

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

April 2022

Death and Resurrection The Victory Belongs to Jesus

Spring has arrived and the signs of life are beginning to flourish yet again. Grass is greening up and daffodils and tulips are starting to burst forth from the ground. We give thanks to God for his constant reminders that he is in control, that death is not the end, and that life continues on by his good grace. As we move through the season of spring, we draw ever closer to the celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead at Easter. Before diving full on into Christ's return to life from death, we take a moment to reflect on that most holy death of our Lord.

We have all faced death in some way, shape, or form. A loved one has died. A pet has left us. A relationship is broken. A friendship has ended. There is no easy way through it. Death leaves you empty, with a dull ache inside. It robs us of the certainty of life, bringing an end to what we want to last forever. This is why the death of Jesus can be viewed so powerfully. Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh, is the one through whom all things have been made (John 1:1, 3, 14). Jesus is the author of life. He is eternal, immortal, everlasting. The beginning and the end. The first and the last. The alpha and the omega (Revelation 22:13).

When Jesus gave up his spirit and bowed his head to death, all of creation was forever changed. Countless deaths have occurred in all of creation since Adam first fell into sin. Yet, there has never been a death like that of Jesus. Martin Luther begins the second verse of his Easter hymn with these words: "No son of man could conquer death, Such ruin sin had wrought us. No innocence was found on earth, And therefore death had brought us Into bondage from of old And ever grew more strong and bold And held us as its captive" (LSB 458. *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*). Not prisoners of war, but worse. Prisoners of death.

Death has reigned in power over creation for thousands of years. One who dies is conquered. No brain power to will anything to happen. No heart beat to provide oxygen to the body and prevent decay. Eyes no longer see. Ears no longer hear. No smelling. No tasting. No feeling. This is the cold hard death that the Lord Jesus entered into as well. One with us in every way, except in sin (Hebrews 4:15). He who never sinned still suffered sin's ultimate wage. The author of life succumbed to death. For a time, death even conquered God himself. Impossible to imagine, but the truth all the same.

When we die, our souls depart from our bodies. The two are so unnaturally separated that we will have no clue what is happening with our body. Both body and soul make up who we are. One without the other is not whole, not complete. With no power for us to do anything in death, the only hope is a change from outside. Not so with Jesus. While Jesus died the full death for our sin, the very same death you and I shall die, Jesus did not fall powerless. Even in death, Jesus remained the resurrection and the life. In John 10, the Lord Jesus said, "I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again" (vv. 17-18).

And so he did. On the third day, Jesus rose again from the dead. You know the story well. It was shocking. It was amazing. It was unbelievable. Mary Magdalene and the other women who were disciples of Jesus and supported him in his ministry, trudged to the tomb early on the first day of the week (our Sunday morning). They were so much expecting to find Jesus as they had left him the Friday afternoon before that they did not even think about how they were going to get into the tomb. The dead stay dead. They can do nothing. Jesus should be right where they left him. But what a sight they beheld when the tomb first came into sight. The guards who were supposed to be keeping watch had fallen down like dead men. Access to the tomb was wide open as the covering stone had been moved away. Yet, Jesus was nowhere to be found. The place where he lay had been vacated.

To be sure, this was no hallucination. This was not wishful thinking on the part of the women. The tomb of Jesus was truly empty. And it was not because someone had taken his body away. No disciple had orchestrated the theft of Jesus' body in order to fake the resurrection, as the religious leaders had promoted (Matthew 28:11-15). Such action was likely the furthest thing from their minds. The tomb was empty, Jesus was not there, because he was no longer dead. Jesus had truly come back to life. His resurrection was complete, just as he had prophesied many times before.

Luther continued his hymn: "Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down, His people to deliver; Destroying sin, He took the crown From death's pale brow forever: Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns; An empty form alone remains; Its sting is lost forever" (LSB 458, v. 3). Stripped of power and its sting is lost forever. That is the present and eternal condition of death. Jesus bore the entirety of sin in his body. He suffered the full wrath of God over all sin. With all sin paid for in the death of Christ, the full wage of sin complete, there is nothing left that is owed to death. Death has no power. Not over Christ and not over those who believe in Christ (Romans 6:9).

As we draw near to Easter, we draw near to the feast of victory for our God! We resume our singing of the Hymn of Praise and we welcome back the triumphant cry of Alleluia! "Here our true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us; He died on the accursed tree—So strong His love—to save us. See, His blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us" (LSB 458, v. 5). There is no greater victory; there is no greater celebration, this side of eternal life!

