Barabbas Is Our Name

Some time ago, I read of an overly-ambitious American attorney who telephoned the governor just after midnight, insisting that he talk to him regarding a matter of utmost urgency. An aide eventually agreed to wake up the governor. “So, what is it?”, grumbled the governor. “Judge Garber has just died,” said the attorney, “and I want to take his place.” Half asleep, the governor replied, “Well, it’s okay with me if it’s alright with the undertaker.”

In St. Mark 15:1-15 we read about another taking someone’s place. In the year that Jesus was crucified (likely 30 AD), there was a prisoner named Barabbas. During the Jewish Passover, the occupying Romans in Jerusalem had a tradition (to appease the large gathering crowds), to show compassion once a year. It was a feeble attempt to control the mobs … by being able to say to these Roman subjects – “Look how lenient we are to you conquered people.”

If you were to read of the earlier account of Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, you see just how quickly public opinion changes.

The crowds that had shouted Jesus’ praises on Palm Sunday were now shouting for His execution. They swayed on their sentiments so far that they requested the scoundrel named Barabbas be set free, while Jesus be killed.

In a physical sense, Jesus took Barabbas’ place. But in a spiritual sense, each of us is a Barabbas … and it was our punishment that Jesus took upon the Cross of Calvary.

Let me explain. We first have to look at the name – Barabbas. This Hebrew name literally means, “son of father.” That’s rather ambiguous. Every person is a child of his/her father; every male is a son of his father, and every female is a daughter of her father. That name Barabbas applies to each one of us. So when we say that Jesus died in Barabbas’ place, He died in our place.

Let me get more specific. In John 18:40, Barabbas is referred to as a thief or a robber. Now you might say – “That’s not me.” Let me ask you: Have you ever strongly wanted what someone else had … to the point of not being happy with what you already had? That’s what the Bible calls coveting; and it’s a sin. Have you ever lusted? … that is, wanted someone that wasn’t yours?

Either you were already taken or the other person was. Lust is stealing, and that makes any of us who have ever had wandering eyes or thoughts, a robber and a thief.

Well, who else was this Barabbas fellow? According to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), all of them mention that Barabbas was a murderer. Surely, that does not apply to us! Then again, Jesus said that being very angry with another person is the same as murder; wishing another person dead is murder. And honestly, spreading lies and gossip about someone else kills their reputation and good name … which in a sense kills them too.

So maybe none of us has actually pulled a trigger, but thinking about the things that Jesus said were like murder – How many of us are innocent?

The last thing that the Gospels say about Barabbas’ charges is that he was an insurrectionist. He rose up against the leading government, the Romans, and tried to rebel against them. Well, let me say, even if you have never stolen or murdered, I know you have rebelled. I know that you looked at God square in the eye

(Continued ... on page three)
President’s Corner

God’s Wisdom – A Sure Thing

“But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given him.”

— James 1:5 (NASB)

Spring will soon be here. Spring-time means many graduations from all types of schools. The graduates are all excited, full of possibilities and the hope of a bright future. They believe they can be all that they want to be or do. Rightly so — Jesus said, “If you can! All things are possible to him who believes.” (Mark 9:23)

With maturity and graduation, young people (as well as all of us) find things are not as simple as we once believed. We are on our own and we need WISDOM to know which decision to make. We need to only look around, to ourselves and others, and find that we are not always making wise decisions. We learn the truth of Proverbs 14:12 which says, “There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death [destruction].”

Life is full of uncertainty. We are not sure if we have chosen the right path. Unless we look to God for wisdom, we can end up living a life full of anxiety.

Jesus said, “With God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26).

In Genesis 18:14 we read, “Is anything too hard for God?” If so, we must live a life of unlimited potential. We must seek to follow His directions; trusting Him in everything that happens.

The Bible is full of examples of how people had failed, but when they turned to God for help, miraculous things happened! A great example is found in 2 Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat, and the people of Judah found themselves in life threatening circumstances that could have destroyed all of them. The godly king knew just what to do. He led his people in turning to God for help; he prayed to God. He told God, “We don’t know what to do, but are looking to you for help.” God’s response was, “Do not fear, for the battle is not yours but Gods … you will not need to fight … position yourselves and stand still and see the salvation of the Lord who is with you.” He also told them to go and face their enemies. Wow! How many of us would just stand and wait for the Lord to act in our behalf? However, they believed in God’s wisdom and did just as He instructed: stood still, praised God with thanksgiving, and began to march towards the enemy. The enemy forces became so confused they began to destroy each other until none was left. (I encourage you to read this account of great victory.)

