansing power.

Green ~ New Life that His death brings.

Purple ~ The Royal color, A reminder that Jesus is King of Kings.

Orange ~ is for the Holy Spirit Fire that glows,

Pink ~ is for the Infilling of the Holy Spirit that your life shows.

Yellow ~ is for the Joy & Celebration that Easter Brings.

### Bunny Tears

Many years ago, on a cross He died  
And a bunny watching, bent his head and cried.  
Throughout the ages, the story has spread  
Jesus died and rose for us,  
He came back from the dead.  
And although we rejoice,  
Easter means our sins are lost  
The bunnies still shed a tear  
Remembering what it cost.



## Hot Cross Buns

### Buns

- 2 packages yeast
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 3/4 cup mashed potatoes
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 1/2 cups raisins ( or 1 1/2 cup mixed raisins and citron)
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 egg yolk

### Icing

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

### Directions

1. Combine yeast, water, and milk; stir well.
2. Mix with, potatoes, sugar, salt, butter, eggs, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and raisins.
3. Beat in flour by cups.
4. Knead 5 minutes.
5. Let rise 1 1/2 hours.
6. Punch down and divide in half 5 times, for 32 pieces of dough.
7. Fold the corners in to make balls.
8. Snip a cross onto the top of each ball.
9. Let rise for 40 minutes.
10. Brush with egg yolk and water.
11. Bake 20 minutes at 375.
12. While the buns are baking, combine milk, sugar, and vanilla to make icing.
13. When buns are cool, drizzle icing over cross



# April Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

- 4/4 Kevin Meester
- 4/5 Shelly Meester
- 4/8 Marjorie Siebenga
- 4/8 Mary Johnson
- 4/10 Michael Allspach
- 4/15 Marie Kuperus
- 4/22 Paul Bruns
- 4/22 Ida Folken
- 4/23 Betty Pott
- 4/27 Austin Graham

## Happy Anniversary

- 4/8 Arnie & Kay Swanson
- 4/12 Gaylen & Carla Mulder
- 4/30 Rollyn & Kathy DeGroot



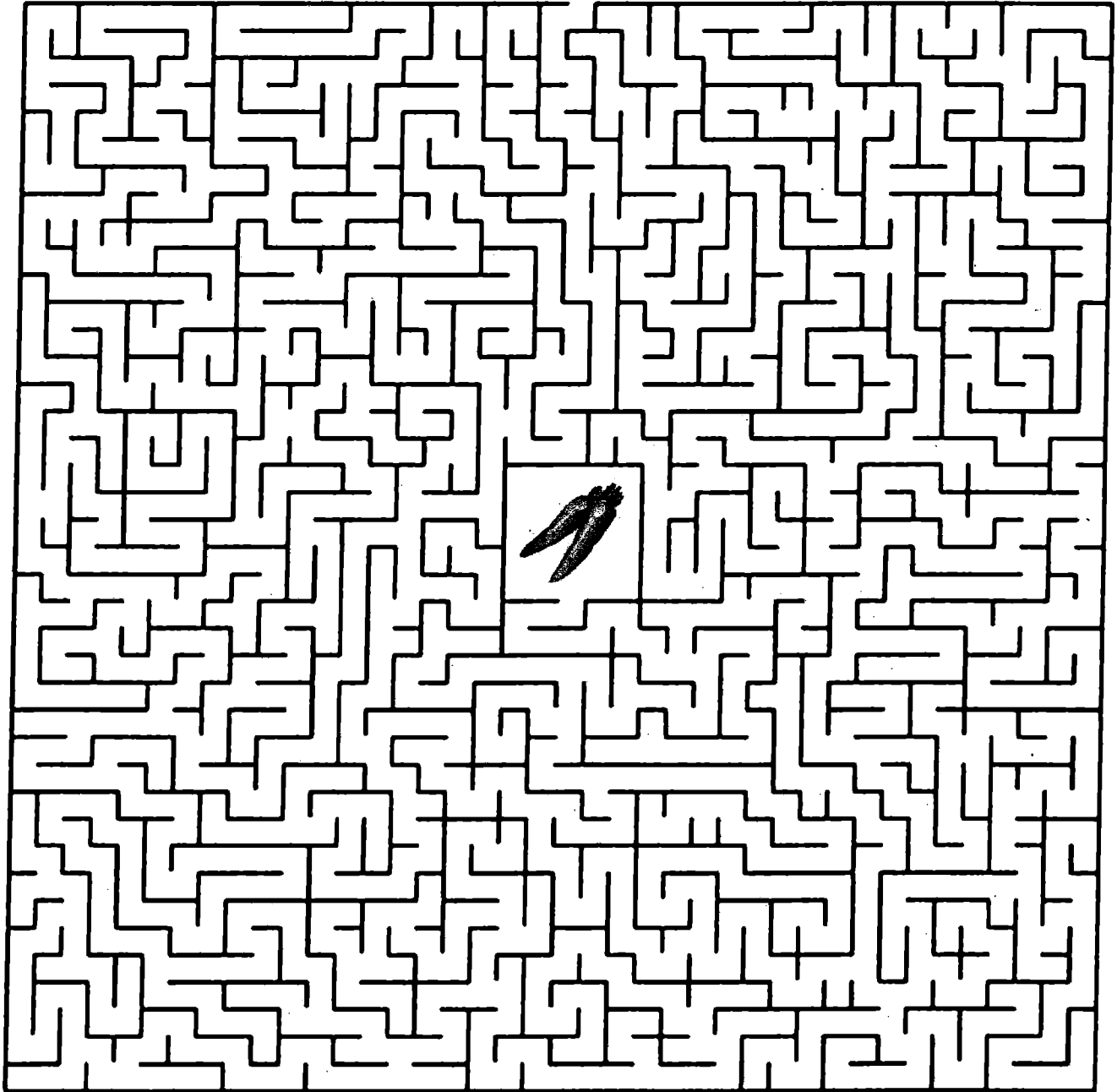
**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

### CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
4/6	Sylvia & AnnaMae (N) Jean Trey (S)	Ken Johnson	Larry & Mary
4/13	John & Karen (N) Cory & Kamie (S)	Ken Mehmen	AnnaMae Henry & Kathy
4/20	Steve & Charlene (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Delbert Cordes	EASTER—No Coffee
4/27	Clarence & June (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Mark Kramer	Marlyn & Marcia

\*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

# Easter Maze



**H O M E V E N N . C O M**