It has been a true blessing having all of our services back to normal at St. John! Our choirs have resumed and instrumentalists are accompanying our Sunday worship services. More of the same is being planned for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection! If you have not yet rejoined brothers and sisters at St. John, or have been away for whatever reason, know that you have been truly missed and that all are looking forward to your return. The triumphant victory of Jesus at Easter will be a great opportunity for this joyous reunion!

Our Holy Week and Easter activities include:

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| Palm Sunday | Divine Service (8am and 10:45am) with children's palm processional and children's message |
| Holy Thursday | Divine Service (7:15pm) with the Lord's Supper and the Stripping of the Altar |
| Good Friday | Tenebrae Vespers (7:15pm) |
| Easter Sunday | Sunrise Service (6am)
Easter Breakfast (7am)
Divine Service (8am and 10:45am) with choirs and Instrumentalists
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (9:30am) |

The Lord's blessings and peace be with you all as you conclude your Lenten meditations in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection, the guarantee that you will live forever with Jesus in his wonderful kingdom!

"Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the bread of heaven; The Word of grace has purged away The old and evil leaven. Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!" (LSB 458, v. 7).

In the joy of Christ's death and resurrection,

Pastor Caithamer

Sunday School News— The children will process with palms on Palm Sunday. They will gather in the back of the church five minutes prior to the service. Children that process for the early service are encouraged to also process for the late service.

Sunday School will be held on Easter Sunday. We will have a brief lesson in the sanctuary as a group and then have an egg hunt on the playground, weather permitting.

We are looking for volunteers to teach in the summer. Please consider signing up for a few Sundays. This would also be a great opportunity for your college students who are home for the summer. Materials are provided. The sign-up sheet is posted by the Fellowship Hall.

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Pam and family at the death of her mother Nancy

Following Surgery: Mark

For Healing and Recovery: Judy, Benny, Lindsey, Lindermann, Lola, Roger -father of Stephanie, Jim, Brian, Larry, Teresa -godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, Maelynn-granddaughter of Rick and Rita, Karla, Whitney -wife of Ellie's grandson, Barbara -friend of the congregation, John, Tom, Hendricks-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy- father of Anne, Dan- brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold, Brett-cousin of the Kindts'

For Successful Treatments: Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy

For our Military: Adam, Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David

For our Missionaries: Pastor Randrianasolo Dembiniana Havanjanakary and the Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia, Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston, Jamaica



The LWML is hosting a **Salad Luncheon** on Saturday, April 23, starting at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. ALL ladies are invited—members of our congregation, neighbors, friends, mothers, daughters. Bring your favorite salad; come to share good food and once again people's smiles!



Mary Martha will not meet the month of April. We will resume in May. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School— We will be having a planning meeting on Saturday, April 23rd at 9am in the Overflow for Vacation Bible School, which will be happening June 20-24. We will be going over the Bible lessons, plans for the week of VBS, and what will need to be ordered. If you are unable to make the meeting and are willing to help, or if you have any additional questions, please contact Sara McPike. Be on the look out for more information in the bulletins to come.



April Music Notes



The relationship between theology and music is at the foundation of Biblical theology. At the beginning of time there was the song of creation, which "the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy" (Job 38:7), and at the end of time there is to be the song of the new creation, when the redeemed will sing "in a loud voice ... 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!'" (Revelation 5:12). When God speaks to the redeemed, it is with the sound of a trumpet. (Robin Leaver)

Instrumentalists – take note!

We look forward to making music together with you on Easter at any or all of our three services – 6:00, 8:00 and 10:45. Please let Keith know of your interest and availability.

We are planning instrumental rehearsals as follows:

Sunday, April 10 Noon (following the 10:45 service)
Saturday, April 16 Morning (time t.b.a.)

Singers – take note!

Mixed Choir	Sunday, April 3	9:45 rehearsal, sing at 10:45 service
	Thursday, April 14	6:30 rehearsal, sing at 7:15 service
	Sunday, April 17	7:30 warmup, sing at 8:00 service
Men's Choir	Friday, April 15	6:00 rehearsal, sing at 7:15 service
	Sunday, April 17	10:15 warmup, sing at 10:45 service

If possible, we may schedule a singing choir rehearsal for Thursday, April 7th. Check your Sunday bulletin on April 3rd and the bulletin board at the stairs to the balcony for updates.

Alleluia Ringers – take note!

