



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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April 2024

The Power of God

I am not ashamed of the gospel; for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)

The Swedish chemist and businessman Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) was known, among other things, for his invention of dynamite, which he patented in 1867.

Because of its explosive power, dynamite could be used in a variety of ways: in mining, to build shafts; in construction, to clear areas; in quarries, to break rocks; for transportation projects, to remove obstacles in the landscape. But dynamite could also be used as an explosive device in bombs in warfare. Therefore, Nobel was said to have become rich at the expense of many people's lives.

In 1895, a year before his death, he changed his will to establish several awards for “those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind.” One of these awards is the Nobel Peace Prize. Nobel gave no explanations as to why he founded these awards. We can probably assume that he was concerned with how he was perceived in the public eye and with his posthumous reputation. He did not want to be remembered primarily as a bringer of death, but rather as a philanthropist.

We often hear the story that his change of mind was triggered by an article that he read in a French paper after the death of his brother Ludvig in 1888. In the obituary, the author – incorrectly – assumed that Alfred Nobel had died and therefore wrote in the headline “Le marchand de la mort est mort. The merchant of death is dead.” The article accused Alfred Nobel that because of his invention of dynamite more people could die at once than ever before in human history. However, there is no proof that this article was ever written; there are no surviving copies of it. This story is probably an urban legend that cannot be verified.

It is more probable that Nobel's change of heart was the result of his conversations and correspondence with Bertha von Suttner, a pacifist, with whom he repeatedly discussed the topic of disarmament. In 1905 she became the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The word “dynamite” comes from the Greek word “dúnamis,” which we can translate as “power, miracle work, or wondrous deeds.” The basic meaning of the Greek word indicates what someone is “able to do.”

There are many passages in the New Testament that speak of the power of Jesus and the power of God. In Romans 1:16, Paul emphasized that the gospel, which is rooted in the message of the crucified and risen Lord, is a “power of God” and brings salvation to all who believe. In 1 Corinthians 1:18 he expressed that “the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

The word dúnamis thus refers to our salvation. It introduces us to God's mighty work, which we cannot explain, but through which we are saved nonetheless. Unlike Alfred Nobel (with the invention of dynamite), God does not use his power to destroy or kill, but to form and create life.

With the resurrection of Jesus, as 1 Corinthians 15:26 states, God destroyed death as the “last enemy.” Death has no power over Jesus because he comes from God and is therefore more powerful than death, so that in the resurrection the power of God breaks through victoriously. Death could not keep Jesus in the grave. With Jesus'

resurrection, the power of God finds its strongest expression.

Our faith tells us that God – in his power – is not a bringer of death, but a bringer of life.

Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

Die Kraft Gottes

Ich schäme mich des Evangeliums nicht; denn es ist eine Kraft Gottes, die selig macht alle, die glauben.

(Römer 1,16)

Der schwedische Chemiker und Geschäftsmann Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) wurde unter anderem für seine Erfindung des Dynamits bekannt, das er 1867 patentierte.

Wegen seiner Sprengkraft konnte Dynamit vielfältig eingesetzt werden: beim Bergbau, um Schächte zu bauen; bei Bauarbeiten, um Platz für Gebäude zu schaffen; in Steinbrüchen, um Felsen zu zertrümmern und zu zerkleinern; beim Bau von Verkehrsverbindungen, indem man störende Objekte in der Landschaft wegsprengen konnte. Aber das Dynamit ließ sich auch im Krieg als Sprengsatz in Bomben verwenden. Daher wurde Nobel auch nachgesagt, dass er auf Kosten vieler Menschenleben reich geworden sei.

1895, ein Jahr vor seinem Tod, änderte er sein Testament, in dem er mehrere Förderpreise einrichtete für jene Personen (und Organisationen), die der Menschheit mit ihren Errungenschaften „im vergangenen Jahr den größten Nutzen gebracht haben“, darunter auch den Friedensnobelpreis. Von Nobel selbst gibt es keine Erklärung, warum er diese Preise gestiftet hat. Wir können davon ausgehen, dass es für ihn darum ging, wie ihn die Öffentlichkeit wahrnahm; es ging ihm aber auch um seinen posthumen Ruf. Er wollte nicht in erster Linie als Bringer des Todes, sondern als Philanthrop in Erinnerung bleiben.

