

Messages of Easter hope from local pastors continued...

Peace Be with You

Continued from PAGE SEVEN

Crucifixion without the loved ones watching His journey. But I am sure Easter of 2023 will be a source of inspiration and blessing to each of us, and we are going to meet and witness the Risen Lord once again as One who assures and shares peace and joy with us all.

Easter reminds us that peace is available to us at any time and in even the most difficult of circumstances because of Christ and the sacrifices He made for each of us. Our Christian hope cannot be quarantined. We need to shout "Alleluia, God is with us!" because Jesus declared, before His death, what was going to take place after His death: "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In the Acts of the Apostles (10:34a, 37-43), we see the continued work of Christ in His Church after His resurrection. This was made possible as a result of the apostles. Peter's address to Cornelius and his household was preceded by the baptism of Cornelius and his entire household, a witnessing made possible by the resurrection of Jesus. Peter reminds them that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem..." (Acts 10:38-39). We are all real witnesses of Living Christ in our personal lives.

The letter of Paul to the Colossians (3:1-4) reminds us: "Brothers and sisters: if then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above" (3:1). We are really witnesses to God's infinite love. We all sought Christ above everything else, especially during the pandemic, and we are all still holding on because to His infinite love. Post-resurrection, the risen Lord always greeted His disciples with "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). He also mentions, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

This Easter season reminds us all to come a little closer to the Lord, who

Quarterly chamber meeting April 13

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will take place Thursday, April 13, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Event Center.

Kim Cutsforth of the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation and Brad Attig of Reinventing Rural are sponsoring the event and will present on the Willow Street Arts and Business Innovation Center.

Pre-registration is required. RVSP for the quarterly luncheon by Tuesday, April 11, at heppnerchamber@gmail.com or 541-676-5536. Tacos Home-town will provide a lunch of chicken or beef burritos with chips and salsa at a cost of \$15 per person.

Any business that would like to present a new service or project at the next chamber luncheon is invited to contact the chamber for sponsorship information at heppnerchamber@gmail.com or 541-676-5536 or visit www.heppnerchamber.com.

cares for us, who continues to protect us from threatening events of the world. Instead of looking for comfort and pleasures from worldly things, the Lord invites everyone to come closer to Him and trust Him more. I think that is the real message of Easter: "Be brave, I have conquered the world."

If we remain in Him and His words remain in us, surely we can conquer with our faith anything and everything that challenges us every day. The gift of peace is available to us because Christ is the prince of peace, the light that dispels darkness and ushers lasting peace and joy.

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Patrick's and St. William's Catholic churches

Shortcuts

Shortcuts. We all look for and take them at every opportunity. But is it always the best way to go? When using a cake mix instead of starting from scratch, it's a real time saver. When reading a book for deep comprehension, however, the only way to read is line by line, sentence by sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph—no shortcuts! This was according to my world literature professor, and I fear she was correct.

Many people take a shortcut from the celebrations of Christmas to the hallelujahs of Easter, spending no time to reflect on their own shortcomings and the mercy of God in Christ. Even Jesus, shortly after his baptism, was tempted by Satan to take a shortcut

to fulfill God's calling for his life. "Throw yourself down off the pinnacle of the temple," he suggests. "That way, when people see the angels come to the rescue you will have an instant following." (My very loose translation).

People are attracted by sensationalism, but that wasn't the kind of followers Jesus wanted. He chose instead the long, slow path of making disciples by proclaiming the kingdom of God, and teaching and ministering to the needs of others. It took three exasperating years. Many believed his message, but just as many did not. The Zealots misunderstood his objective, thinking Jesus would deliver Israel from Roman rule, when in fact he came to deliver Israel, and all of us, from our sins. The Jewish leaders resented him because they feared he would take away their place of authority and their nation. They needn't have worried. Jesus was not interested in politics. His focus was the kingdom of Heaven, not that of Rome or Israel. No, Jesus took the arduous path, and it has made all the difference for everyone.

The next big event on the church calendar is Pentecost, occurring 50 days after Easter. Don't take a shortcut to get there. Worship, study, pray, so that you can rejoice then, and every day, basking in the presence of God's redeeming love in your life.

Neva D. Mahon
Hopeful Saints Ministry

Health district approves online payments

Continued from PAGE ONE

that." Palmquist said down the road he would be willing to support something like a portable AED to have on-site at outdoor sports.

"They're pushing their bodies to the limit and that AED could come in handy, which is a medical-related thing," he said.