So ask yourself, “Do I trust God for wisdom and believe God for the impossible things in all my circumstances of life?” God’s love for you and His willingness to bless you never changes. You may think there is no way out, but trust God for His wisdom and He will carry you through.

2 Timothy 1:12 says it this way, “For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him until that Day.” Now that is wisdom and a very sure thing!!

Let’s all look to our Lord for guidance and wisdom in our daily lives as we live for him.

May God richly bless the Chapel family.

Blessings and prayers,
Bob Peterson
Foundation President
(651) 484-5285
E-Mail: eiline@juno.com

Board of Directors

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The Board welcomes input from members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please feel welcome to contact the appropriate Board person.

Scheduled Board Meeting in 2012:
Saturdays ... @ Richfield Am Leg Post
17 March (9:00 a.m.)
16 June (9:00 a.m.)
15 Sept (9:00 a.m.)
17 Nov (9:00 a.m.)
Sunday ... @ the Chapel
16 Dec (1:00 p.m.)

If you would like a copy of the 2011 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at (651) 456-4410 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report.
and said, "I don't want to do what is right. I want to do what I want. I want to ignore my conscience. I want to follow my desires instead of following God." That's insurrection. God made you; He put you here; He deserves to be obeyed; and I know that each of you walked away from Him.

So it could have been you in that prison cell awaiting execution. The good news is that, even as Jesus took Barabbas' place, He took your place too. The death you deserved, Jesus took it. The punishment you deserve, Jesus took it. The separation from God that you deserved, Jesus took it. The truth is, you are Barabbas, you deserve to die, and Jesus took your place.

Now, one interesting thing about Barabbas is that we have no idea how he felt about this whole thing. He was set free from his deserved punishment; but the Bible doesn't tell us how he felt about it. Was he Relieved? Thankful? Or callous about the whole thing?

Isn't that us? We know that Jesus died for us, that He took our place, but it doesn't seem to affect us much. We still try to do all the things we want without considering God's opinion about them. We still try to get all the things we want, not considering what God wants for us. We know Jesus died for us, but to live for Him is too much. Once again, we show how much alike we are with the scoundrel, the notorious criminal Barabbas.

So I say: Let the truth flood your soul; let the fact of Jesus' dying in your place actually affect you and get into your heart and mind. Remember His sacrifice for you - Barabbas. And live your life for Him. The fact that He died for Barabbas means that He is more than willing to forgive you ... for that's why Jesus shed His blood on Calvary's Cross. So despite your past attempts at stealing, your past murders, your past insurrections against God, know and believe and accept His forgiveness. And be grateful for it.

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

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Getting to Know You ...

I'll do it my own self! were the very first words out of Karen Nelson's mouth, not mama or daddy. And throughout her life, and her thirty-six-year-long career with the State of Minnesota, she did just that. "I finally retired," she says "after I ran out of divisions with the DNR."

With the favorable results of a civil service test under her arm following graduation from Harding High School in 1964, Karen went straight to work in the office that outfitted Highway Patrol cars at the Minnesota Highway Department. From there, the girl with the sunny disposition and administrative aptitude moved up the ladder to the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs where she continued to make friends and hone her skills. Within the first three years of employment, Karen found herself transferred to the Soil and Water Conservation Board. As fate would have it, the higher-ups at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources noticed her and offered her a climb several rungs higher to a chain of divisions including Parks, Forestry, Finance and the License Bureau where she became the supervisor for all snowmobile, watercraft and ATV licenses.

Yet it is of her final leg up that Karen is most proud. In 1990, she became the administrative manager for the Minnesota Conservation Corps, a grandchild of the famous CCC, or Civilian Conservation Corps, that employed millions of men during the Great Depression. Now the Minnesota Conservation Corps took that same concept and applied it to Minnesota teenagers and young adults. It would become the most satisfying ten years of Karen's life.

As with its forebear, the CCC, the MCC provided employment to participants from every ethnic and economic background, while teaching them to appreciate the outdoors.