Man hört immer wieder den Bericht, dass sein Umdenken auf einen Artikel zurückgeht, den er in einer französischen Zeitung nach dem Tod seines Bruders Ludvig im Jahre 1888 gelesen habe. In dem Nachruf ging der Verfasser fälschlicherweise davon aus, dass Alfred Nobel gestorben wäre und titelte daher in der Überschrift: „Le marchand de la mort est mort. Der Händler des Todes ist tot.“ Der Artikel warf Alfred Nobel vor, dass er mit der Erfindung des Dynamits dazu beigetragen habe, dass mehr Menschen auf einmal getötet werden können als jemals zuvor in der Geschichte der Menschheit. Jedoch ist es nicht belegt, dass dieser Artikel jemals geschrieben wurde; es gibt keine erhaltenen Kopien davon. Bei dieser Erzählung dürfte es sich wohl um eine moderne Legende handeln, die sich nicht mehr bestätigen lässt.

Es ist dagegen viel wahrscheinlicher, dass seine Gespräche und sein Briefverkehr mit Bertha von Suttner, einer Pazifistin, zu seinem Gesinnungswandel beitragen haben dürften. Immer wieder tauschte er sich mit ihr zum Thema Entwaffnung aus. 1905 wurde ihr als erster Frau der Friedensnobelpreis verliehen.

Das Wort „Dynamit“ kommt vom griechischen Wort „dúnamis“, das wir mit „Kraft“ oder „Wundertat“ übersetzen können. Die Grundbedeutung des Wortes weist darauf hin, wozu jemand in der Lage ist.

Im Neuen Testament gibt es viele Stellen, die von der Kraft Jesu und von der Kraft Gottes sprechen. In Römer 1,16 betont Paulus, dass das Evangelium, das in der Botschaft vom gekreuzigten und auferstandenen Jesus verwurzelt ist, eine „Kraft Gottes“ ist und alle selig macht, die daran glauben. In ähnlicher Weise hält er in 1. Korinther 1,18 fest, dass „das Wort vom Kreuz eine Torheit ist denen, die verloren werden; uns aber, die wir selig werden, ist es Gottes Kraft“.

Das Wort dúnamis bezieht sich damit auf unser Heil. Es bringt Gottes mächtiges Tun zum Ausdruck, das wir nicht erklären können, durch das wir dennoch gerettet werden. Im Gegensatz zu Alfred Nobel (mit der Erfindung des Dynamits) benutzt Gott seine Kraft nicht zum Zerstören oder Töten, sondern um aufzubauen und Leben zu schaffen.

Mit der Auferstehung Jesu, wie es in 1. Korinther 15,26 heißt, hat Gott den Tod als „letzten Feind ... vernichtet“. Der Tod hat keine Macht über Jesus, weil er von Gott stammt und er damit mächtiger ist als der Tod,

sodass in der Auferstehung die Kraft Gottes sieghaft durchbricht. Der Tod konnte Jesus nicht im Grab halten. Mit der Auferstehung Jesu erfährt die Kraft Gottes damit ihren stärksten Ausdruck.

Unser Glaube teilt uns mit, dass Gott – in seiner Kraft – kein Bringer des Todes, sondern ein Bringer des Lebens ist.

Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Lessons for April

Easter 2 (Quasimodogeniti) - April 7

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 148

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Easter 3 (Misericordias Domini) - April 14

Acts 3:11-21

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36-49

Easter 4 (Jubilate) - April 21

Acts 4:1-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Easter 5 (Kantate) - April 28

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 150

1 John 1-21

John 15:1-8

Pastor's Bible Study with Discussion: Living as a Christian in Today's World

It seems that a couple of things are happening at the same time. On the one hand, our Christian faith is publicly maligned and comes more and more under scrutiny. On the other hand we notice how, in a secularized society, there are tendencies of Christian nationalism that claim that governments need to be run based on faith based (Christian) principles.

Where are we, as Lutherans, in all of this? How do we deal with these challenges? How do we live out our faith - not just in the church but also in the public forum?