Wednesday, March 31	6:00 rehearsal
Wednesday, April 6	6:00 rehearsal
Thursday, April 14	6:45 warm-up, ring at 7:15 service
Sunday, April 17	7:45 warm-up, ring at 8:00 service

Soli Deo Gloria, Keith



The April E.A.T. Night will be at Culver's on Neil St on Monday, April 11th, 5-8pm! Culver's (2302 S. Neil St. Champaign) is donating a portion of sales back to the St. John Lutheran School PTF. Dine-In, carry out, and drive thru are all included. Unlike in past E.A.T. Nights at Culvers, flyers are needed this month. Please present the flyer at time of purchase or time of pick up, if online order. Flyers are available on the narthex table and on the school website www.stjohnls.com. Thank you for your continued support of these events.



7th - 8th Grade Class Trip

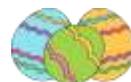
Washington, DC April 4-8
Pray for the students and their chaperones,
Mr. Kamin and Mrs. Stephens.



Prairie Gardens Gift Cards— Before you start your spring planting, get a \$20 gift card from St. John PTF. Gifts cards can be used on any purchase at Prairie Gardens. The cards do not expire and will carry a balance if you spend less than \$20. Gift cards are available in the school office.

School Easter Break (Thursday, April 14 - Monday, April 18)

Maundy Thursday - 11:30 Dismissal
No School - Good Friday & Easter Monday



Order forms are available on the narthex table. Return order forms to the school office by Wednesday, April 6. Orders will be delivered on Tuesday, April 12 and can be picked up in the fellowship hall, 5:30-6:00p.

Proceeds from this fundraising will go towards curriculum and classroom supplies.

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year has begun!

St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool offer a Christ-centered education for students age three through eighth grade. Our caring, skilled teachers use a variety of strategies to engage students' minds in a safe learning environment, with the focus on teaching every subject with a Biblical worldview. Little Lamb Preschool offers morning and full day classes. Two-day (T/TH), three-day (M/W/F), and five-day options are available.

Tell everyone about our wonderful school! For more information, contact the school office at (217) 359-1714.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 A.J., Greg, Bob | 24 Matthew, Paula, Lana, Jayne |
| 2 Mike, Mary, Larry | 25 Doug, Mike |
| 4 Hannah, David, Bonnie | 26 Jeff, Ashley, Bandon, Curt, Noah, Duane |
| 5 Lucas, Kate, John | 27 Noelle, Liam |
| 6 Vickie, Brent, Gebres | 28 Andrea |
| 7 Jill, Jaclyn, Michele | 29 Tom |
| 8 Dave, Judy, Elise, Tiernee | |
| 9 Cissy, Angela, Katie, Allie | |
| 10 Stephanie, Whitney | |
| 11 Tish, Steve, Jordan | |
| 12 Matthew, Nicole, Micah | |
| 13 Maci | |
| 14 Chris, Layla | |
| 15 Douglas, Kathryn, Thomas | |
| 16 Andrew, Jamie | |
| 17 Bailey, Sophie, Zach, Betty | |
| 18 Julie, Alexis | |
| 19 Kurt, Emily, Brad, Virginia | |
| 20 Anne | |
| 21 Andrea | |
| 22 Colin, Kimberly, Monica, Blake | |
| 23 Marian, Maura, Jordan , Anita | |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 3 Gary & Dee (40) | 29 Tom & Nancy (27) |
| 16 Elmer & Tami (28), Dan & Karen Rock (34), Randy & Anne (45) | 30 Nick & Dee (22) |
| 20 Kendall & Brenda (20) | |
| 22 Bill & Kim (27) | |
| 24 Robert & Karen (13) | |

PLEASE notify the church office (churchoffice—at-stjohn-lcms.org or 359-1123) if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.

Chapel Offerings: Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Chapel Offering for the 1st Wednesday of each month will be food items for Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Mission Statement:

United in faith, we serve the Kingdom of God by building lives that are rooted in the Word, centered on Christ, and motivated by Grace; to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

APRIL

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
1 Corinthians 15:20

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<p>Church Office 359-1123</p> <p>School Office 359-1714</p>	<p>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2022</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2022							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2022</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	May 2022							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
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<p>3 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 5:15 Fellowship 6:00 Trustees, Evangelism</p>	<p>6 8:10 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Lenten Service 5:45 Midweek School 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Lenten Service</p>	<p>7 6:30 School Board</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>																																																																																																		
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