(Continued ... on page seven)
Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...

Sun, 27 May 12 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 1 July 12 — Independence Day — celebrating the 236th birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.


Sun, 16 Sept 12 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 30 Sept 12 — Gold Star Mother’s Day — honoring those parents who have offered up their sons and daughters on the altar of liberty.

Sun, 11 Nov 12 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 2 Dec 12 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance — recognizing survivors ... with the tolling of the ship bell for those who have passed away since last year.

Mark your calendar with these dates ... and join us at 11:00 a.m.

Place an Easter Plant in the Chancel

A special tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful plants on Easter Sunday. This tradition is made even more precious by the dedications which are made for each of the plants. It’s a beautiful way to honor or remember your loved ones at this sacred and holy time of year.

You can select lilies; tulips (red, yellow and pink) and Hyacinth (purple, pink and white). The cost is $13.00 each.

Plants making up the Easter Garden will be noted in the bulletin in memory of ... in honor of ... or to the glory of God. Orders must be received by Sun, 25 Mar. Donors may take their plant after the worship service. The plants that remain will be delivered to the Veterans Home for their enjoyment.

Karen Ayers will be taking orders beginning 11-25 March in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Brunch

Plan to attend our Easter Brunch (9:30 –10:30 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall prior to the Easter Sunday worship service on 8 Apr (11:00 a.m.). Please sign up between 11 Mar– 1 Apr in Fellowship Hall for this free-will donation brunch.

Palm Sunday — Distribution of Palms

1 Apr is Palm/Passion Sunday. At 11:00 a.m. each worshipper will receive palms to commemorate Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Chaplain Ken will present a timely sermon in which he asks, “Does Jesus Yet Weep?” ... based on Luke 19:28-44. The special music will be the Land of

Good Friday -- Holy Communion

On Fri 6 Apr, we will have our Good Friday worship service at 2:00 p.m. Chaplain Ken will bring a message that asks, “How Near the Cross Would You Have Stood?” ... based on John 19:23-30. The special music will be soloist Bonnie Hammel. At this worship service the invitation to commune at the Lord’s Table will be extended ... which is open to all who believe in the Lord Je-

Easter Service

On Sun 8 Apr, our worship service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

The special music will be the Tetzlaff Brass. Chaplain Ken will bring a message entitled, “Easter: One Event - Two Responses” ... based on John 20:1-9.
From the Flag Line

The Foundation’s flag line has been very busy these last several weeks. Many of the members have attended several funerals as well as memorial services for our nation’s heroes. A memorial service that stands out for me was the service for one of my favorite Foundation members, Karen Johnson. We on the flag line got to know Karen as she was always very gracious to us. She always expressed to us how much she appreciated the flags. Her memorial service was attended by many from the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. Associate Chaplain Mike Wallman shared a very moving message.

Several Flag Line members attended the dinner for Tribute to the Troops. As summer approaches we will be visiting many Gold Star families to make sure they know their soldiers will never be forgotten. Several members enjoyed two days of fellowship with a dinner on a Friday night followed by a night of bowling on Saturday.

One of the flag line is recovering for hip replacement. Your prayers for recovery are appreciated.

Pat and John Lane celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at the Officers Club. Thank you to both of you for including so many of us in the celebration of your very special day.

Be assured that the flag line members will always represent the Chapel with the respect you would expect us to show.

God bless the 1% that protect the remaining 99%.

— Les Hanson

Jesus said, “I was hungry and you gave me food ...” (Matthew 25:35)

Please secure any of these items and deposit them on Sun, 18 Mar 2012 at the front curb of the Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel:

**Canned/Jar Food Items:** tuna, canned fish/meats, chili, beef stew, canned pasta products, Enfamil formula, fruits, juices, tomato sauces/paste, spaghetti sauces, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil

**Boxed/Packaged Items:** cereals (hot & cold), powered milk, tuna/hamburger helper, macaroni, rice, pasta products, crackers, instant potatoes, pancake mix

**Hygiene Items:** toilet tissue, tooth paste/brushes, bar soap, paper towels, feminine products, facial tissues, shampoo, deodorant, shavers, shaving cream

**Baby Items:** disposable diapers (all sizes), formula (especially Enfamil with iron), baby wipes, baby powder, jar baby foods

Food shelves have access to discounted food that you don’t. Cash donations feed more families. You can make your checks payable to “F.S.M.C.F.” In turn, the Foundation will forward your contribution.