If you wish to join the discussion, please come to the church on **Saturday, June 1 at 2PM.**

The presentation will make reference to the Barmer Theologische Erklärung (The Barmen Theological Declaration) which was issued by the Confessing Church in Germany in May 1934, at a time shortly after Hitler had risen to power. In preparation, you can find the German text here:

ekd.de/Barmer-Theologische-Erklärung-11292.htm ([Barmer Theologische Erklärung – EKD](http://ekd.de/Barmer-Theologische-Erklärung-11292.htm)) and an English translation here: ekd.de/en/The-Barmen-Declaration-303.htm ([The Barmen Declaration – EKD](http://ekd.de/en/The-Barmen-Declaration-303.htm)).

If you need to contact the church office, please note that the office hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am - noon

Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday - office closed

Submitted by Gudrun Neeth

Update on Communion

Church council decided at the last board meeting in March to bring back the common cup for communion. If you prefer the common cup but do not feel well, we ask that you refrain drinking from the common cup. Feel free to take the individual cup instead. As a reminder: the Lord's Supper is fully valid even if it is consumed in only one form (either the wafer or the wine). *Submitted by Pastor Meinhardt*

Council Members for 2024/25

Klaus Albrecht
Paul Bergsagel
Carla Betker
Allison Erhardt
Linda Lurvey
Ralf Oppitz (Non-Voting)
Pastor Meinhardt
Barbara Schott
Georg Schreckenbach
Michael Zacharias

Executive Board Members

President: Michael Zacharias
Vice President: Barbara Schott
Secretary: Allison Erhardt
Treasurer: Ralf Oppitz – No longer Member of Council,
but staying on as Treasurer. No longer voting.
Assistant Treasurer: Klaus Albrecht

Arrangements have been made with the **Joy Smith Foundation** to do a presentation on:

Sexual Exploitation of Youth - How to Help (Prevention and Intervention)

Date, Time and Location: Saturday, April 27, 3-4:30pm at St. Peters Lutheran Church

Target Audience: Parents, Grandparents, Concerned Adults (teachers, extended family etc.)

Description of session: This session will discuss the issue of sexual exploitation of youth - online sexual exploitation, human sex trafficking, and extortion. Information will be presented regarding the magnitude of the problem; tactics used by predators; signs that a young person may have been targeted by an online predator; and how to help if you suspect that a young person may have fallen victim to sexual exploitation/human trafficking/extortion or may be in the process of being groomed for this by a predator.

We thank Carla Betker for arranging this presentation.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Those who were at the AGM on March 17, 2024, have heard the latest update. As the residence is now completed and occupied, the final \$20,000.00 construction payment has been made.

It is recommended that the duplex teacher's building be named **Bethany House**. The Bible states that Jesus often went to the home of his friends, the sisters Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus, in the town of Bethany. There are many references to Jesus being in their home in Bethany in the Gospels for times of rest and refreshment. The inscription recommended is: **"Bethany: a place of rest and refreshment"**.



Both teachers sent a short video, which was shown at the March 17, 2024, service. Mr. James Misewa said: "Hallo, I am a new teacher at Kuwala Girls Christian School. I would like to express my gratitude for this beautiful accommodation. I am really grateful for St. Peters and everything and for having this infrastructure. It is a nice house and self-contained and conducive for my work attending to my student's needs. I am very grateful for this gift and thank you. May the good Lord bless you."



Mr. Martin Lere said: "I am a new English teacher at Kuwala Girls Secondary School. I feel very grateful for the good welcome I received from this institution. I have been given an accommodation. It is a very good house it is good construction provided by St. Peter's Church. The house will make my work easier. I will be able to make-up some work to help the girls with their exams. I have been through a number of schools covering girls I have never been accommodated like this one. I really appreciated it and my family too. Yes, I am married, and I have a wife who also feels very, very welcome. I thank you and wish to continue to do good work;

thank you very much."

You may remember that we were asked to provide a dedication inscription and name the **St. Peter's Assembly Hall** and the sponsored single teacher's residence, **Kanata House**.

Kuwala is trying to put short videos on YouTube, perhaps once a week, with notifications by e-mail. The first video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/NVB7ruW1pjU?si=P...youtu.be>.

Mission Budget. Reviewing our Mission income for the first few months, we are pleased to report that we were able to make the following distribution.