Also at the meeting, the MCHD board approved an agreement with Mindray for a new software interface for equipment. Mindray is a company out of New Jersey that specializes in monitoring, anesthesia and ultrasound systems. The \$14,398 agreement is for a software interface for the new electronic health records system.

"It's necessary," Roberts told the board. "It's not one where we can really do without."

The board also approved a new residential lease agreement for a furnished apartment in Heppner. Roberts said the district needed the furnished unit to house emergency room physicians, traveling nurses and temp technicians.

"There is an immediate, critical need for housing," she said, "in excess of what we're able to provide without this agreement."

All of the health district's current units have pretty much 100 percent occupancy right now, Roberts said. Rent for the new unit is \$850 monthly. Roberts said it is only a three-month agreement and not anything the board is locked into long-term but reiterated that it was necessary.

"We have need for it next month," she said. Mahoney added that

the radiology department has two vacancies right now, and those are being filled with temp technicians.

"So, 24/7, you're talking about temp housing," she said.

In the financial report, Mahoney reported that gross patient revenue for February was \$1,234,141. That was down \$183,000 from January, but Mahoney pointed out that a lot of variables impact that, including the fact that February is a short month.

For instance, the hospital had about 15 fewer days of stay in February compared to January, while clinics had about 80 fewer visits, "Most likely attributable to the short month," Mahoney said. However, operating expenses such as salaries and wages were also down.

Other operating revenue was \$287,792, with \$285,000 of that from Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) funding.

Non-operating net gain was \$103,643 for February. Mahoney said \$45,000 of that was pass-through from the City of Irrigon for community enhancement.

"They fund that through their CREZ dollars that they get in Irrigon," she said. January's larger gain of \$552,488 had been due to community service fees and \$200,000 of COVID funding booked as income.

That leaves the district with a \$70,892 loss for the month of February, with a

\$269,024 loss year-to-date. Roberts said that, while the district has 11 open positions, the staff turnover rate is low, only 4.4 percent. She also noted that the board packet said days cash on hand was 57, but Mahoney had been doing a thorough review since taking over as interim CFO, and that number was actually 69.

Clinic visits for February were 293 for Pioneer Memorial Clinic, 85 for Ione Community Clinic, 390 for Irrigon Medical Clinic and 144 for Boardman Immediate Care.

In other business, the board:

- ratified a radiology director recruiting contract with AMN Leadership Solutions;

- ratified an agreement with Wipfli for professional finance and accounting services;

- approved emergency department privileges for Dr. Michael Metzler, a reappointment that was already approved by the medical staff; and

- ratified the EMS Advisory Committee appointment of Dr. Metzler, who is on the committee as supervising physician for the ambulance service provider.

At the end of the regular meeting, the board moved into executive session for the stated purpose of considering information or records that are exempt from public inspection pertaining to ongoing or anticipated litigation.

Housing authority to meet

The next Heppner Housing Authority meeting will be April 11 at 4 p.m. in the St. Patrick's Senior

Center dining room. For more information, contact chairman Kay Rene Qualls at 541-980-2836.

Seafood Tent Sale

TWO DAYS ONLY! THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH & FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH

 <p>Fresh Wild Caught Stuffed Salmon Fillet Portions 11⁹⁸ lb.</p>	 <p>Fresh Wild Caught Alaskan Halibut Fillets 18⁹⁸ lb.</p>	 <p>Wild Caught Stuffed Sole Fillets 8⁹⁸ lb.</p>	 <p>Wild Caught Large Cod Loin Fillets 8⁹⁸ lb.</p>
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 <p>Large Farm Raised Cooked And Peeled Prawns 12⁹⁸ lb. <small>16-20 Count</small></p>	 <p>Fresh Farm Raised Fresh Steamer Clams 5⁹⁸ lb.</p>	 <p>Farm Raised Oyster In the Shell 11⁹⁸ dzn.</p>	 <p>Wild Caught Jumbo Sea Scallops 22⁹⁸ lb. <small>Previously Frozen</small></p>
 <p>Jumbo Easy Peel Prawns Farm Raised 6/8 CT. 18⁹⁸ lb.</p>	 <p>Extra Large Black Tiger Prawns 14⁹⁸ lb. <small>8-12 Count</small></p>	 <p>Wild Caught Dungeness Crab Portions 11⁹⁸ lb. <small>Previously Frozen</small></p>	 <p>Fully Cooked Dungeness Crab 8⁹⁸ lb. <small>Previously Frozen</small></p>

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