* Minnesota FoodShare is an interfaith collaboration, fighting hunger through community action. You can learn more about it at [www.gmcc.org/foodshare].

Adult Ed Classes

Each Sunday our Adult Education Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall (10-10:30 a.m.).

The focus of this forum is to “equipping the saints” in the fight against the myriad of enemies of the faith and freedom. The words of the Psalmist serve as the textual motivation – “If my people would only listen to me ... would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!” (Psalm 81:13-14 NIV)

Among the subjects being addressed, include (but are not limited to): the silencing of Christians and conservatives via the so-called “Fairness Doctrine” • the tearing down of the traditional family • the promotion of same-sex marriage • the radical homosexual movement • the tolerance of Sharia law in our own courts, in competition with the U.S. Constitution • the massive move toward socialism • the economy • political correctness • and more.

You won’t want to miss these timely biblical/theological discussions led by Chaplains Beale and Wallman ... along with occasional guest speakers.
Benevolent Giving …

If you are a veteran and need some help, the Minnesota Veterans Home Recreation Department is one of the great resources offered through the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. In my conversation with the Director of Recreation Therapy, Shirlee Peterson, I discovered that the Recreation Therapy Program focuses on improving social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills through a holistic approach. They strive to build confidence, strengthen social and interpersonal skills as well as provide opportunities for creativity and self expression for all of the veterans. It is important for the veterans to stay involved in the community and have the opportunity to continue to serve and help others to the best of their abilities.

Some of the many programs offered include: community outings such as baseball games, boat trips, cultural events, fishing, picnics and lunches, shopping, tours to the zoo, etc.; cooking and baking classes; ceramics; gardening; exercise programs; pet therapy; and special events such as Corn Festival, New Year’s Eve party, Holiday party, etc.

Many local VFW’s & Auxiliaries, American Legions & Auxiliaries sponsor socials and bingo. Many additional volunteer groups assist with programs like music therapy such as choir, piano and music concerts, etc.; and other programs such as hobby crafts, Resident Council, resident work therapy programs and additional programs too numerous to list.

The Minnesota Veterans Home Recreation Department operates solely on donations from charitable organizations such as the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation’s benevolence gifts. There is no funding from state operational dollars for these programs. All programs are free to the veterans that choose to participate.

There is a great need for the following items:
- gift cards from places like Wal-Mart and Target
- stamps in sheets of 100
- birdseed especially Sunflower seed
- restaurant gift cards from places like KFC and Dominoes Pizza
- DVDs new releases and old TV shows
- batteries double AA & D
- white tube socks (crew length)
- personal care items for women such as: nail polish remover, nail polish, emery boards and cotton balls
- magazine subscriptions to Farm Collector and Reminisce magazines

Volunteers are welcome; if you would like to volunteer please contact Sharon Marshall at (612) 548-5751.

If 2012 has you thinking about creating or making changes to your estate planning, please remember the Minnesota Veterans Home-Minneapolis to ensure a gift that will put life into the lives of veterans.

The Benevolence Committee would like to thank the members of the staff that look after the veterans.

— Submitted by Les Hanson, Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithes (10%) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ministry that is in keeping with our purpose … please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2012. Simply call the Foundation Office at 651/456-4410 … and provide a name and mailing address.
and the rewards of hard work. The six-week summer program operated out of St. Croix State Park, and serviced mostly state parks, while the year-round program worked out of DNR offices around the state.

And as with the CCC, the MCC was fortunate to recruit many of Minnesota’s finest and brightest young people, and able to save some troubled youth from a life of dysfunction or worse. Karen and her team recruited directly from high schools, enrolling 15 to 17-year-olds in residential summer programs, and 18 to 25-year-olds in year-round ones. Boys and girls from Edina as well as those from the poorest neighborhoods came together, composing a colorful stew as hardy as any served at a CCC camp. “We tried to mix everyone together,” says Karen. “The kids wore uniforms and we rotated work groups to prevent clichés from forming.”

