

## **“A Senior Perspective”**

by

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**Good morning everyone. I trust you had a very happy and meaningful Easter weekend. Judy and I began our Easter worship by attending two special Easter services at two different churches.**

**On Maundy Thursday, the day preceding Good Friday and Jesus’ death, we attended our regular church, Village View Community Church, located on S.E. 147<sup>th</sup> PL in Summerfield, FL., and celebrated a re-enactment of the Last Supper. Jesus and His 12 Apostles gathered round the traditional Last Supper table as depicted in Leonardo da Vinci’s famous work of the same name, and the Apostles gave a 3-5 minute personal history on how they first met Jesus and the impact He had on each of their lives.**

**Their recollections were interspersed with special music by Cathy and David Rowan, mother and son, consisting of a total of 4 to 5 songs providing insights into Jesus’ ministry and those who loved Him. The hour long service was a very moving presentation and received a standing ovation at the end. Those performing the roles of Jesus and His followers were: Herb Rowan, Ron Cooke, Mary Shea, Bruce Forrester, Wayne Wright, Ron George, Bill Benson, Jim Mayer, Ron Eames, Bob Williams, David Leshay, Dick Danehy, and Mike Aarseneau. It was a professionally produced and performed piece and kudos go to the Drama Department of Village View Church and the other staff members assisting them, for a job well done.**

**Easter Sunday found us at Hope Lutheran Church located at Morse Blvd. and CR-466, having been invited by our good friends John and Jean. Accompanying us were neighbors Steve and Judy from Indiana who are seasonal residents of The Villages. It was their first visit to Hope Lutheran and they were not disappointed in what they saw and heard.**

**Those of you who have had the occasion to visit Hope Lutheran on special Holy Days’ commemorative services know the beautiful and Spirit filled presentations Hope’s Minister of Music Mary Ann Rothenbach always puts together. This Easter Service was no exception.**

**Those in attendance were lifted up to the heavens, mentally and spiritually, by the fantastic celebration created by the musical team of the church. We heard the “Spirit Ringers,” their Bell Choir; “The Voices of Hope,” their combined choir; the “Spirit Singers,” a ladies vocal group; and special soloists Soprano Mary Jo Vitale and Tenor Chris Horn. All this talent was combined with the “Velvet Brass,” their excellent brass ensemble, a guest timpanist and a guest organist, and the joining together of these separate parts produced resounding praises and hosannas to the Lord.**

**This church is truly blessed with talented and dedicated members who continually use their talents to bless the Lord and their fellow church members with their dedication and joyous praise.**

**Both churches, Village View Community and Hope Lutheran, closed their service with Holy Communion, the breaking of bread and drinking of wine in remembrance of the Lord's broken body and shed blood. Both worship services truly reminded all who were in attendance just what the Easter holiday is all about... celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ whose shed blood offers us the opportunity to be reconciled to God.**

**Both churches held multiple services to accommodate those in the community who wished to attend, and both churches were rewarded with overflowing sanctuaries of thankful attendees at each service.**

**Folks, I'm sure there were many other churches in the community who also provided meaningful services of this most precious holiday and hopefully you attended one of them. If you do not have a regular church to attend I would direct your eyes to the Saturday Lifestyles section of this paper where many churches have chosen to list information pertaining to their locations and times of service. Village View and Hope Lutheran are listed among the others if you should need additional information about them.**

**Have a great week and we'll see you next month. Hard to believe we're almost a third through this year, isn't it?**

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