Lutheran Association for Missionaries & Pilots	\$500.00
Winnipeg Free Faith Page	\$500.00
Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada	\$600.00

NALC Lutheran Seminary. As reported last year, we are supporting the seminary by providing a scholarship to one of the Canadian students, Paul Frederickson. Because of particular Canadian tax regulations, money is sent to the Canadian Mission District and forwarded from there to the student. That was done, but there was a communication problem, which has now been rectified. We received the following e-mail from Paul.

Firstly, I want to apologize because I sent you a thank you card previously. I do not know where the slipup was - I assume it must have been on my end (lost in the mail somehow), and I apologize for not following up. I wanted to say thank you for the support that you and your congregation sent to me. The money helped pay for a significant portion of my tuition and textbooks over the semester. My wife Taryn and I are extremely grateful, not only for the money but also for the connection to other NALC churches in the Canadian Mission District. The scholarship was an extremely generous gift that helped me deal with the regular stresses of seminary life; it helped me focus on my studies and allowed me to continue as a full-time student. Thank you again for your scholarship; may God be with you and the St. Peter's congregation. Paul Frederickson



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, April 27, at 8AM. It's a men's breakfast group to which all men are invited for food and fellowship. If you plan on coming, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church or contact the church office by phone (204.775.6477) or email stpetersoffice@mymts.net.

Maundy Thursday: A Ray of Hope

One of our parishioners and her friend were attending the Maundy Thursday service at St. Peters. During the service her friend nudged her and pointed to the painting of Jesus. The sun shining through the red stain glass was beautiful on the front wall of the church. As the sun shifted, the stain glass ray in the side windows lit up the right forearm and the hand of Jesus that pulls Peter out of the waves.

A while later her friend nudged her again. The sun had shifted again and now there was a pinpoint of red light on the palm of the left hand that Christ holds up. "He is here, with us" she said.

What a wonderful reminder - Jesus is always ready to reach out his arm to us and pull us up when we are sinking and when our sins are bearing down on us, we need only remember his nail pierced hands and his death on the cross, that paid for all our sins. All we need to do is cry out to Jesus: "Help me," and he will never forsake us.

Special April Birthdays

Doreen Schorn, 83 on April 5

Karin Lylik, 69 on April 15

Monika Krampetz, 84 on April 17

Frieda Schwing, 89 on April 26

Edith Erhardt, 83 on April 11

Wanda Marten, 98 on April 16

Helga Roehr, 82 on April 18

Frieda Pretzer, 84 on April 30

We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's continued blessings!

NALC Continental Youth Gathering 2024 (An announcement from the NALC website)

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

—Isaiah 43:1

Join us for an exhilarating journey of faith and fellowship at the inaugural North American Lutheran Church's Continental Youth Gathering (CYG) from **July 1–4, 2024**, nestled in the heart of Texas at [St. John Lutheran Church, Boerne](#).

NALC youth will rally around the powerful theme *"We Belong: 'I Know My Own and My Own Know Me,"* a testament to the profound connection we share in Christ. The mission of the CYG is to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to not only grow in their faith, but to be encouraged by connecting with other believers throughout North America.

The CYG isn't merely an event, but a milestone in nurturing a robust community of believers across North America. It is a space where youth can dive deeper into scripture, engage in earnest conversation with peers and leaders, and encounter God in a fresh, transformative way. Over four days, attendees will join together in:

- corporate worship,
- scripture study,
- large and small group sessions,
- and mission events that reach out to the broader community.

The **exciting line-up of speakers**, ranging from pastors to specialists in life affirmation and mental health, are geared to ignite conversations that resonate with the youth on personal and collective levels. Our **musical guests**, the Lurvey Brothers, will elevate our spirits with their unique blend of song leading, fostering an ambiance of joy, reflection, and togetherness. This gathering stretches beyond the traditional boundaries, welcoming Home Teams from other confessional Lutheran bodies to partake in this monumental event. With each session, we delve into what it means to belong—to Christ, to the Church, to our communities, and to each other, echoing the profound truth of our theme passages from John 10:14–15. As we anticipate the glorious days of CYG 2024, we remain rooted in the promise of Isaiah 43:1, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

With only 500 spots available and a deadline for registration on April 15, 2024, be sure to mark your calendars and register *as soon as possible*. Should you have any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Pastor Teresa Peters, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry and organizer of this event, at tpeters@thenalc.org.

Any submissions for the May 2024 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, April 25, 2024. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com