Special memories for everyone developed when veterans of the CCC paid a visit to their beneficiaries and told stories of when they were young men earning a wage in the forests of Minnesota. “It was really meaningful for the young people to meet the men who built the bridges they were now repairing,” said Karen. In fact, it was the “CCC boys” that were instrumental in saving the MCC in the 1980’s when federal funding dried up.

That’s when the venerable veterans swarmed the state legislature and persuaded lawmakers that the Youth Conservation Corps, its name then, was worth saving. Their expert testimony resulted in the Minnesota DNR taking the program over and renaming it the Minnesota Conservation Corps. In the 1990’s, the nonprofit group Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps incorporated, and eventually assumed operations of the MCC.

In 2003. And then in 2010, the MCC changed its name to Conservation Corps of Minnesota, and having already established a branch in Iowa, spread into Wisconsin, upper Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Its mission of restoring resources and changing lives continues.

“I was always proud of our CCC connection,” said Karen. She added, “I never was blessed with children of my own, but that didn’t stop God from bringing thousands of beautiful children into my life.” Though she retired from the State of Minnesota and the MCC in the year 2000, Karen’s love of children has led her to her current involvement in the Foster Grandparent program. In addition, Karen tells me, “I have four nieces and nephews whom I cherish and seven wonderful great nieces and nephews.”

Although she’s been a lifelong member of the Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Karen’s had a close relationship to the Fort Snelling Chapel. That’s because for the last forty years she’s attended almost every Good Friday service here. And during her time with the MCC, they actually held meetings in the basement of the Chapel, and in what’s now the storage room adjacent to the nursery, kept tools and supplies for one of the MCC programs.

Yet it hasn’t been all work and no play for Karen. She loves travel and has been to every state in the union plus an array of international destinations from Australia to the Caribbean. She’s been to Pearl Harbor several times, where her Uncle Joe served aboard the USS Ward on December 7, 1941. She’s paid her respects to his friends and fellow Navy men who died there. However, Joe survived, and once home, presented Karen, who was also his goddaughter, with a gift that would delight any one-year-old girl, a grass skirt and Hawaiian lei. The Navy connection includes another uncle who served during the Korean War, and her brother Les, a Navy veteran from the Cuban missile crisis-era.

“When I look back on my life I can truly ask the question, “Why me Lord?” A child of the sixties, Karen has chosen this Kris Kristofferson song that she says, says it all. Why me Lord, what have I ever done to deserve even one of the pleasures (blessings) I've known...and the kindness you've shown.

Although Karen once vowed to do it her own self, she acknowledges that God’s hand was in every step along the way. “He’s always showed me,” she said “I made the right choices.”

Submitted by: Barbara Sommerville
The Year of our Lord 2012 marks the 45th Anniversary of the establishment of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation in 1967.

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial — a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state — a shrine to commemorate those who have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and is not subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation information call the Foundation Office at (651) 456-4410, or write to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation P.O. Box 211283 Eagan, MN 55121-2783 or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff

Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Chaplain
Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
Craig Tennison, Minister of Music
Leila Campbell, Office Manager
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

The Snelling Spirit Staff:
The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

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<td>Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:kenneth.beale@us.army.mil">kenneth.beale@us.army.mil</a></td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Free to Fall — Grace to Grasp&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Alec Sweazy, accordion</td>
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| 5   | Leila Campbell's B-day |

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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Joy is Contentment&quot;</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class</td>
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| 19  | Craig Tennison's B-day |

| 20  | Spring Begins |

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<td>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon: &quot;God Breathes New Spirit Into Old Skeletons&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music: Faith First Male Chorus</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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| **Palm/Passion Sunday** Distribution of Palm Branches  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Does Jesus Yet Weep?"  
Music: Land of Lakes  
Viking Boys Choir | **Easter Sunday**  
9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Easter: One Event — Two Responses"  
Music: Tetzlaff Brass | **1st Sunday after Easter**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Conformed or Transformed?"  
Music: Eden Prairie UMC Handbell Choir | **2nd Sunday after Easter**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "God Alone"  
Music: Il Dolce String Quartet | **3rd Sunday after Easter**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "God's Commands or the Golden Calf?"  
Music: Kerkoven-Murdock Middle School Choir | 6  | **Good Friday**  
2:00 p.m. Communion  
Sermon: "How Near the Cross Would You Have Stood?"  
Music: Bonnie Hammel | 7  |

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff  
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